

Convention Suggestions

While the fall conventions are still fresh in our memories, it seems a good idea to pass on suggestions from various areas which might be helpful to committees planning conventions next year. For these suggestions we are indebted to Mrs. Edmund Hansuld and Mrs. T. D. Hossack of the London Convention Area; Mrs. J. Cooper of the Fort William-Port Arthur Convention; Mrs. Clarence Holmes, Belleville. Most of the comments that came to us were given as "highlights," features or innovations that contributed in one way or another to the interest and "smooth-running" of the convention. Here are a few notes:

"What has always been a three-day convention at London was telescoped into a smooth-running two-day affair, and the delegates and observers liked it."

"The London Public Library provided a display of Canadiana, an excellent exhibit and very popular with the women." (Could public libraries in other centres be persuaded to do this? — Ed.)

"The Oxford County Junior Farmers' Choir provided entertainment at the banquet — a highlight of the convention."

"At the Fort William-Port Arthur Convention members of the North Blake Junior Farmers' Club presented a one-act play 'Home by Midnight.'"

Both Mrs. Hansuld and Mrs. Hossack referred to a skit at the girls' session as a highlight of the London convention, described in this quotation from a London paper: "Kirkton Homemaking Club stole the show when they mounted the stage leading a cow with swishing tail and nodding head, made up of two



A clown and Little Red Riding Hood led the "Flour Bag Fashion Show" at the Englehart convention. Dresses, housecoats, pyjamas and children's clothes were all made from flour bags.



The dress parade at the Belleville area convention featured Canadian fashions from an Indian ceremonial dress worn by Mrs. Benson Brant of the Deseronto India Homemakers' Club to a bridal gown of 1952.

other juniors covered with burlap sacking and effective trimmings. The skit was a demonstration on "Making the Most of Your Meat Money."

"Another milestone in public relations was reached when greetings were extended from the local Council of Women with which the London area affiliated a year ago; and when Mrs. Muskokomen of Muncey brought greetings from the Indian Homemakers and exhibited the quilt her group had made."

At Kingston convention a trio of Dutch women, recently settled in the district, provided music for the banquet, singing in their native language. Another novel feature at Kingston was a clever home-talent "soap-opera."

"The highlight of this 'friendly convention' (Belleville) was the skit 'Hats Off to the Past,' presented by Institute members who had given outstanding leadership during the past twenty-five years. The skit was based on a delegate's report of the first convention held in Belleville, in 1926. Demonstrations included school lunches then and now, packing an overnight bag to bring to the first convention, and an overnight bag of this present time, and a skit on hospitality then and now. The finale was a dress parade depicting the trend in fashions from the dress of the early Mohawk to the bride of 1952."

This year the Toronto area convention celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, and a Historical Sketch prepared for this occasion reviews the development of Women's Institute work by decades from its beginning up to the present. The script, complete with song parodies bearing on the progress of each decade, can be borrowed from the Loan Library, Women's Institutes Branch, 1207 Bay Street, Toronto.

(While we're trying to improve our convention programmes, one problem seems to worsen with the years: No one seems to know