

Here and There With the Institutes

An Exchange of Ideas

AMONG THE RECORDS on the Branch Institute Historical Data forms we found some interesting stories of institute accomplishments; as for example this report of **Stirling** and **Lyons** in Thunder Bay District:

"This Institute, organized in October 1923, started with twenty members. In 1925 the Women's Institute Hall was built; in 1929 a kitchen was added, in 1944 a new foundation and in 1950 the building was painted and insul-bricked. It has been used as a school when the other school was overcrowded, and it may be used, free of charge, by a religious group of any denomination, or for any community gathering. This year the members are sponsoring a local school fair. One member has taken to her home two small children while their mother is in the hospital for the birth of a fifth child—all children under school age. During the war parcels were sent to local boys overseas, and when they came home the Institute gave a chicken supper to them and their friends. Each overseas bride was presented with a blanket, each man received a wallet and there were toys for the children. Parcels were sent to Britain during the war, socks were knitted and ditty bags provided for the men overseas, and layettes were distributed both at home and abroad. And the Institute has always been ready to help people in time of misfortune such as sickness or the loss of a home through fire."

* * *

The Women's Institutes of **Lennox District** report an interesting exhibit at their county fair. The complete display was planned as a competition for the branches and each branch set up its own exhibit which was required to include a hooked rug, a box of assorted homemade candy, a kitchen apron made from a bleached sack, a homemade Christmas table centre, six plain cloverleaf buns, a crocheted or tatted centrepiece; a pair of fancy socks knit from three ply yarn, an apple pie. Each branch exhibit was scored as a group of articles . . . The Institutes also had a historical display. Some of the articles shown were a black gown bought to wear at Sir John A. MacDonald's funeral; another black dress which the first teacher in a local school had purchased with her first cheque; some very old hats mostly trimmed with birds or plumes; a hair wreath in a glass case, the hair arranged to form the figures of a man and a woman "walking down the pathway of life,"; and several figurines. Tweedsmuir histories also were on display.

At the township fair at Navan the Women's Institutes of **Russell** district put on a display of apple dishes. Each branch planned to exhibit twelve things. Some of them were apple pie, apple dumplings, apple crisp, apple butter, applesauce cake, apple muffins, apple jelly, baked apples, coddled apples, a new way of using apples and a poster "highlighting" apples. Last year they had a similar project featuring whole wheat.

* * *

At **Wingham Institute** a new member from Yugoslavia demonstrated lace making.

Falkland had an address on the customs, resources and religions of Holland by Mrs. Von Eagen who came to Canada from Holland less than two years ago.

Vandorf reports a moving address by a newcomer to Canada, Mrs. Debac from Czechoslovakia. Mrs. Debac said: "In Czechoslovakia I used to wake up every morning with dread, saying to myself 'What will happen today?' In Canada nothing happens. We have our farm. We can work. We have our freedom again. It is the freedom to work and live, after existence in communist Czechoslovakia which makes us so thankful." (How much these women from Communist countries have to contribute to our citizenship programmes!)

* * *

Health study and health projects have an important place on many Institute programmes.

Elora Institute is responsible for a pre-school child clinic, held in Elora the second Thursday of every month. The Institute bought baby scales, pads, table covers and baskets. A doctor and three nurses come from the Wellington county clinic and four Institute members help with weighing, registering and generally assisting the doctor and nurses. The territory served covers four townships and at the first clinic there were 69 children. The president says: "We think this is a wonderful undertaking and that it has a future."

Perth County Institutes gave the Stratford Hospital an orthopedic cart for carrying casts, pulleys, weights and other equipment for orthopedic cases. This completes the Institutes' furnishing of a room.

South Dufferin Institutes presented their local hospital with a cheque for \$2,500 and a pledge for \$500 more. **Nestleton** put on a party and raised \$200 for the Port Perry hospital fund.

South Gillies would like to have health featured at their next convention. They would