

F.W.I.O. Board Meeting

By Ina Hodgins

THE SPRING Board Meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was held in the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, May 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1954, with Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, newly elected Provincial President, presiding.

Twenty-eight Board Directors, one Alternate, the Honorary President, the Director of the Women's Institute Branch, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Conference and Holiday Secretary-Treasurer, the conveners of Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Community Activities and Public Relations, Historical Research and Current Events, Home Economics and Health, and the F.W.I.O. representative on the Board of Directors of F.W.I.C. were present.

After the opening exercises the President tendered grateful thanks and appreciation to the many people who have assisted her in the months past; to Miss Lewis for her helpful and untiring efforts to promote and further the work of the Women's Institutes; to the Department of Agriculture; to the courteous staff members at 1207 Bay Street who, short-staffed as they are, have added F.W.I.O. mimeographing to their many duties; to Dr. McLachlan and the Ontario Agricultural College for the privilege of holding the Board Meeting and the Conference on their beautiful campus; with a special "thank you" to her two secretaries who have come into new work with enthusiasm and have given time and over-time to further the work. Mrs. MacPhatter extended a very hearty welcome to all of the Board Members and hoped all the business would be carried through amicably and with precision. Mrs. MacPhatter said "I shall try to be absolutely unbiased in presenting any matter of business but I do have to give you all the information possible before you can reach a decision. Please do not allow yourselves to be influenced by any members of the Board. Reach a decision which is your own—arrived at through your own consideration of the matter before you.

"The New Approach"

"In our capacity as leaders in the Women's Institute work of our province we have an increasingly difficult work to do each year," the President said. "We find that the Branches, Districts and Areas are becoming adult in their thinking and more educated in Women's Institute doings. In years past a speaker could go out and tell the history of the Women's Institute movement, but today the members know the story as well as we do. They read

everything about our work so intelligently that there is little left to tell, consequently when new policies are established, a new project opened or a new job completed, our members are cognizant of all facts in an amazingly short time. We must keep this in mind as we go from place to place. Be as well informed as possible on every topic alluding to our work or we will find our audience more able than we are. Our members are now so well educated that they can discuss Women's Institute matters very intelligently.

"So discussion groups have become a popular program feature. This is a good way of letting the audience contribute their ideas. We do not need to tell so much; we now lead the members to tell us the subject matter. Therefore with a new method of approach to our membership I feel we will arouse their desire to learn more, so that they can contribute something worth while to any discussion. It is my opinion that such a method is a secret of the success of the future of the Women's Institutes of Ontario. This secret might be termed 'The New Approach' and I think is worth considering by leaders in Women's Institute work."

Since her election the President went to Guelph to present the five Regional F.W.I.O. Scholarship awards to the students at Macdonald Institute who were chosen to receive them; attended a Sub-Executive meeting in Toronto—a meeting to make plans for the completion of the Provincial Tweedsmuir History; attended the Junior Farmers' Conference at Guelph, bringing greetings from the F.W.I.O.; and attended as many Branch meetings as possible; also had written 146 letters long hand and written and mailed hundreds of receipts for the Korean project.

Korean Widows' Self Help Project

In giving an interim report of the F.W.I.O. Project for 1954—the Korean Widows' Self Help Project, the President stated that by April 30th, 1954, \$5,317.13 had been received. This fund will provide hand-looms and sewing machines to widows of Korean Service men, so that there will be a possibility of them being taught weaving and sewing for themselves; and through their industry to help to clothe the many needy in Korea. This fund will be closed on July 31st, 1954. The National Society for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have received 12 good used hearing aids from F.W.

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