

A.C.W.W. Reports on Ontario Tours

Editor's Note: We believe our readers will be interested in the impressions of overseas visitors who took tours through Ontario following the A.C.W.W. Conference here. The following notes are taken from the official report of the conference, issued from the head office in London, England. Incidentally the report with its observations about our country goes to country women's organizations the world over.

ON SUNDAY, August 23rd, in delightful weather, seventy-five members of A.C.W.W., travelling in two large motor coaches set out for Ottawa and the surrounding district. For the best part of the day the road lay along the shores of Lake Ontario where one saw rich agricultural land with large herds of Holsteins and Jersey cattle grazing on many of the dairy farms.

At Napanee we were welcomed by members of the Women's Institutes in the district who provided us with an excellent luncheon in their Memorial Hall. Time did not permit a very long stay and we were soon on our way again to visit the historic Fort Henry, established in 1813 to protect the naval dockyard town of Kingston on Lake Ontario, at that time a most important strategic position in Upper Canada. Room after room tells its story of the past. The guns have been replaced on the ramparts and the naval museum contains many interesting relics of the war vessels of 1812.

After taking tea with the Commanding Officer and his wife we left for Kemptville where again Institute Members gave us a wonderful reception, to say nothing of the supper of Canadian turkey with all the etceteras. We later visited the Kemptville Agricultural School, founded in 1917, where the Principal gave us a very warm welcome and where yet more Institute members were ready to provide us with refreshments and entertainment. The school staff, too, seemed to have spared no effort in preparing our accommodation for the night. The school, which is under the direction of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, is magnificently equipped and accommodates about 120 boys and girls from all walks of life. Here they are able to take advantage of a two-year course in agriculture, a two-year course in home economics, a one-year homemakers' course and a twelve weeks dairy course which includes cheese and butter making. Judging by what we saw of the 300 acre farm before breakfast the students are obviously receiving a most useful and up-to-date training. Ample facilities for recreation are available, there is free access to the extensive library and students are made welcome at places of worship of all denominations in the village.

We were sorry to leave Kemptville, but program arrangements necessitated continuing our journey to the Experimental Farm of the

Province founded sixty-seven years ago and which comprises about 1,200 acres. It was extremely interesting to see the method of overhead irrigation and the result of various trials in the cultivation of tomatoes, sweet corn, apple root stocks, etc., etc. Once again we were able to accept the hospitality of Women's Institute members, some of whom escorted us to the Canadian Houses of Parliament in Ottawa. Those who were fortunate enough to be there were greatly impressed by this magnificent building and will long remember the wonderful view from the Peace Tower which adorns it. The library, part of which was unfortunately destroyed by fire some time ago, contains a very valuable collection of books, whilst on the walls of some of the corridors and Senate Chamber are hung many beautiful paintings and tapestries.

After spending the night with our respective hostesses we left for the small but delightful town of Perth, thence to Madoc, where we were greeted by a piper in full dress and each presented with a buttonhole of flowers. Lunch was provided by Institute members of the district and what a delightful reception they gave us! We bade them farewell and continued our journey to Norwood where with the Headmaster and local Institute members we were invited to inspect a very modern new school.

At Peterborough we saw the famous old lift lock on the Trent canal which has a rise of sixty feet. Sunderland brought us to the end of our outward journey and after enjoying supper and entertainment by the Women's Institute, we returned to Toronto by an alternate route arriving there just before midnight.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and the wonderful hospitality, feeling richer for the knowledge they had gained and the many friends they had made.

Northern Ontario Tour

The Northern Ontario tour started immediately after the final banquet of the Conference, for some thirty-five of us caught the midnight train on the Saturday up to North Bay. After breakfast with the North Bay Women's Institute (and most of them turned out to greet us though it was 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning!) we set off by bus up the main highway to James Bay through country which made all our childhood tales of Red Indians come true. Wild rocky landscape with myriads of lakes sparkling in brilliant sunshine amid miles and miles of pine forest—and the sun was really hot, though we were past the Arctic watershed, and into the land where snow and ice hold sway from about November to May. We visited farms where the short summer season means intensive work to bring in a harvest and amongst other things we saw the trouble caused to farmers