

by the indefatigable beavers. Up there in the North we visited things which many of us had never seen in our lives—wood pulping, paper mills, asbestos mines, and gold mines; at Kirkland Lake in one mile's drive we passed seven working gold mines! Everywhere we were entertained royally by our Women's Institute hostesses, many times in towns just celebrating their fiftieth anniversary. And everywhere there were the romantic Indian names—Temiskaming, Kapuskasing, Temagami. One of the highlights of the tour was our trip by boat eighteen miles along Lake Temagami to Bear Island, to shop in the first trading store established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1670. We brought back wonderful memories of a fascinatingly lovely countryside and a warm welcome from our kind Institute hostesses. And the success of our tour was very largely due to our enthusiastic, but also sympathetic, Northern Ontario tour-leader, Mrs. McCracken, of Kirkland Lake.

Western Ontario

Four continents were represented in the rapid tour by car provided by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and driven most efficiently by Miss Audrey Spencer, a member of the Women's Institute and Home Economics Extension Service of the Department, who also acted as guide to the three delegates, Mrs. Phyllis Tilden (New South Wales), Mrs. Sonya Fredgardh (Sweden) and Mrs. Arthur Fawcus (Kenya), the writer of this report.

On the first day we were driven round the charming Rock Gardens of Hamilton and saw the fine buildings and park of the McMaster University. From there we called at the house of a Women's Institute member in Brantford to have cold drinks. Then on to luncheon at a hotel in Brantford where we were entertained by members of the Echo Place Women's Institute, who took us to see the Alexander Bell Memorial Homestead with the interesting collection of early telephone instruments and switchboards. In the afternoon we stopped at a wayside fruit stall near Simcoe where we met members of another Women's Institute and were presented with lovely big baskets of apples and peaches and had tea and cakes at a member's house in an orchard.

After tea we drove through an extensive forest station near Springfield and met members of a Women's Institute group at a barbecue camp there. After a brief stay we continued our drive to Alma College, St. Thomas, where a belated tea-party was given in our honour by the Board of Governors and the Principal. This College was established in 1887 as a residential and day school for the training of older girls in academic subjects, secretarial work and home economics. They have room for 135 resident girls for 2-year courses. Students have opportunities for sport and art classes, religious instruction is given and there is a very fine chapel. A junior school for girls under twelve is also included.

Finally we were taken to Ridgetown where there was a large gathering of Women's Institute members and a dinner party at a farm house. We spent the night in Ridgetown at the Western Ontario Agricultural College where each of us was given a student's bedroom most comfortably and practically furnished.

Monday was another very full day, starting with a tour of the college experimental fields and breakfast at the home of a Women's Institute member. Then we went on a large Group luncheon meeting at Port Lambton, making a short diversion en route to see the reputed grave and cabin of "Uncle Tom." After luncheon we went across the wide St. Clair River on the ferry but did not land in the U. S. A. We had a most interesting tour of the great Polymer synthetic rubber factory at Sarnia and attempted to understand the very complicated technical and chemical processes. We drove half way over the great Peace Bridge to see the Women's Institute plaque. At a very large banquet supper at Kenwick on the Lake (Huron) we met many more Women's Institute Groups from that area and then were dispersed for the night to private homes near Strathroy where we each were given charming hospitality.

On the third and last day we joined forces again at a neighbour's home and after we had driven round the University and Park of the very attractive town London on the Thames we went on to St. Mary's to a formal luncheon given by the Alexandra Women's Institute. In the afternoon we drove along the River Avon to Stratford, where the Shakespeare Festival Week had just finished. It is a beautiful little town with enormous willow trees along the stream and many swans. A large tea-party was given for us at St. George by the Women's Institute; after a brief welcome at a cross-roads we went on to see the Adelaide Hoodless Monument and her house nearby. In the evening we were entertained at another large dinner party at the farm near Palermo of Mr. and Mrs. Fox Ball where the up-to-date farm equipment we were shown included a large deep-freeze box in the cellar and an air-conditioning plant. There was a large storage barn for cereals, corn and root crops and accommodation for cows and rams. Most of these farms are understaffed as labor is scarce and very expensive, so that farmers and their families have a big job to do all the year round.

We returned to Toronto on Tuesday evening at midnight.

At each of the halts on this extensive short tour we were most kindly and hospitably entertained and showered with lovely presents of flowers and fruit. We were photographed endlessly, interviewed by the press and each of us made a speech about our different countries to every group, large or small. I only hope that our efforts were appreciated as much as we enjoyed the enthusiastic welcome given to us as overseas delegates to the A.C.W.W. Triennial Conference.