

F.W.I.O. Board Meeting

By Ina Hodgins

INDICATIVE of the widening scope of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, was the heavy agenda of the Spring Meeting of the Provincial Board which was held in the Faculty Lounge, Administration Building, O.A.C. Guelph on May 9, 10 and 11, 1955 with the President, Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, presiding.

The Honorary President, all Board Directors, but two, were present and these two were represented by their alternates, the Junior Directors, the two Secretaries, the Acting Director of the Women's Institute Branch, the Conveners and the Representative to the F.W.I.C.

Mrs. MacPhatter mentioned how Mrs. Ewen would be missed as for ten years she had made a valuable contribution to the meetings of the Board.

Mrs. MacPhatter extended a cordial welcome to all present, with a special welcome to Miss Chapman, Acting Director of the Women's Institute Branch whom all were so happy to have present and with whom the President enjoyed working so much.

Mrs. MacPhatter expressed thanks and appreciation to the Board Members who assisted her in every way possible and answered her letters so promptly; to her two Secretaries for their splendid help at all times; to Mrs. Ewen for her advice and ever ready help; to Mrs. Purcell who gave the benefit of her experience; to the staff of the Women's Institute Branch for the many courtesies received and for the forms and letters mimeographed. The Chair also expressed the pleasure the Provincial Board had in meeting in such delightful surroundings and tendered grateful thanks to Dr. MacLachlan, President of O.A.C. and his staff for the many courtesies shown during the Board Meeting and the Conference and for the kind hospitality of the College.

The President reported that she had had a very busy winter and would be at home for only four days during the month of May.

Mrs. MacPhatter announced that the project for 1954-55 to equip Women's Work Centres in four Ceylon villages through the U.N.E.S.C.O. plan, was now closed. Contributions received from 821 Branches totalled \$7,206.56 on April 20. The F.W.I.O. had accepted the responsibility of financing four village centres at a cost of \$5,240.00. After thoughtful consideration it was decided to equip two more village centres.

The President announced, while the Hurricane Hazel Flood Relief Fund was not an official F.W.I.O. project, 821 Branches contributed \$18,288.44 in cash as well as hundreds of quilts, blankets, clothing and quantities of food and furniture to this worthy fund.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Mrs. G. Gordon Maynard reported the routine work in her office increasing monthly. She appreciates the full co-operation and understanding shown her by Mrs. MacPhatter and the friendly and gracious letters received from the membership at large. Mrs. Maynard advises a greater use and study of the Hand Book, mentioning that if the members were more familiar with the Hand Book much unnecessary labour, time, correspondence and postage would be saved between the Women's Institute Branch, Toronto and the F.W.I.O. Secretary's office.

Since the beginning of the F.W.I.O. provincial year Mrs. Maynard sent out 2,032 letters and filled 1,684 requests for supplies. Two hundred and thirty-eight Life Memberships were conferred. Regret was expressed at the decrease in membership.

\$2,933.00 had been received towards the travelling expenses of F.W.I.O. delegates to the A.C.W.W. Conference. The contributions to this fund are to be sent to the F.W.I.O. Treasurer by October first.

\$3,908.80 has been contributed towards publishing Home and Country.

The Director's Report—Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service

Miss Ethel Chapman, Acting Director, said to do the work of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service they have a staff of 38 full time workers and 12 part time workers. Fifteen full time Home Economists and 2 part time Home Economists are working in the counties and it is hoped by September to have the counties all staffed.

Thirteen thousand four hundred and three women attended Extension Service short courses. Seven thousand four hundred and forty-one girls were members of Homemaking Clubs, with 6,109 girls completing their projects. Fourteen thousand one hundred and eighty-four folders were borrowed by Women's Institute members from the Loan Library. Thirty thousand letters and 78,000 circulars were sent out from the Women's Institute Branch, and 112,016 pieces of mimeographing done. Thirty-one letter friends were established between Ontario women and women in Australia, Jamaica, New Zealand, England and Scotland. Friendship links were established between 9 Ontario Institutes and groups in Australia and New Zealand.

The Honourable F. S. Thomas, Minister of Agriculture, in an informal address discussed with the Board matters of interest to Women's Institute members and improvements which