

Our New Director

ONTARIO Women's Institute members will be happy to know that Miss Helen McKercher has been appointed Director of Home Economics Service, Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, to succeed Miss Anna P. Lewis who left the government service to be married last April.

Miss McKercher comes from a farm home near Dublin in Huron county. Graduating from Macdonald Institute in 1930 she spent a few months in dietetics at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. She joined the Ontario Department of Agriculture in 1931 serving as a member of the Women's Institute Branch until 1941 when she joined the armed services serving with the Royal Canadian Navy. On her discharge she took her Master's Degree at Cornell University majoring in Home Economics and extension procedures. Following this she returned to the Women's Institute Branch and later was appointed chief of the Home Economics Service of the Federal Department of Fisheries.

Miss McKercher's duties will include supervision of the activities of both the Senior and Junior groups. She brings to this office not only a very special education and broad experience, but also a happy personality and a keen interest in rural people.

Miss Helen McKercher, Director of Home Economics Service, Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture.



Our Cover Story

WHEN we asked the President of Winona Institute, Mrs. R. S. McIntyre, for some facts about their Institute's rug that won first prize in the provincial rug competition sponsored by the Salada Tea Company, we found that the points of the star represent the ten provinces of Canada with an extra star each for Ontario and Quebec. (Perhaps the eleventh and twelfth points might be taken to stand for the Yukon and the North West Territories.) The flowers in the design, moving anti-clockwise, are the wild rose for Alberta, wild blue Iris for Quebec, white trillium for Ontario, pitcher plant for Newfoundland, violet for New Brunswick, dogwood for British Columbia, trailing arbutus for Nova Scotia—the iris and the trillium are repeated here—the lily for Saskatchewan, the crocus for Manitoba and the lady's slipper for Prince Edward Island. Very special care was taken to have the floral coloring exactly right.

We wanted to know more about Mrs. Pylypuik, the Institute member who designed the

rug, and we found that her parents were brought to Canada with their families from the Ukraine when they were very young children. "You can say," Mrs. McIntyre suggested, "that though Mrs. Pylypuik was born in Canada she inherited her talent for designing and for rug making from her European background." (Just another case of someone from another country making a contribution to our Canadian culture, in the field of arts and crafts.)

It seems that the women of Winona have been interested in rug making for years back. Mrs. Pylypuik has been studying designs and collecting information on rugs for some time. Four years ago she visited at the home of a veteran rug maker of Winona, Mrs. Jessie Biggar, and had her first lesson in rug hooking. Later she took some special training in shading. Most of the women around Winona are skilled rug hookers so it was not difficult to find good craftsmen in the Institute to do the actual work on the rug for the competition.