

Here and There With the Institutes

Editor's Note: The information assembled here is gathered from press clippings, an occasional note from an Institute and from personal observation.

Agriculture and Canadian Industries

Hoath Head had a most interesting program on Agriculture which would indicate that the members know a good deal about farming and that they want to learn more. At this meeting one member pointed out a number of ways in which a farmer can make use of his spare time during the winter. Another member told of the work being done by the Humber Valley Authority in establishing an agricultural museum in a barn built in 1809. Pioneer implements are being collected for this museum. A member read an article on the importance of the various ingredients in commercial fertilizers. "They Stay Put" was the title of a paper dealing with live stock farming and the tendency of live stock farms to "stay in the family," giving a stability not so generously found in cash crop farming. The importance of maintaining a good supply of humus in the soil was explained by another member. The area convener's report on Agriculture and Canadian Industries completed the program.

South Mountain's roll call at their meeting on Agriculture and Canadian Industries was: "An article I use that was manufactured in Canada."

A number of branches report addresses with slides or films on home beautification or landscape gardening. These are usually given by representatives of nursery firms. At **Clavering's** meeting featuring landscape gardening the motto talk was on "Soil, like man, deteriorates when it is abused." When **Arkona** had its landscape gardening program an open meeting was arranged and everyone in the community was invited to attend.

At **Plum Creek's** program on Canadian Industries the roll call was "Name a Canadian mineral and its use." An agricultural roll call at **Auburn** was "A rural sound that appeals to me."

Citizenship and Education

There may be a question as to whether a Hobby, Handicraft and Art Show should be classified as an educational project or a community activity; but the show sponsored by the **Pickering** Women's Institute this spring was certainly educational. Also the whole community seemed to be involved in it — the Institute, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides, individual citizens who loaned articles for exhibit or who donated prizes along the line of their hobbies, the staff of the high school where the show was held.

The Institute was especially proud of its historical exhibit. They had borrowed a collec-

tion of Indian relics found in the area and reported to be centuries old. They had bullets from the time of the Fenian Raid and a drawing of the memorial at Niagara to Peter Matthews of Brougham who was executed at the close of the Rebellion of 1836-37. The antiques in this exhibit included photos of older members of the community, old homes and crown deeds of farms, old daguerreotypes and tints, wooden skates, candle molds, a wool wreath in a frame, samplers; beautiful coverlets of wool grown, spun and woven in the community; a white cotton spread with the names of Ann and William Jordon and the year 1814 woven in. A collection of steins from Germany of beautiful silver and enamel craftsmanship. A wedding dress of mauve rose taffeta was dated 117 years ago.

Among the exhibit from arts and hobbies popular today there was an extensive display of paintings from all over the district, and of pottery and puppetry from an Ajax craft group. A woman who raises angoras and plucks, spins and weaves the wool, demonstrated spinning and weaving. There was also a good display of knitted and crocheted articles, including an array of booties made by the Women's Auxiliary of Ajax Hospital to give to the babies born there. In wood-carving there were trays and a beautiful collection of Canadian birds, carved from wood and painted in the birds' natural colors, and arranged around cages of very lively living canaries. Most interesting lamp stands of drift wood, aluminum trays, leatherwork and rugs — hooked, braided and yarn rugs made from cork work — they were all on exhibit; and a whole hall full of needlepoint. One demonstration was Silk Screen Printing on drapery material.

And speaking of hobbies, one Pickering couple seem to make a hobby of house building. Photographs showed their home that they had built themselves, from stone, even to the fireplace . . . And as this community is proud of its writers a little exhibit "Pickering Literary Scene" showed a sizeable row of books by local authors. In spite of one of the bad storms of the year a crowd of 570 attended the show.

Elma Centre, at Citizenship and Education meeting had the roll call: "A radio or TV program I like or don't like, and why," and an address on racial prejudice.

"Who's Who in Canada?" was the roll call for **Delta's** meeting on Citizenship. The special speaker was Miss Ann Vias a new Canadian who spoke on Holland and the friendliness of Canadian people. Exhibits were on display from Italy, Japan, Johannesburg, China and Sweden. And a member gave a paper on "Know Your Canada."