

in Ontario's sixtieth anniversary celebration, was a gift to the convention from F.W.I.O.

Looking Forward

Miss Frances MacKay, formerly director of women's work in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, now with the Consumer Research Division, told a thrilling story of her experience working with UN agencies in Irak for the last few years. Irak, a member of UN, had turned to that body for technical assistance in education, health and agriculture; and the development along these lines has been almost unbelievable. Through UNESCO education is being provided for both children and adults, free of cost from primary school to the university. Each year Irak sends about 300 of its people abroad for post-graduate training. The health programme includes pre-natal clinics and child welfare as well as the usual modern measures for sanitation and the prevention of diseases. Through UNICEF milk is provided for children. In agriculture where much of the land is desert and still inhabited by travelling herdsmen, one of the problems is to get the roving tribes to settle on agricultural land. In this they need technical guidance.

Miss MacKay described the contrasts in housing from the mud hut to the home with up-to-date Western conveniences, the sheltered—too sheltered—position of women, and the rapid development of better homes and community centres. The money to pay for improvements comes from Nature, from oil. Last year Irak had 250 million dollars in oil royalties and they want to finance their own development. All the help they ask for is technical assistance.

"We sometimes think of such countries as undeveloped, inferior," Miss MacKay said. "In many ways, they are superior to us . . . Mr. Pearson and Mrs. Houck gave us a vision of our responsibilities in the world community. Are we going to accept this or concentrate on less important things?"

Conservation

There was a symposium on Conservation chaired by Dr. P. O. Ripley, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Chief of the Division of Field Husbandry Soils and Agricultural Engineering. The other members were S. J. Chagnon, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture; J. D. Harrison, Director Forestry Branch, Northern Affairs and Natural Resources; Dr. Alfred Leahey, head of the Experimental Farm's Soil Survey Unit and Mrs. Henry Monnen, F.W.I.C. convener of Agriculture and Canadian Industries.

The conservation of soils, crops (including trees) and wild life was discussed with reference to the general situation today, our responsibilities and suggestions for improvement. Some of the points of agreement were that responsibility for conservation should be shared by provincial and federal governments, the individual farmer and persons engaged



Centre: Hon. Ellen Fairclough, Secretary of State, who spoke at the convention. Left, Mrs. F. N. Nash of Nova Scotia. Right, Mrs. C. R. Wood, Alberta.

in forestry; that there is need of further research in the study of conservation methods; that an educational programme be set up to inform the public about conservation and that some government assistance might well be given to individuals engaged in certain lines of conservation.

Following the symposium the women were ready for a lively discussion which might have gone far to make them aware of one another's problems in the different provinces; but as so often happens at conventions there was very little time for discussion. This happened again when Round Tables were set up to discuss various phases of Institute work.

Presidents' Panel

From the Presidents' Panel the delegates heard a good deal about special activities in the different provinces; awarding scholarships to students, sponsoring well baby clinics and immunization clinics for children, bringing home economics extension services to the community, teaching handicrafts (Newfoundland not only teaches the crafts but helps the Jubilee Guilds to sell their work), organizing family parties and community recreation. The Ontario President mentioned summer holidays for Institute members at the Agricultural College, New Brunswick reported their Home for Aged Institute members, Saskatchewan their sending young people to UN seminars in the area. Nova Scotia's courses, children's clinics and parties are attracting the younger women. Practically all provinces reported gifts to UNESCO. Alberta and British Columbia are neighboring with Indian Homemakers' Clubs and in some places are integrating Indian women in the Institutes. One B.C. branch sent an Indian youth to a University Youth Training course.

The very excellent reports of standing committees gave a pretty complete picture of Institute programmes and projects across the Dominion. Unfortunately space does not allow us to reproduce them here. They are usually given in considerable detail in Federated