

The President's Corner

Mrs. James Haggerty,
President, F.W.I.O.



OUR Sixtieth Anniversary Year draws to a close. It has been an exciting time when the past blended with the present and set forth challenges for the future.

The review of six decades of growth and progress of our organization has recalled to our minds treasured memories of those who pioneered the early stages of Women's Institute work, how each year they widened their horizons and were not content to labor in their own small communities.

This year the far corners of the world have been reached and distant lands and their peoples have come very close to us and have become realities, through the eyes and voices of our delegates to the Conference in Ceylon, who visited countries all around the world.

For the first time in History, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, opened our Canadian Parliament.

The First National Convention of Women's

in these clubs sponsored by the Women's Institute create pride of ownership and accomplishment and a readiness to accept responsibility. Club work develops in the members talents for greater usefulness and the finest quality of citizenship.

We are living in an age of continuous and fast-moving change. Research and scientific studies are invaluable aids in keeping us informed. It is up to the individual or organization to transpose the results of research so that they may serve their most effective purpose. Therefore, as members of an organization so keenly interested in the health of the people, we must fit ourselves to assume our responsibility in this.

Papers and talks have a two-fold purpose: they benefit the speaker who prepares them as well as those who share their contents. Subjects dealt with during the year include Cancer, Mental Health, Muscular Dystrophy, the Blitz Diet, Safety in Swimming, Health Pills and Ills. The interest and appreciation of the members is shown by the increasing use of available courses from the Extension Service. Many demonstrations have been given

Institutes was held in the Capital City of Ottawa and women of all Provinces met together and discussed their problems and told of their achievements and discovered a unity of purpose, principle and faith, wherever women meet to fulfil a common objective. That Convention established a close bond of friendship among the Provinces and, I hope, we shall all think together nationally and interprovincially, as we formulate our plans for tomorrow.

As I visited Conventions all over Ontario (and I attended thirteen of them, as well as the National Convention) I found that the Institutes everywhere are looking forward; young women are accepting the challenges laid down by the ones who went before, not only carrying the torch but holding it a little higher. Their plans include every woman and child and the menfolk too, in their community. They are assuming responsibility too for their nation and for world-wide interests.

The Area Conventions were a revelation to me. Each Convention presented some special feature. Something relative to that particular Area. To meet the women of Ontario in such an informal way, is a privilege indeed, and those groups of intelligent, sound-thinking, kind-hearted and forward-looking folks are going to prove in the future that capable hands, hearts and minds are looking out for "Home and Country."

To each and every Women's Institute in Ontario and to those in Canada, and to other similar organizations across the world, I wish a successful, happy and satisfying year of 1958.

Annie G. Haggerty.

by members, local doctors, nurses and teachers, including First Aid, treatment of cuts and bruises, swimming lessons to members and children, the making of Christmas and wedding bells from white sugar, and many others.

Donations were made to many worthy causes including cod liver oil for school children and first aid cupboards installed in schools and kept supplied.

Agriculture and Canadian Industries

Mrs. Stewart McDonald, convener of Agriculture and Canadian Industries, said that agriculture is a basic industry, a science and an art. The man who follows it may well be proud of his profession. His is and must be an example to the world of the quieter way of life, of the concept of the relation of man and his stewardship to his Creator.

Agriculture is faced with a tremendous struggle, for with mounting labour and operating costs and steadily declining prices the small farmer has been caught in "the squeeze". Many have had to supplement their income by working in factories. This means less time spent on farm work, hence less properly farm-