

Conference Committee. Left to right: Mrs. E. V. Thompson, Mrs. James Haggerty, Mrs. P. Y. McCandless, Mrs. G. Gordon Maynard, Miss Helen McKercher.

OAC Photo



teaching a girl how to run a sewing machine or make a record book or plan a party.

Miss McKercher congratulated the Institutes who are sponsoring girls' 4-H Homemaking Clubs. It is almost impossible, she said, for a leader to realize how far-reaching her work with girls may be.

The Minister of Agriculture Speaks

The Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, brought greetings from the Government. Referring to the "Challenge of Tomorrow" theme, Mr. Goodfellow said he had found in public life that what is good enough for today is not good enough for tomorrow. We have seen many changes in agriculture and there will be more changes because agriculture has to take its place as a basic industry. At the Agricultural College we have men doing research work as well as it is being done anywhere, and an extension staff carrying this research direct to the farm. This is important because in the agriculture of the future there will be no place for the inefficient farmer, and the woman on the farm may be more important than the farmer himself.

Mr. Goodfellow paid a tribute to women in public life as he had observed their work in municipal affairs, and he urged the women to take more part in public and community life. One of the important needs of agriculture today is the collective marketing of farm produce in an orderly way. Mr. Goodfellow said he was impressed with the Ontario farmers' understanding of this need but he felt that farm women could be a help by using their influence, too.

The Minister may have "put ideas in the women's heads" when he said, "You women are very complacent in your demands on the government. I would like to tell you that you have a powerful influence on governments through your representations."

Mr. Goodfellow spoke of the Ontario Hospital Care Plan coming into use in January. (The plan had been outlined by Mr. Paul Meighan of the Hospital Services Commission at an earlier session.) The great concern of

the government just now is to interest the self-employed people of the province, such as farmers, in getting in their applications not later than September 30 so that they will be eligible for benefits when the plan opens on January 1, 1959.

The Ontario Hospital Care Plan is outlined in a separate article in this issue.

Some Major Projects

This year the Ontario Institutes are working on three special projects: auxiliary classes — or at least auxiliary teaching — in public schools for children who need this help; a study of infant mortality and maternal care; and safety in the home and on the farm. The radio and television evaluation survey continues with live interest. A symposium with speakers on all of these subjects was introduced by Mrs. Haggerty.

Mrs. Douglas Hart, reporting on the study of Auxiliary Classes said of the child who needs this help:

"He attends school, and you and I could not recognize him perhaps if we stepped in for a visit. The teacher is very much aware of him and his problem, and the child himself knows that something is wrong, for in spite of every effort to do his best he cannot keep up with the others or savour the joy of success and achievement.

"Often a slow learner or a retarded child who attends a city school in Ontario may be included in an Auxiliary or Opportunity Class where, under teachers specially trained in remedial methods he is encouraged and educated in the true sense of the word. Under such special education a seemingly hopeless child can sometimes go on to complete public or even high school requirements; but if this is beyond his capabilities he can surely be moulded into a happier, more successful citizen."

Mrs. Hart spoke of the recent introduction of the travelling remedial teacher to meet the needs of handicapped children scattered throughout rural school areas; and paid a warm tribute to the pioneer in this field, W. R.