

Films for Women's Institutes

INSTITUTE MEMBERS who attended the National Film Board's Film Institute at Huron College, University of Western Ontario, had an interesting demonstration of the possibilities of films in Institute programmes. Mrs. George Wilson, Public Relations Officer for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, acted as chairman and also had a part in planning the day's agenda, suggesting that it contain outlines for programmes for Institute meetings along the lines of the standing committees, with a film having a place in each programme.

Mrs. Wilson, as national Public Relations officer based her remarks on the part films can play in this field. The Canadian Northland, Mrs. Wilson felt, had made a great impression on visitors such as the late Lord Tweedsmuir and the Duke of Edinburgh and Governor General Vincent Massey; it may well be the land of opportunity for the next generation; and it is important that all Canadians should know more about it. At Mrs. Wilson's request the London Film Council showed the film "Fisheries of the Great Slave Lake," a colour film, outstanding for its beauty and for the information it gives.

Mrs. Stuart MacDonald, past provincial convener of Agriculture and Canadian Industries, and past F.W.I.O. representative to the Conservation Council took Conservation as the theme for her programme, using the film "Proud Land." Roll calls suggested were "A form of conservation that should be practised in your locality" or "A type of soil and what grows best on it," with the motto: "Soil, like men, deteriorates with abuse" or "A nation builds on sinking sand unless its roots are in the land." As in all the programmes demonstrated, the film showing was followed by a discussion.

Mrs. Stanley Mollard, past president of North Middlesex district, was responsible for a sample programme on Home Economics and Health. There was a concise introduction stressing the importance of good nutrition and giving Canada's Food Rules. "Food for Freddy" was the film shown; then small discussion groups were formed to consider questions relating to good food, a balanced diet, good shopping practices and the evaluation of the film. Members were each given a copy of Canada's Food Rules to take home and hang in the kitchen cupboard.

Mrs. J. D. Hossack, a F.W.I.O. regional vice-president, demonstrated a programme on Citizenship using the film "Community Responsibilities." The discussion following the film dealt with two questions: "In good citizenship, where does a person's duty to the community end?" and "Where does the obligation to oneself or one's family begin when apportioning one's spare time and energy?" Other films suggested for programmes on Citizenship and Education were: "Dutch Family Makes a New Start," "Citizen Varek," "Leaving It to the Experts"; "Fires of Envy," a community's unthinking discrimination against a Polish farmer;

"The Sceptre and the Mace," a colour film showing the pageantry of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Canada; "Canadian Venture," with immigrants from the British Isles; "Canadian Notebook," a preview of the life facing new immigrants on a Maritime farm, in a B. C. mining community, a Quebec logging camp, an Ontario manufacturing centre.

The film "The Longhouse People," an excellent film portraying the life and customs of today's Indians, was used by Mrs. Harmon Morton, Historical Research convener for London Convention Area, in a programme on Historical Research. Mrs. Morton gave an informative address on "The Indians of the Year 1600 and Today." A map and a display of Indian relics added to this demonstration.

Following these demonstrations—and a coffee break—Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Mollard, Mrs. Hossack, Mrs. Morton and Mr. Otis McGregor, president of Lambton County Film Council, introduced a panel discussion on the availability of films, types of equipment and other problems of organizations featuring films in their programmes. Over 120 Institute members from the area attended the conference.

A.C.W.W. JOURNEY

As the A.C.W.W. Conference is held in different places the world over, it may be a long time before Canadian delegates will again travel around the world to attend as they did when the Conference was held in Ceylon in 1957. Illustrated talks on this round-the-world tour have been very popular with the Institutes since our delegates returned.

Mrs. George Wilson, one of the Ontario representatives, has not only given a great many addresses on her trip; she has also published a booklet about it, entitled "A Delegate Reports." The report gives, in a very readable, entertaining style, some of Mrs. Wilson's observations in the following places: Honolulu; Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia, Singapore; Colombo, Ceylon; Bombay, India; Beirut, Lebanon; Istanbul, Turkey; Athens, Rome; Geneva, Paris, London, Belfast and Edinburgh. Copies may be had from the author, Mrs. Geo. Wilson, R.R. #6, St. Mary's, Ont.; the price is \$1.00 which includes the cost of mailing.

NATIONAL OFFICE OPENED

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have opened their national office at 34 Central Chambers, 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa.

Mrs. H. G. Taylor, well known for her fine work as Secretary of the Women's Institutes of Quebec, has been appointed National Secretary.

A CORRECTION

In the Summer 1958 issue in the article on the back cover we made the serious error of using the country name "New Zealand" where it should have been "Australia." The writer of the article is a New Zealand woman but she was reporting a trip through Australia. We deeply regret our mistake.—Editor.