

EDITORIAL

THE SAFETY SURVEY—There is something very moving to most of us in the thought that someone is trying to make things safe for us. It strengthens our faith in human goodness to see a mother put a baby to bed knowing that no harm can come to it in its sleep because she has taken every precaution she can think of to protect it. The crib has guards to prevent falling, there are no soft pillows to smother against, no loose, entangling bed clothes. We have a special respect for the man who never leaves an axe at the woodpile without driving it so far into a block that no child can get it out; the neighbor who leaves his comfortable home at night to place a warning light at a dangerous hole in the road. Perhaps this is why, during one of the worst storms of the winter, there was an almost full attendance at Ontario's first Safety Conference.

The conference made clear the need of a campaign for safety on the farm and on the highway.

The Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, said he hoped farm people would realize that they are in one of the most hazardous occupations in the world; and that the conference would result in safety campaigns in perpetuity with stress on self help and human values. (It was reported that a survey in the United States showed that a man is three times safer working in a factory than on a farm.)

The Hon. John Yaremko, Minister of Transport, suggested that if we could get education in safety habits on the highways, on the farms and in the homes, we "would pretty well cover the province."

Dr. C. D. Graham, Deputy Minister of Agriculture said: "We study how to make farming more profitable but what profiteth the most advanced farming if the farmer or someone in his family loses his or her life?"

Dr. J. D. MacLachlan gave us the startling fact that the age group in which there are the most fatalities from tractor accidents is the group aged from one to five years.

We were told that in Bruce county a tornado struck and the loss to the farmers amounted to \$100,000. In the same year farm accidents in the county cost \$170,000; and six resulted in permanent injury. We also learned that in the year 1950 the loss from fire in Ontario was \$44,000,000, to say nothing of the people killed or injured; and that when a farmer has a fire he usually has four strikes against him: his buildings are frame, the contents are inflammable, water may not be available, and the fire department is some distance away.

At the close of the conference Mr. T. R. Hilliard, Director of Extension for the Department of Agriculture said: "We know there are accidents from livestock, machinery, fires, traffic and other causes, but we want the statistics so that we can have a true picture before we start on an over-all programme of education."

So, the Safety Survey is the first step in a campaign to save life and prevent suffering and injury through accidents. And, as anyone might expect, the Women's Institutes are going to be right in the thick of it.

Ethel Chapman