

IF I HAD KNOWN

By Mary Carolyn Davies

If I had known what trouble you were bearing;
What griefs were in the silence of your face;
I would have been more gentle, and more caring,
And tried to give you gladness for a space.
I would have brought more warmth into the place,
If I had known.

If I had known what thoughts despairing drew you;
(Why do we never try to understand?)
I would have lent a little friendship to you,
And slipped my hand within your hand,
And made your stay more pleasant in the land,
If I had known.

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residents of homes for the aged and for the blind; scholarships—both the regular Women's Institute scholarships for club girls and special scholarships such as those given at music festivals; assisting with the rehabilitation of boys in Training Schools; serving lunch at 4-H Homemaking Club achievement days; assisting in preserving historic houses, marking historic places in the district, establishing and maintaining museums, community parks; conducting music festivals, drama festivals, public speaking competitions.

Many similar projects were carried on at branch level with emphasis on sponsoring 4-H Homemaking Clubs—one branch reported sponsoring a Brownie group. There were reports of interesting International Days in February with new Canadians as guests. When newcomers become Canadian citizens some branches give a tea in their honour. When the question of financing was discussed one delegate reported that her branch had found it a good practice, instead of giving a donation to a cause such as the Cancer Society, to do the canvassing in the community.

Discussing the question of getting new members and maintaining attendance, the old point of contention came up, that women with young children find it difficult to come to afternoon meetings and older women don't like to come to evening meetings. One branch solved this when the young women who drive cars volunteered to bring the older women to meetings in the evening. Personal invitations seem most effective in getting new members—also invitations to short courses, family nights and special social occasions. Some new members with young children were attracted because the Institute sponsored a baby clinic.

Concluding her report, Mrs. Penney said: "Let us resolve to face up to the problem of continuing to be a vital force in our communities. Can we fit our programmes into a new and modern world? We must advance with the times and at the same time nourish and replenish the grass roots of our great organization—the branches. Only thus, as we seek new adventures in service shall we realize our great potentiality."

Mrs. Haggerty's Message

It was with very evident regret that the delegates accepted the fact that this would be Mrs. Haggerty's last appearance as provincial president at an officers' conference. And it was characteristic

of Mrs. Haggerty that she should take as her theme "Carry on."

"I am taking away so many fine things," Mrs. Haggerty said. "Other presidents have said that there is a great let-down after finishing a presidential term, but the only thing to do is to carry on. Now I can take more interest in my branch—which I have neglected—not to impose my views but to carry on as any good Institute member would. To 'carry on' means to continue in the face of frustration and discouragement. Sometimes it would be easier to take the easy ways, but we must not look for easy ways."

Referring to our common desire for peace in the world, Mrs. Haggerty emphasized the point that we must have peace in our homes and communities and we must overcome opposition and prejudice. The pioneer women of the first Institute, she said, must have faced many difficulties but they left us a heritage hoping we would carry on in a broader way. They gave us a pattern for a Women's Institute programme which we must adjust to changing times and different communities. Resistance to change seems natural to most of us but who would go back to the horse-and-buggy days? And in such a difficult thing as the reorganizing of sub-divisions, in most cases—even after making a protest—the women are working hard to make the changes work.

Going back to the conference theme, Mrs. Haggerty said: "What a thrilling adventure my three years as president has been! It has been a pleasure to travel over the province at all hours and in all sorts of ways. On one of my trips the train was heated by a little pot-bellied wood stove at each end of the car.

"If I were to name one especially high adventure it would be the coming trip to Scotland which you have made possible for me. Or perhaps it would be the contacts I have had with Institute members through these last three years."

Mrs. Haggerty paid a tribute to the achievement of Mrs. Alfred Watt in getting the Women's Institute extended into the international Associated Country Women of the World, and urged the Institutes never to forget that they are a part of an international organization; also to remember that the most important woman in an Institute is not necessarily the woman who has held the most offices.

In these days, Mrs. Haggerty suggested, there might be some danger of our underestimating the first part of our motto "For Home and Country" and urged the women to take pride in their work as homemakers. She advised the women with homes and families whether they made it a full-time job or whether they worked at teaching school or some other work, to be first of all a homemaker.

Mrs. Haggerty's final word was this: "I would liken my experience as provincial president to a sail boat starting out on a voyage. It began as a pleasant adventure. Sometimes the wind died down and I needed my oarsmen; but always with your help I was able to steer through. I expect to come to harbour next November and to hand over my ship to another captain. With your help she will carry on to greater things."