

President: Mrs. J. F. Van Beekhoff (The Netherlands).

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. W. H. Cullen (Australia), Mrs. F. B. de Mel (Ceylon), Mrs. Haven Smith (U. S. A.)

Area Vice-Presidents: Africa — Mrs. Basil Price, M.B.C. (Southern Rhodesia). Asia — Mrs. Aroti Dutt (India). Canada — Mrs. J. W. Adams. Northern Europe — Mrs. Ulla Schulman (Finland). Southern Europe — Mrs. C. M. Cornell (England). South Pacific — Mrs. N. Schroder (New Zealand). United States of America — Mrs. Homer Remsberg.

Hon. Treasurer — Mrs. D. M. McGrigor.

Hon. Secretary — Lady Binney.

Elected Members: Mrs. J. Dahlerup (Denmark), Miss B. Hearnden (England), Mrs. Norman Kennedy, O.B.E. (Scotland), Mrs. E. Kleyn (Netherlands), Mrs. G. Linton (Northern Ireland), Madame Torma (England).

In her closing address, Mrs. Alice Berry, who has been president for the last two triennial periods thanked the delegates for the years of happiness she has had in the work. One of the pleasant truths she had learned from her experience was that "wherever women meet together they can be friends."

The New President

The new President of A.C.W.W., Mrs. J. F. Van Beekhoff, is the wife of a fruit farmer who is also Burgomaster and Count of the Dykes of his district. They have a sixteen-year-old son, now in college who, they hope, will later take a course in agriculture and take over the family farm. Mrs. Beekhoff is the daughter of a clergyman and was a nurse before her marriage in 1937. She started the Country Women's groups in her district shortly after she was married and has been active in the organization ever since, becoming National President in 1952.

Addressing the conference after her election, Mrs. Beekhoff said:

"Your new President is the first one in the rank of Presidents whose mother tongue is not English. It may happen that I use words, quite familiar to my ears, but alien to yours, because I may translate too literally from my own language. It may even sound abrupt. But I will never have the intention to offend anyone, and I will serve A.C.W.W. to the best of my ability — in openness and frankness to you all.

"Through the objects of A.C.W.W. we know our ideals are in common, however different the roads are we walk upon. As we have the happiness of our homes and families in mind, you will allow me to make some personal remarks, and tell you about my family. I owe very much to my husband and my son. They have never made an objection when my work took me away from home (as a National President I sometimes had to go away five days of the week) and they promise me they will never grumble when I'll be called away in the future. It makes all the difference when one is backed at the roots. Those who are as privileged as I am (we have a marvellous help as well) will agree with me when I pay a tribute to all A.C.W.W. husbands and families. They deserve it!

"The theme of this Conference has been 'Looking Ahead' and we have tried to find new roads to a better world. The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship unanimously accepted by the Conference, will prove to be of great help on those roads. For some of you the roads are pleasant to walk on and the borders are full of flowers. They only need beautifying and care — and rain in due time. Others will have to face a far more heavy task and help may be wanted to carry stones to pave the roads, unused or neglected up to now. But however different the roads are, they lead to the same goal and never do we walk alone. Others will ask our attention and care, and a helping hand when the road is steep. May we all be guided safely on those roads that lead to a better world."

A Message to Ontario

Asked if she had a message for the Ontario Women's Institutes, Mrs. Beekhoff said:

"At the time of the conference in Toronto, the hospitality of the Women's Institute members was of the greatest value to me and I cherish the happy memories about the Canadian way of life. I may call several Canadian members my very good friends.

"Your executive member in London, Mrs. Spry has been elected to chair the committee meetings. It will be a real joy to work with her and the links between Canada and Holland, already many-fold will be reaffirmed.

"The objects of A.C.W.W. — to promote good will and understanding among country women everywhere, the raising of their standard of living, the furthering of good relations between nations, will always be in my mind. And I wish all members in Ontario, the beautiful, the very best."

The next A.C.W.W. conference, in 1962, will be held in Australia, the place of meeting to be decided later.

A Personal Note

Again I want to thank the Women's Institutes for giving me the opportunity of attending this conference. It was a most "awakening" experience and I hope some of the benefits will find their way into this paper. I am deeply grateful not only to the F.W.I.O. Provincial Board but to every Women's Institute member. — Ethel Chapman.

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APPRENTICE

By Ethel Jacobson

When I tried my first pie
I had troubles to spare!
The pastry was tricky,
The dough far too sticky,
Too crumbly, too tough,
Too short, not enough—

When I tried my first pie
I was filled with despair,
But I heeded the word
Of my Granny, oft-heard:
"Gently—the right hand,
My dear, is a light hand,
Which you'll find just as true
In other things, too."

In the Christian Science Monitor

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