

# Ontario Girls' Conference

By Florence P. Eadie

Being a Canadian became something exciting, challenging and a high adventure to the two hundred 4-H Homemaking Club Members at the Sixth Annual Provincial Girls' Conference in June.

They represented every county and district and were largely from grades 11 and 12. School days took on a new meaning as they considered careers and heard from former club members who were enthusiastic about being a homemaker, a teacher, a nurse, a dietitian, a rural sociologist and a home economics extension director. It became increasingly apparent that High School is important, giving them the necessary basic training for all kinds of thrilling, satisfying work awaiting enterprising, trained, young women today. Then, too, they saw the necessity not only of keeping on at High School, but making sure they were taking the subjects required in order to continue on to further preparation for their chosen vocation. They asked many questions at Macdonald Institute regarding requirements for courses in Home Economics.

Home and family life took on special significance as speakers repeatedly stressed the importance of the home as a vital factor in developing happy, healthy people with worthwhile values, a sense of responsibility, respect for self discipline, a favourable attitude to properly constituted authority and in contributing to the life of the nation and the hope of the world.

This made them increasingly aware of their opportunities and responsibilities as young women, family members and potential homemakers.

Questions directed to the speaker from Canada Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources on The Eskimo, Canada's Oldest "New Canadian," showed their keen interest and desire to learn more about Canada and the needs of its people. Previous speakers had urged them to maintain that spirit of adventure and willingness to explore and take a chance, characteristics of pioneers, in the development of their country. It was evident from questions that this group still has a spirit of adventure as many started considering the possibilities of setting their sights at work in the Canadian North.

A thought provoking address on Canada, A Member of the Commonwealth and What It Means, further stimulated their thinking "on being a Canadian" and made them appreciative of Canada's role in the expansion of the Commonwealth.

A comprehensive presentation traced the historical development with Britain granting overseas territories the right to political representation and religious tolerance, then on to the idea of dominion status and the development of the modern commonwealth. The speaker, a History Professor from the University of Western Ontario, stated he believed that the British Empire transformed into a commonwealth is still the greatest hope our world has for a sane and civilized mankind.

One morning was "club morning" given over to the discussion of club work and the presentation of exhibits and demonstrations. The girls agreed



A discussion group with Miss Mary Singer, right, teacher of Home Management at Macdonald Institute.