

Derry West, Peel county, club wearing dresses or skirts and blouses which they made in their project "Cottons May Be Smart".



Provincial Honours as a club member and her five year leader's certificate which must mean that she took several projects and acted as leader at the same time. One of her reasons for club leading is that she feels rural girls do not have the same opportunity as town girls for getting home economics at schools and that homemaking clubs can make up for this. Another early beginner is Mrs. Harold Caesar. Mrs. Caesar says: "I first heard of girls' homemaking clubs when I attended the girls' conference at Guelph about twenty-three years ago. I was so thrilled with the idea that my enthusiasm spread to the other members of the Women's Institute so that we sponsored a club and I was the first leader. I was a farmer's daughter living at home and it gave me an opportunity to become acquainted with girls I would not have known otherwise, for our members came from four school sections. We enjoyed fixing up our bedrooms and clothes closets and we learned many new dishes to serve our families. Now I have two teenage daughters and I want them to participate in all the homemaking clubs have to offer."

Mrs. J. D. Hossack who has given several years to leading clubs, recalls the "spade work" necessary to convince her Women's Institute that it would be a good idea to start a homemaking club for girls. She reports: "We talked and talked and when we did get started we had enough girls for three clubs instead of one. Then we had to talk some more to get leaders enough and some assistants. But how it has paid off over the years! When I see the lovely, well-fed, well-clothed, happy children these girls have and what well-managed, happy homes they make, I just swell with some sort of inner joy."

Mrs. Lloyd Jewell says she leads homemaking clubs because she knows from experience how much a girl starting out in a home of her own needs the training these clubs offer. She managed to take six units after she was married before she reached the age limit, twenty-six. Another of her reasons for leading clubs is that, in addition to teaching the girls, she learns something from each new project that helps her in her own homemaking. Mrs. Delmar Skinner expresses the same idea. Clubs were not yet well spread over the province when she was a girl so she took only a few units before she reached the age limit. "So," she says, "when I was given the privilege of being a leader I knew how valuable the clubs were. I could not receive any more certificates but I could go on learning."

Mrs. G. Nixon says: "I might say I have been a club leader from a sense of duty, as I have two daughters who have enjoyed club work. They had

good leaders to help them so I felt it was only fair that I should do my part for the girls in the community when I could." Mrs. H. Kellam says: "A woman must like and enjoy working with teenage girls or she wouldn't be leading a club. Another attraction of the work is that the training courses are excellent and they keep a leader up to date with new ideas." And we have this note from Mrs. Mary Billings: "I like girls, am interested in all their activities and it is a challenge to me to help as many girls as I can. Miss Petty, our District Home Economist kindled this flame of interest away back in 1935. I was very young then."

Mrs. Richard Hill says: "My personal interest has been in short courses and girls' work since I attended a short course in 1929. I feel that if we can interest girls in the years twelve to sixteen, they can accomplish a great deal before their High School studies get so heavy." Mrs. Hill appreciates the way the club programme has been developed over the years and of the evidence of this in record books, displays, demonstrations and skits on Achievement Days. Mrs. Betty Clubine says: "I think one of the main reasons I am a Homemaking Club leader is that I know from experience how much the projects helped me when I started to keep house myself. Also I don't think a leader ever leaves a training school without gaining much knowledge herself." Mrs. Marilyn Smith expresses the same idea, adding that she feels, in being a leader, she may pay back something of the benefits she received as a member, and that if the girls get out of their club work only half of what she did in hers, it will be worthwhile.

Mrs. Agnes Foster has completed leading her sixteenth project. She says: "Club work, to me, is not work but a real joy. When I was the age of a club girl there was no homemaking club within reach. I had five brothers in boys' clubs and I helped to hand pick grain, sorted show potatoes, helped in experimental plots and knew how to groom animals for showing. And how often I wished I were a boy! My turn came years later when I volunteered to lead a club in our community. My own daughters were only two, four and six years old but there were seventeen other girls in the neighborhood waiting for something like this. So I myself took each project along with the girls. Why do I keep on? I like young people; I like to teach; and I like to watch girls grow in skills, in knowledge, in poise and in the art of working with others."

Mrs. Jean Mathers says that she volunteered to be a leader in order to take the club projects herself,