

The President's Corner



Mrs. L. G. Lymburner
President F.W.I.O.

SIX MONTHS have passed since I last sent a personal message to you; six months filled with experiences of inestimable value. Each day has brought to me the happiness, the sadness and the problems of the members who are working at living together and my work has been fascinating, indeed. I was pleased when members wrote to say they had used bits of my first message to you as the basis for a short talk at a meeting; I have been intrigued by some of the plans which have been put forth by members for stirring up renewed interest on the part of members "not too enthusiastic" and I have rejoiced with those who have formed new Branches in the past few months.

You will find, even as I have, that more and more we are becoming involved with matters of international import. The decision of ACWW at the conference last year to support an International Scholarship named for one of its founders, Lady Aberdeen, has sparked unusual interest on the part of our women and you will have learned that FWIO has contributed \$1,000.00 to this project as its indication of interest and recognition of the need for educating and preparing women in health and home-making skills who will give their knowledge to those in countries who need this assistance so much. Perhaps many of you will not know how this money came to be available at this time. At present, we have invested a large sum which was contributed by our members at the time of the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Institutes and named in memory of the late Adelaide Hunter Hoodless. The income must be used for a scholarship and is left to accumulate until a goodly sum has been realized; thus you will see that the money was at hand at the best possible time for us to give the support which we would want to provide.

Again, I should like to quote to you the words of Marion Maier who wrote the story of ACWW, "We will strive to the best of our ability to promote international good will, friendship and understanding between the countrywomen of the world and we shall endeavor to further good relations between nations and be a voice for country women in international affairs." But I should like to point out to you that giving money toward this end is not of the greatest importance. How much do we contribute of ourselves toward this end. How well do we as members of this world-wide (and each of you is a member of ACWW when you pay your fees at Branch level) organization exemplify this ideal; how well do we live together in our own community; how much do

we strive to learn of how women live together in THEIR communities in the other thirty constituent societies of ACWW?

We cannot be like the man who "jumped on his horse and ran in all directions" but rather, we might make an effort to learn something of the work being done by one society at a time so that we would be familiar with sister members and their problems around the world. To this end, I suggest that we make an effort most especially to learn of our newest affiliate in the British West Indies. Here is a country not too far away from us and one to which many Canadians have flown in the past year or two or have gone on a cruise stopping at some of the islands. We will, in the autumn begin a project under UNESCO through which we will support adult education in this country by way of the Gift Coupon No. 400. Possibly, if you set yourselves to learn of the desperate need for better health and educational facilities during the coming months, you will be better able to assess what support you would like to give when the project is opened for your assistance. Those who are truly successful are people who budget their time and their money and use both so that they are made to count for the greatest possible good; we too, should put these practices into effect and contribute with intelligence as well as good intent.

I have been turning over in my mind the letters which have come to my desk in connection with the large amount of mail going to the Branches; on the other hand, when by an error, several pieces of information had been omitted from an envelope which contained as well, a letter from me, there have been letters asking that this information be forwarded because the Branch was interested in the matter. Perhaps you will give this your earnest attention; in future, we would send nothing to you with the President's letters and any other matter mailed from the office would deal only with those organizations with which we are affiliated or that contains information dealing with your welfare. You know, of course, that names and addresses of secretaries are never released to outside organizations; however, it seems apparent that such names do become available at some other level.

Finally, I should like to say that I was thrilled with the attendance and the evident interest on all sides in connection with the Conference in Guelph. The President of any organization would be moved to extended effort in that organization's interests with such forth-right support on the part of the members. Having the Conference with Province-wide attendance was a new departure but I think one which may be continued—how else can one gain renewed faith in the goodness of the work being done; renewed enthusiasm for the tasks at hand and find often, the means of accomplishing our aims, than by association, even for so short a space of time, with others of like ideals?

When you read this, summer will be with us and a time for recessing of meetings. May you all, with that short time for reviewing the achievements of the past, be ready for those things to be done, when they come to hand.

Lilah S. Lymburner