

Citizenship and Education

Mrs. D. H. Hart, convener of Citizenship and Education said that the keynote of good citizenship is kindness — "not the superficial smile-for-everyone kindness, but a deep-rooted concern that reaches down to the causes of another's need and seeks to remove the cause as well as to fill the need."

From the reports this year, the convener said, she had noted "a perceptible upswing in the quality of programmes and projects in both citizenship and education." Following are a few of the features quoted:

Roll Calls on Citizenship: "One way I can show my appreciation for the privilege of Canadian citizenship", "One step I can take with my child toward world peace", "What my community needs from its young people", "The Oath of Allegiance". On Education: "What I read for education", "What I have done to further my education since leaving school", "A change I would like to see in the school curriculum", "Should we have women on the school board and why?"

Mottoes: On Citizenship: "Homes are greenhouses where the plants of citizenship are started", "The family still is the central part of society." On Education: "Education means developing the mind, not stuffing the memory", "Are we less educated than people were twenty years ago?"

Papers, Talks, Panel Discussions — On Citizenship: "Foster Parent Plan", "Canada's debt to immigrant women", "What causes prejudice and what can we do to remedy it?", "Procedure of naturalization of aliens", "Eskimo Ancestry" and the film "Eskimos of Baffin Island", "Indian Lore", "Hidden taxes, wills, succession duties, estates". On Education: "Special education, viz. for the retarded and the gifted", "How best to help the slow child in the average school", "Education for what?", "Must schools be palaces?" —dealing with communities being taxed to support properties that are out of proportion to the need or to the incomes. There were two topics for debates: "Resolved that the modern school turns out better citizens than the little red school" and "Resolved that human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe".

Mrs. Hart suggested that Institutes get in touch with the Citizenship Branch for help with their citizenship studies. The address is Canadian Citizenship Branch, Ottawa. For a workshop of the Citizenship conveners of the district Mr. J. M. McCullagh, Regional Liaison Officer, Canadian Citizenship Branch, 120 Queen's Ave., London has offered to help.

The Board endorsed Mrs. Hart's proposal that the Department of Education be asked for more help in providing special itinerant teachers to assist the regular school teachers in teaching exceptional, that is retarded or very gifted children. What those interested especially want right now is a mobile classroom, a van and a teacher to carry on a pilot project in this special type of education.

Historical Research and Current Events

"We cannot see the present clearly without knowing the past," said Mrs. Bernard Brooks, convener of Historical Research and Current Events. "As Women's Institute members let us look forward into the Golden Sixties and use history as a building-block to make our homes and our Institutes instruments for peace." These items from Mrs. Brooks' report may offer some suggestions for the year's programmes and activities, along with the regular standard programmes and practices in this field:

Roll Calls: "Name an advantage and a disadvantage a girl of today has in comparison with her mother as a girl." "Name a native boy or girl who has become prominent in some other place." "Describe a holiday of your youth and your means of transportation."

Mottoes: "Our heritage is a priceless treasure entrusted to our care." "Is present progress too rapid?" "Great events are taking place in the world today. Are you aware of them?"

Papers and Talks: Quilts, buttons, needlecraft and cooking from the time of the caveman were discussed. Some other topics of special interest were "Slave days in Upper Canada", "Past and present events of the St. Lawrence seaway", "Our Institute in bygone days" (given by someone who can remember the early days). "Women's Institutes in the Yukon and Mackenzie districts" —



F.W.I.O. Booth at the Royal Winter Fair featuring safety in the home. The award shown reads: "This certificate is awarded in recognition of the achievement of twelve months' safe living in all their daily pursuits by those who live within the walls of this house." It is signed by the provincial president and the secretary of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.