

The President's Corner



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

MORE AND MORE, if we are thinking people, we come to realize that the world shrinks each day and we come nearer to people in other countries. Perhaps the knowledge that soon our members are to meet again at a triennial conference, which this time is to be held in Australia, makes us a little more aware of the reality of shrinking distances. It is possible, too, that it is because we are to observe the sixty-fifth anniversary of our organization next year; and because we look back over those years between a stormy night in February in Stoney Creek and what very possibly will be bright summer days on the other side of the world when the triennial conference will bring together delegates from around the world, representing six million members, all with a common purpose. The organization of this international group is known as the Associated Country Women of the World, and more and more we do become women of the world because of our affiliation with so many groups in countries around the world.

There are many organizations with affiliations in other countries, but we doubt that they can point with as much pride as can the Associated Country Women of the World to its widespread associates and a program of international education and goodwill which is world-wide. Each one of you, when she pays her membership fee at the annual meeting, becomes a part of this group of six and one half million women living and working in such far-flung points around the globe as Australia, New Zealand, Africa, South, East and West; Ceylon, Denmark, England, Finland, India, Italy, the British Isles and so many others. Actually, there are 140 working groups in this organization to which we belong. And every one of those groups is interested and dedicated to the work of raising the standard of living. And while there are those who always are looking to the wider horizon, so often there are the many whose eyes are downcast, who never raise their sights to the new things which are breaking be-

fore our eyes each day, who are concerned only for the smaller things.

And always we come back to the beginning of things, education. Education for ourselves, which should be a never ending thing. Perhaps we should not speak so much of adult education, for instance, but more of adult learning. There are those today who are seriously concerned for young adults who have developed no skills or techniques—young men and women who left small farms because the times have changed and no longer does an ordinary farm produce a good living for the sons as well as the father. In their anxiety to be self-sufficient young men have gone into the market place to find themselves not needed. For even to be a ditch digger these days a man must know how to operate an electric or pneumatic drill, and there was a day when this was considered the least desirable work. And we need to develop ourselves so that we give positive leadership to our families and in the community as well. We should keep constantly in our minds that the Women's Institutes gained for themselves the appellation "Rural University" and see to it that we do live up to the high standards set for us.

And so I would say to you that this is a time to assess the past. It is a time not for self-satisfaction, though we may take pride in past achievements, but it should be rather a time for some soul searching on our part and rededication to the principles and practices of this organization which for almost sixty-five years has given much to the world, much to its members through which it has made happier people and developed leaders in the community and abroad. But these are not easy times and to be leaders in the community both individuals and organizations must prove themselves equal to the demands of the times; yes, even more than equal. They must have that extra something which gives them a special place in the scheme of things, a clear vision for the future, a moral background which makes them strong for the times, charity for the needs of others and the desire to be useful citizens in the small community and thus to make a contribution to the welfare of the whole. These are the qualities which go together to make us WOMEN OF THE WORLD. No longer can we say that we have reached the end of things when we leave school, at no matter what level. The demands of the day require that we have to know ourselves for the best we can produce, that we have to know our neighbour for what he truly is and not what we *think* he is and thus to walk more surely out into the larger community so that we do become "WOMEN OF THE WORLD".

LILAH S. LYMBURNER

was made president and for carrying on the work along with presidential responsibilities afterwards.

The Adelaide Hoodless Homestead

Mrs. Haggerty reported that the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead is now the property of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and last year F.W.I.C. made application to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board to assume

the responsibility of restoring and maintaining the birthplace of Adelaide Hoodless. The request was refused but the Board felt that Mrs. Hoodless should be recognized as a figure of national importance and they would like to erect a plaque in her memory at the Hoodless Homestead. Plans are underway for a ceremony to be held in the late summer or early fall. Through the offices of Miss McKercher, the Department of Horticulture