

At the Conference banquet. Left to right: Dr. Geoffrey Secord, guest speaker; Mrs. E. V. Thompson, Conference Secretary; Dr. J. D. MacLachlan, President O. A. College; Mrs. L. G. Lymburner, President F.W.I.O.; Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, Ontario Minister of Agriculture.



## The Officers' Conference

WELCOMING the delegates to the thirteenth Ontario Women's Institute Officers' Conference held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on May 4 and 5, the College President, Dr. J. D. MacLachlan said that one of the great present problems of agriculture—and of an agricultural college—is adjustment to change and keeping a program flexible to meet change. This is one reason why seventy per cent of the Agricultural College budget goes into research and extension and only thirty per cent into teaching even though education is the primary purpose of the college. As one example of change in the college program, Dr. MacLachlan said,

"For eighty years we have had a Farm and Home Week at the College. People used to come on railway excursions and later in cars just to look around and see what was going on. No longer do they want 'to see what's going on.' They have specific problems and they want to know the answers. They want to know not only how to grow corn but how to grow corn at less cost. Farm and Home Week does not meet this need, so we are going to distribute the week over the year with days on specific problems. And we are trying to look ahead."

Commenting on what Dr. MacLachlan had said, Mrs. Lymburner reminded the delegates that the Women's Institutes would be observing their sixty-fifth anniversary next year. She said, "We haven't changed our objectives—to discover and develop leaders and to make better, happier healthier citizens; but I hope we have kept up with the times. Maybe in some ways we have kept ahead, especially through the extension services we enjoy, and the hospitality of this college. There would be nowhere else in Ontario where we could meet under such auspices."

Dr. Margaret McCready, Principal of Macdonald Institute thanked the Women's Institutes for the scholarships given each year to Macdonald Institute students and complimented them on their contribution to the Freedom From Hunger or Lady Aberdeen Scholarship set up to by A.C.-W.W. She explained that a difficulty in bringing a young woman from an "underdeveloped" country

to study in Ontario on a scholarship is that some of these students have not the academic standing (Grade XIII) required to take higher education in Ontario. Dr. McCready said that there is a worthy Ontario girl ready to take the scholarship if no foreign student is available.

Of the study of home economics, Dr. McCready said that its first purpose is to help girls to be capable homemakers. A recent survey had shown that most of the girls questioned looked forward to marriage but few of them wanted to do much housekeeping. Visiting homemakers are getting more calls from mothers of three or four children having nervous breakdowns. "The practical things in homemaking are not outmoded," said Dr. McCready, "especially in home management. I hope I read aright the Women's Institute members' idea that the homemaker still needs guidance, even beyond food, shelter and clothing into the fields of family life and managing money."

Padre W. A. Young added that in the changes coming to us we have to appraise carefully to see what really makes for progress. A nation cannot rise above the level of its homes and homes cannot rise above the level of the mothers in the homes. Stressing the importance of the homemaker Mr. Young said that in his own home his wife is Chancellor of the Exchequer, Minister of the Interior and Speaker of the House.

Community singing under Padre Young's leadership with Mrs. Ralph Kidd as accompanist was, as usual, one of the happy experiences of the conference. Special music was enjoyed, too—solos by Mrs. Gilbert Hammond of Puslinch Institute; the String Trio—Maeve Marshall, pianist; Gloria Dent, violinist; Eleanor Sanford, cellist; and at the banquet the tenor Adam Gaw of Guelph, a young Canadian, one-time with the Opera of Milan.

### Message From the President

"Which Way O My Leader?" was the theme of Mrs. Lymburner's address to the Institute Presidents assembled for the conference.

"The great leaders in the world today are not those who do things in lonely glory," said Mrs.