



Discussion group leaders at the Officers' Conference. Left to right, front row: Mrs. Verne O'Hare, Mrs. Alex Watson, chairman, Mrs. J. Sherman, Mrs. G. W. Smith. Back row: Mrs. James Haggerty, Mrs. Ford Sudden, Mrs. Harvey Wales, Mrs. George Thurtell, Mrs. R. M. Starkey.

"Do not be afraid to attempt new things. In the world of commerce today there are regular conferences when men and women sit down together to discuss a problem. Every suggestion made is recorded and none is rejected until all its ramifications have been explored. And we are told that many which seemed the wildest, after being polished up were the most successful. Again we have the power of an idea. So, let your imagination work for you; cultivate ideas and create out of them a newer and finer place for your organization in your community."

Home Economics Service

Miss Helen McKercher, Director, Home Economics Extension Service, Ontario Department of Agriculture, expressed her appreciation of the opportunity of working with the Women's Institutes and said that a Conference of Women's Institutes Presidents was a most important group for her to meet because of the support the Institutes had given the Home Economics extension program through the year. 1,500 more women took extension services this year than did last year; and there were about 1,000 more girls in 4-H Homemaking Club work. Miss McKercher especially appreciated the response to the "Eat to Live" workshops introduced as part of Ontario's contribution to the United Nations' "Freedom From Hunger" campaign. 1,776 women attended the workshops and most of them carried the study back to their local groups. The following letter was quoted to show some of the results in one branch, Rutherglen, in Nipissing:

"The 'Eat to Live' project was very interesting and helpful to us in our community. All our members really got behind this and we are happy to report we now have a Public Health Nurse and Doctor visiting our school regularly. The Red Cross Outpost at Callander has sent us a nurse free of charge. The Council and Reeve of our Township, with us pushing them, secured a doctor for our school. We also contacted the teachers and now the children are made to sit in their seats for half an hour at noon to eat

their lunch. We hope this will make for happy, healthier children in our community. Thanks for the help you gave us in this project."

The Director outlined the new home economics extension program for the coming year. There will be no half-day courses—it costs too much to send an instructor out for a half-day's work and attendance records indicate that women can get out to a course from ten o'clock to four if they are really interested. "Don't feel that you have to have a course every year," Miss McKercher said; "and don't feel badly if you have to cancel a course. We have many requests every year that we can't fill."

New services in Foods are courses in "Creative Cookery" and "Shopping in the Sixties" and a Local Leader project "143 Pounds of Meat". This is the quantity of meat consumed by the average Canadian every year and the course includes choosing meat, uses for different cuts and cooking methods. A new Clothing Course is "Belts and Buttonholes". Women come to a course with such widely different sewing skills that it is hard to plan a course suited to every one. This course is planned to give a professional look to dresses through good belts and buttonholes. A Home Management "Consumers' Workshop" will replace the "Eat to Live" project. There will be new Home Craft courses in Advanced Leathercraft and Copper Tooling and a new local leader project, Block Printing. And the new Women's Institute procedure units will be workshops in Branch Women's Institute Procedures and District Women's Institute Procedures. The 4-H Homemaking Club program has a new food unit "Featuring Fruit" and a clothing unit "Separates for Summer".

"In the present machine-dominated world, the handmade has become valuable," Miss McKercher said. "Pride of craftsmanship has passed from the skilled artisan to the talented amateur. Women now don't sew so much for thrift as for relaxation and creativeness. There is a revived interest in baking bread and buns. You are doing something important in creating talented amateurs."