

# Junior Institutes Confer

THE JUNIOR INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO held their annual meeting on March 11 at a separate session of the Junior Farmers' Conference at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Florence Porter, one of the junior members of the F.W.I.O. Board, presided and spoke of the stimulating experience it had been to serve on the Provincial Board of F.W.I.O. Doreen Brock, the other junior representative on the Board gave a detailed report of the Board meetings and in another address appealed to the Junior Institutes to get into the Ontario Farm Safety crusade. Miss Brock outlined the Women's Institute project dealing specifically with making stairs or steps safe and said:

"I feel that the Junior Institutes might well take up this project too. Apart from being an important piece of work, it would strengthen the tie between the Junior and Senior Institutes. Some of the things the girls might do with stairs in their own homes would be to see that the steps are not cluttered with things that might cause falls, to paint the top and bottom steps of cellar stairs, to repair treads and where there are young children to have gates put at the top and bottom of stairs."

Miss Brock suggested that Junior Institutes might take up safety as a year long project or as a shorter programme. Or if there is a Women's Institute near, the girls might help the women with their safety project.

The limit of a Junior F.W.I.O. Board Director's term of office is two years. Miss Brock completed her second year at this meeting and in the elections, conducted by Miss Jean Scott of Home Economics Service, Miss Porter moved up to take her place. The new Junior director elected is Miss Jean Smith of Huron county with Miss Elizabeth Barker of York as alternate.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Diana Ferris, of the Rural Sociology Unit, Canada Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Ferris has been working on the Survey of Ontario Farm Homes and Homemakers sponsored by Home Economics Service and her address was based on information gained in the survey, as it relates to the role of farm homemakers in the years just ahead.

One point of interest was that in the homes surveyed where the average age of the homemakers was 44, the number of children in the families averaged 3. In 60% of the homes there was no one living in the home except the parents and children. In 40% of the homes grandparents or others lived with the family. "In cities most houses are smaller than in the country," Mrs. Ferris said, "and there is no room for anyone but the family. If you have had grandparents living in your home your life has prob-

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BALLAD

By Richard C. Tiplady

So I said to myself: "I'll sell my farm  
And hie me off to sea"—  
Oh! The rolling, rollicking, tossing and frolicking  
Wonderful shining sea!  
So I sold the house, and I sold the barn,  
My land, and the tractor new,  
The hens and the pigs, the cows and the geese  
And the little red rooster, too!  
Soon I was treading a wooden deck,  
Bound for a port in Spain;  
I knew, deep down inside of me,  
I'd never see home again.  
One night I was chatting with Mr. Mate.  
Said I: "What would you be,  
If you had your way in life again,  
Away from the rolling sea?"  
Said he to me: "I'd buy me a farm,  
I hate this grey-green sea;  
This rolling and rollicking, tossing and frolicking  
Horrible shining sea!  
"I'd buy me a house. I'd buy me a barn,  
Good land and a tractor new,  
With hens and pigs and cows and geese  
And a little red rooster, too."  
So there it is, you never can tell,  
Which way it is going to be.  
The sailor longs for the peaceful farm  
And the farmer dreams of the sea!

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ably been the richer for it." Not many of the farms surveyed had hired men, which means that the farm woman is doing considerable work on the farm, especially with farm machinery. She will not have the work of boarding a hired man; and while she is not likely to have a hired girl she will have more mechanical equipment to help with her housework. About this home equipment, Mrs. Ferris advised, "The machines are there to help you—don't let them run you, nor let the care of them eat into your leisure time."

"Most of you have more education than your mothers," the speaker said, "but you'll need it. Heed the slogan of this Education Week which is 'Stay at school.'"

As indicated by the findings of the survey, about eight out of every ten in the audience would be mothers, Mrs. Ferris predicted. When mothers were asked what they considered the greatest need of children the answer was almost invariably love and emotional security, and next to that, health. It was found that most of the children carried some responsibility on the farm. "And," said Mrs. Ferris, "to carry responsibility gives a young person composure and confidence."

This led to a discussion of the accidents to children driving tractors or working with other machinery on the highly mechanized farms of today. The survey showed that most of the tractor accidents happened to drivers under ten years old. After twelve, children did not have so many accidents up to the age of fifteen. After fifteen (perhaps they began to attempt new work with machinery at this age) there was a great upswing of accidents up to the age of twenty.

In the discussion following this address the girls asked several questions bearing on their own futures in either careers or homemaking or both. One bit of advice Mrs. Ferris left with them was, "Never forget you're a woman. That's the most important thing."