



Members of South Adjala, a promising new Institute organized this year in a rural school house in South Simcoe by the District President, Mrs. Charles Spencer, the Federation Representative Mrs. Victor O'Brien and the Area Chairman, Mrs. W. W. Campbell.

Bay South and Mrs. W. Elmore, Provincial Board Director. The meeting was held in St. Elizabeth Church hall, with Mrs. W. D. Murray, president, chairman for the evening. The general convener was Miss K. McColl, and her committee comprised Mesdames J. Werstiuk, R. G. Purcell, L. G. Hadfield, and W. Elmore.

Lunch was served from a table draped with a white cloth, and centered with the Women's Institute crest on a blue and gold background, flanked with small flags of various nations and tall blue and gold tapers.

KINLOSS KAIRSHEA'S CALICO BALL by Mrs. Harvey Houston

When it was suggested that Kinloss Kairshea Women's Institute have a Calico Ball in the spring of 1949 to swell the treasury, it was not a new idea, but the return of something that had been held in the community about the years of 1897 and before. Mrs. Walter G. MacKenzie, as a little girl, remembered a neighbour telling of the Calico Ball. It was open to all who wished to attend. The ladies wore lovely dresses made from dimity or fine print and long gloves. Dry goods merchants in Lucknow always acted as judges, awarding prizes for the prettiest dresses. (Incidentally, Mrs. MacKenzie was the one who sparked the idea of a Bruce County Museum, which is now a successful venture.)

Even the first ball was a decided success, although it was with some misgivings that the author went off to the dance attired in a print dress. It was a party open to the public, for which everyone should have a new dress. It proved to be a colorful and bright affair, coming at the close of the winter season. We try to have it as close as possible to the first of April each year.

The judging takes place promptly at 11 p.m. At the first ball just one dress was picked from the entire gathering. As already mentioned, in the early days the judges were usually some of the merchants in the town. Later as the ball grew in popularity, three ladies from the town and district were chosen for judges, ladies who would not have close relatives in the parade and who were themselves style-conscious and good dressers. Now our judges are chosen from outside the town and district and are very often business people in Ladies Wear. There is a break in the

dancing, the orchestra plays some suitable music, and the Master of Ceremonies calls out the different classes, with the judges' decision being given following each class.

By 1950 it was thought advisable to give prizes, \$3.00 and \$2.00. By 1953 we felt some distinction must be made between the ready-made and home-sewn. (We never use the term home-made). One dress was picked from each class. By 1955 two prizes of \$3.00 and \$2.00 were given in each class of ready-made and home-sewn. By 1956 we began to feel it was unfair competition for the smartly attired matron to have to compete with the lithe teen-ager. With this in mind the groupings for ready-made and home-sewn were again divided, making classes for 25 years and under and for 26 years and over.

With the growing popularity of cotton and the many exciting things which the manufacturers have done with it, in color and texture, our Calico Ball has flourished. There are usually 20 to 25 entries in each class.

Our town merchants have been most generous, in some cases refunding all prize winners with the purchase price of the dress or material purchased in their store. Of later years, with the increased classes, you must now be the first prize winner to qualify for this privilege. Another food merchant, with an interest in our Lucknow and District High School girls, provides the same



Members of another new Institute, Hay Bay in Lennox District, organized this year. The membership is now seventeen.