

The President's Corner



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

THIS WILL be the last letter I shall write to you as President of your organization, and for this reason it will be somewhat in retrospect, and part will be looking into the future.

Looking back over the way you and I have travelled together in the months since November 1959, we must say that fine things have come about through our organization; we hope this will continue in the future. Your support of the projects which have been initiated during this period has been fine. Perhaps the one which will create and continue to foster a warm feeling for Ontario women and their organization is the Sponsor-a-Child programme. We had aimed at 100 children; we are now nearing the 300 mark, and what fine experiences our women are having, through their interest in and contact with children in countries around the world! We shall think of these children as we travel in Japan, Hong Kong, etc.

Ours is a world-wide organization, and each one of you is a member of the Associated Country Women of the World, as well as of her own local Branch, so it would naturally follow that you would be interested in women and children in other lands because of the kinship you enjoy through your organization.

It was because of this that we established the International Foundation Fund this year, through which we will share with our sisters in other countries some of the many things you and I enjoy through our organization. So far we have reached almost one-third of the goal of \$50,000, but we are confident that the goal will be reached when we tell you of the wonderful opportunity to put to work immediately some of the fund you have contributed.

In September a young woman from Ceylon will begin a year of intensive work at Macdonald Institute, to go back to work with their women, members of the Lanka Mahila Samiti (Ceylon Women's Institutes) in her country. She speaks three languages, including English, has been recommended by the Canadian appointee to FAO, who found the money for her passage. Accommodation in Guelph is also being provided, and *your* money will pay

for tuition, books and clothing. Others had been approached, including Service Clubs, but time was running out and no one had indicated they would assume this responsibility. Your Executive met to discuss the matter, and agreed unanimously that this should be recommended to the FWIO Board of Directors. As of now, so many of the Directors have given their approval that we were able to inform Dr. McCready that FWIO would do this piece of work—after all, who but our organization should be giving assistance to our own women in other countries? We should not ask other organizations to do our work for us, but gladly assume our responsibility.

We could not review our efforts without telling you that your gift of \$3,500 will go along with us to Australia to be presented to the ACWW General Fund, "Pennies for Friendship". This will bring Ontario's contribution during this triennium to \$4,500. Your interest in the work of your organization abroad has made this possible, and this too, creates for you and FWIO "bridges of friendship" around the world.

Your support of the work of renovation at the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead has been generous, as has also been your contribution to the extension of our work in the Northwest Territories. These two projects are the responsibility of all the Provinces, and FWIO has given fine support to both.

And now for the future: Serious consideration is being given to the establishment of a summer school beginning in 1963. Your Executive Officers have recommended to Miss Helen McKercher that this matter be studied with a view to providing courses for our members who desire to add to their knowledge and skills. We can envision this school developing into a tremendous influence. The matter is only now in the first planning stage, but if you feel this a good venture for the future, it would be of assistance if you were to indicate this. The plan should not be confused with the former Holiday held at Guelph. This will provide courses which we feel would meet the interests and needs of members. Probably, we would begin by having the first summer course for one week's duration, with the courses developing as need may arise.

In closing, I should like to express my appreciation to you for the many indications of kindness and good will which have come to me during my time as President. The experiences shared will be carried with me always, and if I have been useful in the development of our organization, it was only because you, the members, were willing to share the responsibility of that developing programme. Ours is a large and complex organization—its opportunities are many. All cannot be grasped,