

National Plans and Projects

By Mrs. H. G. Taylor
Secretary FWIC

ARE WE KEEPING PACE with the rapid changes taking place in rural living in Canada?" was the question asked when the National Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada met in Ottawa April 16-18, 1963. A long, hard look at the program of the organization was taken. The basic objective of the Women's Institute has not changed since its formation over sixty-five years ago. In the words of the founder, Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless: "A nation cannot rise above the level of its homes; therefore, women must work and study together to raise our homes to the highest possible level." The thought that the time had come to review the method of working out this objective was reflected in the theme selected for the Third Triennial National Convention to be held at Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S. the week of June 22, 1964. This is "For Home and Country—Today". Speakers, panels, workshops are to be built around this central thought.

Recommendations submitted by the Northern Canada Women's Institute Committee were approved. These related to the carrying out of Unesco Gift Coupon Plan 367 for the extension work in Northern Canada. The Committee Chairman, Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, North Hatley, Que., reported that this includes \$5,000 set aside for scholarships to provide "short term training for selected women residents from Northern Canada as auxiliary nursing workers."

Further study was made of plans approved earlier for Canada's Centenary. These include the publication of a "Canadian Mosaic" (set of ten volumes on the history of crafts in each province) and the completion of the restoration of the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead at St. George, the birthplace of the founder of the Women's Institute, by 1967. Another project was added: "Making Canada Lovelier." Rural women across Canada could do much to promote and improve their communities and see that natural beauty spots are developed. Litter eliminated along highways and in national parks will be part of this campaign and an effort will be made not to leave it until too late "to preserve our green woodlands and beautiful open spaces," in the words of the F.W.I.C. Convener of Agriculture, Mrs. Harold Simonson, Wetaskiwin, Alta., who proposed this project. Preserving historic sites, establish-



Mrs. James Haggerty, Napanee, Ont., President F.W.I.C. (seated) is shown admiring the FWIC Crest, presented to the National office by the Manitoba Women's Institute. With Mrs. Haggerty are three provincial W.I. presidents. Left to right: Mrs. H. M. Ellard, Quebec; Mrs. Leonard Trivers, Ontario; Mrs. L. C. Crane, Newfoundland. The picture was taken at the meeting of the National Board, held in Ottawa April 16-18, 1963. (Courtesy Dominion Wide Photographs)

ing museums, preparing historical pageants are some of the activities at local level, and some provincial Institutes are setting up Centenary scholarships; one is for vocational training for an Indian, Metis or Eskimo girl. Mrs. John McLean, Eureka, N.S. is F.W.I.C. representative to the Canadian Centenary Council. F.W.I.C. has been a member since the Council was first organized.

Provinces are working on plans for collecting and shipping books to the West Indies, under the direction of Mrs. J. O. Decker, Pemberton, B.C., F.W.I.C. Convener for United Nations and International Relations. (One province has already shipped 900 books.) Close links are developing between individual islands and provinces of the West Indies — all the result of the interest created by the Unesco Gift Coupon Plan 400, supported by F.W.I.C. in 1961-62.

The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship in Nutrition, sponsored by the Associated Country Women of the World, continues to receive support through the F.W.I.C. contribution to the Freedom From Hunger Campaign. Mrs. James Haggerty, F.W.I.C. President, will be attending the World Food Congress in Washington next June as one of the Canadian delegates. On her return to Ontario she will be accompanied by Mrs. Gerda Van Beekhoff,