

The President's Corner

Mrs. Leonard Trivers,
President, F.W.I.O.



AT THIS TIME OF YEAR when the night begins to close in so much earlier, when the birds congregate in noisy flocks and the goldenrod is ablaze on the roadsides, we suddenly awaken to the fact that our fleeting summer is almost at an end. How quickly the time passes! Now, if we planned wisely and did our work well at the proper time, those of us who are growers will be reaping the results of our labors in fresh foodstuffs, lovely flowers and — this is possibly the best reward of all—pride and satisfaction in the summer's work. Nature moves very swiftly in the brief growing months and if we do not cooperate with her at the right time, very soon it is too late and we can do nothing but wait for another year to start over again.

It is not only in the field of seed-time and harvest that the time element is so vital. Writers from even the earliest times have stressed its importance—from the Bible, which reminds us "to every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven," through the other time honored sayings: "Procrastination is the thief of time", "The future belongs to those who prepare for it". No doubt you can add a dozen others. If we miss the moment to speak the word of sympathy, of encouragement, congratulation or gratitude, the opportunity may not come again. If we do not take advantage of chances to learn new skills when they are offered, we often come to regret it in later years.

It seems to me that we members of the Women's Institute are being very slow to grasp an opportunity which is open to us. When Mrs. Van Beekhoff visited Ontario this spring she came from a meeting of the World Food Congress in Washington, D.C. The Family Herald, a well known farm publication, in its June 6 issue printed a very clear and compelling article on the aims and work of this organization under the title "Hunger, World Problem, World Task". Space does not permit me to quote from the article here but I would suggest that every reader of this corner

find a copy and read every word of it. The urgency of the situation was made very clear to us at the Officers' Conference by Mr. Hulse of the Mysore Project in India, one of the projects named in the article. The motto of this organization is "to whom much is given, of him shall much be required." Certainly we in this country have been given much.

Some time ago I was talking with a young minister about such things. He said that in his opinion the story of the Good Samaritan is as timely in the twentieth century as it was 2000 years ago. In the twentieth century, though, we must think in terms of nations rather than individuals. With travel and communication being what they are today, our community has broadened and these underdeveloped nations are our neighbors. The nations which act the part of the Good Samaritan toward these starving peoples may very well "tip the balance" in their decision to accept our way of life or Communism. These people do not want charity but rather to learn better methods of production and preservation of the foods which they now have, but they want it **now**. This is something that will not wait. In the words of the article: "their seething unrest has become a potent force—indeed it could plunge the whole world into chaos."

For the past two years the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario has been urging its members to realize the urgency of this state of affairs and to take steps to offer a helping hand. For our sixty-fifth anniversary we launched the International Scholarship project through which every branch can make a definite contribution to help these people to help themselves. The interest from the money we subscribe when invested will be sufficient to send some trained person to help where she is needed and to provide continuous support to her work. We have pointed out repeatedly the returns this can bring in friendship among nations. At this point it seems that the springs of your givings which flowed so freely at the outset have almost dried up, while time rushes on.

The need of these people is very great, the trained people are ready and willing to go, religious and government leaders are agreed that this is the best approach. Why don't we finish what we have started?

Mary Trivers

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JUNIOR FASHIONS
By Mona Gould

A freshly diapered physique
Is all a baby needs for chic!

— Canadian Mothercraft Society

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