

ity and it must be dynamic. The following questions were suggested as an evaluation score:

1. What is good about the branch?
2. What is the matter with it?
3. What purpose does it have in the community?
4. What is its role in the eyes of the members?
5. How could it play a more vital role in the community or in the lives of the members?
6. How could meetings be improved?
7. What are your suggestions (1) for raising money (2) for getting new members?
8. Do you really think a busy woman would want to join your branch?

Following what had been said on informing new members about the Institute, it was stressed that the Institute should learn about the talents of a new member "so that she is not allowed to wither on the vine." It was suggested that often we do not show our appreciation of what members do—the good talks and papers, the other capable and faithful services.

Another thought was that we could benefit our organization by being more flexible. For instance, to vary the order of the program so that occasionally the speaker comes before the business might help to get the members to arrive on time. In an Institute where the older members like to have the meetings in the afternoon and the young mothers and working women can get out only in the evening, some compromise should be made. Perhaps some meetings should be held in the afternoon and some in the evening; or perhaps the membership would have to be divided into afternoon and evening groups. Someone remarked with humor that the older women of some Institutes insist on afternoon meetings at the same time regretting that "there'll be no Institute after we go."

Other suggestions for giving vitality to an Institute were:

Have group discussions on questions that stimulate thinking; but don't waste time on trivialities. Have fun at meetings—singing, with such variations as rounds would help. Plan the program as you cut a pie, giving each feature an allotted time. Enliven the year's program by celebrations occasionally such as an International Day, Citizenship Day (material is available from the Citizenship Branch, Ottawa) and a First of July celebration.

On the question of finance, the panel advised taking a good look at any project before undertaking it, and being sure it has the support of the majority of the members. In trying to avoid being a "fund-raising organization" don't go to the extreme of shuffling off every project. If it is good, supporting it may give

vitality to the Institute. Draw up a budget at the beginning of the year making provisions for funds for important and necessary causes.

Looking Toward the Centennial

Mr. Peter Akroyd, Director of Special Projects of the Centennial Commission, explained that the Centennial Commission was set up to see that centennial projects are worthy. He wholly approved the F.W.I.O. project to "Make Canada Lovelier," and suggested that this might be carried out in doing something as "down to earth" as painting a fire hall.

Choose an objective that is realistic," Mr. Akroyd advised; "but do not forget that it is important to make the mind and spirit lovelier as well as the body. Keep your plans flexible so that it may be possible to change as you go along. Get the opinions and support of others in the community such as the clergy councillors, newspaper editors. Join with others if necessary in your projects. Try to have the Women's Institute represented on the local centennial committee. Woo both money and men to help with your undertaking. In working with men it is good psychology to make them think your ideas are their own."

Among the things to do to make the community lovelier, Mr. Akroyd suggested encouraging the painting of buildings, removing dumps to an inconspicuous location, keeping litter from highways—litter bags in parks would help with this. (Mr. Akroyd recommended the showing of the film "The Norwich Plan," showing how a town in England was made attractive, available from the National Film Board.) Most villages have an old building that should be taken down and the ground levelled, the speaker said. Perhaps some part of a street, preferably with a restaurant, could be selected and fixed up as a beauty spot. Another worthy project in some places would be to get water pollution corrected so that a stream would be safe for children to wade or swim in.

Applications for grants to help with centennial projects must go through the municipal government, Mr. Akroyd said. The secretary of the Centennial Advisory Committee for Ontario is Mr. Vincent Bozzer, 805 Bay Street, Toronto.

Entertainment and Extras

An interesting feature of the conference program was Miss Florence P. Eadie's showing of films and her commentary of her visits to Women's Institutes in the Northwest Territories last fall. As field worker for F.W.I.C. Miss Eadie will visit the Territories again this summer. (See article "Miss Eadie Goes North Again" in this issue.)

Another special event was a bus tour to the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead at St. George.