

Home and Country Today

As Reviewed at the F.W.I.C. Triennial Convention

By Ilda Holder

IT WAS TRULY a National Convention in every sense of the word, the Third National Convention held at Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S., from June 22-26, 1964 — a gathering of enthusiastic members from the ten Provinces and an observer from the Northwest Territories who crossed Canada from West to East to meet and take stock of "Home and Country — Today", both in Canada and throughout the world. This was not a time for retrospect, for looking back and reminiscing on past achievements. It was time devoted to assessing the present and looking to the future, for viewing the growth and development of the projects undertaken at the Second National Convention in 1961, and for broadening our horizons far beyond those of our own shores. From the beautiful setting at the University, a telescopic view was taken of the globe-encircling organization which exists today and the magnitude of the work waiting to be done by willing hands in our bountiful country, for those who have not been so fortunately endowed. And Canada and the world watched, as evidenced by the greetings showered upon this Convention.

Messages came from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; from the Rt. Hon. L. B. Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada; from the Hon. Harry Hayes, Federal Minister of Agriculture; from the Hon. Arthur Laing, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources; from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, Henry P. MacKeen; from the Hon. Robert L. Stanfield, Premier of Nova Scotia;

from Mrs. Geerda Van Beekhoff, President of the Associated Country Women of the World; from Mrs. Keith Rand, A.C.W.W. Area Vice-President for Canada; from Mrs. Graham Spry, F.W.I.C. representative of the A.C.W.W. Council and Chairman of the A.C.W.W. General Purposes Committee; and from many other very important people and from other National organizations. From the President of Acadia University, founded in 1842, came the statement that "Women's Institutes are a uniquely Canadian product." None of the nearly six hundred delegates and visitors attending the Convention could fail to be impressed with the prestige in which our organization is held in the eyes of others, nor could they help being proud of having the privilege of being a link in a society of friends.

In her opening address to the Convention, Mrs. Haggerty set the stage when she said: "And what are the boundaries of 'our Country'? . . . With automation and communication making such strides in progress, what is new today is outdated tomorrow, our country cannot be bounded by lines that separate Canada from the rest of the world. The universe is our neighbour and concern for people in other lands is a 'must' for us. As long as there are hungry people in the world, our responsibility must never waver . . . our Country has become the wide world."

THE ROAD AHEAD

The Convention Banquet on the first evening featured Dr. Margaret Nix, Associate Professor, Dept. of Health and Social Medicine,

Special guests at the convention were: Second from left, Dr. Margaret Nix, speaker at the banquet; next Mrs. L. F. Semmler of Indian background, an observer from the Northwest Territories. At extreme right, Mrs. John McLean, Nova Scotia, Senior F.W.I.C. Board Member. At left, Mrs. Jas. Haggerty, F.W.I.C. retiring President.

