

ROYAL WINTER FAIR

Mrs. Bagdon, F.W.I.O. representative on the Royal Winter Fair Board, was appointed a director on the Floriculture Committee. She attended the annual meeting and a committee meeting as well as a tea and reception given by the president in the flower court of the Coliseum.

FOLK SCHOOLS

Mrs. G. W. Smith, representative to the Ontario Folk School Council, reported that the annual meeting of the council was attended by delegates from across the province with interest chiefly in adult education. The school operates on financial grants and the assistance in leadership comes from the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Department of Citizenship and Immigration. It was at this meeting that the recommendation was presented and voted upon in favour of the amalgamation of the Folk School Council, Rural Leadership Forum and Farm Radio Forum. Folk schools were held throughout the year in more than a dozen counties and regions. The themes were most informative — "Rural planning and development for tomorrow", "Canada's challenge as we approach the centennial", "The challenge of change", "In the looking glass", "Changing attitudes towards education."

Mrs. S. Mollard gave this report of a provincial Folk School: At a meeting in Petrolia 24 delegates attended, studied and worked together in large and small groups, sharing duties and privileges in the week-long experiment in community living. Problems discussed were: "Are present means of adult education adequate?" "What has been happening with regard to change in rural Ontario?" "Farming is becoming less a way of life and more of a business." "Farmers are consumers as well as producers."

A study of semantics was introduced to show how a by-pass in understanding can occur when a word means different things to different people. A concern with the attitudes of people within the group was discussed. It was learned that we should develop a sensitivity to the feelings of others; and that the majority of people meeting for the first time feel fear or dread. Once a problem is thoroughly understood it is seventy-five per cent solved. Block parties, a mass meeting, panel discussions, buzz groups acquainted the delegates with various means of tackling problems.

UNITED NATIONS

Mrs. Fred Moyer, the F.W.I.O. United Nations Secretary, said that correspondents from

England comprise the largest group of Institute "Letter Friends" but some report Australia and Tasmania. Friendship Links are numerous. The Sponsor a Child Plan is still being well received. It is hoped that more branches will report their U.N. activities. Exchange programs are being carried out with branches in various ways—telling about regular meetings, giving recipes, scrap books, reporting community activities, snapshots of Canadian scenes. One branch purchased an Encyclopedia for a school in Nigeria. Many Women's Institute International Day programs were reported. A request was received from the national convener for literature from Ontario for a Study Kit going to the Transvaal, Africa, where a study of Canada is the project for the year, undertaken by the women's section of the Agricultural Union of Transvaal. Material was forwarded.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Mrs. S. Panting noted that the work of our hands seems to take first place with the Institute. Many branches report having sent articles to be sold at the F.W.I.C. gift stall at the national convention. Needlecraft, leathercraft, etching, Danish lace-making and many other crafts are being kept alive by our women. Displays and demonstrations of hobbies, participation at local fairs, short courses and workshops were evident.

An interest in good reading, donations to local libraries, the appreciation of poetry and reading to shut-ins have caught the interest of some members. There is music of some type at most of our meetings, and the Institutes give support to music festivals and organized choirs.

BUSINESS AND FUTURE PLANS

Mrs. Donald McNabb had been asked to view F.W.I.O.'s section in the Peace Garden last summer. She had pictures of this section and it was decided by the directors to donate an additional table and bench with a name plate and the balance of the \$100.00 set aside to be used for painting in this section.

A letter from Mrs. Graham Spry stated that A.C.W.W. had been asked to place a display at the World's Fair in the agricultural section. This exhibit might be in the Specimen Farm Home. Board directors will be asking for ideas and will present these at the May meeting.

To date the Junior Institutes do not have a badge. A design was chosen from submissions and the secretary was instructed to request Birks to prepare a die for F.W.I.O. Decision also was made on a past president's