

Metis, became an important source of income to the producers. They arranged for an outlet for the work with a woman who has a Ladies' Wear Shop near the hotel, and who displays and sells products along with crafts from other centres. She pays a reasonable price for time and work, but the standard of work will be a prime factor in the sale price. Still wishing to assist producers, the W.I. investigated sources on procuring supplies. They were disappointed on finding there would be a service available for Indians but not for Metis, from Indian Affairs.

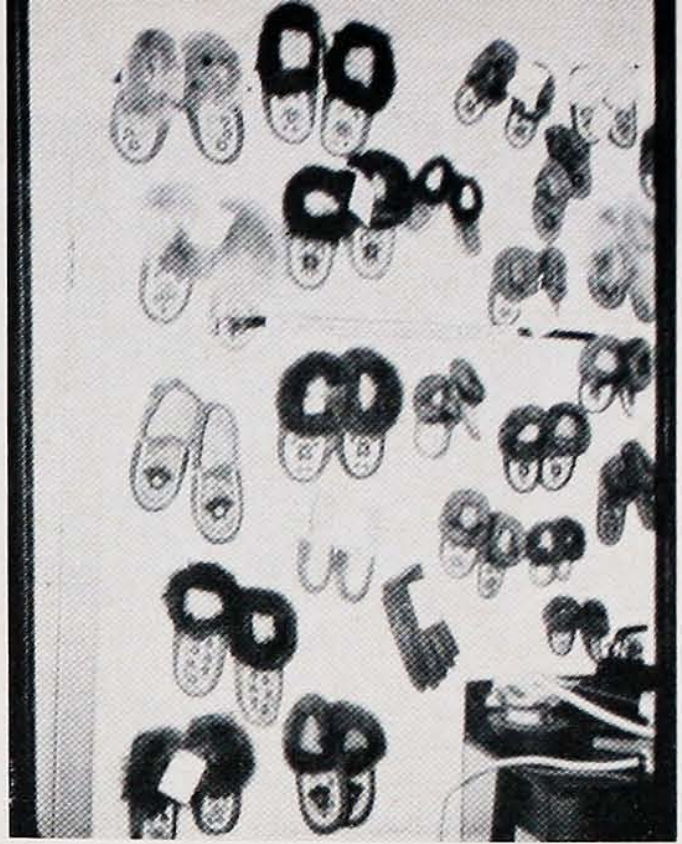
Jean Dragon, Treasurer of Capnoweta, a young matron and a Metis is hoping to start a class on moosehair embroidery with young women. This is most commendable since this craft is in danger of becoming a lost art.

They have planned and detailed some monthly meetings for the coming year and are arranging for special classes on hobbies for members. A Tweedsmuir History is getting under way and is creating enthusiastic interest as they find that much that is unique has happened in and around Fort Smith.

Fort Providence W.I. is the oldest branch of the N.C.W.I. and has always given valued leadership. In the field of handicraft, they have been responsible for maintaining the art of moosehair embroidery and porcupine quill work. The Yellowknife Handicraft Guild turns to this Institute for some of their best moosehair embroidery and for a special order of porcupine quill work for the Indian Exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. The Convener of the Crafts Committee has set up a shop in her home where moccasin slippers, mukluks and moosehair embroidery are sold. This summer they started making attractive earrings and pins of this embroidery. A high standard of workmanship is encouraged, expected, and more or less demanded.

Classes in crafts, directed by two W.I. members, were held with teen-age girls during the holidays. This had a twofold purpose, to teach a skill, one that might become a source of income, and to give the girls something to do when at loose ends out of school. Getting acquainted with these teen-age girls, calling, hiking and having a picnic with them was a real delight for me.

Fort Simpson had a clean, tidy, well-cared for appearance. Doubtless the Institute's Clean-up Campaign, which had had everyone working, played an important role in accomplishing this. The gaily painted buildings, the gardens with flowers and vegetables, the river, the blue sky, and the Federal Experimental Farm made it all a very beautiful spot. The farm, directed by Mr. Russell, was a revelation of what can be grown in certain areas of the North. Vegetables, grain, corn, fruit, de-



Leatherwork — moccasins and gloves — done by native members and sold through the Fort Providence Institute's sales shop for native craft work. The Institute encourages and sponsors native handicraft.

licious large raspberries, and tomatoes, all had prolific growth. The flowers were gorgeous. Experimental plots and research carried on here and elsewhere under Mr. Russell have a far-reaching influence in the North. Maybe here is a project for Women's Institutes.

This Institute, over and above regular meetings, promotes and supports various community undertakings such as Girl Guides, recognition for two boys on the Student Council and the provision of a sterilizer for the hospital. The older Indian and Metis members at the meeting took a lively interest in discussing earlier days. There, indeed, is timely material for that Tweedsmuir History.

Soon they will be deciding their next step in respect to the F.W.I.C. "Make Canada Lovelier" project. It may be that they will continue to stress clean-up, pick-up, tidy-up this year and consider plans for specific planting later in conference with Mr. Russell.

Fort Good Hope. The Institute here found certain adjustments necessary when Mrs. Morin, who had worked with them, recently moved to Fort Smith. An Advisory Committee was named, consisting of Mrs. Hayes, wife of the R.C.M.P. Officer; Mrs. Cormick, wife of the Hudson Bay Manager; and the teacher's wife, who has since left Fort Good Hope. The President and Secretary, with natives, are continuing and are prepared to assume their responsibilities as officers, with guidance and encouragement from the Advisory Committee. They are fortunate in having in their President one who converses fluently in both English and the dialects of this settlement.