

Special Programs and Projects

A Note to P.R.O.s

The purpose of this special Programs and Projects section is to give Public Relations Officers a spot in Home and Country where they can tell all the Institutes of the Province about anything done in their own Institute which might offer a suggestion to other branches.

As we have explained in previous issues, we cannot give space to routine reports of meetings—unless the program is so original or outstanding as to give an idea to other Institutes. A particularly good subject for a topic, discussion, debate, motto or roll call would be welcome.

Some years ago it was decided that we could not report anniversary celebrations. These are of interest mainly in the local community where the participants are known and of course P.R.O.'s will see that they get into the local papers.

And please note that to produce an illustration we require a photograph, not the negative; and that we cannot make a cut from a colored picture or from a slide.

Perhaps the best way to see the sort of material we need for this section is to look at the topics in this and previous issues. Then, as P.R.O. for your branch or district or area, if you have a story that should be told, do, please, send it along.—Editor.

Reports of Anniversaries

IN EVERY ISSUE of Home and Country for the past several years we have published the "Note to P.R.O.'s" in italics at the beginning of this page. The fourth paragraph reads:

"Some years ago it was decided that we could not report anniversary celebrations. These are of interest mainly in the local community where the participants are known; and of course P.R.O.'s will see that they get into the local papers."

But we still receive a considerable number of reports of anniversary parties—at least enough of them to fill the paper without anything else. This is the reason for this special reminder. So, no more reports of anniversaries, please.—Editor.

Vellore's Book Project

IN OUR LAST ISSUE in the Special Programs and Projects section we published an item "Adventure With a Book" in which we gave another Institute credit which should have gone to the Vellore branch. The corrected article reads as follows:

A few years ago, the editor of Home and Country, talking about books at a meeting of the Vellore Women's Institute, told the Women that Bess Streeter Aldrich's novel "A Lantern in Her Hand" had been prescribed for supplementary reading in some of the high schools of the United States because it contained important history of a part of the country in a certain period—the opening up of the mid-western prairie states for settlement. And it was suggested that Canada had something comparable to "A Lantern in Her Hand" in Nellie McClung's book "Clearing in the West," now—or at the time of the meeting—out of print. Those who have read the book will remember that it is an autobiography of Nellie McClung, from the time her family, the Mooneys of Grey County, Ontario, set out to "take up land" on the North West prairie, until the day of her wedding. A considerable number of Ontario farmers, especially young bachelor "homesteaders" were migrating to the West at that time, and the experiences of the Mooney family were typical of many.

Before the meeting was over the Vellore Institute decided to try to get "Clearing in the West" in print again. They took this up with the publisher; they framed a resolution which was later supported by the F.W.I.O. Board, urging the publisher to consider getting out a reprint edition, especially with a view to having the book adopted for supplementary reading in the schools. The publisher found the Departments of Education in Saskatchewan and Manitoba sympathetic to the idea of using the book in schools; there was also some interest in the Department in Alberta. At the time of writing Ontario is not yet committed.

But the book is out! "Clearing in the West" with all its graphic pictures of pioneer life among progressive, God-fearing, hardworking people, its stories of good neighboring, its warm human interest and its delightful humor, is now in circulation again. The publisher has done something for Canada in reviving the work of a great Canadian woman and writer as distinctive as Nellie McClung. He has done something for Canadian youth in giving them a book that makes fortitude and courage and resourcefulness and compassion and sound ethical standards challenging and attractive.

"Clearing in the West" is an entertaining and lengthy book—378 pages. Publisher, Thomas Allen Ltd., Toronto; price \$2.98.—Ethel Chapman.