

The President's Corner

Mrs. Everett Small,
President, F.W.I.O.



IT APPEARS that planning days are upon us, whether it is through the medium of the newspaper, radio or television we learn that plans are being made for special events. One of the important events for which the people of Ontario, as well as the rest of Canada are preparing is Canada's Centennial year, 1967. It would be well for us to sit back and think of Canada as it was a century ago. The people of that day did not enjoy the luxuries which we take for granted. There were no paved highways; instead, a narrow road or a trail leading through the forest. The farmer would walk many miles carrying on his shoulder a bag of flour with which his wife would bake the bread and cakes. There was no telephone over which a lonely wife could call her neighbour and so relieve her loneliness. Doctors were scarce and very hard to reach. It was only after a long journey that a doctor would arrive at the bedside of a sick person.

The leaders of that day had a vision; and a group of men who were dedicated to that vision with great effort and planning brought about resolutions which were incorporated into the British North America Act, which became effective July 1, 1867. Since that time Canada, which is the largest member of the Commonwealth and which ranks third in area among the nations of the world, has continued to prosper. Canadians can indeed be proud of the country in which they live. We, today, are given the privilege of assisting in the preparation for Canada's Centennial year.

"Make Canada Beautiful" is a phrase we frequently hear. To bring this about we must be planning and working toward that goal during the coming year. The members of the Women's Institutes of Ontario working through their branches, districts and areas can do a great deal to make our country beautiful. Flowers, shrubs and trees add beauty to the countryside. A clean-up, paint-up campaign can also change the looks of a community. Let us see what the "power of women" dedicated to a common purpose can accomplish.

Expo 67, "The World's Fair", which is being held in Montreal in our Centennial year, 1967, should bring visitors from many countries to our province. We want these visitors to remember Ontario as a province with beauty and a clean appearance. Let us also show them that the people of Ontario are hospitable and kind. When these visitors return to their homeland, we hope they will remember their visit to Ontario as being one of the highlights of their trip.

Just as it takes a great deal of planning and preparation for Canada's Centennial year, it takes planning for successful Institute meetings. This is the season when the branches of the Women's Institute are preparing their programs for the year. They will find that careful planning now will make the meetings run smoothly and with less effort for the coming year. Let us then, as dedicated Women's Institute members, when planning our programs examine the goals toward which our branch is working and see that the four objects of the organization are included in its program.

May I say in closing how greatly honored I am to have been chosen as your president. I realize that with this honour goes a great responsibility. I will endeavour to fulfil the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I am looking forward to meeting you at the area conventions throughout the province and I ask for your support in the work of the Women's Institute. By working together much can be accomplished for home and country.

Eileen Small

F.W.I.O. Tweedsmuir Competitions

IN THE SUMMER 1965 Issue of Home and Country, page 12, the F.W.I.O. Tweedsmuir Competitions for the term 1964-1967 were announced. Now we have the following announcement regarding these competitions at provincial level.

The competitions are:

Handicraft—Samples of Drawn Thread Work

Cultural Project—A Centennial Poem

Tweedsmuir Histories

Citizenship Project—An original story based on a Canadian historical fact

Provincial Prizes—F.W.I.O. will award in each class, a First Prize of \$25.00; a Second Prize of \$15.00; a Third Prize of \$10.00.

Competitions will be held at District and Convention Area levels, and the winning entries at Area level will be sent to the F.W.I.O. Office to be judged in the provincial competition.

The closing date for provincial competitions will be December 1st, 1966.