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INASMUCH

By E. Anne Ryan

From "Pageant and Other Poems"

My neighbour of the Altar Guild
Whose hands are soft and white,
Puts flowers round the cross of brass,
And shines the holders bright.
And when they light the tapers tall
On Christmas Eve, and sing
Old carols, then her heart will lift
In rapture to the King.

My little foreign neighbour,
On the poorest street in town,
Would never touch an altar
With her hands so rough and brown.
She's not so very strong on church,
But when her work is done,
She knits on little mitts and socks,
To please God's little Son.

And little odds and ends of wool
Make up so warm and neat;
And well she knows that feel of cold
On little hands and feet.
She'd laugh if she could hear you say
That this is worship, too;
But Heaven's King must smile to see
His "Inasmuch" come true.

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skills from various settlements. There was moosehair embroidery on velvet and moose-skin, baby booties with porcupine quill design on bleached caribou, a gaily embroidered parka made by the combined efforts of women of Reindeer Station Women's Institute; a caribou parka with attached hood and gauntlets, beautifully embroidered stroud jacket with matching gauntlets, beaded purses, necklaces, moccasins, mukluks, ornate gun cases decorated with beads or embroidery; a beaded North West Territories Women's Institute crest, reindeer buttons, People of the Sun ornaments, birchbark baskets, and dolls. Pictures by a native painter added to the Delta display.

Most of the articles throughout had been made by Women's Institute members, with only a few loaned by shops.

Discovery had a most artistic, creative exhibit including articles for special occasions—Christmas, Easter; ornaments from tin cans, velvet balls and beeswax strip candles, hats and leather gloves. They also displayed their most attractive Tweedsmuir history.

A representative from each group commented on exhibits. Sometimes it was someone who had never spoken at a meeting before, but since it was from their group, maybe done by the speaker, they happily and proudly told us about it. Emma Dick, an Inuvik Eskimo delegate stood ever in readiness to help Ida Aleekuk of Reindeer Station.

There were many questions and there was ever a wish to learn how. Mrs. Landry, President of Provincial Women's Institute, an expert on moose hair embroidery, demonstrated this craft.

Unfortunately, time did not permit more showing "how" during the program as we had hoped. However, our versatile national president, after an evening session, worked with some members in trying their hand at quilting and in laying a pattern and cutting out girls' jumper dresses from materials donated to the conference by the T. Eaton Co.

Programs and Projects

Continually delegates made presentations and took part in accord with requests made prior to the convention. They demonstrated opening a meeting and adjourning a meeting, including the singing of the Ode—The Queen and repeating the Mary Stewart Collect. They reported a meeting they had all enjoyed, their best meeting on publicity, and special undertakings such as Reindeer Day, Reindeer Station—a garden project for members in Fort Providence which included growing potatoes, cabbage, carrots, turnips and lettuce, and their special Northern Institutes Water Safety project.

The convention with 100% attendance of MacKenzie District Institutes gave them a feeling of unity in spite of great distances. It North west territories' first convention—Catch was regretted that Destruction Bay, the Yukon Institute was unable to send a delegate at this time.

Having their national President greatly strengthened their national identity. National projects — Tweedsmuir Histories and Make Canada Lovelier took on a new look and meaning. Mrs. Matheson's pictures and banquet address made them conscious to a greater degree than before of being a part of a world organization, the A.C.W.W. At their last session they happily contributed to Pennies for Friendship. This has already been personally presented to the London office by Mrs. Matheson.

Tweedsmuir Histories reporting and discussion showed an increasing interest in stories of early days. Mrs. Veat relating step by step Discovery's procedures in compiling their excellent history gave most timely leadership. Mrs. Billings, Fort Smith demonstrated the use of taping in collecting stories from old timers. As we listened we all realized the great possibilities of taping interviews. Comments from others recognizing the wealth of material available indicated a readiness to go beyond the thinking stage.