

The President's Corner

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



THE LONG AWAITED TIME is here; Canada's Centennial Year, 1967 has arrived. Not only is it Canada's Centennial, it is also the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institute which took place February 19th, 1897 at Stoney Creek.

At this meeting a group of dedicated women laid the foundation for an organization which has spread to forty-six countries and encircles the globe. Today, we as members of the Women's Institute can be proud that we are a part of this great organization and that we are citizens of Canada. Do we stop and appreciate what we have? Do we remember that while we live in a prosperous country more than half the population of the world go to bed hungry every night? Let us stop to think and to be thankful.

Recently, while riding the subway in Toronto I looked up to read the advertisements, which seem to attract my attention. This time I read "What is the Centennial? — It is the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation. It is a time for us to enjoy ourselves — to discover the many wonders of our country and to contribute in our own way to the most exciting year in our country's history. It is a time to reflect on past achievements; on our growth into a modern dynamic country; and to look ahead to a future of prosperity and greatness. What are you planning for Centennial?"

When I read these words, a sense of pride went through me as I thought of the many ways you, the members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, are contributing to Canada's Centennial. You have been working to "Make Canada Lovelier" these past years. Because of your efforts, visitors to Ontario will find beauty in the flowering crab trees, the flower beds of perennials, and the many flowers you will plant this spring. They add to the beauty and fragrance of the countryside. I am certain also that as good citizens you will contribute to the success of the Centennial projects in your community.

Fifteen scholarships of one hundred and fifty dollars each will be presented to girls attending Macdonald Institute — your 70th Anniversary gift to them, in this Centennial year. This is possible through interest which has accumulated on the Adelaide Hoodless Scholarship Fund, established at the time of the 50th Anniversary. This shows your interest in the education of our young people. You are helping to prepare these girls to be good homemakers and leaders in their community.

One of the greatest contributions we, as an organization, can make to our country is to increase the membership of the Women's Institute. Our motto "For Home and Country" tells where our interests lie. If we increase our membership and put our Aims and Objects into effect in all our branches, we will be contributing to this Canada of ours.

The Aims and Objects of the Women's Institute are:

(1) to help women to acquire sound and approved practices for greater home efficiency.

(2) to help discover, stimulate and develop leaders.

(3) to help develop a more abundant life in our communities and a deeper appreciation of the things near at hand.

(4) to help develop better, happier and more useful citizens.

Where could one find higher ideals? Let us be enthusiastic and invite others to join with us as we work for "Home and Country".

As we move forward into 1967, may we remember that each of us is given twenty-four hours in each day. Let us use them wisely so that at the end of the year we can look back and be proud of what was accomplished. The words of Thomas Carlyle seem most fitting:

"Lo here hath been dawning another blue day

Think, wilt thou let it slip useless away?"

Eileen Small

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THE WINDING ROAD OF LIFE

By Patience Strong

Does the road of life go running on without a bend? No, the track's a twisty one that winds right to the end. That is why you cannot see what lies ahead of you. Every corner brings another vista into view.

Would you have it otherwise? How dreary it would be — if you never had to change direction suddenly . . . If you're bearing right or left upon a zigzag way — you are bound to meet with fresh adventures every day.

It's the unexpected — the surprise of change and chance — that puts the music into life, the thrill and the romance . . . It's the unforeseen events, the sudden turn of fate. Wouldn't it be boring if the road ran smooth and straight?