

EDITORIAL

“**T**HAT which thy fathers have bequeathed to thee, earn it anew, if thou would'st possess it.”

The above quotation from the works of the German poet Goethe was the theme of the program when the Stoney Creek Women's Institute celebrated its seventieth anniversary. This occasion was not just a Women's Institute Branch celebrating an anniversary. This was the celebration of seventy years of existence of Women's Institutes.

In those seventy years the Women's Institutes have become respected organizations with a fine reputation for achievement and a remarkable record for having spread its influence to other parts of the world.

When a person reaches a seventieth birthday they may well feel that now is the time to enjoy the fruits of their labors and any honors that have come their way. This cannot be the attitude of the Women's Institutes.

Women such as Adelaide Hoodless, Laura Rose Stephen, Mrs. Alfred Watt, Emily Guest, some of our own grandmothers, mothers, and many others laid a firm foundation for a vital, worthwhile organization. This organization has come to us from those devoted, hard-working women.

Goethe says, “Earn it anew if thou would'st possess it.” The Women's Institute is the responsibility of us who are now members. Let us think back to the women in our own branches who devoted time and much effort to getting the organization going in our communities. We cannot let those women down.

We have had left in our hands a unique community organization. It can be of interest to every woman in a community, since it is non-sectarian and non-political. It has something to offer every woman in a community, since it touches on the very centre of our lives, our homes. It can go beyond the community to women in remote places. Its potential is dazzling and unlimited; but it is for us to fill that potential.

Thinking of the future and of the scope of Women's Institute organization today, it is with some humility that I have assumed the position of editor of Home and Country. For many years, as a member of the Women's Institute, and as I enjoyed the duties and privileges of the various offices I have occupied in the organization, I have thought of Ethel Chapman as a great lady and an interesting person, as a writer of beautifully written books, columns, speeches, and as the ideal editor of Home and Country. Now I feel presumptuous in trying to follow Dr. Chapman's footsteps.

It is my hope to bring to the membership and others, accounts of the work of our organization, the many opportunities available to women through the services of the Home Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, and to help promote the policies and projects as they are formulated by our provincial, national and international executives. I can only say that I will do my best in your interests. If you have comments or criticisms, I shall be glad to hear from you. Home and Country is your paper.

Maryn Lardy