

Fourth F.W.I.C. Triennial Convention



Representatives from the provinces—Lighting the symbolic birthday candles around the birthday cake. At the extreme left is Mrs. Fred Lambert of Fort Discovery—Yukon, the extreme right—Mrs. Mary Firth of The North West Territories. Photo courtesy The Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

JUNE 12, 1967 will be remembered by hundreds of Women's Institute members and a few men as the opening day of the Fourth Triennial Convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and for the exhausting heat in the Physical Education building at the University of Guelph.

A part of the theme of this convention was "From Sea To Sea To Sea"; and this was truly the way it was. Mrs. George Clarke and others came from Newfoundland. Mrs. R. G. Palmer and others came from British Columbia. Mrs. Lambert and Mrs. Firth came from the Arctic. Mrs. Homer Greene, Chairman of the United States Country Women's Council came from Mississippi. Then to add an international note, Mrs. Dutt of Calcutta, India, President of the Associated Country Women of the World crossed the sea to be our guest. All of the other Canadian provinces were well represented.

Mrs. J. Philip Matheson, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada opened the sessions by asking the audience to stand to sing O Canada, repeat the Mary Stewart Collect, and for a moment of Silent Prayer. A message from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second was read and all joined in the singing of God Save The Queen.

Greetings were read from Prime Minister Pearson, the Honourable J. J. Greene, Minister of Agriculture, Canada; Premier Robarts of Ontario. The Honourable William Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food in the Ontario Government was present and expressed the pleasure of the Ontario Government at be-

ing host province for this National Convention.

Many messages wishing the Convention success were read, and Mrs. Homer Greene of Tutwiler, Mississippi was present to bring a message of good-will and friendship from women's organizations in the United States.

In her presidential address Mrs. Matheson recalled many experiences that had been hers as national president. One of the most interesting and satisfying, she said, was her visit to the 1966 Convention of the Women's Institutes in the North West Territories.

Guest speaker was Mrs. Dutt and the large audience listened with complete attention as she told of her work as president of A.C.W.W. and spoke with desperate earnestness of the need for help for women in the developing countries. (Ed. note: A resume of Mrs. Dutt's speech will appear on page 7 of this issue of Home and Country.)

A collection for Pennies for Friendship netted \$428.51. This collection along with donations collected amounting to \$9,828 from the Branches all over Canada, was presented to Mrs. Dutt to help with expenses of the Associated Country Women of the World.

At the close of the Afternoon session the delegates and others were presented to Mrs. Dutt, Mrs. Greene and the Executive members of F.W.I.C. at a tea and reception.

The Birthday Party

To commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institutes, the delegates and registered visitors were the guests of the F.W.I.C. at a dinner on Monday eve-