

The First Junior Women's Institute Convention

WITH THE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP of Miss Barbara Watkins, a Junior member of the Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, the first convention of the Junior Women's Institutes was held in the Community Hall at Auburn, Ontario.

Delegates from all the counties where there are Junior Institutes began arriving Friday evening, September 15 for registration and "a getting acquainted party." On Saturday morning there were fifty five girls registered and participating in the opening exercises. Mrs. Everett Small, president of the F.W.I.O., Miss Helen McKercher, director of the Home Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, Miss Jean Scott, Supervisor of Junior Extension work, Miss Rosemary Clark, supervisor of County and District Home Economists, several county Home Economists and several members of the Senior Branches of the Women's Institutes were interested observers.

The guest speaker was Dr. Helen Abell Ph.D. and her topic was—"Importance of Organizations such as the Junior Institute for our Community and our own development."

Dr. Abell told the delegates that she had just returned from a ten day meeting of the Agriculture Economics Council in Australia. She said that she kept asking where all the young people were since she couldn't see a person under thirty and there were ninety-two nations represented.

Urging the need for organizations Dr. Abell said, "Through an organization we can be part of a bigger world. We can be represented by people who are alert, and willing to learn. In an organization we can be in touch with people who are of like interests and age. The members of an organization have the opportunity to develop abilities and broaden interests."

Frankly I drew a blank when I asked about Household Science in Australia. The Women's Institute ideas have spread but there is still farther to go. Why am I hipped on the Women's Institutes?—for what it has done for the individual I have seen people who grew up in isolated areas become less shy and self conscious by meeting people with whom they "could feel at ease."

After a coffee break groups were formed and given topics to discuss. The topics and some of the answers were:

How can we work with the Senior W.I.'s and keep our own identity?

1. Members of the Junior Institute could

occasionally attend the meetings of a Senior Branch.

2. Members of a Senior Branch especially the District president could be invited to attend Junior Branch meetings.

3. A Senior Branch member could be invited to attend an organizational meeting.

4. A Junior Branch could have a Club tea and invite Senior Branch members.

How can we encourage girls in other counties to form Junior Institutes?

1. Generally by giving activities of Junior Women's Institutes more publicity.

2. Having articles in Home and Country about the Junior Institutes.

3. Approach the county Home Economist for suggestions and help.

How can membership in the Junior Institutes be increased?

1. Mothers who are Senior Branch members can be encouraged to tell their daughters about Junior Institutes.

2. Members of Junior Institutes can tell non members about the program of activities of the Junior Branches and invite them to meetings and social events.

3. Have articles put in school papers about the Junior Institutes.

4. Encourage the Junior Farmers to bring a girl, a non member to the meetings.

What would you like to have changed in the Junior Institute program?

1. Include town people.

2. Use local people as speakers.

3. Use committees to carry the responsibilities of programs, etc.

What is the importance of Junior Institute work in your Community?

1. Participation in Junior Institute activities gives training in leadership.

2. Encourages better home making practices.

Members of the Irwin Centennial 4H Homemaking Club making Welsh rarebit and French trifle—Left to right—Colleen O'Rourke, Judalon Butler, Liz and Janet Fleming.

