

Agriculture and Canadian Industries

Mrs. Alex Wilding, convener, reviewed the Women's Institute programs for Agriculture and Canadian Industries. Some roll calls were: "A Canadian Industry shown at Expo"; "A food, plant or animal of Northwest Territories" or "A foreign fruit or vegetable served in our home." Mottoes: "A happy man enjoys the scenery when he has to take a detour"; "To take drudgery out of your work put your head into it."

Many current problems in agriculture, such as cost of starting farming, milk marketing board, wage disputes, paper clothing industry; new, low fat dairy spread, atomic energy and its prolongation of life of vegetables, sproutless spuds, drugs in livestock feeds, etc., were discussed. Topics and films aided in current education of many present day industries and showed the newest trends in agriculture as well as recalling the past.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Mrs. Don McCosh represented F.W.I.O. at the 31st annual convention of Ontario Federation of Agriculture in November. President Charles Munro stressed discussion of land use policies or farmers will be left with land no one else wanted. The Federation has been working on the pollution problem near Dunnville to try to reach a solution and get compensation for farmers in the area. A resolution was passed asking O.F.A. to study the implication and effect of synthetic meat and milk products on Canadian agriculture. Special speakers included Premier John Robarts, Dr. A. E. Berry, President of Conservation Council, and Miss Judwiga Bennick, Welfare Council.

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All joys I bless, but I confess
There is one greatest thrill:
What the dentist does when he stops the buzz
And puts away the drill.

Christopher Morley

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Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

"The Shape of Things to Come" was the theme of the 1967 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, reported Mrs. Norman Jamieson. His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth, which he was instrumental in organizing ten years ago, officiated at the Royal opening. Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson attended the reception and dinner in his honour on November 9. The flower show, "Concert in the Park" featured a bandstand set in a garden of flowers and music by day and night. Championships in all classes were held, as usual.

WINTER FIELDS

Edna Jaques

I love old winter fields — they seem to hold
A sort of kinship to the wind and cold —
The frozen furrows clogged with sodden leaves,
The stubble with a few thin scattered sheaves,
A plow up-tilted, with a broken share.
(They just unhitched and left it sitting there.)

A few old twisted trees that sort of lean
Down the steep edges of a small ravine,
A few thin cattle waiting to be fed,
Humped in the shelter of a broken shed;
A rim of frost along the water's edge,
Old nests revealed behind a tangled hedge.

There is a strange affinity between
Our homesick souls and fields of budding green,
Something within us answers to the sound
Of new life bursting through the quiet ground
And yet a frozen field where Winter dwells
Sings in my heart like muted temple-bells.

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Historical Research and Current Events

Mrs. Wilson Johnson gave a detailed report of Women's Institute activities in the field of Historical Research. Roll calls included: Childhood memories of my community. A hobby for my old age. Something we wish Canadians would do in our second century. Some mottoes were: A memory chest is wonderful if we know how to pack it. The past is never dead unless we of the present make it so. What is our generation leaving for the future? Special speakers, displays, exhibits, debates, contests, skits, etc. reviewed the past in heating systems, photography, making of roads, quilting bees, etc. One original topic on current events took the form of an "Open Line" on a radio program with the audience phoning in news. Many educational bus trips were to pioneer farms, museums, Hoodless Homestead, Old Fort York, Erland Lee Home, Mackenzie King Home, etc. Anniversaries were celebrated, grandmothers honored, family trees traced and biographies outlined. Mrs. Johnson concluded her report: "Without knowledge and a feeling for the past we cannot build in the present as we should for the future."

Tweedsmuir History Curator

In her report as provincial Tweedsmuir History Curator, Mrs. R. C. Walker said that curators have spent a busy year on centennial commissions, assisting with publications, arranging displays of histories and in other ways acquainting people with their precious volumes. Books have been widely scanned for informative background of our local communities. Progress toward microfilming of histories has been slow but when these books are done they will be on interlibrary loan throughout North America as authentic Canadian history. "We must strive to do our utmost to cover all channels of development in our local community and to portray a picture of the life and the