



Mrs. R. C. Moffat, Riverside Branch and her miniature carillon.

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A TIME TO TALK

When a friend calls to me from the road  
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,  
I don't stand still and look around  
On all the hills I haven't hoed,  
And shout from where I am, "What is it?"  
No, not as there is a time to talk.  
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,  
Blade-end up and five feet tall,  
And plod: I go up to the stone wall  
For a friendly visit.

Robert Frost

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The Honourable William A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food addressed the delegates at the 20th Annual Officers' Conference at the Wednesday evening session.

Mr. Stewart brought greetings from the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food and from the Honourable John Robarts, Premier of Ontario. He commended the Women's Institutes for their contribution to the development of rural Canada and said that the accomplishments of the organization can in no way be measured. Mr. Stewart made special mention of the work of the Women's Institutes in the interests of young people.

He was most interested and pleased, the minister said, with the work of Women's Institute members in connection with the Ontario Food Council. It was announced by Mr. Stewart that a former F.W.I.O. president, Mrs. L. R. Trivers had been made a full member of the Food Council.

The South Dufferin Women's Institute Centennial Choir, with the leadership of Mrs. Maltby, entertained during the Wednesday evening session. (For picture of this choir see page 24, Fall 1967 issue, Home and Country.)

A highlight of this evening session was a presentation of the pageant, "On Guard For Thee" by Women's Institute members, with Mrs. George Dixon as director. (For story and pictures of this pageant, as presented at the

Girls' Conference, June 1967, see page 16 Summer 1967 issue of Home and Country.)

With the discussion group chairmen in charge, the groups met together for a summation of their previous meeting, on Thursday morning. Later, all delegates met in Memorial Hall with Mrs. Small in the chair. Mrs. Maltby led the group in community singing.

A film, "The Way It Is" evoked the question of involvement in community affairs versus home life.

This morning session closed with a panel composed of Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Trivers, Mrs. Small, Miss McKercher, Mrs. Charlton, Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Diamond, dealing with questions from the question box.

Mr. Ranjit S. Hall, Regional Liaison Officer, Citizenship Branch, Department of Secretary of State, addressed the closing session of the 1968 Officers' Conference. His subject was "Human Rights — Hope or Hypocrisy".

Mr. Hall opened his address by saying, "A concern for Human Rights in 1948 came sharply into focus after the first world war because of a general revulsion at the atrocities of World War II. The United Nations has declared 1968 as International Human Rights Year so that this year may be devoted to a review of progress, a study for future progress, and to bring more attention to the need for more concern on the part of citizens and legislators for human rights.

"We live in a global village and must accept the expansion of the notion of equality for all people. Rights and responsibilities are indivisible. Human rights are privileges, not restraints.

"Canadians must shake off a certain apathy toward the human rights of fellow Canadians who belong to minority groups. We must study and try to understand the feelings of some Canadians who feel less than human since they feel denied certain rights. These people may be the poor, the disabled, the elderly, people of other races.

"Canada is a nation of several cultures and has the opportunity to develop a rich culture of its own if all of its citizens can be made to experience a feeling of equality.

"We the people must make the decision if this rich culture is to develop.

"The Women's Institutes in the communities have special opportunities to study human rights and to see and do something about instances of discrimination."

Mrs. Harry Judge entertained the delegates with a solo and after courtesies were expressed and closing exercises, Mrs. Small declared the 20th Annual Conference for Officers of the Women's Institutes adjourned.

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"Like all weak men he laid an exaggerated stress on not changing his mind."

Somerset Maugham