

# The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Celebrate a Birthday

When a member of an Ontario Women's Institute pays her one dollar membership fee, twenty-five cents of that fee is sent by the F.W.I.O. secretary-treasurer to support the work of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada. This makes every Ontario Women's Institute member a member of F.W.I.C.

A national Women's Institute organization became a reality in February 1919. Thus we are celebrating a fiftieth anniversary this year.

After the Women's Institutes were first organized in 1897 the movement spread rapidly. British Columbia and Alberta organized their first Women's Institutes in 1909; Manitoba in 1910; New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Prince Edward Island in 1911; Nova Scotia in 1913. The Jubilee Guilds of Newfoundland and Labrador, now known as the Women's Institutes of Newfoundland and Labrador, were organized in 1935 and became members of F.W.I.C. in 1951. In Saskatchewan the organization is known as the Homemaker's Clubs. With assistance from F.W.I.C., Women's Institutes were organized in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in 1959.

In 1912 the idea of a federation of the provincial groups was considered. Before definite action could be taken the first World War had broken out. As soon as possible, Miss Mary McIsaac, then Superintendent of the Saskatchewan Women's Institutes revived the idea. She felt that with such a federation the rural women of Canada would be united and able to speak as one voice for needed reforms and that there would be value in co-ordinating the work of the provincial groups for a more consistent program.

Representatives of the provinces met in Winnipeg in February 1919 and the federal Minister of Agriculture gave approval for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada to become a national organization. Judge Emily Murphy (Janey Canuck) of Edmonton became the first F.W.I.C. President.

Judge Murphy was an outstanding woman with driving power, executive ability and an outgoing personality. She had great understanding and sympathy for rural women and their problems.

From the start of the organization there was need for a national office but finances were not available for this. Then in 1955 a Foundation Fund of one dollar per member across Canada was set up. This made it possible to es-

tablish a national office with a permanent secretary in the City of Ottawa.

Until 1957 F.W.I.C. board meetings had been held in conjunction with provincial conventions, with open sessions. The first open national convention was held in Ottawa in 1957. Ontario members will remember the 1967 F.W.I.C. convention in Guelph. The 1970 convention will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Four members of the Ontario Women's Institutes have served three-year terms as national presidents. They are: 1921-1923, Mrs. William Todd; 1933-1937, Mrs. A. E. Walker; 1951-1953, Mrs. Hugh Summers; 1961-1964, Mrs. James Haggerty.

Mrs. George Clark of St. John's, Newfoundland, was elected President of F.W.I.C. in 1967.

★ ★ ★

If all that we say in a single day  
With never a word left out,  
Were printed each night in clear black and white,  
'Twould prove queer reading, no doubt,  
And there just suppose, ere our eyes we would  
close,  
We must read the whole record through,  
Then wouldn't we sigh, and wouldn't we try,  
A great deal less talking to do,  
And I more than half think, that many a kink  
Would be smoother in life's tangled thread,  
If half that we say in a single day,  
Were left forever unsaid."

Quoted from Report of Meetings Form.  
Orillia Br. Simcoe East.

★ ★ ★

Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare, John Milton — name them over — Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln — not one of them ever saw a movie, heard a radio broadcast, or saw television, and yet out of the things at hand they developed personalities and characters — characters that today we regard as sublime, as worth going to for what they may give us by way of education. They had conversation, they had books.

From Home and Country — The Journal of  
New Zealand, Country Women's Institute

★ ★ ★

Moonlight. May I be reborn as a pine tree on a mountain peak.

Haiku—A form of Japanese poetry

★ ★ ★

Peaceful is morning in the shrine garden:  
If the whole world were filled with such peace!

Haiku—A form of Japanese poetry