

Institutes continued success in the constructive and unique projects both locally and provincially.

It is more important than ever in this ever changing society that Women's Institutes continue to assume the role of developing leaders in their communities in order to keep home and country strong.

Presidential Address

Mrs. H. L. Noblitt, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario spoke on the theme of the Conference, taken from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune . . ." or we might simply say, "opportunity knocks; open the door and accept it or it will vanish".

Opportunities of some kind are always present. It depends on whether we can devise a way to use them to further our purpose. This pre-supposes that we have a purpose, a goal, or an objective. It also pre-supposes that we have the desire and the determination to seize that opportunity and turn it into a worthwhile advantage. If we do, it will lead to progress, if we don't, it will lead to stagnation; if we do we will keep pace with the times, if we don't our future will become dreary indeed. It has been said that results are obtained by exploiting opportunities, not by solving problems.

As W.I. members we have our objectives, our goals. What opportunities have we to carry out these aims?

We must continue encouraging new members to join. We have a responsibility of finding new and refreshing ways of carrying out our programs. Without ever sacrificing our principles, we will have to adapt to changes. Our young people have been educated in schools with well-equipped libraries where they have been able to read widely, where discussions and free exchange of ideas have been the order of the day. They have learned to look on all sides of a question; and because of the opportunity to travel, have learned to identify with fellow human beings over the whole world. They will find us lacking if we do not keep open minds and practice tolerant attitudes.

Young women are not as content to sit through long business meetings and listen too frequently to speakers. Rather they like to be involved in activities, they like demonstrations and participation. With the present awareness of nutrition and the workshop being offered in the Fall of 1974, we have a golden opportunity to share the information we get from them, with the young women around us. They are interested in many crafts you all know so well and can help them with — quilting, crocheting, weaving, sewing, embroidery. They are interested in physical fitness, so should we be. Perhaps with them you could work out a program to include you all. These are only a few suggestions for involving young women who might then find W.I. interesting enough so they will want to join.

Now, to mention a few other opportunities that seem very timely: Take our first objective: acquiring homemaking skills. These are not only cooking, nutrition, home management, home decorating and such for which we have been fortunate in having many courses over the years, but also — and perhaps the most important — the rearing of children and implanting in them the principles of loyalty, honesty, respect, responsibility, moral values and good citi-

zenship. It is this area of homemaking skills that is in jeopardy. In our present day society there are many groups who are ignoring the very important and noble role of the mother in the home and are inviting women to get out into their rightful place in government, industry and other segments of society. Indeed, the economy of the country is such that of necessity many mothers have to go out to work.

Is there not, then, a need for a much greater stress on #28 recommendation by the Status of Women — the recommendation that more provision be made in our society for more reasonably paid part time work? This would enable the mother to be with her children most of the time and an opportunity to get out occasionally and earn a little money of her own. Mrs. Noblitt stated, there is an opportunity, for W.I.'s to use their influence: to work for greater stress on the importance, the dignity and the value of the homemaker and to put greater stress on part time work in our society.

Another opportunity, if we are going to give qualified, sound, intelligent and well researched opinions on current matters, we need to keep upgrading our knowledge and taking advantage of all the facilities so readily available to us now: libraries, qualified speakers, night schools, adult university courses, Rural Learning Associations, travel and so on.

How can we take advantage of these opportunities that are presenting themselves to us here and now? ACT — if you want to change or effect something in society

ORGANIZE and carry out a project at your own level.

APPROACH your Board Director and ask her to request the Provincial Board to consider action on your suggestion;

FOLLOW the traditional method of formulating a resolution — still one of our most effective ways of seeking change.

We are often very concerned about the things that are happening around us and we find it hard to accept and adjust to the changes. Let us forget about the collisions we face with today's ideologies and seize the opportunities that present themselves for building positively. The history of the Women's Institute is not that of inactivity, of apathy, of purposelessness, but one of accomplishment and let us continue to make it so!



Haysville Branch members selling supplies —
L-r front row — Mrs. Oliver Facey, Mrs. Albert Everts, Mrs. Ellworth Bean. Back row — Mrs. Dennis Mighton, Mrs. Oliver Capling.