



The President's Corner

Mrs. Herbert K. Maluske,
President the
Federated
Women's Institutes of
Ontario

Dear W. I. Members:

It is perhaps a day in April when you read this. April—the month of Annual meetings in our W.I. Branches.

April—a time of new beginnings, new officers, new programmes, new projects, new ideas.

J. D. Templeton wrote—

"I am the new year, and I come to you pure and unstained

Fresh from the hand of God.

Each day, a precious pearl to you is given
That you must string upon the silver thread of life.
Once strung can never be unthreaded, but stays
An undying record of your faith and skill."

Every time I read that quotation, the more overwhelmed I am by the immensity of its all encompassing scope.

At this time in our Institute year it would be wise for us to think about the necklaces of days we are stringing.

From my scrapbook comes another clipping which deals with resolutions we can and should make for each day of the week. It is the precious pearly days of each week which we first string on our necklaces.

SUNDAY—Resolved to serve more loyally the church and the community of our own choice; to help rather than hinder the work therein; to refrain from thoughtless criticism; to give as well as take by using our talents where they can be most effectively employed.

MONDAY—Resolved to wash away the ugly marks left on the heart's horizon by envy, malice, greed and jealousy; to remove with all speed and stains of anger and discontent; to restore the original whiteness of a clean conscience, no matter what happens.

TUESDAY—Resolved to iron out the difficulties arising between ourselves and our fellows; to smooth away the wrinkles of vexation and worry; to restore to daily living the sheen of joy lost through misunderstanding and doubt.

WEDNESDAY—Resolved to acquire wider contacts as basis for fresh acquaintanceships; to maintain the old relationships which make life worth while, but to add to them as many new ones as seem to be offered.

THURSDAY—Resolved to patch up frayed friendships while there is yet time, and if they are past mending, to make use of all that they have brought to our lives in days gone by.

FRIDAY—Resolved to polish up whatever skills we possess, especially those which have grown rusty from lack of use; to develop a clearer understanding of the value of those skills to the world around us, and to apply them where they are most needed.

SATURDAY—Resolved to take the common ingredients of living, and mix them judiciously so that they provide some of the little pleasures which make necessities more agreeable; to remember that we do not live by bread alone, and to make sure at all times that the spirit is fed as well as the body.

Then we string all those other wonderful special days that mean so much to us personally like birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, family reunions, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

What other days should we be planning to add to our necklaces? I earnestly hope that we can string many days of Women's Institute functions in the coming year.

This is the 80th anniversary year of the Women's Institute movement in Ontario. I'm counting on each member stringing a pearl for a certain anniversary event in observance of this milestone in our history. Or perhaps more than one if she attends celebrations at the various levels, District, County, Area and Provincial.

From across this fair province I imagine I can hear voices. I hear Mrs. A. say, "I'm going to try to string a Women's Institute Branch Meeting Day every month this year. I just hate having to miss a meeting. I feel so out of touch with things if I don't attend. I resolve to play a more active role too. I'm working diligently to get new members to join our Branch."

Mrs. B. from another direction adds, "Well, besides my Branch Meeting Days I'm going to string all those extra days, you know, the ones we have Short Courses, Food Forums, Anniversaries, Tweedsmuir Teas, Workshops, Picnics, Family Get-togethers. They are all very special pearls in my estimation."

Mrs. C. has been waiting to chip in with "District Annual Days, County Rally Days, Area Conventions, Subdivision Meetings and even Planning-time Meetings."

I hear a Board Director's remark, "Don't forget the Provincial Board Meeting Days. They are the biggest pearls."

I am thinking about what could be the greatest day for us this year. November 23, 1977—the last day of the Area Conventions—the day that we would learn that we had 100% reporting in every area in Ontario. What about it Conveners at all levels? Can we do it? Can we string the perfect pearl on our necklaces? We have been trying for many years. Let us resolve to do it in 1977, our 80th anniversary year.

But remember it has to start now, today, at Branch level with the Branch conveners stringing the first perfect pearls of reporting!

"Good, better, best; never let it rest
Till your good is better, and your better best."
Yours for happy stringing of pearly days,

Verna A. Maluske