

EASTERN ONTARIO—requesting the Government to discontinue the sales tax on footwear for children under 12.

Dr. E. E. Stewart, Secretary of the Cabinet, on behalf of the Minister of Revenue replies: Exemption on the purchase of footwear was originally intended to cover only children's footwear. For many years exemption was based on size and in the case of shoes for girls also on the height of heels. As styles changed, it became increasingly difficult for both customers and merchants to determine whether a particular style and size fell within the exempt category of children's footwear or was taxable as an adult size and style. These difficulties led to a number of studies being carried out before the Treasurer announced that the exemption of children's footwear would be replaced by the present exemption which applies to all footwear sold for \$30.00 a pair or less.

As the intent was, and still is to grant exemption from retail sales tax on children's footwear without making most adult footwear tax exempt as well, it is my view that the present system provides for the majority of children without creating problems or inconvenience to parents or to vendors, or abuse of exemption.

NORTHERN AREA—Requesting the Ontario Government to propose to the Federal Government to enact legislation that all spouses receive a pension at the age of 60, subject to a means test and that it be continued after the death of the old age pensioner.

John G. Anderson, Assistant Deputy for the Ministry of Adult Services writes on behalf of the Hon. Keith Norton, Ministry of Community and Social Services:

"I understand that the federal government has recently extended to six months the length of time a widow may continue to receive Spouse's Allowance after the death of her husband.

I might point out, in addition, that any woman who was receiving Spouse's Allowance and is in need is eligible for provincial Family Benefits Assistance. A special arrangement between Ontario and the Federal government results in the Province being informed of any woman whose Spouse's Allowance benefits are terminated. The Province then makes a special effort to contact each woman to determine whether or not she is in need of Family Benefits Assistance. There is no waiting period for Family Benefits Assistance in this case and her application is given priority consideration. In the event that the applicant is in immediate financial hardship, General Welfare Assistance is available to cover living expenses until Family Benefits begins.

It is our experience, however, that women whose Spouse's Allowance is terminated do not often go onto Family Benefits which may indicate the likelihood that many do not suffer severe financial hardship during this period".

ROYAL WINTER FAIR

The FWIO will again have a rest area at the Fair November 7-17, 1979. Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. C. W. Adams and Mrs. Wm. G. Miller, board directors representing Central Area will be in charge, assisted by members of their area branches and Junior WI members.

Representing FWIO on the Royal Winter Fair directorate will be Mrs. Clarence Diamond, Mrs. Warren Hill and alternate Mrs. Wm. G. Miller.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HALL

Mrs. Clarence Diamond

The Ontario Agricultural Museum, Box 38, Milton will be opened seven days a week from 10.00 am-5.00 pm, May through September. The Official opening will be on June 8.

Admission to the grounds \$1.50 adults, \$1.00 Seniors and teenagers, .75¢ children. If a bus is booked in advance the price will be \$1.00 per person, contact Mrs. Mary Robertson at the Museum.

The Women's Institute Hall will have a couple of picnic tables outside the hall for our use. If Branches should decide to hold a meeting, allow only one hour, so the Hall will not be tied up too long.

New pictures to appear in the Hall, will be a composite of the FWIO Provincial Presidents, The Erland Lee Home and Drive House, Royalty, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Mr. Erland Lee.

FWIO will arrange some demonstrations and quilt displays. Quilting frames are available for WI use. Two new hanging book cases will house books sent by the English WI's in appreciation for jams and jellies sent during the 40's, also WI Handbooks, and Dr. Chapman's books.

Cork boards will be installed for more displays including the Junior WI. Hand Outs, "Do You Know?" will be available to interested persons.

FWIC

Mrs. Clarence Diamond

The FWIO winning entries for the National competition have been mailed to Saskatoon and hand-drawn certificates have been sent to the competition winners in the province.

A good variety of articles have been donated by the Districts, all have been mailed to Saskatoon from the FWIO office for sale during the Convention.

The Adelaide Hoodless rose is again listed in the Aubin Nurseries Ltd catalogue, Carman Manitoba. A 5 minute broadcast tape on "Adelaide Hoodless" was presented by L. Greene on Our Country and is to be repeated.

Convention plans are in the final stages, Ontario delegates have been chosen.

Of special interest to Ontario members is the "Hostess" Apartment opening at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead from 2.00-4.00 pm on June 1. Mrs. Joseph Bielish, FWIC President will speak at 2.30. The newly appointed hostess is Mrs. Hilda Butler, The Homestead is located at R.R.1 St George, NOE 1N0. telephone 519-448-1130. Visiting hours 2.00-5.00 pm every afternoon, busloads are requested to make reservations.

OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Mrs. Russell Campbell, reported on the final arrangement for the Conference to be held May 2-4 at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo. Approximately six hundred delegates are planning to attend.

Annual Board Meeting November 19-23, 1979