

# Belmont W.I. Hears Inspiring Talk By Mrs. Lemon On 'Home, Country'

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(Examiner Correspondence.)

HAVELOCK, Feb. 21. — Featuring the February meeting of the Belmont Branch Women's Institute last Thursday was an interesting address by Mrs. R. E. Lemon of Norwood, who spoke to the ladies on the subject "For Home and Country," the Institute motto. Held at the Township Hall, the meeting was largely attended, and every member responded to the roll-call, "a hot supper dish," with various suggestions for appetizing meals being presented.

A donation of twelve fine books for the Institute library by a well-wisher was received and a vote of thanks given to the anonymous sender.

Plans were made to sponsor a "Seth Parker" evening on Friday, March 3, and it was reported that there has been a good sale for the tickets on the blanket which the Institute is offering in a lucky draw.

Mrs. Charles Kennedy as convener conducted the afternoon's program, with Mrs. M. Rylott acting as piano accompanist. The program included a piano solo, "You're the Only Star in My Blue Heaven," by Miss Mary Anderson; harmonica solo, "Juanita," Mrs. W. Smith; piano solo, "Edliss Glide," Mrs. D. Anderson, and two hymns.

A past district director of the Women's Institute branches at Horning's Mills and Coboconk, Mrs. R. E. Lemon, wife of Rev. R. E. Lemon, rector of Christ Anglican church at Norwood, well experienced in Institute affairs, proved a most capable speaker. Because of her first-hand knowledge of the good work done by the Women's Institute, she chose their motto, "For Home and Country" as the subject of her address, trying to illustrate throughout the importance of women as homemakers in the world of to-day.

## What Is Home?

Beginning with the question, "What is a home?" she quoted an inscription which she remembered on a vase belonging to her mother, "Home—the spot on earth supremely blest." Is it? she asked, or has it become to-day but a boarding-house where folks eat and sleep and get away from as much as possible. The dictionary define the home as "the residence of a family," which implies father, mother, and children—the perfect home. Our first duty as mothers, homemakers, and W. I. members, she said, is to make our homes the most attractive and inspiring places to live in; to make our children feel there is no place quite so good; nor another place they would rather be than home. It is not necessary to have a lot of money or elaborate furniture to achieve this end. It is necessary, however, to make our children feel that they and their friends are wanted and needed at home.

From the home our children get their first impressions. We are told by those who study child psychology that about three-quarters of a child's character is formed through environment and only one-quarter from heredity. How important it is then to see that the home is all that it should be. We are also told that a child's most impressionable age is from two to seven, which period is spent in the home. During that time we exercise an unconscious influence which later does much towards shaping the life and character of the child. Particularly is this true in regard to religious and moral matters. Children receive very little religious or moral training in Public School, while there is but one hour of Sunday School each week. Think then of the hours they spend at home and of your opportunity as homemakers to influence them for good; to speak to them on vital moral questions; to so order our household that each member may feel his or her responsibility to others.

"I believe that the greatest sin in the world to-day is selfishness, for around it lie nearly all the trials and perplexities and injustices which we see. The home is the place to begin to stamp out selfishness in many ways. First, do not let any member of the family impose upon the good-will of the others, and secondly, do not permit our families to impose upon our neighbors, remembering that our duty towards our neighbor is to love him as ourselves.

Home then should be a haven wherein each member of the family can bring their problems and find sympathetic audience. It is surprising how very few confidences are exchanged in the homes of to-day, however. I was reading some certain articles in a paper the other

day in which wives frankly stated they knew nothing concerning their husbands' affairs, not even so much as the amount of money they earned. For myself, I cannot see what basis there is for a happy home life under those conditions. The only solution is to help our children confide in us.