

Dec. HAVELOCK 1965

The Belmont Women's Institute at a Thursday meeting at the home of Mrs. Dan Hoard, decided to send \$5 to the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.

Five dollars will also be sent to the district secretary for the district foster child.

A needy family will be given \$30. A committee composed of Mrs. Jesse Anderson, Mrs. Herb Hoard and Miss Nellie Davidson will contact the Lions and Rotary clubs to arrange as to what is most needed by the family.

Mrs. Edward Barker gave a reading: The history and legend of the Christmas season.

A reading was also given by Mrs. William Harris. The president, Mrs. Horace King gave a report of the area convention, to which she was a delegate. The area convention in 1966 will be held in Peterborough.

An exchange of gifts from a gaily decorated Christmas tree, was held.

Each member brought a gift for the cheer boxes to be sent to the sick and shut-ins.

◆ ◆ ◆

BELMONT WI 1965

Education was the topic of the institute meeting Thursday afternoon. In her paper, Mrs. Earl Keene said that during the last 20 or 30 years there have been more changes in education than in all the previous history of education. This has been especially necessary in the last few years to keep up with technical development. Up until the 30's education changed little.

Population was largely rural, and there was very little moving from place to place. Education consisted mostly of reading, writing and arithmetic. These were the basic subjects. Penmanship was important. History consisted mainly of battles, dates and kings. Geography was a conglomeration of cities, rivers, latitude, longitudes plus a variety of tropics and climatic zones. Grammar was studied intensively to ensure the proper use of the language. During this time there was only one book per subject. There were practically no reference books. The old blackboard maps became dog-eared, dirty, and finally, like old soldiers, faded away.

Ironically, continued the speaker, the depression of the 30's produced good teachers. This was because there was so much competition for teaching positions.

The only change in rural schools during the 30's took place in 1933, when the covers of readers changed from brown to red. In the 30's the readers changed completely in public schools. A greater variety of poems and stories was added to the existing mixture of fairy tales, pioneer stories and nature poems.

The new readers contained stories of exploration, invention and other contemporary happenings. Because of increased technical advance and the huge financial resources available for education, it has now changed a great deal. The numerous single - room schools are being replaced by fewer large, well-equipped consolidated schools. Methods of education are changing — more experimentation by students and less instruction.

Aptitude tests enable teachers to channel learning in the right direction. Time is wasted in high school teaching grammar which should have been taught in public school. But on the whole every child is encouraged, in every way, to go to school.

Increasing numbers of technical schools show the government's recognition of learning other than at university. "We should be thankful that our system of education is based on the public school system, instead of a private one," she said.

CHOOSE COURSE

First choice for a short course was "clothing and textiles," and "what's new in home furnishings" was second choice.

Mrs. John Minnie was appointed 4-H club leader, and Mrs. Ed Barker assistant.

The institute decided to purchase the material to make the entry for Norwood Fair.

The July picnic will be held at the Belmont Lake home of Mrs. Ed Barker.