

Programmes of the District through the years

Early records of West Bruce District are not available, but from the minutes of the fourteenth annual meeting held in Port Elgin on June 8, 1914, we learn there were five branches in the District. Meetings were held in Port Elgin at the same time as the Farmer's Institute meetings. The two groups assembled for a social at the close of their separate meetings.

District Receipts and Expenditures were:

|                    |          |                                 |          |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Legislative Grant  | \$ 25.00 | Secretary's Salary              | \$ 25.00 |
| County Grant       | 25.00    | Summer delegate expense         | 3.50     |
| Farmer's Institute | 10.00    | Branch expense attending annual |          |
|                    |          | 5 @ 2.00 each                   | 10.00    |

This latter policy of paying branch expenses to the district annual was not always paid through the war years when Red Cross and War Relief projects were prominent, but it was paid again in 1917 and still paid in 1928.

Presidents of Branches reported sponsorship of local projects such as libraries, town halls, parks, hospital cots, By June 1915, Red Cross and War Relief work were prime objectives with \$ 2,761.61 worth of goods and services contributed in the nine months of war, by the district membership of 196.

SUMMER SPEAKERS

A service supplied since 1903, by the Department of Agriculture, The summer speakers held special meetings at central points in the district. Topics have not been listed but some of the speakers were,- 1914,- Mrs. J.J. Lowe, Hespler; 1916,- Miss Job, ; 1917,- Mrs. M.C. Collins, Ancaster; 1918,- Dr. Mary McKenzie Smith, Gravenhurst; 1919,- Mrs. C.K. Bluett, London; Miss Gray, ; June 1915,-

June 1915, Mrs. D. McTavish, Port Elgin organizer, President for ten years and mother of West Bruce District Women's Institute was elected Honorary President. She expressed appreciation at being so honoured.

June 1916, Mrs. J.S. Cameron, Port Elgin, retiring Secretary received an expression of appreciation for her ten years of service.

In June 1916, three representatives were named to the Agricultural Board. These representatives, namely the president, vice-president and secretary were re-elected each year to this board until 1928 when it was recorded:-

"Not enough present for Board of Agriculture meeting hence it was voted to disband and to ask the secretary, Mr. Rennie, to give what funds on hand to the District Institute. \$28.33 was received. "

In 1919, the district annual started to move from branch to branch. Tara was the hostess for this year. This is the first mention made of an annual convention. Mrs. W.H. Whitworth, Tara, was appointed delegate to this convention held in London and received nine dollars for her expenses.

--" It was in 1919 that the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was organized to act as a clearing house for common problems and to initiate a national programme. In the same year, Ontario Institutes completed their provincial organization by establishing a Provincial Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. This board gives valueable assistance to the Institute branch of the Department of Agriculture in developing the programme of work. "--

1920 -1927

Programmes each year have followed a similar format of branch reports, solos, readings, business and recreation. In June 1920, at the twentieth annual meeting held in Underwood