

# Annual Meeting Renfrew W.I.

(By Mrs. W. H. Hamilton)

Blue skies and golden sunshine a perfect June day, a flower decked village church with doors opening hospitably wide, and the shimmering expanse of a broad lake in the background, combined to make a charming setting for the outstanding day of the year, in Women's Institute circles. The district annual meeting for Renfrew South, held on June 6th at White Lake.

In charge of President, Mrs. C. D. Dewar and Secretary, Mrs. R. Mullin, both of Braeside, the well-planned meeting combined business matters, annual summaries of good work well done, and the friendly sociability always associated with Women's Institute gatherings. Members from 19 W.I. branches, numbering close to 170, filled to the brim the auditorium of White Lake United church, where the meeting was held. A cordial welcome was extended by Mrs. D. E. Stewart, president of the White Lake branch, who took the opportunity to give a brief bit of history of the settlement and its pioneer residents. Mrs. R. M. McGregor of Lochwinnoch, district vice-president, made a suitable reply.

In her presidential address, Mrs. C. D. Dewar gave as her message to the members the urgent need for women the world over to go out on a campaign of learning to live together in peace and harmony. She deplored the seeming inability of the world's leaders to so live, stressing the fact that while great advances had been made in science and skills along many lines, the progress made in the art of living together had been distressingly slow. The women of the world, Mrs. Dewar said, could set a fine example if they wished, since every individual is responsible for his or her own ability to get along with his associates.

At the close of her address, the president introduced a novel feature of the meeting, by special recognition of W.I. members who had been faithful and regular in attendance at meetings. Names were read out of members whose names had not missed a meeting in two had also been a subject of deep interest to South Renfrew Institute. Souvenir certificates presented to them, and special mention was made of the record of Miss K. this pioneer history had been one of the most interesting tasks the W.I. had set itself to do, and it was worthy of note that every branch was planning its own Tweddsmuir Village History, as well as other historical collections which are being made by the various branches.

commented upon, and it was announced that Mrs. R. Mullin, district secretary, had not missed a district meeting in over 20 years.

Mrs. J. R. Geddes of Mississippi brought greetings from the provincial board, offering at the same time various suggestions for increasing membership in the local branches and stimulating interest. She spoke of plans for having a F.W.I.O. tent at the international plowing match, and for the Institute members' holiday, to be held at the O.A.C. in Guelph about the first of July.

As always, one of the highlights of the day was the presentation of reports from the various conveners of standing committees, all of which gave a most interesting and enlightening picture of the real, down-to-earth work being carried on in the local branches throughout the 12 months past. Reporting on the committee for public relations and community activities, Mrs. G. S. Parsons of Burnstown told of a vast amount of excellent work done in communities throughout the district. Among other things were mentioned work with local school boards, field days, remembrances to sick and shut-in, fair work, supervising girls' work, contributions to worthy causes, and many other activities.

Mrs. W. L. Crozier, Rosebank, reported on citizenship and education, stating that much splendid work had been done along this line also. Such features as demonstrations of music were mentioned, and many special addresses reported, as well as film showings and worth-while papers and talks prepared by the members themselves.

Home economics and health was the committee convened by Mrs. J. D. Gaw of White Lake, who spoke highly of the supervisory work done by the Institutes regarding the activities of girls' clubs. Six supper clubs and three garden clubs had been carried on through the year, Mrs. Gaw reported, mentioning also a number of excellent program features, including addresses on health subjects, nutrition and food values.

Mrs. J. Wright of Stewartville gave the summary of the committee work on historical research and current events. This was a most interesting report, and it was noted that every branch was planning its own Tweddsmuir Village History, as well as other historical collections which are being made by the various branches.

The study of agriculture and Canadian industries was reviewed by Mrs. G. Humphries, Castleford, who also reported many excellent meetings on this topic, which included demonstrations, discussions, papers, addresses, the showing of slides, and practical work such as the supervising of girls' garden clubs and beautifying school grounds. Studies on the subject of agriculture ranged all the way from flower growing and bouquet arrangements to the hatchery business and the setting of prices for bacon and cheese, and just as wide a variety of topics were listed under the heading of Canadian industries.

Miss A. Spencer, of the Institute branch, department of agriculture, discussed the co-operative program which is a special project of the district each year. After having reviewed the suggested topics for this year, it was announced that, by popular vote of delegates, the first choice of subject was "We call it human nature", second choice, "Treasures in your attic," and third, "What to do until the doctor comes."

In the absence of Miss Ina Lindsay, county home economist and girls' work director, her report was given by Miss Stackley, home economist in training. The fine work these girls' clubs are doing was further demonstrated by a delightful skit, which gave pointers on the proper setting of the family table, the serving of a meal, and good table manners. The skit was put on by the White Lake girls' club, under the leadership of Mrs. Gaw.

Other pleasing features of the day were greetings from the Children's Aid Society by Mrs. S. Abbey, from the federal W.I. representative, Mrs. J. Henderson, from the agricultural fair board by Mrs. J. E. Miller, and from the Women's Institutes in Bonnie Scotland by Mrs. J. M. Myles of Stair, Ayrshire.

Several resolutions were brought in by the convener of the resolutions committee, Mrs. W. H. Hamilton, some of which the delegates voted to send on to the area convention, others to be dealt with in the district. Reports on hospital work in charge of the W.I. were given by Mrs. J. Findlay for Arnprior and Mrs. W. Galbraith for Renfrew.

At the beginning of the day, silent tribute was given by the entire body to members of South Renfrew Institute who had been called to higher service during the year, namely, Mrs. John Crozier, Mrs. H. B. Frood, Mrs. Stanley Mayhew and Mrs. Alonzo Wright. And at its close, warm thanks were expressed by the delegates to the convener, Mrs. W. H. Hamilton, for her excellent planning and execution of the day's work.

untiring work of the two chief officers, Mrs. C. D. Dewar and Mrs. R. Mullin, both of whom retired from office this year. Mrs. R. M. McGregor of Lochwinnoch, first vice-president, was elected to succeed Mrs. Dewar, and Mrs. W. H. Hamilton of Glasgow was chosen sec'y-treas for the coming year.

Other officers elected were as follows: Honorary president, Mrs. C. D. Dewar; first vice-president, Mrs. I. Jeffrey, Balsam Hill; second vice-president, Mrs. Dunca Wallace, Renfrew; third vice-president, Mrs. D. E. Stewart, White Lake; federated representative, Mrs. C. D. Dewar; alternate, Mrs. R. M. McGregor; district delegate, Mrs. Archie Bennett, Arnprior; alternate, Mrs. J. E. Miller, Goshen.

Conveners of standing committees: Canadian industries and agriculture, Mrs. G. Humphries, Castleford; community activities and public relations, Mrs. C. Parsons, Burnstown; research, Mrs. J. Wright, Arville; citizenship and education, Mrs. Harvey Shaw, Arnprior; home economics and health, Mrs. J. Gaw, White Lake; resolutions, Miss K. Farmer, Combermere.

Hospital committees: Arnprior, Mrs. J. H. Findlay, Mrs. I. A. Gillies, Mrs. H. Smith; Renfrew, Mrs. W. Galbraith, Mrs. C. Humphries, Mrs. W. L. Crozier; agricultural societies, Arnprior, Mrs. Archie Bennett; alternate, Mrs. R. Taylor; Renfrew, Mrs. A. Johnston; alternate, Mrs. Francis. Representative to Federation of Agriculture, Mrs. E. Briscoe, Renfrew.

A delicious midday luncheon was served by the members of White Lake W.I., with assistance from the branches at Burnstown, Arnprior, Pine Grove and Clarks Bank.