

of that time stands.

It may amaze those who stop to think of the change in conditions over that 50 yr. period, that the constitution drawn up then, holds today with slight alterations. For that constitution was based on a deep understanding of the essential needs of the woman and the homemaker which change little with the changing years.

That constitution took no mean view of the scope of a homemaker's life. It considered that a woman must know something of household architecture and that she may speak with authority on sanitation, even while she keeps also in mind the elements of art. She must know something of the nutritive and economic value of foods as well as how to cook them. That constitution even looked forward to the day of woman's responsibility in the work of preventative medicine, to the share she must take in rearing healthy children for the State.

The Institutes which are now the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have more than 100,000 members scattered through the ten Provinces, - Ontario leading with its fifty odd thousands. If they owe much to their advantageous birth, no less an element in their success has been the fact that the members have worked out their own salvation. They have read the constitution and then with their own hands proceeded to put its precepts into effect. It is true that provincial governments have given small grants; true that they have provided lectures in cooking, dressmaking, hygiene, home nursing, millinery, dairying, gardening and so on, as the membership has asked for them. But they themselves have trudged sometimes miles through deep snow to see that the children in a rural school had a hot lunch - once they realized that a hot lunch in the depth of a Canadian winter was an essential to the children's upbringing. They have worn down the old prejudices of those who have complained - "It was never done before," and have put sanitary drinking cups and paper towels, and the teaching of music as well, into schools with the money they make, a few nickels at a time. With all these benefits for the children looked after and classes of various kinds for the ladies themselves, they turned their attention on the teen-age girls and formed garden clubs and Junior Homemaking Clubs, for well we know, the girls of today are the women of tomorrow, and we must help them fit themselves for the task ahead of them. Stony Creek, - the scene of a struggle for the preservation of Canadian life and living in 1812-1814, was a fitting setting for that great event of outstanding interest to us all - The Founding of the Mother Institute!