

VI-5
of this woman of action, she organized the school of Domestic Science and Art at Hamilton, securing finances by private subscription and a small Government grant. This school soon proved inadequate and Mrs. Hoodless presented her problem to Sir William MacDonald one of Prince Edward Island's most public minded citizens, resulting in the building of MacDonald Institute at Guelph, where for many years, girls not only from Ontario but from every part of Canada have taken courses in Home Economics. To-day there hangs in the reception room of this college, a life sized portrait of Adelaide Hoodless, presented by the Womens' Institutes of Ontario in recognition of her great and loving service to humanity.

Since 1884 there had existed in Ontario, Farmers' Institutes functioning under the Provincial Government of Agriculture. Their purpose was the promotion of scientific methods in all branches of agriculture. This was done by sending agriculture experts to teach the farmers the latest methods of grain growing, dairying, stock raising etc. Their success gave Mrs. Hoodless who had been born and brought up on a farm, the idea that it was far more important for rural women to know all about the proper feeding of their children than for farmers to be taught animal husbandry.

Mrs. W. E. Walker of Bartonville Ontario, Past President of the Womens' Institutes of Canada has written this brief history of the founding of the first Womens' Institute which was organized on February 19th 1897 in the little village of Stoney Creek, Saltfleet Township, Wentworth County, Ontario. Prior to this for thirteen years a Farmers' Institute had flourished, mainly through the efforts of J.H. Smith, their public school inspector and his able assistant, Erland Lee who was a prominent, broad minded and public spirited young farmer in Saltfleet in the vicinity of Stoney Creek. In the autumn of 1896, Mr. Lee attended the Experimental Union at the Ontario Agriculture College