

# Mrs. T. J. McDowell New Chairwoman of Area

MRS. T. J. McDOWELL of Milverton, who at the present time holds the position of Provincial President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was named chairman of convention area 15 of the Institutes at the closing session of the convention held in McDonald's Hall, Listowel. The convention, which took place yesterday and Tuesday was a most successful one and from it the members gathered much useful information, which they will take back to their branches.

The other officers named were: Vice chairman, Mrs. Robert Cutting, Drayton; convention secretary, Mrs. Malcolm MacBeth, Milverton; recording secretary, Miss Lily Dempsey, Stratford; executive, Mrs. R. White, Ripley; Mrs. Bert Cleland, Listowel; conveners of standing committees, health and child welfare, Mrs. A. Hammond, Moorefield; community activities and relief, Mrs. R. White, Ripley; agriculture and Canadian Industries, Mrs. James Walpole, Lion's Head; publicity, Mrs. A. McCosh, Ripley; education, Mrs. R. L. Treleaven, Lucknow; legislation and resolutions, Mrs. E. Ackert, Holyrood; historical research, Mrs. A. B. Samells, Parkhead; home economics, Mrs. D. G. Leitch, Chesley; Canadianization, Mrs. M. Black, Southampton; peace, education and international relationship, Mrs. J. Spier, Brussels; Federative representative, Mrs. George Crozier, Walkerton.

Mrs. L. G. Crozier of Walkerton, presided over the morning session, which opened with Mrs. Howald of Listowel, leading the community singing. The first report of the morning was on education, delivered by Mrs. R. L. Treleaven of Lucknow. She pointed out she had been convenor for three years and the reports this year were more favorable than ever before. She stated it was evident that the new curriculum had been the chief topic for discussion in the various Institutes. Mrs. Treleaven also said talks had been given on adult education, training of children prior to school age, travel talks, self-education, and other educational enterprises. The report was a splendid one and well received.

In the legislation report, presented by Miss L. Brigham, of Clinton, parliamentary procedure was outlined and the Institutes reported such topics as "What every woman should know about legal documents," "Government in township, province and Dominion," and a talk on the motto, "The law assists those who are vigilant, not those who sleep over their rights." Miss Brigham's report received many favorable comments.

In presenting the report of the historical research committee, Mrs. A. E. Samells of Allenford, suggested holding a "pioneer night" and seeing to it that all the elderly people in the district were invited to attend. She urged the members to become history-conscious. Another splendid suggestion was that of storing a complete costume of present-day clothes for future historical work.

Mrs. D. G. Leitch of Chesley, gave the report of the home economics committee, speaking of how to choose and cook hot supper dishes, apple growing, canning without sugar, sidestepping dangers in the home, honey, its uses and recipes, a resume of "what happens between the farmer's field and the consumer's table," and dozens of other interesting and helpful tips.

## The Speaker

Mrs. T. J. McDowell, president of the Federated Institutes of Ontario, gave a most interesting message. In opening she brought the greetings of the Provincial Board and then went on to explain in detail the work of the individual branch, the district, the convention area and finally the Provincial Board. She stated she felt there will be a re-adjustment in Bruce County where an overlapping has been discovered. West Huron branch she said may be going to London area in the near future instead of joining in area 15. Mrs. McDowell also made the statement there was every possibility the area meetings would take place in the future in Guelph since it appeared to be the wish of the area. The Board is now considering the matter. Mrs. McDowell's term of office as president of the Federated Institutes expires in November. She urged

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her listeners to study their handbooks and congratulated the conveners upon the splendid fashion in which they had presented their reports. She asked the reports be passed on to the Provincial conveners.

"Songs We Sing" was the interesting topic Mrs. McDowell chose to speak upon and her hearers were indeed delighted with it. In a charming manner she spoke of the origin of various songs, and told something about the life of the composer. First she touched on the Institute Ode which was first used by the Good Templars' Society in the early seventies. The National Anthem, supposedly written by Dr. John Bull, was then referred to. Mrs. McDowell told little details about the character of John Bull which were interesting and amusing. Other songs referred to by the speaker were "O Canada," the Canadian National Anthem; "Rule Britannia," and the "Maple Leaf Forever," written by John Alexander Muir, in whose memory a rock garden was constructed in Toronto. Mrs. McDowell thought there was much to be said for the composition, "When You And I Were Young Maggie," which was written by a young school teacher as a tribute to his sweetheart, Maggie Clarke, who died one year after their marriage. The writer, George Washington Johnston, was connected with Upper Canada College and the John Hopkins University.

"I think 'Annie Laurie' is the world's most famous personal love song. It was written by Wm. Douglas and it was afterwards re-written by Lady Scott who set it to music. 'Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes,' is another of the famous ones, as well as 'Silver Threads Among The Gold,' 'Home Sweet Home,' and others.

Mrs. McDowell felt it was a very great pity that many of the song writers never received their just recognition for the songs they wrote and never reaped any benefit from them. At the close of her fine address, she conducted the question box which is always a feature of the convention and through which many of the members have their problems solved.

Just before the lunch hour the Elma Centre orchestra, composed of Miss Alice Dickson, Mrs. Charles Danbrook, Mrs. George Hart and Mrs. L. Coghlin contributed an enjoyable selection. Mrs. Joan Hamilton Shearer of Poole, introduced the subject of asking that a school for judges be conducted in Western Ontario. Later in the day Mrs. Poole again brought up the matter and a motion was passed that the convention request such a school be held for judges in Western Ontario.

## More Reports

When the members gathered for the afternoon session Mrs. E. W. Vernor gave a fine report on the work of the Canadianization committee. Papers had been given on "The Birth of Canada," "Our Flag," and other topics of interest to every member. Mrs. Vernor pointed out that Canadian problems are many and serious to-day and she laid stress on the fact the foreign population presents a real problem.

"There are more than 110 languages and dialects spoken right here in Canada and 54 per cent of the children are of foreign parentage. Canadianization is an individual matter and every member should work to make a 'Better Canada.'"

Two minutes of silence were observed in memory of the late Mrs. J. J. Elliott of Wingham, a member of the executive. The members were asked to pray at the same time that the question of the day—the European situation would find a proper solution.

The report on peace, education and international relationship was ably given by Mrs. Malcolm MacBeth of Milverton. Mrs. MacBeth thought the subject of peace is of momentous importance to Institute members as wives and mothers.

"The members are realizing this and studying it more. The situation in Europe is indeed grave. The greed of a few feeding on the fear of many has caused this to be and it is all in order to swell the profits of the armament makers. What can we do? We can pray. You must remember that 'More things are wrought by prayer than the world

The part played by the juniors is always an important one and the girls' hour was introduced by Miss Flora Durnin of Dungannon. She stated that two of the dresses on exhibit were made by Bruce girls and the other by a Perth girl. They were shown in the Women's Institute display at the Western Fair and in the junior display at the Stratford Fall Fair. Miss Durnin referred to the fact that the garden and canning club of Brussels had 100 per cent completion, which is unusual. Fifteen girls received the seeds and fifteen girls showed their gardens. She called upon Miss Muriel Hackwell and Miss Mary McIntosh of Ethel, to give a demonstration on "Cotton Accessories for the Club Girl's Bedroom."

These young ladies performed their duties in a capable fashion and showed how the average bedroom can be made ultra-smart at very little cost.

Miss Margaret Lennon of Sebringville, was called upon to demonstrate another phase of the jun-

ior work, the study of the project, "The Milky Way." She traced the history of the milk from the time it came from the cows until it found its way to the table. Miss Lennon stressed the value of pasteurization, saying it would not make dirty milk clean but it would at least make it safe. She spoke of the various milk drinks which are most healthful for children and referred to the "dressed-up" milk dishes.

Miss Della McInnes of Brussels, to whom the honor of having the best garden in the garden and canning club went was the next speaker. Briefly she outlined the work of the Club and told how the girls took a keen interest in their gardens.

The youthful speakers, by their talks and demonstrations showed clearly the value of junior work. The senior members were impressed. Miss Helen MacKercher of Dublin, popular coach, thanked the seniors for their interest at all times saying it was only through their help the junior work was made possible. "Our aim is to give every rural girl the opportunity to be a member of a homemaking club. It is only with your help this can be done."

Miss MacKercher announced that training schools would be held in North Wellington at Harriston on October 24, 25 and 26 on "Cotton Accessories For the Club Girl's Bedroom," and in North Perth at Listowel on October 27, 28 and 29 on the same work. The Spring units of work, she said, will be sleeping garments.

Called upon to say a few further words, Miss Durnin announced training schools on the "Milky Way" at Tara, October 12 and 13 and at Walkerton, October 14 and 15. A school will be held on "Dress-

ing Up Vegetables" at Wingham on October 25 and 26 and at Clinton on October 27 and 28. She stressed the importance of always completing what one starts and stated when any member fails to fulfill her obligations it is detrimental to the organization. She felt the local leaders deserve a great deal of credit for the time and enthusiasm they give.

Mrs. R. Davidson who presided over the afternoon session expressed regret that West Huron might be leaving the area to join in with London. Miss M. V. Powell of the Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, congratulated the members on the fine convention and wished them success in their future undertakings. She felt that the branches who do not send delegates to the area convention

miss a great opportunity towards making their Institute a better and stronger one.

Various votes of thanks were given, naming those who had in any way helped make the convention a success. Among those who registered yesterday were Miss Jean Hamilton, Mrs. George Hart, Mrs. L. Coghlin, Mrs. C. Danbrook, Miss Alice Dickson and Mrs. J. S. Thompson of Atwood; Mrs. Stewart Smith, Gadshill; Mrs. E. Ackers-viller of Stratford; Miss Jean Park, Mrs. George Cleland of Listowel; Mrs. M. Fisk, Miss Rita Lembeckus, Walkerton; Mrs. W. J. Henderson, Wingham; Mrs. T. Locheed, Clifford; Mrs. Cooper Fulton, Harriston; Mrs. J. Wickstead, Miss M. Curtis, Bluevale; Mrs. Clark Renwick, Mrs. Eldon Renwick and Mrs. John Harris.

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