

# Officers Will Be Chosen During Today's Sessions

WITH more than 200 in attendance, the Women's Institute of sub-division Number 15, comprising the districts of North Perth, North Wellington, East and West Huron and the four districts of Bruce County held a successful convention in McDonald's Hall, Listowel, yesterday. The sessions, which started with a round-table conference at ten o'clock continued on during the afternoon. In the evening a banquet was held. The sessions are continuing again today with the new slate of officers to be elected this afternoon.

Various aspects of the Women's Institute work were studied and when the day had drawn to a close everyone felt much had been accomplished. Miss M. V. Powell of the Women's Institute branch, Department of Agriculture, who spoke in the afternoon contributed many helpful suggestions and also commended the members for the fine work being done in the district.

The morning session opened with registration and billeting in charge of Mrs. F. Dickson and Mrs. A. Dodds. The round-table conference was conducted by Mrs. L. G. Crozier, Walkerton, provincial director for the area. The importance of a well-arranged institute program was the chief topic up for discussion and she called upon various delegates to give opinions and suggestions. Mrs. B. Begg of Tiverton, stressed the value of having continuity in the program and told of various incidents in their own institutes.

Mrs. D. G. Leitch of Chesley, felt that some of the Institutes do not start early enough to plan their

programs and consequently they don't feel that a great deal has been done by the end of the year.

Miss Powell spoke briefly at this time, saying a year's program should be like a book, with each meeting a chapter. Each meeting should be fairly complete in itself but should also lead up to something further. Miss Powell stated there are three sides to every program, it must be educational, practical and social. There should be an exact time for opening as well as closing. The speaker referred to the business to be conducted during a meeting, the discussions and enumerated the phases which might be considered under the various program headings, such as foods and nutrition, clothing, housing, care and training of children, recreations and other angles.

Mrs. Elgin Smith of Atwood, urged the members to study their co-operative programs. Mrs. Spear of Brussels, stressed the importance of the secretary's work, saying it was oftentimes more important than that of the president, since the standing given by the Department at Toronto was very often based on the report submitted.

Mrs. D. Carroll spoke briefly for North Perth, which was rated highest in the convention area. Mrs. James Walpole of Lion's Head, pointed out that a district convener must at all times use her own discretion as regards how much material she should use and how much she should discard in making her reports. Mrs. Crozier said at this time there were some Institutes who didn't exactly "play fair" since, although they are working under the banner of the Women's Institutes they absolutely neglect to send in district reports. Miss Powell asked those present to note that branch reports should be sent to the district secretary and not directly to the department.

Miss Martin of Lucknow, who attended the youth training course sponsored by the Dominion and Provincial Governments and held at Ripley last winter, told the institute members just how the school was conducted, the value of the course and that 23 girls had received certificates. Similar schools are to be carried on this year.

## Afternoon Session

Mrs. Bert Cleland of Listowel, presided over the afternoon session which opened with words of welcome by His Worship Mayor Fleming, speaking on behalf of the town council. He welcomed the members to the town and wished them continued success in their work. Mrs. D. G. Leitch of Chesley, replied, thanking him for his hospitality. She pointed out the meeting had never before been held in Listowel. She expressed the opinion it was a good idea to hold the meetings in different places each time since it gave an opportunity for more people to learn of the Institute work.

Miss Lily Dempsey gave a splendid secretary's report of the meeting held last year, after which Mrs. M. Johnston of Britton, gave the treasurer's report, showing the total receipts to be \$126.73 and the total expenditures, \$30.40.

Mrs. Alex. Hammond of Moorefield, was called on for the report of the health and child welfare committee, which she delivered in a most interesting and entertaining fashion. East Huron reported among other things, money raised for crippled children, addresses by local doctors, lectures on milk, the distribution of baby books to mothers, discussions on emergency aids and on various diseases. West Huron's report told of aids for the sick room, remedies, papers on "the greatest gift," health, wholesome dishes for children, the care of feet, the care of teeth. In North Bruce there were meetings devoted to health study, addresses on infantile paralysis, the members knit socks for motherless children and sent blankets to new babies. In North Perth there were successful clinics for pre-school children, mothers were given health charts, ear, nose and throat specialists gave talks, donations were made to hospitals and the crippled children's fund. In her remarks Mrs. Hammond asked the members to consider the question of state medicine as well as the heavy toll of lives taken by accidents in the homes and on the highways.

The report on community activities and relief, given by Mrs. R. White of Ripley, mentioned babies being remembered, clinics being held, parties for the children, local leaders' training schools, memorial services, the presentation of a life membership to a valuable member. Mrs. White laid stress on the fact that the work of the committee includes everyone from babies to grandmothers, the bereaved, sick and shut-ins. She also urged the members to study their own community needs before arranging their activities.

Seven of eight branches were heard from by the convener of the Agriculture and Canadian Industries Committee, Mrs. F. Oster, of Slyth. Some of the branches co-operated with the agricultural representative in forming T. B. restricted areas. Much interest was evinced in the reforestation plan; there were exhibits of vegetables and flowers; everyday commodities were studied; school children were encouraged to exhibit at the fairs. Mrs. Oster closed her report by suggesting closer co-operation between the branch, district and convention area.

Mrs. W. Woods of Tiverton, gave a splendid report of the publicity committee. Two of the most enjoyable features of the afternoon were a dance by little Miss Molly Johnston and a vocal trio by Mrs. J. Robertson, Mrs. E. Hutchinson, Mrs. F. Cockburn, accompanied by Mrs. A. E. Gibson. The artists were heartily encored.

## The Address

In her afternoon address Miss M. V. Powell said the outlook is promising for Women's Institutes, since they have not only sustained their membership throughout the province but have also added numerically.

"Some of the junior club workers have gone into senior work and a great service is being carried on. It is estimated that more than 40,000 members have been contacted by means of speaker services, officers' rallies and other methods. We are coming nearer to the objective—better living. I noticed that all your conveners failed to get a full quota of reports. It is the responsibility of the district convener to see that the reports are brought in, in some manner or other. It is also a ruling that no area convener should come to the area convention with the branch or district reports in her hand. They should be summarized."

Miss Powell congratulated the conveners on the various suggestions they made and asked those present to be sure and carry them out. She pointed to the great danger of the Women's Institute carrying a major portion of the load in any community. The speaker made mention of several incidents which took place in various parts of the

province, showing that the Institute work had aroused the interest of many prominent citizens. Miss Powell then interpreted the meaning of "Community" and quoted from a speech she heard recently when the speaker said "If we fail to plow and sow, then we have no harvest." She thought this applied also to Institute work. Before closing, Miss Powell paid tribute to the work of the present Minister of Agriculture, Hon. P. M. Dewar.

## The Banquet

The banquet was held in the Knox Presbyterian Church, with the Willing Workers catering. The tables were made lovely with Autumn flowers and laden with the good things to eat. Miss M. V. Powell acted as toast mistress and called upon Mr. W. Angus Dickson, M.L.A., to propose a toast to agriculture.

Mr. Dickson pointed out that years ago those engaged in agriculture were looked down upon but such is not the case nowadays and it is the best job in the world to be undertaken by young folks. Mr. E. A. Miller, of Stratford, replied, saying the farmers had a different task to do but were doing it well. Mr. J. N. Corry, Reeve of Elma, proposed the toast to the Women's Institute work, commending them for their splendid services "To Home and Country." In replying, Mrs. T. J. McDowell of Milverton, provincial president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, pointed out the Women's Institutes are fully Canadian and stress the work in the homes. From the homes comes the strength of the nation.