

LORD TWEEDSMUIR

Governor-General of Canada 1935 - 1940

LADY TWEEDSMUIR

Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir has graciously accepted the office of Honorary President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. This brings not only the honour of Her Excellency's interest, but a rich background of experience that will prove an excellent guide to the Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Her Excellency was president of Elsfield Women's Institute, Oxfordshire, England, for many (15) years and occupied the position of County President of the Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes until Lord Tweedsmuir's appointment as His Majesty's representative to Canada. Home and Country (January 1936).

Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir, Canada's first Lady and a former ardent English Women's Institute member and worker, has given the Women's Institutes of Canada a tremendous impetus during her regime as wife of our Governor-General.

Not only has she backed up her keen interest by many inspirational talks at Conventions and Institute meetings, but has shown it in a practical way by the collection of approximately 25,000 books which have been made into rural libraries. These are known as The Lady Tweedsmuir Libraries and are circulated mainly in the remote districts of three western provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Home and Country (Winter 1938-39)

Every Women's Institute member in Canada must have been proud to hear The Lady Tweedsmuir's farewell message to the Canadian people. While resident in Canada, she had honoured us by accepting an honorary life membership in the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and by acting as our Honorary President. In her farewell address she gave us this message of inspiration:

"To my friends and fellow members of the Women's Institutes, I would like to say how much I hope they will press on with their work in education and in all other lines. I have so much enjoyed my association with them here, and, though I have not been able to answer their many kind letters sent me in the last month, I would like to say how grateful I am to receive them. I hope that the Canadian and British Women's Institutes will always be linked together in the warmest friendship and closest association, and that we shall continue to work as ardently in the future for the welfare of the countryside as we have done in the past."

The memory of The Lady Tweedsmuir's residence here will ever be a pleasant and inspiring one. We will recall with gratitude her addresses with their wise counsel, the very pleasant hours which some of us were privileged to spend at Government House, and the friendly chats which we enjoyed there and elsewhere.

With the memories of the Lady Tweedsmuir we shall treasure, too, those of the late Lord Tweedsmuir. His understanding and sympathetic interest in the Women's Institutes was ever apparent. To The Lady Tweedsmuir and her family we offer our deep sympathy in their bereavement. Canadian people have lost not only a wise Governor-General, but a man who won the true friendship of all.

Home and Country (Spring 1940).

Historical Research Projects

Among the many interesting and valuable ideas presented last year in the reports on Historical Research and Current Events, was one which appears to be of such outstanding worth that it is hereby suggested that, if possible, it be included in the programme of work of every Institute.

The idea originated with the Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the late Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada, who, in one of her frequent visits to Women's Institutes