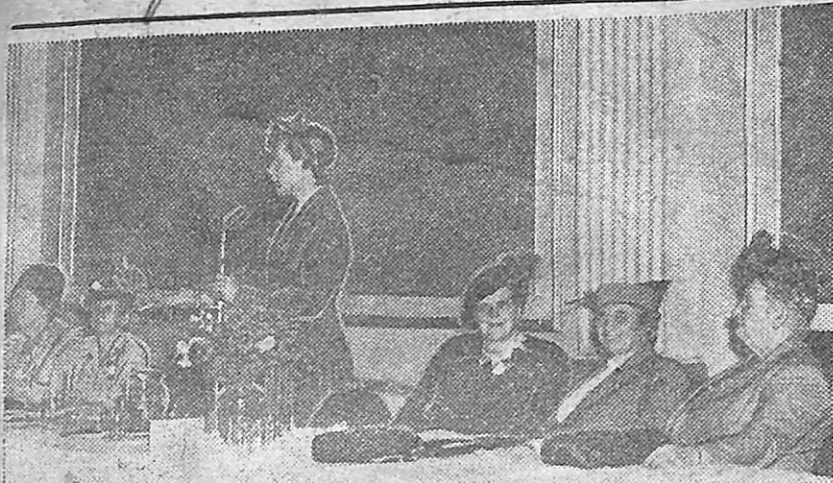


Mrs. Post, Mrs Henderson
delegates. C.B.W.I.



Miss Anna Lewis commenting on a report at the W.I. Convention in Hamilton. Seated left to right: Mrs. J. Leslie Sage, Brantford; Mrs. E. R. Lings, Cainsville; Mrs. S. C. Bagdon, Simcoe; Mrs. J. R. Futcher, St. Thomas, President F.W.I.O.; Mrs. E. E. Morton, Vegreville, Alberta, President F.W.I.C.

Women's Institute Area Convention Meet at Hamilton

By M. L. Young

THE HAMILTON Area Women's Institutes have just completed their twenty-third annual convention with about 600 members present, and one is impressed anew with the scope of interest and activity of these rural women as evidenced in the reports given.

Citizenship has taken on a new meaning to rural women since there are numbers of new Canadians coming into their districts who are willing and anxious to learn Canadian habits and customs. Social welfare means considering the health of the community, but to these women it also means very much more. Historical Research is another topic which has come to the forefront of W.I. activities in the last few years.

There were a number of special features or highlight at this convention. One of these was the visit of the president of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, Mrs. E. E. Morton of Vegreville, Alberta. Mrs. Morton did not come to address the convention, but rather to meet the members individually and informally. At the annual banquet she did, however, bring a short message. She urged the members to consider their provincial federated unit as a part of the whole instead of as an individual unit, and to continually keep in mind that they belonged to the largest women's organization in the world. Mrs. Morton said it was an opportune time to choose a great national objective and suggested the concerted study and action on programs of soil and forest conservation. She urged also that the W.I. members contact the women in their province who had come from other lands and compile their stories and folk lore and preserve samples of their handicrafts.

"The Indian in Canada"

The guest speaker at the banquet was Brigadier O. M. Martin of Toronto, magistrate of York County Court, a native of the Six Nations Indian Reserve with a distinguished military career who was a former athlete and who had the honor to represent his people at the Coronation in England in 1937.

"To give his audience a clearer picture and a better understanding of a small group of people in Canada," Brigadier Martin said he had chosen as his subject "The Indian in Canada." The movies in

depicting the Indian in fights and massacres had been extremely unfair to them and had done them a great deal of harm, he said, and their contribution to their country historically and economically was by no means a small one. Living conditions are far from good on the reserves and the speaker was convinced that if the facts were known they would not be tolerated today. One solution of the Indians' problem would be to have a separate Department of Indian Affairs, the speaker said. The Indians are patriotic, loving their home and country and all they ask is for a square deal and an equal chance with other Canadians to earn a living, he said.

Brigadier Martin outlined Indian history in Canada and held the undivided attention of the more than 400 guests at the banquet, receiving enthusiastic applause. But the W.I. members were not content to stop at that method of appreciation. At the closing session of the convention the following afternoon a resolution was passed unanimously which read: "Whereas the Institute members of this area assembled in convention heard

Women's Institute Meet at Hamilton

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ported the many ways in which the members of the various branches are learning the historical facts of their own area and also of the whole province, as well as of other parts of Canada. The Women's Institutes in different places are improving pioneer cemeteries and marking historical places. When Mrs. J. R. Futcher of St. Thomas, the provincial president, commented on this report she said: "This report shows the great work the Women's Institute is doing in recording the historical facts of our communities, and we have been asked by the Royal Commission for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences in Canada to submit a brief on how the rural women in the province are keeping the historical part of the communities." She concluded with, "He that knows his own generation only, remains always a child."

Mrs. Futcher also announced that in view of the increasing emphasis being put on citizenship, and the importance of agriculture, it is being suggested that the conveners of the Citizenship and Agricultural committees in each of the branch Institutes meet at the Ontario Agriculture College in Guelph next spring for a rally.

In the membership drive this past year the W.I. membership has increased to more than 45,000 in Ontario, with 1,402 branch Insti-

Brigadier O. M. Martin on the evening of October 20 tell of the adverse conditions under which the Indian population of our Dominion live and whereas this area has always been interested in Indian affairs because of the fact that the Six Nations Reserve is situated in our territory, therefore be it resolved that this convention request our Federal Government to set up a separate ministry to deal with Indian affairs.

Resolutions

The meeting also went on record with a resolution requesting legislation to compel woollen manufacturers to shrink material before it leaves the factory, and another resolution urging Dominion government legislation permitting the use of enriched flour in white bread. They also passed resolutions formally expressing opposition to the manufacture and sale of margarine except in case of butter shortage; To co-operate with the Home and School Federation in asking for the elimination of display and sale of crime comics; To request the Royal Commission for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences in Canada to use its influence to provide a readable history of our country which will be acceptable to each province; and a resolution urging that in the face of increasing divorce, and unhappiness and trouble in many marriages, that before licences to marry be granted both parties concerned must submit certificates showing they are mentally and physically fit for marriage signed by reputable members of the medical profession.

Summarizing her report on Social Welfare with a quotation from Emerson, "It is better to live rich than to die rich," Mrs. Lewis Keefer of Caledonia gave an outline of the innumerable ways the W.I. members are meeting the needs of the people in their communities. Well baby clinics are being held in some communities and family nights and special events for New Canadians have been held; purchasing equipment for schools; upkeep of a room in a hospital; outfitting a Dutch Canadian child; school prizes and educational books for school libraries, etc.

The Historical Research convenor, Mrs. Arthur Knill of Princeton, re-

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The annual meeting of the Vine-mount Women's Institute was held in the W.I. Hall, Wednesday, April 15th. The president, Mrs. Albert Oldfield, was in the chair. Mrs. A. E. Walker, Hamilton, past Dominion president, conducted the election of officers. Mrs. C. Armstrong was acting secretary-treasurer.

A balance on hand of \$220.38 was reported. Reports were given by the various convenors. The collection for the Red Cross amounted to \$213.70. The following were the Red Cross canvassers for the district: Mrs. Edna Carlton, Miss Annie Johnson, Mrs. C. Armstrong, Mrs. Gordon Purcell, Miss Alice Tweedle, Mr. Leslie Thomas and Mr. Philip Shuker.

Officers were elected for the coming year: Hon. President, Mrs. Albert Oldfield; president, Mrs. William E. Crabb; hon. vice-president, Mrs. Elsie Wilson; 1st vice-president, Mrs. George Gliddon; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. E. Etherington; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. C. Armstrong; district director, Mrs. A. Oldfield; home economics, Mrs.

sil Jacobs; Canadian Industries and Agriculture, Mrs. Robert Bell; community activities, Mrs. C. Armstrong; citizenship, Miss Annie Johnson; sewing and Red Cross, Mrs. J. Beattie, and historical research, Mrs. Adam Reid.

When Mrs. Raymond Sayre, the president of the A.C.W.W., is asked what are the purposes of the organization, she says—first the A.C.W.W. is a voice—for country women in international councils; secondly, it is a movement to improve the lot of country women, and thirdly it is to promote good will and understanding—a fellowship to build a bridge.

The Conference meetings will be held in the Royal York Hotel with "Canada Day" at the Maple Leaf Gardens on August 21st. Mrs. Hugh Summers, Fonthill, President of the F.W.I.C., says that Canadian leaders will take part in this program—a pageant will be presented depicting the history and growth of Canada and each country will extend greetings from their native land.

The seventh triennial conference of the A.C.W.W. meets in Toronto from August 12th to 23rd, with the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada acting as hostess.