

in affiliation with the Farmers' Institute. They decided to call the new Organization "The Women's Department of Farmers' Institute of South Westworth". The name lasted exactly one week and, at the next meeting, was changed to the now familiar "Women's Institute". Its primary object was Domestic Science and Sewing Instruction for Women, its Motto "For Home and Country". The first president was Mrs. E. D. Smith, wife of Senator Smith of Winona, Ont. It provided an opportunity for farm and village women to meet regularly to discuss their problems and acquire information concerning their responsibilities as home-makers and citizens.

As a pebble is thrown into a pond and the ripples increase in number, so this movement grew, and upon a day in January, 1913--the 29th to be exact--largely through the interest and enthusiasm of Mrs. Tom Sims, wife of the Editor of the Elgin Sun, sixty ladies gathered in the Old Opera House to organize a branch of the Women's Institute in West Lorne. Four women came down from Rodney by train that day at noon to assist in the organization. They were Mrs. C. A. Wray, who was District President at that time, Mrs. McLevy, the District Secretary, and the two Branch Directors--Mrs. Stinson and Mrs. Eggert (now Mrs. R. J. Hood). They had to have a membership before they could elect officers, so a goodly number of ladies gave their names and membership fee of 25¢, and the organization work proceeded. Mrs. Sims was elected President and Mrs. Hugh C. McKillop the Secretary-Treasurer. The late Mrs. (Dr.) Webster entertained the Rodney ladies to supper. The meetings were to be held on the first Friday of each month at 3.00 p. m. in the homes of the members. They were opened by singing "The Maple Leaf Forever" and closed with "God Save the King".

In a year and a half after the organization of the Branch, the first World War broke out, and the years from Aug. 4th, 1914, to Nov. 11, 1918,