

From its beginning the object has been to disseminate knowledge relating to better management of the home, involving the health and economic condition of the members of that home with a view to raising the standard of living, all of which should result in a better community and nation.

This organization has spread until today there is hardly a country in the world that does not have a Women's Institute. Local groups have shown concern for sister Institutes in far away countries as well as their immediate neighbours.

The early meetings concerned exchange of ideas in canning, pickling, baking and decorating cakes and salads, bread making, soap making and raising chickens. As interest grew they became involved in improving and beautifying their locality.

The Women's Institute and the Farmer's Institute often met together. Such was the case with the Phillipston W.I. and the Farmers group there. They paid 25¢ to the caretaker, Mrs. Sloan, for the rental of the Forrester's Hall for a meeting.

A 1912 record book tells of one of these joint meetings. - Mr. Percy Caverly, who was President of the local Farmer's Institute, presented a paper on Home Life pointing out an ideal home. Miss Leah Phillips presented a paper on Woman Suffrage and we quote from the minute book -- "which was much appreciated by all. As a result the women feel more the need of a vote than ever. Then followed a smart discussion on Should Women Vote with many expressing opinions."

Allow us to enumerate a few of the activities to which Women's Institutes have rallied.

The poor and the needy have always been provided with warm clothing and quilts. Families whose homes have been ravaged by fire have received attention from the Women's Institute. Children, whose parents could not afford necessary medical care, have had help from the local organization. The women were concerned regarding medical and dental inspection in the schools. First aid kits were provided in the schools. Unable to find enough to keep them busy at home they worked to supply clothing for the "Children's Shelter" and for a hospital. Their contribution to Red Cross during both World Wars was tremendous - this included knitting, sewing and jam making.

The Women's Institute has shown its concern for others through many ways and often other organizations solicit funds from the group. Several W.I. Branches have "adopted a child" in Korea or Japan and funds are sent regularly for its care.

In 1913 the Foxboro group had a project whereby they planned to raise money to complete village side walks. By their resolutions these women have a strong voice in the reforms of our County.