

PORT ARTHUR AND FORT WILLIAM.

2. The North-Western convention was characterized by its usual optimism, its usual reports of progressive work and its usual friendly spirit running from the Twin City branches to the farthest outpost settlement and back again. It is noticeable that the Institutes in this section—although in many cases they have to deal with pioneering conditions—are satisfied with nothing but the best in schools, community recreation, and health work. A number of Institutes are working for local hospitals.

OTTAWA.

3. Eastern Ontario showed a particularly go-ahead spirit, both in the variety of their projects and the thoroughness with which they have carried them through. This section is also outstanding for the number of new branches organized during the year—as, for example, Frontenac County with four new Institutes formed since last July.

LONDON.

4. A feature of special interest at the Western convention was an address and discussion on Co-operative Marketing. The women here seem to be taking a keen interest in agricultural problems. The Girls' Institutes had a very live session.

TORONTO.

5. The Central convention, in addition to being the annual convention for this division of the Province, is a sort of clearing-house for Institute questions affecting the whole Province. Representatives from each of the other convention districts bring their special problems before the whole body, thus helping to maintain a unity of interest and action throughout the Province.

The past year has been one of marked advance in the character of work being done by the Institutes in general, and the earnestness of members in their efforts to make the organization a real force in the community. Some forty new branches have been formed, and many centres are inquiring about methods of organization and features of work.

After twenty years' association with the work of the Women's Institutes as superintendent, I consider it a duty and privilege to briefly set forth in the following paragraphs some facts, which are worthy of consideration by those who are desirous of ensuring still better results in the future work of the Institutes.

An organization which welcomes all women and girls over the age of fourteen in the district and which seeks to secure membership from each household, and through which all girls and women have an equal opportunity to learn from lecturers and demonstrators, furnished by the Government, has proven its worth in a variety of ways, and is deserving of most liberal support by way of efficient service.

The women in the Institutes, through being both teachers and pupils in their monthly meetings or classes, have added materially to their practical knowledge, and by coupling their own efforts with the services of instructors with special training in home nursing and first aid, sewing, and food values and cookery, their efficiency has been gradually increased and they have a continuous interest and pleasure in every-day responsibilities.

They have an ever increasing appreciation of the importance of clothing,