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Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless

Through tragedy a world-wide organization was born!

Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless lost her eldest son at the age of eighteen months. The Doctor told her that this death could have been prevented as it was caused by the use of impure milk.

Grief and remorse stirred Mrs. Hoodless to action. She travelled about addressing meetings on the need to have Domestic Science taught in the schools.

Mr. Erland Lee, a farmer living in the vicinity of Stoney Creek, had aided J. H. Smith, I. P. S. for Wentworth County, to organize a Farmers' Institute some years before. Mr. Lee heard Mrs. Hoodless address a meeting at Guelph and became her advocate.

With sympathy and concern for rural women, Mrs. Hoodless and Mr. Lee arranged meetings and visited homes throughout Wentworth County.

So, it came about that one hundred and one women attended a meeting at Squires' Hall in Stoney Creek, Ontario. With forthright determination those women speedily organized the first Women's Institute on February 19, 1897.