

HOME and COUNTRY

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MRS. ADELAIDE HOODLESS

The above picture of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless is a half-size reproduction of the photograph which may be secured from the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, through Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Secretary-Treasurer, Coldwater, for the price of sixty cents a copy. These are photographs of the beautiful portrait of Mrs. Hoodless which was presented to Macdonald Institute, Ontario Agricultural College. They have been provided for the F.W.I.O. by the extension department of the College.

CENTRAL FUND, F.W.I.O.

The auditor's statement for 1943 has been sent to your Institute secretary. A careful study of this will make you proud of the war work made possible by the Central Fund.

You are reminded that contributions should be sent to the new treasurer—Mrs. H. Wicks, Treasurer Central Fund, F.W.I.O., 27 Buck St., Cobourg, Ontario.

JAM FOR BRITAIN

Letters have been sent to all Institutes requesting Jam for Britain for 1944. The need is urgent and your support is requested.

Miss Ruth B. Rorke of the Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture will be responsible for Jam for Britain this season. She will be pleased to answer your questions and to receive reports of your activities.

125 tons is the objective for the Ontario Institutes and Red Cross. Every pound is needed in England. Can we go over the top?

SEEDS FOR BRITAIN

Seeds to the value of \$1,141.98 have been shipped to Miss Elizabeth Hess, Agricultural Secretary, National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales for spring planting. These included 1,550 collections, each containing carrot, onion, leek, tomato, cauliflower and either peas, cabbage and turnip or beans, beet and spinach. In addition twenty pounds of tomato seeds, the gift of W. J. Downing, Colborne, were forwarded.

GARRISON LANE NURSERY SCHOOL

Writing to thank the F.W.I.O. for gifts of clothing to the Garrison Lane Nursery School, Miss Eleanor Hamilton says:—

"You ask first of all if we received the box of children's clothing. Yes—we certainly did and were so pleased to see the shoes and sweaters. Clothing is so badly needed.

Our Christmas party at the school was a huge success. We planned weeks ahead for it and worked at making toys and other things for the children. We decided to give each child a toy and a book. Toys are almost impossible to buy here. So each member of our staff went on a buying campaign to collect what toys she could. Then we bought wood and paint and set to work to make toys—and the result was that we had over fifty toys.

As well as the toys and books we gave each child either a dress or a sweater—a pair of mitts and a pair of stockings or socks. These had to be tried on beforehand and many the sad face there was when after trying on—we took the new things off.

We all saved our rations for weeks and still it didn't look as if we were going to have enough. But this problem was soon solved. The minute the parents heard there was to be a party for them—they came with armfuls of sugar and margarine—the two most important things.

Then Friday a box of sweaters arrived from the Junior Homemaking Clubs—sent to me here. In it were seven sweaters, one skirt and one pair of pants—all size six. They were perfectly lovely and such sweet sweaters."

NEW CHAPTERS

We are now about to close another chapter in the year book of Women's Institute History. We anticipate the new chapter in our work will be filled with larger, more efficient and more useful enterprises. When reading a book we look forward to a new chapter; so, we anticipate our new year of work. No matter what last year has been, let this year be more fruitful, richer and definitely better. When it has been closed, it will have been an outstanding chapter—one we will look back upon with satisfaction.

The new year is a time for looking back, for weighing and judging, but it is also a time for looking forward and planning. Each year's work should help us face the coming year with more confidence, more courage and more strength.

Let us review some of the outstanding accomplishments of the past year. Despite labour shortage and added household and farm duties, Institute members have carried on valiantly.

Review of War Work

Contributions through our Central Fund to Russian, Chinese and Greek War Relief totalled \$2,200; and \$2,500 was allocated to the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Navy League, British Minesweepers, Queen's Canadian and British War Victims Funds.

Two mobile kitchens valued at \$6,200, one financed by F.W.I.O., and the second by Middlesex County Women's Institutes and Junior Farmers, were officially presented for use on the eastern coast.

A gift of \$200 was made to the Garrison Lane Nursery School where Miss Eleanor Hamilton, an Ontario teacher, was financed by us last year. Junior Institutes are sending clothing and knitted articles there.

\$176,935.00 has been raised by Institutes for local War Work. Of this \$40,000.00 was spent in gifts to enlisted boys and girls and \$11,000.00 was invested in War Savings Certificates and Bonds.

Knitted articles have totalled 73,850 and sewn articles 134,250.

Institutes have sponsored and co-operated in salvage drives and the Victory Loan Campaigns.

109 tons of jam from Ontario Institutes and Red Cross went to England for British children and civilian war victims and for Canadian soldiers in hospitals.

Vegetable seeds for five thousand gardens valued at \$3,200 were sent to the Federated Women's Institutes of England. Hundreds of letters of thanks received last fall were proof of the great service rendered our sister organization.

Develop Farm Homes

We are interested primarily in home life and the betterment of communities. Toward this goal our Institutes must strive. The more we can do to develop the attitude of mind of the average farmer and his wife toward their work, so that they will value their profession more highly, the more good we will be doing our country. These responsibilities have a value in the national economy. If we do not keep the gears of home life meshing it will mean the collapse of the home front behind all war effort of our country. I quote from the "Farmer in National Life":

"The social position and problems of the farmers concern the whole Canadian community, for the life-giving roots of that community are still deep in its farms. It must be the goal

of Canadian democracy to secure a satisfying life on the land and especially to preserve in its integrity the farm family as an institution with all its valuable assets. The most certain way to protect the natural resources of land fertility and the human resource of the continuing family is to maintain in economic security the farm family."

The Women's Institute Branch programme of adult education for the promotion of better rural living, with emphasis on good nutrition, improved health and conservation of goods, designed to help homemakers meet the changes in living conditions, met with enthusiasm. A total of 8,665 women participated in this programme.

The Junior Home Economics programme has given leadership through club work to about 3,850 girls and young women. 2,159 girls enrolled in the Garden and Canning Brigades. Senior Institutes are to be commended for the assistance and cooperation they are giving Junior Homemaking Clubs.

A Farm Housing Survey of one thousand farm houses in ten counties was completed by Women's Institute staff members, with a view to opportunities for postwar reconstruction.

Advice Sought

We co-operated with and made recommendations to the Consumer Branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, the interests of rural women as consumers. Twenty panels of ten rural women each were set up throughout Ontario.

Our organization was given representation on the Agricultural Commission of Inquiry.

Resolutions presented at the annual Provincial Board meeting in November showed that Ontario women are demanding rural electrification and improved health and educational services. This is an opportunity for presenting our suggestions for improved legislation. It is our hope that members are giving serious thought to needed reforms in their areas, and have presented resolutions at their meetings, to secure these reforms.

Plan to Grow Men

The new chapter has yet to be lived, thus we must plan it wisely and think about it carefully so that each page will contribute something toward a better and more useful life. The Chinese proverb says:

"If you are planning for one year grow grain,

If you are planning for ten years grow trees,

If you are planning for one hundred years grow men."

All over Ontario our W.I.'s are planning their year's programme, are entering upon new ventures in community activities. The results: Who can tell? Soldiers are ever ready to serve. Can we not give as much? Will we?

We must forget the failures. They are past—behind us. This is a new chapter, a fresh beginning. Let us face it with hope. We cannot relive yesterday, but we have for the living 1944-45. Let us not cloud this year with the memories of yesterday's failures nor carry into it the smart of the wounds of yesterday.

In planning programmes for the year, give each member some responsibility. Enlist the services of the charter and life members, the grand-

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