

In their educational efforts the Institutes are utilizing to better advantage the available literature, especially that bearing upon health and food. While we reach over 9,000 annually in the demonstration lecture courses provided by the Women's Institutes Branch, the great majority of the rural youths and grown-ups receive no systematic instruction along these lines. The recognized value of such instruction is creating a desire for an educational policy which will provide manual training for the boys and domestic science for the girls at convenient centres throughout the rural districts.

In Agriculture, there is a growing appreciation of quality in seed and foundation stock and the economic advantage of uniformity in production and grading for market. Much interest is shown by the women and girls in the destruction of weeds and the elimination of tuberculosis. Under Health, increased attention is being given to health education and preventive measures. Public sanitation and the prevention of contagious diseases are receiving special attention.

There is an ever-increasing interest in the laws of the land and the administration of the same, especially those relating to women and children, keen interest being manifested in inheritance, wills and custody of children. It is becoming a general practice for members of the Women's Institutes to welcome newcomers from overseas and give them an opportunity to become identified with the Institute and community life. Beyond the general practice of looking after the needy of the community covered by the branch, great quantities of supplies were sent by the Institutes of old Ontario to the north, where the poor crops of a year ago had resulted in considerable want among the settlers. The Institutes are providing a wide variety of community equipment and are using their talents and influence to see that the best use is made of the same. The women of Ontario are becoming very efficient community housekeepers, and those activities which concern the whole people are receiving judicious and liberal support.

In Historical Research, a splendid service is being rendered by collecting and making permanent records of individuals, farms, industries, buildings, and customs, while some counties have started a museum in which to store articles of historic worth. Under Canadian Industries, an intelligent study is being made of Canadian products, with a view to inducing members to purchase Canadian-grown or Canadian-made articles in preference to imported goods when equal value can be procured. The brief survey given is largely for the purpose of impressing all herewith the variety and great importance of your undertakings and to stimulate a keener sense of responsibility and opportunity on the part of both the local organizations and the various agents rendering service to and co-operating with the Institutes.

The success and effectiveness of the Institutes has been due to co-operative effort. In the first place, the members join forces so that they may do for each other and for the community those things which can only be accomplished through united action: but, co-operation does not stop here, for the assistance of the men both as advisors and financial supporters is essential in most of the undertakings. Then there is co-operation with other branches, other districts and on a provincial basis through your Federated Board. Allow me to refer you to the Annual Report of the 6th Biennial Convention of the F.W.I.C., for a somewhat complete survey of the extent to which the Institutes are effective co-operators. A copy of this report has been sent to all branch and district presidents and secretaries. The earnestness with which district officers and others interested have put forth an effort to extend the organization to new centres has been fruitful and there are bright prospects for many new branches being formed during the coming months.

The excellence of the reports presented at the eleven Conventions which I have had the pleasure of attending this fall, and the enthusiasm shown in all sections of the Province would indicate that the current year will be an epoch-making period in so far as the activities and influence of the Institutes are concerned.

Your efforts on behalf of others have been rewarded with signal success. Possibly you have not all grasped the importance of conserving your own powers and capabilities, so that you will be able to best serve your day and generation, leaving your community a better place to live in, because you have appreciated the effectiveness of each doing that for which she is best fitted and thus insuring that each will shoulder responsibility. If we can solve the problem of right living and effective co-operation, the Institute will continue to become a greater influence for good as the years pass.