

ADELAIDE HOODLESS (1857-1910)

Adelaide, the youngest of twelve children was born February 27, 1857, at "The Willows" in South Dumfries, Brant County, Ontario. She lived there until her marriage to John Hoodless in 1881.

It was the death of her youngest child, John, at eighteen months of age that stirred Mrs. Hoodless to the work which she carried on for the duration of her life. She set to work to find out why her child and so many others died (one in five). When she learned that John's death was caused by contaminated milk, she felt responsible for this tragedy. She decided she would do all in her power to help others and to bring within reach of all women the education necessary to prevent similar tragedies. And so, meeting with many

local and national groups, she began her work to benefit the homemakers of Canada.

On February 19, 1897 she organized at Stoney Creek the world's first Women's Institute. It was her belief that in this organization rural women could discuss their problems and work together to improve their standard of homemaking and citizenship. The movement spread rapidly throughout Ontario and to other parts of Canada.

Mrs. Hoodless introduced the teaching of Domestic Science in Canadian schools. She was active in the establishment of the MacDonald Institute at Guelph, MacDonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, The National Council of Women, and the Victorian Order of Nurses. She was a firm believer that no higher vocation ever has been or will be given to women than that of homemaker and citizen builder.