

The Ontario Women's Institutes at Toronto, Ontario

SPRING, 1942

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 22nd, 1942.

The Lady-in-Waiting is commanded by The Queen to convey Her Majesty's thanks for their charming letter to Mrs. Duke and Mrs. Leatherdale, and through them, to thank the members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario for their kind and loyal message, which has given Her Majesty much pleasure.

The Queen has read with interest, and without surprise, of their multitudinous activities and of the grand way in which Her Majesty's fellow members in Ontario are doing their part in the battle for freedom of the world.

Great Britain does not forget that the first Women's Institute was in Ontario, and The Queen likes to know that the members in that great Province are admiring and sympathizing with those in this Island, who are doing their work, whatever and wherever it be, with a courageous spirit that is beyond all praise.

"FOREWORD"

I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Ontario are going to compile village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely sometimes in a short time.

It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see that water colour sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories".

--Written by Lady Tweedsmuir.