

6.

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 1897 - 1972 CONTINUED

The Ontario Institutes were honoured to be able to entertain the World President (A.C.W.W.) Mrs. Farquharson from England. The Eastern Ontario area met Mrs. Farquharson at a reception at the Civic Centre Ottawa in February, 1972.

There are at present over seven million members of A.C.W.W. in 66 countries around the world. North Renfrew has 19 branches. To celebrate the 75th Anniversary they had a gala dinner at Thee Place, Pembroke on May 30th with a large attendance of members and guests.

Each branch contributed five minutes to the evening's programme. Golden Lake W.I.'s contribution was the following poem written to commemorate the occasion by one of their members Mrs. W. Sterling.

JUBILEE MEMORIES

In February, 1897
One hundred and one women, and
a man,
At Stoney Creek, in "Squire's Hall,"
Just picture it if you can.

Mr. Lee was chairing the meeting that night,
Adelaide Hoodless was the guest
Telling how contaminated milk
Had laid her babe to rest.

"If men organize to grow better crops,
And improve their fruit and hay,
More important still is mothercraft;"
And they organized that day.

We can thank her for Domestic Science
We have throughout our schools;
She prepared text books in '98,
Full of diet, and nutrition rules.

Step by step with Government grants,
Women's departments right down the line,
Her lonely voice crying in the wilderness,
Showed a vision beyond her time.

On the eve of her fifty-second birthday,
At a meeting in Massey Hall
February twenty-second in 1910,
She answered her Maker's call.

But her campaigning hours have paid off well,
I'm sure beyond her dreams,
As we see her sisters here tonight,
Celebrating her solitary theme.

This being our Diamond Jubilee year
We like to reminisce,
Think of the friendships made in the past,
And the memory of members we miss.

When we went to the National Convention
In Winnipeg, just two years ago,
Women from all parts of Canada
Were inspired to see W.I. grow.

Mrs. Farquharson from England,
our world President,
Was greeted by a capacity crowd
At the Civic Centre; in February 1972,
the ovation was both long and loud.

She told how we help in foreign lands,
For the betterment of all mankind,
We teach them skills, nutrition and health,
To improve both body and mind.

Since that cold February day in 1897,
We are now seven million strong,
In sixty-six countries around the world,
We sing the Institute song.

'For Home and Country,' 'The Institute Ode,'
With deep and meaningful words,
The 'Mary Stuart Collect,' that we repeat
Throughout all the world is heard.

Tonight we pay tribute to Adelaide Hoodless
And the work that she had started,
We think of those who worked with us,
By now have all departed
We have assembled her from every branch
From the area we see a few,
Mrs. Toop, who is that president,
And our own Mrs. Lockwood too.

Mrs. Noblitt, Provincial, is our guest,
Town dignitaries as well,
Miss Little, who guides our 4-H girls
With exciting things to tell.

We thank our husbands and families too,
Who also play a part,
They taxi about, and eat cold snacks,
Each loving, generous heart.

We travel miles to meet each month
For Home and Country's sake,
We improve our methods with planned short courses
That keep us up-to-date.

We have tireless women on the executive
Who planned this gala affair,
So enjoy it Ladies - by our hundredth one
A lot of us won't be there.