

In 1912 the idea of a federation of these provincial groups was considered. Before definite action could be taken the First World War turned all minds to more urgent matters. It remained for Miss Mary MacIssac, then Superintendent of Alberta Women's Institutes, to revive the idea. Miss MacIssac realized the importance of organizing the rural women of Canada so they might speak as one voice for needed reforms and the value of co-ordination of provincial groups for a more consistent program. These women, organized with mother love as an inspiration, realized that if a strong citizenship was to be developed, they must look not only to their own homes but to all activities which affect the people as a whole. Thus in February, 1919, representatives of the provinces met in Winnipeg to consider federation, with the result that the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada became a national organization with the approval of the Federal Minister of Agriculture.



JUDGE EMILY F. MURPHY  
(JANEY CANUCK)  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

First President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.  
1919-1921.

The Federation was most fortunate to have as its first President, Judge Emily Murphy (Janey Canuck) of Edmonton. Judge Murphy was an outstanding woman with driving power, executive ability and loving personality, whose heart went out to rural women and their

welfare. She spared no effort to bring the new organization into prominence, both provincially and nationally.

Every effort was made to keep the By-Laws and Constitution as flexible and free from cumbersome detail as possible. Of this effort a western editor of the time stated, "The breadth of view is mirrored in the elasticity to admit growth in all directions".

#### *Objectives*

The objectives of the organization, though occasionally the subject of discussion and minor changes, have remained fundamentally the same since first stated. Quoted from the 1919 records the objects are :

1. To co-ordinate the provincial units.
2. To act as a clearing house.
3. To develop agriculture, to promote educational, moral, social and economic measures.
4. To encourage co-operation and community effort.
5. To initiate nation wide campaigns in accordance with the aims of the Federation.

The motto of the organization as adopted is, "For Home and Country". The colours used by the Federation are royal blue and gold. A badge depicting emblems of the provinces and Dominion, topped by a beaver, is proudly worn by members from coast to coast. Attendance at Board Meetings, as a Provincial Representative, is indicated by a bar attached to the badge bearing the date of the meeting attended. In 1933 the first Life Members badge was presented and a Life Membership Book keeps a record of members so honored.

A resolution passed in 1921, and brought to the attention of members through the years, should be included in a sketch of the aims. "F.W.I.C. recommends that expenditure of funds raised by Institutes be confined to the Institute organization — local, provincial and federal, and to furtherance of aims as specified in the Constitution; and that Institutes endeavour to guard against the danger of degenerating into money making machines".

From the first the need was seen to channel the work of the Federation under standing committees. Through the years the women who have been named as conveners have shown outstanding ability and keen interest in their particular branch of the program. The first standing committees were : Child Welfare and Public Health, Agriculture, Household Economics, Immigration, and Institute Technique. The present standing committees are : Agriculture and