

# Eastern W.I. Group <sup>1953</sup> Meet In Ottawa <sup>Oct 30-31-</sup>

Some forty members of Renfrew County Women's Institutes, representing branches from both north and south districts, attended the recent area convention of Eastern Ontario subdivisions held in the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, and took a leading part in the three day program.

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. A. L. Gibson of Kemptville, the convention was considered by many of those present as one of the best ever held in the area. Assisting the chairman with program planning and in presiding over the various sessions were two leading W.I. members from Renfrew county, Mrs. Leslie Davis of Eganville, who is a director on the provincial board, and Mrs. C. D. Dewar of Braeside, a vice-chairman for the area.

Delegates were welcomed to the city of Ottawa by Mayor Charlotte Whitton, O.B.E., who brought cordial greetings, and delighted her hearers with a vividly colorful description of her trip to the coronation last June. Reports from the conveners of standing committees showed a great deal of gratifying work being done throughout all the area by the many diligent and enthusiastic branch members, and highlights of the district annuals, presented by the board directors, were also of great interest.

The A.C.W.W. triennial conference, which took place in August, was viewed in retrospect by several of the speakers. An impressive account of the proceedings, ending with a moving word picture of the "Canada Day" pageant, was given by Mrs. Leslie Davis, who had been the official delegate to the conference from this area. "The ultimate weapons of peace today is friendship, not guns", Mrs. Davis concluded.

Mrs. R. G. Purcell, provincial president, added further details of the A.C.W.W. conference in giving

her report of Institute work at provincial level, and Miss Anna P. Lewis, Ontario director, showed some beautiful slides which were taken at the time and recounted a number of smaller, homely incidents which had lightened the proceedings.

A special feature of the convention this year, which aroused much interested discussion and comment, was a panel discussion on the subject of succession duties and the legal status of women. Panel chairman was Mrs. W. H. Gilleland, of Ottawa, and other speakers were Mrs. R. Clarke Hamilton, secretary of the Canadian Council of University Women, R. C. Barber, Ottawa lawyer, Mrs. John Craig, president of Carleton County Women's Institutes, and A. C. Allan, of the Guarantee Trust Company, Ottawa. Following the panel and period of floor discussion, a resolution asking for various changes in the law respecting succession duties and the transfer of property ownership, was endorsed by the meeting.

Feature speaker at the convention luncheon was Madame H. E. Vautelet, director of the Canadian Association of Consumers, and others giving special addresses were J. W. Lawrence, dairy farmer of Lanark County, who discussed the sale of vegetable oils and their effect on the dairy industry, Mrs. Dorothy Cadwell, speaking on the probation and rehabilitation of female offenders, and J. D. Parks, B.A., who spoke on mental health.

Of a lighter and more entertaining nature were an hour of delightful music, singing and dancing by a group of rural school children from Dundas County, and the "Girls' Hour", when through slides and demonstrations something of the work of junior Institute clubs was displayed.

The election of officers resulted

in the return to the board of the executive members, as follows: Area chairman, Mrs. A. L. Gibson, Kemptville; first vice chairman, Mrs. L. Clark, Martintown; second vice president, Mrs. C. D. Dewar, Braeside; secretary, Mrs. C. D. Gray, Ramsayville; Mrs. Leslie Davis, Eganville, and Mrs. R. Graham, of South Mountain, were re-elected as board directors, with Mrs. A. L. Gibson appointed to take the place of Mrs. H. Hopper, who retired this year.