

ADELAIDE HOODLESS - FOUNDER OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Adelaide Hunter married John Hoodless in Brantford Ontario in 1881 and from that union four children were born. At the age of eighteen months, the younger son John Harold died. When her doctor told Mrs. Hoodless that her child had probably died from drinking contaminated milk, she was shocked that she could have been so negligent. Soon she was heading a campaign against the selling of impure milk in Hamilton, while conceiving in her mind the thought that Domestic Science should be taught to girls as a part of their formal education. Thus Adelaide embarked on a crusade which had revolutionary effects on the lives of millions of women all over the world. She worked with the YWCA to teach girls better methods of household work. Later when a National Council of Women was established in Canada, she was elected treasurer. Through the influence of Mrs. Hoodless and with financial assistance from Lord Strathcona, the Ont. Normal School of Domestic Science and Art was established. The Ont. government agreed to support the training of teachers of Domestic Science but Mrs. Hoodless was given the responsibility of finding the funds for the erection of a suitable building. She set out to get the interest of Sir William MacDonald, a Montreal tobacco millionaire.

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