

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE, CLUTE BRANCH, 20TH ANNIVERSARY

On September 2nd, the Clute W. I. held a Social Evening to celebrate Twenty Years A-Growing. A review of the work done by the Institute was prepared and given by Mrs. Dodds. A three-storied fruit cake, made by Mrs. L. Flood, graced the front table at the Church. A programme of songs, quizz and "Truth and Consequences" made up the programme. The Institute presented the top layer of the cake to Mr. and Mrs. Dodds, who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on September 3rd.

TWENTY YEARS IN CLUTE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As Written and Read at the Anniversary by Mrs. R. Dodds

On September 2nd, 1924, after ten days' notice had been given, a meeting was held in Clute School. No-one seems to remember if we asked the Institute in Cochrane to come out, so I am inclined to think our good ladies in there felt we were enough out here, and maybe needed an Institute to provide educational and social opportunities among us farm women and to carry on or sponsor community activities. The Organizer was the late Mrs. Hobson, and several who accompanied her were Mesdames Tucker, Thorning, Orde and Carter.

After the aims, objects and methods of the W. I. were outlined by Mrs. Hobson, a discussion took place and Clute W. I. came into being as a result, with Mrs. R. Dodds as President, Mrs. J. K. Moffatt 1st Vice President, and Mrs. D. Clement 2nd Vice President, with Mrs. C. Wilkins as Secretary Treasurer. I cannot tell you how many joined, as our first minute book has been lost.

The first Fall we held a Thanksgiving supper. It was held in Mr. Cowan's unoccupied store. Mrs. Bentley brought chickens and we each donated baking, etc. and we had all the things that go to make a real supper.

That winter Mrs. Clement started out on the Educational line. A Sewing Class was held. In the Spring, Miss Slichter came, judged the work and gave awards. In March, 1925, we held a sale of Baskets and Brooms, made by the Blind. That was just the time Hugh Rowan was in Toronto Hospital, so we had funds on hand from this venture and sent him \$20.

In May, 1925, as was customary, the 1st Vice President stepped up hence Mrs. Moffatt became President, but she became so homesick they left Clute in July, and Mrs. Clement became President. Mrs. H. Chapman became Secretary-Treasurer.

In 1926 we held a picnic on the bank of the Frederickhouse River.

In 1927 we organized a Bee and provided meals for men clearing the cemetery land. That year we had the Cochrane Band out to our Thanksgiving Supper. As the Church was then built, the supper was held there. The President in 1927, '28 was Mrs. Cowan. That year we stepped out farther afield and sent two delegates, Mrs. Cowan and Mrs. Gibson to the District Annual Meeting at Matheson. We bought two blackboards for the School, \$31.52. Till now, the blackboards had been painted beaver-board. Early in 1928 Tom Fosters lost their home by fire and we donated \$20 to them. Mrs. Clement came back as President, 1928-29.

Again at the Bee for the cemetery this year, the men provided posts and the Women's Institute donated fence and gates, \$50.25. We also paid \$10 for the surveying of the cemetery. Before this, in 1927-28, other Community Activities entered into were Bazaars, Garden Parties, Pie Socials. In looking over the books, I noted that at one Bazaar we made \$105.20, a supper \$49.35 and a Garden Party \$54.85.

At that time the help from the Department of Agriculture came in what was known as "Speaker Service". In 1928 was had Laura Rose Stephen, the lady who wrote the Institute Ode. These speakers al-

PROGRAMME

CLUTE W. I.

20TH ANNIVERSARY

1924 - 1944.

"HOME
AND
COUNTRY."

ways made us feel that it was good to be there.

Mrs. C. Wilkins was sent as delegate to the District Annual in 1928. In 1929 we held our first Short Course. It was in Home Nursing, under Miss Graydon. Twenty attended. She stayed over for our picnic. This year it was held at J. R. Cowan's (Now S. Moore's). Seventy attended.

Our President 1929-30 was Mrs. Nielsen, who resigned in December and Mrs. C. Wilkins carried on till May, 1931.

In 1930 two hundred and fifty people attended our Supper. At that time people were driving to Church and horses were having to stand outside, so we felt that a shed was needed. The men were approached on the subject and a bee was planned again. The men would supply lumber and work. We would supply roofing and nails and meals. So our shed was built, not where it is to-day, (In 1944 the drive shed had been moved onto school ground and turned to face west, and used for a wood shed. In 1950 it was moved up beside Bentley's Lake on Eygenraam's farm and used for a house) but facing the road so that horses could be stabled for either