

Institutes with a view to encourage a desire for organization on the part of rural communities. The growth of the organization is indicated in the accompanying table.

	No. of branches	Membership
1900	33	1,602
1905	208	7,018
1910	612	16,104
1915	892	29,045
1920	925	28,970
1925	1,001	34,259
1930	1,150	40,000

The example set by the Women's Institutes of Ontario was first followed by the other provinces of the Dominion, and now we find similar organizations on all continents. In June, 1925, an international conference of rural women's organizations was held in Brussels, Belgium, and in 1929 a conference of delegates from rural women's organizations was held in London, England, when the following countries were represented: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A. Mrs. Alfred Watt, formerly of British Columbia and who was a leader in establishing Women's Institutes in England, states that, "The Women's Institutes movement was transplanted bodily with its foundations intact from Canada to England, and there has since been no structural alteration. It is surely unique that a part of the social order of a new country should become an equally established part of the social order of an older country. It is especially curious, since the Women's Institute is a typically Canadian product, an original conception of pioneer Ontario, and yet here it is to-day blossoming graciously in the loveliest villages of Old Mother England."

The successful adaptation of the form of organization and methods of carrying on in Ontario to the conditions met with in other countries reflects the good judgment and leadership of the women of rural Ontario.

It has been the custom of the Department of Agriculture from the beginning of the Women's Institute movement to consult with the branch and district officers, as well as lecturers and instructors sent out by the Department, and since 1919 with the Provincial Federation, as well, in determining the programme of activity and methods of administration.

While the Institutes in Ontario have been assisted and encouraged by the Department of Agriculture from the beginning and the closest co-operation exists, each branch has been free to arrange its own programme and conduct its work quite independent of the Department. The Institutes themselves have determined that anything of a controversial, partisan, racial, or sectarian character should be kept out of the Institutes.

MOTTO: "FOR HOME AND COUNTRY"

The motto adopted by the organization conveys in a word its lofty aims.

The field of activity is unlimited and the strongest compelling force in the Institute is a general desire on the part of the members to improve the lot of all in the community by doing those things and