

HOME AND COUNTRY

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

WE FACE THE FUTURE

The second half of the 50th Anniversary theme, "We Face the Future" was admirably set forth in the closing message of the Historical Pageant at the Guelph Celebration by Miss Anna P. Lewis, and which we feel is worthy of reproduction in full in this editorial column.—M.M.H.

That Light still signs in hearts today,
And guides us onward in The Way.

We, the daughters and granddaughters of the first Institute women face the future with courage, determination and faith.

Truly we treasure the past. The deeds and accomplishments of the women who have gone before, their sterling characters and their high ideals inspire us to go on.

May be worthy of our heritage.

May we, the women of today, accept our challenge and go on to greater things because these women lived, because they had vision and because they built the foundations so straight, strong and true.

Opportunities ahead are boundless. Our organization knows no barrier of race, colour, creed or politics.

We women of various races, nationalities, political and religious beliefs are proving that we can work together harmoniously for the good of all mankind. Through knowledge comes understanding, and, in understanding our neighbour and in performing the neighbourly acts of friendliness, kindness, tolerance and mutual help, we shall be a mighty force for world peace.

This is our challenge; our opportunity.

Through intelligent study and practical action we shall work together putting service before self, to bring

the best "For Home and Country."

Our action now in our home community, our Canadian community and our world community will be a vital force in shaping our future destiny.

We enter a new era in the world's history as we stand on the threshold of a new Institute half-century. The success we attain and the influence we wield will depend on the conduct of each individual as she takes her part. Each will contribute to the best of her ability. Each will strive through prayer, study and action to better that best. Through family life, community enterprise and active interest in world affairs our women can give effective leadership.

When country women of the world work together for the common good we can determine the direction of human history. Neither guns, nor gold, nor governments can contribute as much as, working together, we can do.

We accept this challenge. We face the future with courage and faith.

QUEEN ELIZABETH SENDS
REPLY TO INVITATION

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, in response to the invitation sent to her to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Women's Institutes at Guelph, while unable to attend, sent the following gracious message to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario:—

WINDSOR CASTLE

June 17, 1947.

"The Lady-in-Waiting is commanded by The Queen to write and say that Her Majesty is much touched by the loyal motives that prompted the members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario to send an invitation to The Queen for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration to be held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, June 18th.

"The Lady-in-Waiting is to add that though Her Majesty cannot be present, The Queen's thoughts will be with the members on such an auspicious occasion."

OUR INSTITUTE COLOURS

It was in the classroom at the Ontario Agricultural College where a few dozen women—delegates to the Women's Institute Convention—in the very early years of the organization discussed the matter of colours for our Women's Institute. Due to the fact that our conventions were held in Guelph—the Royal City, for Guelph was the family name of good Queen Victoria—then reigning, and as the royal colours are purple and gold, we chose them for our Women's Institute.

Experience proved that purple was a difficult colour to obtain in ribbon, paper, etc. It was just gradually changed to blue with no fuss or worry so now blue and gold are the official colours of the Women's Institute.

(Laura Rose Stephen)

OUR MOTTO

In convention at Guelph the subject of a suitable motto was brought up. I was one of several selected to submit what we thought would be suitable.

That evening I sat at the table in my dear mother's back parlour and after quietly thinking for some time, I just wrote four words—"For Home and Country".

Was it an inspiration or just a chance thought? Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Miss Urie Watson, Dean of Macdonald Institute were the judges. As a result of their decision those four small words, "For Home and Country" are used all over the world as the motto of the Women's Institutes.

(Laura Rose Stephen)

Newmarket, York North: Sponsored the Ice Follies in February and made over four hundred dollars. Gave a five dollar prize for the pupil in grade seven having the highest standing at the end of the term.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
CELEBRATE THEIR
50th ANNIVERSARY

(Continued from Page 1)

of Women, said she was sorry there was not a closer co-operation between the Institutes and the Local Councils. "There is not as good an understanding between the women of the town and the country as there should be," she said. "And I would urge you, with all earnestness, to advertise your wonderful farm life, not as a means of earning a living, but as a way of life."

FORMER SUPERINTENDENTS

Another high light was the attendance of two former superintendents of the Women's Institute Branch. Miss Mary A. Clarke, said that as a former superintendent of the Women's Institutes of Ontario, she had seen the force and strength of the co-operative effort of a body of thinking women. Mrs. Guy Skinner, formerly Miss Bess McDermand, said, "The Institute is more than an organization—it is a service of education. We women in our homes do a lot of back work as well as a lot of enjoyable work, so we want contacts that make for happiness. The Institute is invaluable in meeting this need."

Miss Amy Kane of New Zealand brought greetings from the rural women of that sister Dominion, and greetings from the United States were extended by Mrs. Walter G. Fenton of Michigan. A message from the Women's Institutes of South Africa was read.

PREMIER GEORGE A. DREW

Premier George A. Drew of Ontario, arrived in time to extend official greetings from the Government of Ontario. "We in Canada are a fortunate people today," he said. "In how few places in the world could such a meeting be held, under such pleasant surroundings." He said the Women's Institutes of Ontario could feel justly proud of what had been accomplished in their fifty years of existence, particularly in the improvement of farm homes. "No country," he said, "can rise above the level of happiness found in its agricultural areas, and the Institutes have made a great contribution to bringing greater happiness to the farm people of the Province."

RECEPTION BY
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

At the close of the afternoon programme, tea was served to the great multitude of visitors, and the staff of the O.A.C. performed wonders in the speed and smoothness with which the long lines of people were served with their bags of sandwiches and their beverages. It was a marvel of smooth organization. At the same time, Hon. Ray Lawson, O.B.E., Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, accompanied by Premier Drew, held a reception in the Community House for over 100 guests, who had tea there. The Lieutenant-Governor was most gracious in his praise of the work which had been done by the Women's Institutes.

"LET THERE BE LIGHT"

After tea, the great crowds once again assembled in front of the beautiful stage which had been erected for the occasion, and thrilled at the presentation of the historical pageant, "Let There be Light", produced by Brownlow Card with Horace Lapp and his orchestra supplying the music. Both symbolical and historical, the pageant reviewed the fifty years of Women's Institute History, and the spread of the organization across Canada and throughout the world. Those taking part — and there were hundreds—were all either active Institute members, Junior Institute and Homemaking Club girls, and Junior Farmers. The colourful costumes ranged from the period dresses worn by the women portraying the first meeting held at Stoney Creek in 1897 to the national costumes of the various countries represented as having become part of the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

The pageant story began with the presentation of the Spirit of Light which shone throughout, and then portrayed how Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, out of her sorrow at the death of her own child, evolved the idea of an organization, which would teach home economics and the care of children to rural women. The first meeting at Stoney Creek was reproduced by members of the present Stoney Creek Institute, and it was of special interest that Frank Lee and Miss Marjorie Lee appeared in this scene, taking respectively the role of their father, Erland Lee, the moving spirit behind the first meeting, and their mother, Mrs. Lee.

From then on, the story of Institute achievement and growth was depicted in graphic and beautiful style, with first the Provinces of Canada and later the nations of the world, joining the ranks. The grand finale brought the spirit of the future, represented by Miss Lewis, to the microphone, with a stirring plea to go forward with faith, vision and determination for greater achievement in the years that lie ahead. The Harmonettes' sextette from the Vellore Junior Institute brought the pageant to a close with a beautiful rendition of "The Lord's Prayer". The contribution made to the pageant by the Junior Institute and Homemaking Club members was outstanding, and Miss Florence Eadie of the Women's Institute Branch deserves a great deal of credit for her work in organizing these groups.

DINNER IN EVENING

In the evening, a dinner was held for a limited number of special guests, and leaders from other provinces. Mrs. Hugh Summers acted as toastmistress, and in the informal programme of speeches, many eulogies were heard of those who had been responsible for the day's programme and its outstanding success, and of those who had taken apt. Special mention must certainly be made of W. R. Reek, President of the O.A.C. and his staff and especially of W. D. Tolton, Director of Public Relations, for their great efforts which had made the handling of so great a gathering of people so eminently successful.

So the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Institutes of Ontario passed down into history, and will live long in the memory of the 12,000 women who attended. From it, they drew inspiration to go on to greater effort, to realize that they were part of a great world-wide organization working for the betterment of human relationships. It is hoped that from that inspiration will come a revitalized organization in Ontario that will continue to grow in numbers and in influence and activity as a result of the celebration.

To the 50th Anniversary Committee, composed of Mrs. Hugh Summers, Fonthill; Mrs. H. R. McCrie, Sarnia; Mrs. Ernest Duke, Port Carling; Miss Anna P. Lewis, Toronto; Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Almonte; Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater; Mrs. A. E. Walker, Hamilton, and with Mrs. Gordon Maynard of Unionville, as the efficient and hard-working secretary, goes a large measure of credit for all the arrangements made and the excellent manner in which they were carried out. It was in every way a great day, and the members of the committee are entitled to feel a great deal of satisfaction over the success of their efforts.

One of the pleasing features was the souvenir programme, with blue and gold cover, and bearing on the front the anniversary message of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, which was presented to all delegates. This programme, prepared by M. McIntyre Hood, Director of Publicity of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, was printed by the T. Eaton Company, Limited, and presented to the F.W.I.O. as its contribution to the 50th Anniversary celebration.

Markham, York East: Steps are on the way to provide a Public Health Nurse for Markham Village and District.