

THE KINTORE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In 1903 over twenty ladies of the Kintore Community met in the Methodist Church in the village to form a Women's Institute. This was the beginning of the present organization which has grown and flourished during the many years since. The twenty ladies who attended this meeting dispelled all fears of the organizers, that the number would not be over the ten needed to start an Institute.

The first president of this group was Mrs. Alexander McCallum, and Miss Agnes Henderson held the position of secretary. Not much is known of the first activities of the Kintore Women's Institute, as no early records are available, but it must have been prosperous, being the roots of the present organization.

At the outbreak of war in 1914 the Institute at Kintore closed, so that the ladies could give their full attention to a much greater cause at that time, the Canadian Red Cross.

In July of 1920, a group of twenty-three ladies, at a meeting in the Presbyterian Church, voted unanimously, to reorganize the Kintore Branch. The president and secretary who had acted before the war, were re-elected, and since then there has been no great lapse of time between meetings. At this time there was very seldom a collection taken at the gatherings. Instead, the ladies made their money by catering to banquets, and by having booths at public gatherings. One of the greatest of these was a baseball tournament in the year 1921 at which they made \$95.94.

In 1923 courses were started for young girls to attend, and these courses have become a strong branch of this Institute. The chief topics are cooking, dress-making and gardening and many girls have found these very helpful during their lives.

A banquet was held on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Institute and one of the outstanding features was an anniversary cake made by Mrs. Walter Ross.

During the war of 1939 the Institute carried on in co-operation with the Red Cross, helping in all ways they were able.

Many, many times funds obtained were used to great advantage. Much of it was given to hospitals, but often it was to help victims of fires and tragedies in this community.

Although there are only forty-five members on the present roll a high of one hundred and thirteen paid members was reached in 1929. The Charter members of the present Institute, Mrs. Walter Armstrong and Mrs. Wilbur Dunlop are the only two left in the Kintore community, who attended the first meeting. They are both past presidents.