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Institute Problems, Projects are On-Agenda at F.W.I.O. Meeting

The Federated Women's Institute members in this area will be interested in the agenda of the spring board meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario at the Ontario Agricultural College last week.

Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, president, presided. Mrs. MacPhatter especially welcomed Miss Helen McKercher, Director of the Extension Branch, Home Economics Service, Ontario Department of Agriculture, who was attending the session for the first time, and who, she said, had shown a keen interest in the promotion of Women's Institute work. She also thanked the members for their co-operation.

Miss Barbara Taylor of Jamaica, who is studying at the college under the F.W.I.O. scholarship, and now in her second year, was making good progress, reported Mrs. MacPhatter.

Mrs. Gord. Maynard, executive secretary-treasurer, reported her \$7,000 had been sent in from the Ontario branches for the delegates fund to Ceylon. 951 Tweedsmuir History Books were now in progress. An increase in membership of 267 was noted for the year, with a total membership now of 41,047.

Mrs. E. V. Thompson, convener of Conference and Holiday, reported many applications had been received for the W.I. holiday to be held at the O.A.C. July 16 to 20 and more than 500 are expected to attend.

"County University" The "Country Women's University" is a term frequently used to describe the progress of the W.I. Branch and Home Economic Service of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, said Miss Helen McKercher in her address. Miss McKercher reported the department is most anxious to promote local leader training schools to further its work. The program followed is quite extensive. It helps women acquire sound and approved practices for greater home efficiency; to discover, stimulate and train leadership. The courses and conferences are quite diversified. At full time and 15 part time persons are on the staff.

Two copies of "Home and Country", the organization's magazine, were issued last year and 47,000 copies of such issue were distributed to the members. 4-H Clubs, said Miss McKercher, among the young people, are proving very popular and over 11,000 local leaders and assistant leaders are guiding these young women in their club work. County honor pins and certificates were awarded in 1955 to 457 members who had completed six 4-H Homemaking Club Units and to 83 members who had completed 12 4-H Homemaking Units.

Mrs. MacPhatter gave a comprehensive report on the recent F.W.I.O. sub-executive meeting. She reported a women's organization in Belgium was so impressed with the F.W.I.O. that they had asked the F.W.I.O. for their constitution. The Citizen's Forum asked the F.W.I.O. to consider the following subjects for future discussion: women in banking; standardized curriculum across Canada; how far can conversation go and should Canada have two sets of policy?

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario were born in the horse and buggy days. There were the days too, when men were amused at the forays of women into public life. However, 60 years later, there are 90,000 members in Canada, 45,000 of them in Ontario and in the world association, five and a half million, known as the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

The Board that met last week in Guelph is the governing body of the Institutes and the members are elected by Branch members at Area Conventions. These elected representatives bring to the Board the problems, opinions and requests from their own subdivisions. There are 27 subdivisions in Ontario and also two representatives from the Junior Institutes. The Board acts as a clearing house for all Institute problems.

The Spring session of the F.W.I.O. is frequently a period of co-ordinating activities that were set in motion at the November meeting. Plans are made for the Board members to go out to the district annual and give out first hand information to the Ontario work. The resolutions convener reports on the progress of resolutions sent from the fall board meeting to the various points concerned. Closely connected with the Institutes is the Home Economics Service, Extension Branch, Department of Agriculture, with Miss Helen M. McKercher, director.

The women who formed the organization 60 years ago understood the basic qualities needed to develop leadership, the methods of promoting their objectives change somewhat with the years but the foundation is the same:

To help women acquire sound and approved practices for greater home efficiency; to discover, stimulate and train leadership; to develop a more abundant life in our rural communities and a deeper appreciation of the things near at hand; to develop better, happier and more useful citizens.

SAFETY RECORD

ST. STEPHEN, N.B. (CP)—A plaque marking 150,000 man-hours worked without accident was awarded to the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission at a ceremony here.

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Halton Chapter Three Years Old

Halton Chapter No. 280 Eastern Star celebrated their third birthday last week. The meeting in the town hall auditorium with 200 members and visitors present was also Grand Officers' and Matrons' Night.

Sister Olive Adams, Grand Worthy Matron of the Province of Ontario, was present. Past Worthy Grand Matron Sister Pearl McDonald was one of the distinguished guests, as was Worthy Grand Sentinel Joe Whitfield and Grand Chaplain W. Smith. Worthy Matrons and Patrons and visitors from chapters in Oakville, Burlington, Peel, Caledonia, Grimsby, Hagersville, Hamilton, Cayuga and Dundas were present.

One of the highlights of the evening was a presentation of an Honorary Membership in Halton Chapter 280 to the Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Olive Adams. The presentation was made by Sister Edith Chisholm, Worthy Matron of the Halton Chapter.

Sister Chisholm expressed her pleasure in welcoming the Worthy Grand Matron, mentioning the fact that they were both members of the Dundas Chapter. Sister Ida Jarvis, Past Worthy Matron of Halton Chapter, made a presentation from the Chapter to the Worthy Grand Matron.

Two members of the Flock Brothers gave several musical numbers which were well received. Mrs. Griggs of Carlisle gave several readings to delight the audience. A splendid lunch including a birthday cake brought a close to a very pleasant evening.

Keep Kids Away

Keep your youngsters away from any outdoor fires. That's the local fire chief's special spring clean-up advice to mothers. Trash fires and unsupervised bonfires can be dangerous both to life and property. It's a good idea to teach your children not only to stay away from any outdoor fires, but also to report those fires to you at once.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Let's see now where do we start this week? Precious little farm activity to report a veal calf gone out and a dropped calf brought in. Thunderstorms, power breaks, rain and still more rain. Ditches and creeks running over the culverts and thermometer finally climbing into the seventies. That, too, presents a problem. Too hot for the furnace going, too damp to let it out.

Oh well, let's forget the weather. There are plenty of other things to write about. In fact I almost need a newspaper to myself. Last week was just one thing after another. Until Wednesday I was quietly enjoying myself with David. No, that isn't quite right either. You couldn't enjoy yourself QUIETLY, not with Dave around. However, we were prepared to keep him for a week or two.

Then came a wire... could I attend W.I. Conference at Guelph, special delivery letter to follow? Actually there was no reason why I shouldn't. Joy would be quite willing to look after Dave if I looked him down to Oakville. I showed her and that is what we decided. "But the best in plans of mice and men..." It just so happened I couldn't get away so Joy had to come and get Dave. Then my special delivery letter had the wrong initial and was delivered five miles up country.

I went after that but had to take to the ditch to get in and out of our place. A truck had broken down right at the entrance to our farm. After supper I intended getting myself, the house and Partner's supplies in order ready for the next two days. And then the power went off! Now I ask you, what extra jobs can one do in a big house with only candles to work by. It was hopeless so we went to bed and got up early next morning.

But the granules were still at work. Stockings developed a run as I put them on. One strand of a double string of pearls broke in my hand and when I was finally on my way, I found I had forgotten my gloves.

However, I eventually got to the Conference and only 10 minutes late. Now I am not going to give you a detailed account. W.I. branches will get a full report from their delegates. I will just stick to my impressions.

There was the audience... over 500 rural women, young, old and middle-aged and you could tell from their faces they were enjoying themselves. That they were genuinely interested in the business of the day, busily jotting down notes so they could take back a full report to their fellow members. And what an orderly audience. An occasional late-comer, of course or someone leaving early to catch a bus, but never the continual coming and going that we sometimes find at other meetings and which is so distracting.

There were the officers and directors who were taking part in the program. Friendly, capable, gracious women, anxious from their vast store of experience to pass on their knowledge to all who were ready to accept it.

Miss Helen McKercher, Director of Extension Services, successor to the former Miss Anna P. Lewis, almost immediately won a place for herself in the hearts of the delegates. Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, soon to vacate the office as F.W.I.O. president, was her usual charming and unpretentious self before the Conference ended. Padre Young stood beside Mrs. MacPhatter on the platform, his arm around her shoulders and led the audience in singing with genuine affection. "Let me call you sweetheart." Indeed, Mrs. MacPhatter, with her simplicity and charm, has endeared herself to almost every member of the W.I. with whom she has come in contact and has done much to promote unity and understanding. To know Mrs. MacPhatter is to love her.

Mrs. H. E. Houck, Brampton, delegate to the United Nations, in a wonderful address, made us feel that we really had a stake in the affairs of the United Nations.

Mrs. J. R. Fletcher, a past president in her review of "Officers' Conferences, Past, Present and Future" gave us a pretty good idea of the tremendous planning that is necessary for this annual event. It must certainly be a great satisfaction to Mrs. Fletcher to know her efforts in promoting this new venture have been so successful and so well appreciated.

There were also officials from the Provincial government whose addresses were well received, especially as they were brief as well as being informal and enlightening.

And there was Dr. Margaret Nix from McGill University, who gave us well-balanced doses of sense and nonsense. But even the nonsense had sense if you know what I mean. An excellent shot in the arm for those who were developing a slight weariness.

Finally there was entertainment—recitations, vocal duets and wonderful singing by the Junior Farmers' Choir from Ontario county.

Yes, it was a most successful and enjoyable Conference. And now another treat is in store for us. Mrs. Alice Berry, president of the A.C.W.W. is visiting various parts of Ontario in June. Who wouldn't be a W.I. member?

The human body is remarkably sensitive. Pat a man on the back and his head swells.

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