

Women's Institutes Look Forward to 50th Anniversary

Pointing its objectives towards an adequate celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Women's Institutes, the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario has recently completed a three days' session at which an extended program, broader interests and more aggressive leadership featured discussions by 22 representatives from every section of Ontario. Held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, the Board meeting was presided over by Mrs. Hugh Somers of Fonthill, president of the F.W.I.O. and reached its climax in the passing of a series of 47 resolutions dealing with a wide variety of topics in which the women of rural Ontario are vitally interested. For the first time, 2 representatives of the Junior Institutes sat on the Board, these being Miss Betty Riddell of Georgetown and Miss Orphie Orr of Maple, who had been elected by the junior girls as their delegates.

In her presidential address, Mrs. Summers reviewed some of the achievements of the last year, mentioning specially the fact that one mobile canteen had been sent to Britain and another to Sweden, to be used in welfare work in these countries. Mrs. Summers emphasized the need for all Institute to take advantage of the co-operative program being provided, and urged that a greater interest be taken in the rural schools and rural education. She particularly commended provision of hot lunches in rural schools as a Women's Institute project. Announcement was made that the first post-war convention of the Associated Countrywomen of the World is to be held in Amsterdam on September 1947 at which the Ontario Women's Institutes will be entitled to 5 delegates.

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service of the Department of Agriculture, in her address to the Board members, announced the introduction of some new courses for 1947. There will be new courses in family living, conducted by a qualified psychologist, a course in handicrafts and a co-operative program planned to help the young matron and also war brides from overseas. Last year, said Miss Lewis, 76 of the 99 districts in Ontario were served with courses, and this year 80 districts are being served. Thirty-nine Institutes have been organized since last spring, and the membership now stands at over 35,000. Short courses conducted through the Department were provided for 270 Institutes. Miss Lewis announced that to take care of the broader program, several important additions had been made to the staff of the Women's Institute Branch, which now consists of 38 home economists, field assistants and clerical workers.

Reporting as convener of the Committee on Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Mrs. H. Rutherford of Campbellford pointed to the fact that agriculture is going through a period of evolution as a result of scientific research. She recommended that the 1,000 branches of the Institute throughout Ontario make a study of the work of the Federation of Agriculture, attend county meetings, organize farm forums, study immigration in the light of labor and population, and also take an interest in the problems of soil conservation and reforestation.

Mrs. G. Maynard of Unionville, convener of historical research gave an interesting report on the historical booklets which are being compiled by many Institutes, recording the salient points in local community history. She asked all Institutes to have these ready for the 50th anniversary meeting, which is to take place at the O. A. C., Guelph next June. At this meeting there will be an exhibit of the best of these histories from each district.

An appeal to rural women to use their franchise, to support worthy women for public offices, and to accept greater responsibility in civic affairs was made by Mrs. C. L. Murray, Port Arthur, in her report as convener for Citizenship. Mrs. Murray particularly stressed the necessity for rural women to take greater interest in educational matters, and to become well informed on matters of national and international importance. She made a plea for a helpful interest in the newcomers to Ontario and particularly in war brides from overseas.

Submitting a final report of the committee on emergency war work, Mrs. L. F. Challan of Simcoe, reported an overall total of \$40,653 raised and expended for this purpose during the year from May 1, 1945 to April 30, 1946. She also reported on the winding up of the Central War Charities Fund, from which a balance of \$2,124.80 was divided among the veterans' hospitals to provide extra comforts for the patients.

Mrs. John McCulloch, secretary of the Board, reported that the Adelaide Hoodless Foundation Fund, being raised as a 50th anniversary effort in honor of the founder of the first Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, had now reached a total of \$10,500. It is the hope that during the jubilee year this fund will be increased to \$35,000 and it will be used to found scholarships for girls to attend Macdonald Institute at Guelph.

The long list of resolutions dealt with covered a broad field of subjects of importance to rural women. Strong support was given to a resolution concerning the extension of rural hydro,

with particular reference to the needs of South Renfrew.

A resolution concerning the need for stronger measures to combat venereal disease urged the immediate enactment of legislation which would prevent marriage between persons mentally or physically unfit.

The Board adopted a resolution asking that no change be made in the name of Dominion Day. Resolutions from Thunder Bay and Algoma Districts, asking that the Department of Public Health establish public health nurses in these areas, were endorsed.

A resolution dealing with radio programs was adopted, asking for the establishment of a radio censorship board, and also that action be taken to curtail movies and radio programs portraying drinking, murders and scenes which excite the passions and fears of children.

A resolution from the Cochrane district, asking for the establishment in the Matheson or Monteith district, was endorsed by the Board. Endorsement was also given to a request that public health nursing service be established in that district.

In the interests of beautification of roadsides and rural areas, a resolution was passed asking that it be made a criminal offence to dump refuse and garbage along the roadsides, and that the Provincial Highways Department take action to prevent such dumping along Provincial Highways.

Resolutions with regard to the liquor problem included recommendations to be taken to close all women's beverage rooms, and also a protest against the increase in the liquor ration.

Daylight Saving Time came in for some consideration, and it was resolved that the Dominion Government be urged to continue the use of standard time as the only time system in Canada.

Other resolutions dealt with matters of organization of Women's Institutes and the courses to be sponsored by the Women's Institutes Branch.

The highlight of the convention was the banquet tendered to the Board members by Col. the Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, presided over by Miss Anna P. Lewis. Guest speaker was Mrs. A. E. Walker, of Stoney Creek W.L., who brought greetings from the parent Institute and urged that Institutes take a keener interest in the development of the International Peace Garden. M. McIntyre Hood brought greetings from the Minister of Agriculture, who was unable to attend.

Mrs. Hugh Somers of Fonthill was re-elected as president and Mrs. C. Holmes, Belleville as honorary president. Other officers elected were secretary treasurer, Mrs. John McCulloch, Brampton; committee convener: home economics, Mrs. Wilmer Keves, Wolfe Island; citizenship, Mrs. W. A. McGregor, Desboro; agriculture and Canadian industries, Mrs. H. Rutherford, Campbellford; historical research, Mrs. G. Maynard, Unionville; social welfare, Mrs. Ross Dodds, Clute; resolutions, Mrs. C. Holmes, Belleville; publicity, Mrs. J. White, Brooklin. Mrs. Summers was appointed W. I. representative to the Ontario Educational Association, the Royal Winter Fair, the Temperance Federation, the Society for Crippled Children, the Society for the Prevention of Cancer, the Federation of Agriculture, the Ratepayers Division of Ontario, and as Press Convener for the Associated Countrywomen of the World. Mrs. G. Maynard was named representative to the Ontario Historical Association and Mrs. L. W. Challand, of Simcoe to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

CITY HOTEL

FREDERICTON (CP)—City Council has decided to seek legislation necessary for building a modern five-storey hotel at a cost not to exceed \$750,000. The provincial government will guarantee the bond issue covering two-thirds of the cost of construction and equipment.

THE JOYS OF PEACE

To-day I saw nine taxis in a cab rank at Knightsbridge. Shades of the days when one was willing to barter one's soul to find such a pilot through the London blackout!

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FARMERS EVIDENTLY GOOD RISK FOR LOANS

In the 17th annual report the Canadian Farm Loan Board, a Dominion Government agency operating in all the provinces and carrying on the business of making loans to farmers on the security of mortgages on their farms, reviews its operations for 12 months ended March 31, 1946.

Loans were made by the Board to pay debts, to buy live stock, equipment and farm lands, to erect buildings and to make other farm improvements. The maximum amount that may be loaned to any one farmer is \$5,000 on first mortgage or \$6,000 on first and second mortgages. The loans are repayable on terms of from five to twenty-five years by equal yearly or half yearly payments. The rate of interest charged is four and a half per cent. on first mortgages and 5 per cent. on second mortgages and on arrears.

It is noted that the chief purposes for which farmers have been borrowing money from the Board have changed during the last few years. In 1940-41 about 77 per cent. of the money loaned was used to pay debts and 9 per cent. used to buy land, while in 1945-46 only 53 per cent. of the money loaned was required to pay debts and 36 per cent. used to purchase land. A similar trend was evident in respect to increased expenditure for improvements to buildings, etc.

Of the money loaned to date, the report shows that 52 per cent. was loaned in the four western provinces and 48 per cent. in the five eastern provinces.

In the 17 years of its existence, the Board has lent over \$54,000,000 to 26,589 farmers and of the above amount \$30,435,000 has been repaid. Another noticeable feature of the Board's operations is the large number of borrowers who have retired their loans or who have made substantial reductions in their outstanding mortgage debts.

The report also shows that the interest in arrears for more than six months on all outstanding first mortgage loans amounts to only \$6,800.

INDIAN NURSING COLLEGE

NEW DELHI (CP)—The government of India has established a College of Nursing affiliated with the University of Delhi. The course of study, designed to prepare young women for the degree of B.Sc. (Honors) in Nursing extends over a period of four academic year and the students will be resident at the College during that time.

INDUSTRY — CRADLE OR GRAVE OF DEMOCRACY?

By Bernard Hallward, President, St. Raymond Paper Ltd., Montreal

Industry will be either the cradle or the grave of democracy. Democracy can work only as we exercise our personal responsibility. As we neglect our social obligations we compel the government to assume them. And then we find that we have helped to create the totalitarianism that we later have to fight. We have taken the squalling baby of industry and tossed it irresponsibly into the hands of the government. Then we have damned the government for being such a poor nurse. As our personal relationships become regulated and mechanized, frustration follows and we join the class war.

The only effective answer to the materialistic ideology is a moral one. Management will find its place in a new industrial order in which the needs of men as revolutionary ideologies are to exploit men's wrongs, fears and hates. If the heart had kept a stricter watch on the head in the past hundred years, history would have been different. As we cannot make the home happy merely by cold justice and reason, so in industry we need to have caring for people. You have a sounder home if you care for your wife, and you will have a sounder business and country if you care for your men.

This does not mean philanthropy plus 5 per cent. When husbands give their wives bunches of roses their wives know well enough why they do it. You can give your men a park or hospital or a bonus and they will know very well why you do it. If you do it for appeasement or for higher production it won't get you anywhere. If you have their confidence, the confidence will be confirmed. If there were to be a strike in our mill! know it would be my fault.

When an employer comes near to his men and feels their needs as his own his horizon widens, and he creates the atmosphere of trust in which problems can be solved. Then trust can grow and teamwork can develop in the new atmosphere in which co-operation is given full rein and questions can be tackled as soon as they arise. Then industry becomes more than a purveyor of goods; it will give men a new dignity and a new purpose, it will stimulate their creative faculties and create that new statesmanship which will be industry's highest contribution to the world.

There is some consolation in the fact that even though your dreams do not come true, neither do your nightmares.

WISHING ALL MY FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

C. LAUNDON

Merry Christmas to all of you

May the glow of your Christmas candles reflect all of the joys and fulfilled desires of the past year - - - and may that radiance forecast the coming year as the best and brightest of them all.

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