

trying to solve the educational difficulties of the section. But when he finds that some of the officials resort to petty means to satisfy personal whims or greed, he can hardly be blamed for looking askance at the system of control which allows such pettiness. If education is to become an effective means of opposing the evils threatening our democratic system at this critical stage, then our educational set-up must be vastly improved. Money must be spent, and the inequalities resulting from the division of the province into small sectional

units must be removed by rearranging the burden of cost. Such a revision would free the teacher from the tyranny of short-sighted school boards and greatly increase his usefulness.

These are only a few of the major problems which face the average rural teacher, yet enough has been said to show that he has no easy task. He is handicapped on all sides by difficulties which are often unnecessary and which continually interfere with his primary function. He will need ability, tact, and enthusiasm if he is to succeed.

Women's Institutes in Nova Scotia

By HELEN J. MACDOUGALL

THIS year of 1938 sees the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia celebrating the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of their foundation. It is fitting therefore, at this time, to refresh our memory as to the purpose for which such an organization was started and to note the achievements during that period of time.

In the reading room of McDonald Institute, Guelph, Ontario, hangs the portrait of a beautiful woman. Beneath it, a bronze tablet bears the following inscription: "In memory of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, Founder of Women's Institutes in Canada."

When as a young woman, Mrs. Hoodless lost her first baby, she felt that with a little more knowledge and a greater sense of responsibility, this tragedy might have been avoided. Then and there she resolved she would do everything in her power to make it possible for girls and women to obtain the knowledge that would help them in their responsibilities in home-making and motherhood.

As a result of her untiring devotion to this ideal, home economics was introduced into the schools of Ontario, and in February 1897 the first Women's Institute in the world was organized at Stoney Creek, Ontario, with the motto "For Home and Country".

The Women's Institute was organized as a sister society to the Farmers' Institute, with the purpose of giving the same care, study and service to the home and family that the Farmers' Institute gave to the farm, stock and crops.

So in Canada was started this women's movement, now grown into one of the greatest world-wide organizations. It has spread throughout the whole of the Dominion of Canada, to Belgium, Scandinavia, and other Continental countries, to England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and India. The same idea was started in the United States, modelled on the Canadian idea, but adapted to local needs. There it flourishes as the Farm Bureau or Home Bureau in every state in the union.

As a sister Society to the Farmers Institute of Ontario, the Women's In-

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stitute came under the auspices of their Provincial Department of Agriculture. A Women's Institute Division was created with a Superintendent in charge and instructors trained in home economics were engaged to give lectures and demonstrations on household subjects.

It was in July 1913 that the Women's Institutes were started in Nova Scotia. To Scotsburn, Pictou County, belongs the honor of being the oldest active Institute in this Province. At the present writing there are 140 branch Women's Institutes in Nova Scotia.

During the period of the World War, although the Women's Institutes had hardly started, they were most active in Red Cross work, Patriotic Societies, Belgian Relief and other welfare work. A complete record of work accomplished is not available as many branches sent through the local Red Cross, and kept no record, but from partial records over a period of three years we find the sum of \$25,000.00 was raised for patriotic purposes. We cannot estimate the knitting, sewing, Christmas boxes, etc. sent out. During one year, one Women's Institute alone raised \$900.00 and forwarded 342 pairs of sox. Twenty-three Institutes donated a McLaughlin Buick ambulance for Red Cross work. Meanwhile the educational objectives of Women's Institute work were carried forward. Short courses and unit demonstrations were held, featuring cookery, canning, food conservation, home-nursing. Community and welfare work were also carried on.

Nova Scotia maintains a Women's Institutes Division under the Department of Agriculture, with headquarters at the College of Agriculture, Truro. At the present time, in addition to a Superintendent directing the work, there are three instructors. Home Economics Extension is carried on by means of short courses, demonstrations, and recently, in order to give greater service the plan of Local Leader Training has been adopted, which is proving very successful.

The Women's Institutes have their own Provincial Executive, which includes conveners of six standing committees. This Executive confers with the Superin-

tendent regarding policy of work, and is actively interested in helping the various branches. The standing committees play a large part in directing study and activity in the branches. They comprise Home Economics, Public Health, Education, Agriculture, Legislation, Canadian Industries.

Since the Women's Institutes were created as educational organizations to study and advance the welfare of the home and family, regular meetings are held each month at which excellent programs on a variety of subjects are presented.

For a great many years, the exchange of household lore and tradition and custom were the sources of information for homemaking. Experience is an excellent teacher for developing the skills which are so much a part of household work, such as cookery, canning, sewing, handicrafts, home nursing. While not decrying the value of experience and tradition, they are not sufficient for present day needs when accurate scientific information is available.

The emphasis in home economics study is changing from that of the skills to Human Relations. Food Selection and Preparation as related to the health of the family; Clothing and Textiles; the Home and its Furnishings; Family Business and Purchasing are all directly concerned with the business of living as are also Child Welfare and the Social Problems of the family. These are subjects which should be constantly studied to meet modern conditions.

Closely allied to the Home is the study of Public Health. Much educational work is done by the Women's Institute, not only among their own members, but others. Public Health meetings have been arranged; clinics have been sponsored, such as baby clinics, pre-school age clinics, dental clinics, T.B. clinics. Home Nursing classes have been conducted. Institutes cooperate closely with the educational authorities and the Department of the Public Health, the Red Cross, and are ready to give their assistance to furthering Public Health education in every way possible.

The committee on Education, formerly called "Home and School" actively promotes the work of the schools. Material assistance has been given. Improved school buildings, and grounds, and equipment, and better sanitation have been some achievements. School lunches have been maintained, school libraries established, play-ground equipment provided. Cooperation between parents, teachers and educational authorities is promoted. In every way possible the Women's Institutes aim to assist the teachers and educational authorities in their duties and much has been accomplished.

It is of note that the Women's Institutes were instrumental in having the school law amended so that the wives of rate payers should have equal voting privileges with their husbands in matters of school administration.

The Agricultural committee encourages the improvement of home and public grounds, assists in Boys' and Girls' Club work and local agricultural activities. Home gardening as a means of promoting the health and well being of the family is a major activity.

The Legislation Committee exists to promote the study of existing laws and to teach respect for law and order. The laws affecting the home and women and children are of special interest, such as school law, public health laws, dower

laws, property laws, and social legislation. A better understanding of existing laws means better home and community life.

Canadian Industries aims to acquaint our women with the resources of our own Province, Dominion and Empire. It aims to encourage the use of local products whenever possible, and to encourage the establishment of local activities.

While Women's Institutes are not money raising organizations, they have always carried on a great deal of charitable and benevolent work. Food, clothing and financial assistance have been given to individuals and welfare institutions, milk, medical supplies and nursing care provided needy cases, glasses supplied to poor children. A number of unfortunate children have been looked after and placed in suitable institutions.

Community activities have received generous help from Women's Institutes. Such activities as providing street lights, building side walks, community halls, memorials, cemetery improvement, and general community improvement have had the assistance of Women's Institutes in many centres.

Family welfare, educational progress, friendly helpfulness and community cooperation are Women's Institute ideals. The motto of the organization and the initials give inspiration and encouragement.

"For Home and Country, W.I.N.S."

Forest Conservation in Nova Scotia

By G. W. I. CREIGHTON

FOREST conservation, to most persons, means fire protection or reforestation or both. While fire protection, unfortunately, remains the most pressing of our forest conservation measures, there are a number of other problems which are becoming increasingly important.

In all countries richly endowed with timber resources, little or no thought has

ever been given to future timber supplies until present supplies have become scarce. Until comparatively recent years the common lumbering practice in Nova Scotia was to remove only the trees of large size, leaving standing a great number of the smaller trees which, in a comparatively few added years, produced a new crop. As long as lumbering proceeded in this manner there was little danger of supplies becoming exhausted, although

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