

Annual Reports Of Women's Institute

The following reports were presented yesterday at sessions of the annual convention of the Prince Edward Island Women's Institutes:

SOCIAL WELFARE REPORT

Mrs. Wm. A. Bruce in her report said: "In presenting my report as Convener of Social Welfare I will admit that I was very reluctant to accept this office just a year ago. However, despite the long winter with its depth of snow, the year has slipped around quickly. And, I do want to acknowledge the generous support so willingly given by our Supervisor, and members of the Executive, putting into practice the co-operative spirit of our organization. I appreciate the attentions of more experienced officers toward a new member. Our meetings together to talk over the many and varied matters of interest to our rural people have been pleasant and most helpful. I would like also to express my appreciation of literature and suggestions received from our Director of Public Health Nursing, Miss Wilson, which greatly assisted in the making up of the two questionnaires in Social Welfare.

"This year our topic was 'Health', with the emphasis on 'Youth'. The theme of our questionnaires to be used at our February meetings was 'Child Care'. Much information is available to Homemakers today for the health protection of their families, and mothers have an outstanding opportunity to care for the physical, intellectual and spiritual health of their children. According to answers to this questionnaire many were glad to receive the list of free literature, which Miss Wilson kindly supplied, and many took advantage of securing the same from our Department of Public Health and Welfare. Copies of the 'Child Training' pamphlets also Cancer Supplement are now available for any who might wish for them.

"There are many commendable activities in our Province all working for the promotion of health: the Red Cross, T.B. Clinics, Cancer organization, and many others. Perhaps one we should stress as far as youth is concerned is the dental clinics now available, especially when there is such a shortage of dentists in rural areas. We in the Maritimes are handicapped by the lack of present available facilities for the University training of medical and dental students. It is recognized that our Women's Institutes have given leadership in rural health problems, and were instrumental in having a Health Committee organized under our Provincial Federation of Agriculture. This was reported last year by our Social Welfare Convener, who this year is our capable president, Mrs. Stewart. I hope we all read the monthly bulletin sent out to our Institutes from the Health Study Bureau, Toronto. If you have missed the report for April, particularly, I recommend that you have it read at your meetings. It is the report of our Prince Edward Island Health Committee, and should be read by all. If you wish to secure a copy you may do so from the Chairman of that Committee, Mrs. Julian Herring. One paragraph of that report states 'our report showed a great lack in our Province for the care and treatment of the subnormal child', and one of the proposals forwarded through the Federation of Agriculture, to the Provincial Legislature, asks that provision be made for psychiatric and educational treatment of sub-normal children. The questionnaires used at our May Institute meetings considered particularly sub-normal children - children whose minds grow very slowly. We were fortunate to have Dr. Murdoch speak to us on this subject last night, and I'm sure that what he said gave us all a new interest in and sympathy with handicapped children. Life is perplexing enough for normal children. It is more difficult for the sub-normal. Yet,

tal and spiritual health of our rural communities."

CITIZENSHIP REPORT

Mrs. Malcolm MacLeod, Lorne Valley, reported: "As your Convener of Citizenship appointed at the last Annual Convention was unable to accept, I fell heir to the position and based my report on the questionnaires received.

"In reply to Question 1 which asked what steps had been taken towards providing educational and recreational activities, too many reported nothing was being done; some because of no available hall and others on account of impassable roads. Quite frankly with a winter like last that was a legitimate answer. However, as one secretary stated - the young people were still able to gather at the corner grocery store where she feared the foundation of many bad habits is laid.

"Another Institute reported that Brownie, Girl Guide and Boy Scout units have been organized. Where this is practical it is a wonderful idea, for true citizenship is the basis of their training. "We shall not always have a winter as unfavorable as the past one and I would urge all Institutes to make a special effort to provide healthful entertainment so that our young people will be more content to stay and build up our Island. I would suggest that if possible all handicraft classes should be arranged.

"Several Institutes have provided Books of Knowledge to the schools but few have provided Character Books depending rather on the books supplied by the P.E.I. Library. A few good books, especially those showing how young men and women with a rural background have made good in their chosen professions should be in every school.

"Many Institutes have sponsored programs for the unveiling of honor rolls, Victoria Day, etc., and for those who have not already done so, now is a good time to begin. The National Film Board would be only too pleased to set a date and other speakers can be procured to report on an interesting, educational program.

"Because we have no Communists (at any rate openly) in our midst, we are apt to think of Citizenship training as being for some other section of Canada and not for us.

"I think that Citizenship is just as essential here as anywhere for it means moulding our lives so that we help to build a better Canada. True, we are just individuals but if everyone of us has that aim our Dominion prestige will be raised accordingly.

Primary Duty

"Our primary duty is to be informed. Communism (I think) is the result of ignorance and oppression. We should take every opportunity to study Democracy.

"We must become acquainted with our parliamentary leaders and their policies. Especially we must listen to both sides of every question. If we do not approve of measures it is our duty as democratic citizens to criticize. We must endeavour to understand each issue that comes up and let our intelligence be our guide when it comes to election day. No matter how your father or grandfather voted, you vote in the way which appeals to you as being best for Canada.

"Don't imagine for one minute that because you are women you should not be interested in politics. Governments are responsible for the conditions under which we and our children live. When we see the uncertain, perilous state of the world today after hundreds of years with men at the helm, couldn't we do at least as well. Take your politics so seriously that if opportunity arises you will accept a nomination.

"Shortly we are to have a plebiscite on the liquor question. Do not say, 'Oh, I'll not bother to go out and vote'. Instead say, 'It's my duty as a democratic citizen to decide what I consider best for my children and Prince Edward Island as a whole'. Then go and vote. In this way we shall have the true voice of the people instead of a minority deciding the

issue. "Another subject to which we would be well advised to pay attention is the Federation of Agriculture. We are all vitally interested in the well-being of farmers individually and the chief industry of our Province. "We take an active part in the actual work and planning so why not accept the challenge and take an active part in formulating provincial farm policies? Our men are not as used to working together as are our Institute women and we can render real service by bolstering their enthusiasm for the Federation.

"With radios in almost every home and daily newspapers there is an excuse for us not being reasonably well informed on current events and we, as mothers, should encourage conversation on these topics thereby broadening the horizons of our families in a day and age when so many discoveries and changes are coming about that unless we keep abreast of the times we shall soon be 'back numbers'.

REPORT ON AGRICULTURE

Mrs. (Michael) Loretta Doyle in her report said: "As your Convener of Agriculture I hereby submit the following report. In presenting this report I would pay tribute to the excellent comments and suggestions I received from a goodly number of Institutes which were of great help to me as a Director of the Federation of Agriculture. I was particularly pleased with the interest shown in the questions relative to rural study groups and Junior Club work. That considerable interest was aroused is shown in the report of Mr. S. C. Wright of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. Mr. Wright states that 11 Calf Clubs, five Poultry Clubs and five Swine Clubs were organized as well as renewed interest in Girls' Clubs. The promoting of the Junior Farmers Federation by the Department of Agriculture is an excellent step. This branch should prove of great support to the Federation and help arouse interest among our young people, and assist in developing rural leaders.

"I am our representative to the Federation of Agriculture I attended all the meetings with the exception of one. In my report at the annual meeting I stressed the need of additional Directors, one a woman to further women's interests and also that young members be encouraged to active membership. The need of emphasizing the attractiveness of farm life was also stressed. My suggestions were an essay prize competition and press publicity. "I would like to call your attention to the drive of the Federation of Agriculture to secure new members. Every Institute worker should co-operate with her husband and share in the enthusiasm of the work of the Federation. Without co-operative effort we cannot expect to get our just demands of the 12,000 farmers of P.E.I. being met by a direct and personal interest in the work which will enable the Federation to extend its program and make it more valuable to agriculture and the Province as a whole. I trust that you have had a fair measure of success at your May meeting of getting your husbands and neighbours to take out membership fees with the Federation as suggested by the Provincial office.

"As you know our theme this year is health. The word health comes from an Anglo Saxon word meaning wholeness of body. But it also means more than that. It means ambition, purpose, high standards of conduct, character service for others, and all the qualities that make men and women. Let us all strive to attain these ideals, and pass on to our children a heritage they will be proud of. "I have been pleased to represent you on the Rural Beautification Society. This Society is doing a great deal to awaken interest in beauty in the rural areas, and in all three counties farm men and women are taking a lively interest in making their home surroundings attractive and pleasing to the eye. This is more than just the key note for more pride by our young people in farm life, and I commend Colonel Johnstone for being the leader in this great project. I also commend the Government of P.E.I. for its support to this splendid Society. "In conclusion I thank you all for your trust in me and sincerely hope I have proved a worthy representative. To our Supervisor and the executive with whom I work, and from whom I glean many worthwhile inspirations, I give my thanks."

ARTS AND LITERATURE REPORT

Mrs. Harold Laird in her report said: "It is my privilege to present my first annual report as Convener of Arts and Literature. Under this convenership I have had charge of the Provincial Drama Festival organized by the Prince Edward Island Women's Institutes. "At a meeting held in August in the Women's Institute room, Charlottetown, a committee composed of several members of the Provincial Executive, our secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Ray MacLeod, and one member representing Women's Institutes from each of the three counties revised the Drama rules and regulations, and appointed a Drama Festival Executive for the following year. "Copies of these Rules and Regulations, and a letter urging all Institutes to support the Festival were sent out with the Institute fall programs. I have had members report that these rules as well as other Questionnaires were not

used. This is regrettable since more Institutes, otherwise might have participated in the Festival or have given leadership to groups of young people who wished to do so. "During the fall months Mr. Chandler and his staff compiled and issued a catalogue of non-royalty and royalty (\$5.00) 1-act plays, free on request. These plays were available through the Library facilities to Institutes or groups for reading. Many requests were received for these catalogues as well as for a great many plays. Mr. Chandler hopes to enlarge this catalogue and the library of plays. "From January 12th to the 18th, a Short Course in Dramatics sponsored by the Adult Education Council was held at Charlottetown under the capable leadership of Mr. Donald Watmore, Director of Dramatics for the Nova Scotia Department of Education. This was really one of the highlights of the Drama Festival year, and if such a course can be again arranged next year, I do urge interested Institutes and groups to send one of their members to it. Those who attended last year were delighted. "Radio Station C.F.C.Y. generously donated time for Drama Publicity broadcasts during the winter. "The Drama Rules and Regulations were published from time to time in the Charlottetown newspapers, 'The Patriot' and 'The Guardian', and once in the 'Summerside Pioneer'. Miss Duffy of 'The Patriot' did excellent work for us in publicity by writing a series of interesting items on our progress in Drama Festival work during the year, and an outline of the plays and casts entered in the Festival. "Fourteen Drama entries were received by our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. MacLeod, at the closing date for entries, March 1st. All counties were represented, Queen's County topping the list in number of entries. When play-offs began in May, however, six of these fourteen had withdrawn. "Kings County had one entry, the Kilmuir Community Play, who were awarded a diploma for their play 'All Carts to the Rescue' and prizes for their best actor and actress. "There were two entries in Prince County, Kelvin Grove W.I. and Cape Traverse Y.P.U., the latter placing first in the semi-finals with 'All Carts to the Rescue'. "Queens County with five entries had two play-offs, the Graham's Road performance, 'Mushrooms Coming Up', winning over Grandville W.I., and York W.I. with 'From Five to Five-thirty', winning from a second York group, and Cornwall W.I. "At the finals held in the Empire Theatre, Charlottetown, June 1st, with Mr. Wetmore as Adjudicator, York Players won the two Provincial trophies donated by Smallman's, Summerside, and the Provincial Women's Institute, respectively. "For prizes to the best actor and actress in the finals, we are indebted to the following: Simmons and MacFarlane, Freetown, and Murdoch MacGowan, Ltd., Kilmuir. These prizes were won by Miss Anne Crockett and Mr. Raymond Morrison. "Prizes donated by the Drama Festival Committee to the best actor and actress in semi-finals were won by Miss Anne Crockett, Miss Kathryn Pickering, Miss Georgie Yeo, Mr. Raymond Morrison, Miss Anne MacDonald and Mr. George MacPherson. "The following qualified persons very kindly and generously adjudicated at the play-offs and semi-finals: Mrs. Ruby Houle, C.D.A.; Mrs. Roy Smallman; Mrs. Wallace Scantlebury; Mr. H. B. Chandler; Mr. John Lawson; Mr. Morton Dew; Mr. Barry Bugden; Hon. Mr. Large, K.C., all of Charlottetown; Rev. L. G. Davies, Kensington, and Mr. Norman MacDonald, C.D.A., Summerside. "To all who helped to make our 1945 Provincial Drama Festival a success, we would like to say 'Thank you'. You have helped us to broaden our work and to strengthen our foundation. "Detailed reports of the year's work will be given at our annual meeting which immediately follows our Provincial Women's Institute Convention. Encourage the Drama Festival and extend your own interest in dramatics by attending and becoming a member: single membership, 25c; group, \$2.00; life membership, \$25.00 only with full support and cooperation will the Provincial Drama Festival continue to expand and grow."

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CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsworthy nature may be inserted at five cents a word strictly payable in advance

COBLECTION - The results of the Gr. IV Piano Exams of the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto recently published should have read as follows: Honours - Norma Jean Gay, Catherine Beck, Adele Kays and Peter Driscoll.