

Women Institute

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Hon. Dr. MacMillan's Address

At the afternoon session Hon. Dr. MacMillan, Acting Premier and Minister of Public Health and Education, who gave the address of welcome was the first speaker. It was a great privilege, he stated, to speak at the annual convention of the Women's Institutes, and it was a great pleasure on behalf of the Government and on his own behalf to extend to them a hearty welcome to the city, and to the new Prince of Wales College for the first time.

Dr. MacMillan expressed the confident assurance that the Institutes would continue to have the marked success in the future which they had in the past. He regretted greatly the continued illness of Premier Stewart, whose condition was still unfavourable.

At the last session of the Legislature, the speaker had made the promise, which he now repeated, that he would give the women anything within reason, as he believed that the interests of the women were bound up in public health, education, child welfare, and allied work, and that they were always the strongest supporters of advance along these lines. In that statement he had been saying that he would do what he could for the greatest friends of education and public health, and he would say it again.

Since the last annual meeting things had transpired which must have been of great satisfaction to mothers whose children came to Normal School. It had been said that the new college was too expensive, but the speaker was quite satisfied to let the women pass judgment on the building.

Dr. Fitzgerald of Toronto Medical School had been loud in praise of the laboratories, which were so necessary in modern educational life. The Department of Education had in mind the providing of means to help young people make a success in the race of life.

The speaker invited the ladies to go through the building and examine it for themselves. Why should not the splendid staff be given a fine building to work in with the children of the Province, he asked. Why should not some money be spent on education when the last few years large amounts were spent on roads, though he was not criticising the road policies. Which was the more important, to save lives which could be saved or to provide paved highways, the health and welfare of the people or material things. In the basement the visitors would see the beginning of the new Provincial Library. A year ago the Women's Institutes had made a recommendation for the advancement of interest in literature. In the new library any book desired would be either immediately available or could be provided. Before the three year demonstration was up a large number of books would be available. Miss Bateson, the librarian, would have an opportunity of speaking to the ladies either in convention or at the local centres. Satisfaction was expressed by the speaker regarding the Library School, which now had an enrolment of 40, and which was at present functioning in the college.

It was the second time in the history of McGill Library School that it had left the precincts of Montreal.

This year Prince of Wales College had been raised to the status of a full Junior College. It was a question which had been agitated for a number of years. It was now possible for a boy or a girl to spend two years in Prince of Wales College which otherwise must be spent in a university. The change would mean the saving of hundreds of dollars to those interested in higher education or desiring to enter the professions.

The speaker gave the assurance that there would be no discrimination against the rank and file of the students, who wished to enter the teaching profession.

It was necessary to make the fourth year pay for itself, and not make it a burden upon people who were not interested in the work. An attempt was being made to strengthen the Teacher Training course. Professors Shaw and Duchemin were at the present time taking summer post-graduate courses.

Teachers' Age Limit

Dr. MacMillan stated that it seemed the time had come when the age limit for teachers should be raised. At the present time there was a double supply of teachers in the province, and there was all kinds of trouble in districts. Between 60 and 75 applications for licenses from students sixteen years of age had been turned down by the Department. The limit by law was seventeen. It should be eighteen or as it is in Nova Scotia nineteen. Many applications had been received to have teachers teach in their home schools. Such an action was an attempt to sacrifice the school for the benefit of one individual.

It was impossible to make educational advances in that manner. The Department was endeavouring to uphold what was best for education in the Province.

Dental Work

At the instigation of the Women's Institutes a vote of \$1,000 was passed at the last session of the Legislature for dental work. The whole province must be considered in the matter. The districts had been asked to express approval or disapproval and asked to contribute a small sum of money. Out of 393 schools, only 138 had answered. 99 were favourable and 39 were unfavourable. The plan suggested had been that a centre should be established for every four or five districts. The plan did not appear possible. While the Women's Institutes were favourable, the districts appeared indifferent.

Last year the speaker had asked that Institutes give special consideration to the sanatorium, and expressed thanks to those who had responded. \$18,000 had been required from the Government to support the institution. He described in some detail conditions obtaining in the maintenance of the sanatorium. Mrs. George Martin, New Perth, expressed the thanks of the Women's Institutes to the speaker. The province was fortunate in having such a man as Dr. MacMillan at the head of the Government during the regrettable illness of Premier Stewart.

Child Welfare

Mrs. Allen Wyand, Cavendish, Provincial Convener on Child Welfare, presented her report on the subject. In opening she questioned that the answers for each questionnaire should be the subject for discussion at a meeting during the winter. The questionnaires showed

that Institutes were often doing in the schools work which should be the duty of the trustees.

Out of the questionnaires sent to districts, 97 had been answered, and these showed that 70% of the children who were attending the schools represented had defective vision. Help of the needy was a phase of work in which reports were frequently made.

Only about 60% of the children had been vaccinated. As regards the dental clinics—Mrs. Wyand outlined the history of the work. Dr. MacMillan's department had begun to render financial assistance. The Institutes were requested to raise \$1,000, equal to the amount offered by the Government.

Arts and Handicraft

"Arts and handicraft in Rural Canada" was the subject of an interesting address by Col. Bovey, lecturer under the Library Institute. In opening he pointed out that there would be probably a tendency for the people to seek country life in the future due to the decreasing amount of labour required in mechanized industry. Rapid communication, radio, aeroplanes, television, would make rural life more complete. University courses would probably provide women whose lot would be country life. The aim of education was to add to the happiness of life.

The speaker who was assisted by Miss Ruth Miller then dealt with Canadian handicraft and arts displaying typical examples. Such work might take up the surplus time of the individual whose work was being done more and more by machine. Utility and pleasure would be the rewards.

Following was the nominating committee appointed: Queen's County, Mrs. Wm. Mutch, Mrs. Edgar Hearis, Mrs. W. J. Mutch; Prince County, Mrs. Jas. Forbes, Miss Helen Gallant, Mrs. Geo. Bearst; Kings County, Mrs. Geo. Martin, Miss Cella McDonald, Mrs. Lelacheur.

Following was the resolutions committee: Mrs. Sterling McKay, Mrs. Archie McFarlane, Miss Julia Carver, Mrs. Frank Outcliffe, Mrs. Merrill Stewart, Mrs. Buchanan.

Evening Session

In extending the welcome of the city to the delegates, His Worship Mayor Stewart stated that he was glad to attend the Women's Institute Convention, and to extend a most cordial welcome. There were 260 Institutes with 4,000 members in the Province. Last year 17 Institutes had been added to the number. A tremendous advance had been made during the twenty years of history in facilities. The speaker was glad to see that the Institutes were taking an interest in public health. The women could have the satisfaction of leading the way in the elimination of disease.

He hoped that they would go on from one success to another till they had grappled with all the problems in the life of the Province.

Mrs. James Forbes replied to the Mayor's address, stating that while the women were availing themselves of the hospitality of the city, their chief object of meeting was for work and interchange of ideas.

President's Report

Following is the president's report presented at the evening session by Mrs. S. J. Rose: When we met in convention last year we little realized that it would be our pleasure to hold our Tenth Annual Convention in the new Prince of Wales College Hall. A college where another year has been added to the course in order to educate our young people to take their part in the progress of all that is for the betterment of humanity. The dark clouds of depression unrest and uncertainty still obscure the sunshine of happiness and prosperity, but we have hopes that the many great statesmen now in London, attending the Economic Conference, may be led by Divine wisdom so as to cause a few rays of light to shine through. We in our rural homes have much to be thankful for. If we have not as much money as usual, we have a sense of security and enjoy the loving fellowship of our friends and neighbors.

We have a lovely spot to dwell on, a land where God tempers the wind on all occasions. Let us as W. I. members do our part in making it a better place to live. Let us help to educate our young people by organizing, Young People's Societies, debating clubs, study groups, girls clubs, etc. Let us take advantage of the wonderful Library that Andrew Carnegie money has made possible for P. E. I. to enjoy.

Our schools need our attention even more than in the past. Let us do what we can to help in every way to make our schools comfortable for teachers and pupils.

The Sanatorium is at present a financial problem, this also needs our help in order to carry on the good work.

It is encouraging to report that our members are bravely rowing the boat. They have not allowed the work or the interest of Home and country to drift.

One of our former F. W. I. C. Pres. said in Winnipeg, as she was presented with her life membership badge. I will return to my little Institute in the country. There is where the real work is being done.

I wish to thank you all for your loyal support while I acted as your President and for your kindness in making it possible for me to attend the F. W. I. C. held in Winnipeg. I feel that I have been greatly rewarded for my efforts to help with the W. I. work, and I ask you all to kindly help my successor to make the 1933 Biennial Convention to be held in Charlottetown a success. In conclusion I will add a short poem by Strickland Gillian the words of which we as W. I. members have proved that P. E. I. ought to be fine because we live here.

A garden, a perfect mosaic, deep green, 'gainst the blackest of loam, Spread out near a little log cabin—obscure but immaculate home!

I paused to admire—who could help it? the weedless expanse near the door, Where, pleased with my pleased inspection, stood a "mammy" years that are yore.

"A beautiful garden" I ventured, She cupped a brown hand to her ear, "Fine garden" I shouted. Oh sholly!

"It ought to be fine! I live here!" I went on my way with a sorrow as great as I ever had heard. The highest paid preacher existent could never have added a word.

Were every human who cumber the tiniest spot of the earth To see the place he inhabits—the work, brain or fingers gave birth—Stood perfect as e'er he could make it—Dear God, what a difference sphere!

Let us borrow our motto from "Mammy": "It ought to be fine—I live here!" Nesta C. Rose.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Miss Hazard in submitting her report said in part: We welcome to our organization seventeen new branches organized since last July at Riverside, Anglo Tignish, Peterville, Sea Cow Pond, Southwest, Kilnour, Mt. Royal, Harper Road, Central Kildare, Bristol Lot 40, Albion Cross, West Devon, Duvar, Howland, St. Peter's Harbor, South Kildare and Bradalbane Village.

Our Institutes now number 257 branches with a membership of 4,000 members. The annual reports received from 223 branches give evidence of the loyal support which institutes continue to give to the work and up-building of our province in general. The total amount expended by institutes for various purposes amounts to \$14,077. School improvements have been made to the amount of \$4,683 including improvements of every kind from cleaning and painting the interior of the school in some cases to the erection of new buildings in other cases. Improvement in general cleanliness and tidiness is a very notable factor in districts where institute branches are established.

School fairs have also been aided and prizes and donations amounting to some two hundred dollars have helped to encourage the boys and girls in this work.

The greatest help, however, that can be given to these young people is the encouragement of honest competition in the preparation of their exhibits. Besides the help given to schools in the districts other community improvements have been made amounting to over \$4,000 on halls, public grounds, streets, etc. The encouragement of clean sport through such means as the erection and upkeep of play grounds, skating rinks and tennis courts, the assistance of hockey teams, and the formation of debating and other intellectual clubs has done a great deal for the young people of the various communities. Libraries have been established in the greater number of districts for some time past while each year others are added to the number. These will all greatly appreciate the help which they will receive through the new library system, and we are glad to have Miss Bateson, who is the librarian in charge, address our meeting. Miss Bateson will explain the many different types of literature which may be secured and also how the books are to be distributed to the different centres. Community work would not be complete without some mention of the kindness and sympathy shown by institute members not only to the

sick but also to those in need of the many every day necessities. This work is not always measured in dollars and cents but at the same time it is perhaps one of the most practical and worth while activities of the organization. In addition to this help, donations to hospitals, orphanages and such charitable institutions amounted to \$1,328.

From July 19th to October 14th, fifteen district conventions were held through which Miss MacMillan and I came in touch with 133 branches. This year it was thought advisable to divide some of the larger convention groups so that branches would find it easier to reach the centre of their group and thus induce greater attendance. So far this plan has proved very successful and in every case where a division was made attendance had a marked increase which greatly exceeded that of former years. During the month of June just past ten district conventions comprising 79 branches have been held.

Two meetings of the Provincial Executive, one called in February and another in April did not materialize on account of the prevalence of flu and unsatisfactory weather conditions.

On May 3rd a meeting was held to discuss an exhibit for the Biennial Convention and at this meeting plans and dates for our present Convention were discussed.

A motion, whereby only properly authorized delegates or their substitutes and the Executive should henceforth be recognized as voters at the annual convention was passed at this meeting. Dental clinics were also discussed and Hon. Dr. MacMillan was requested to proceed with the organization as he saw fit.

On June 23rd another meeting was held to complete plans for the convention. At this meeting girls' clubs and the liaison committee of Rural Women's Organizations were discussed. A motion was passed that the Prince Edward Island Women's Institute join the liaison committee.

Education and Better Schools

The following report on Education and better schools was presented by Mrs. L. C. Allan, Cardigan: It is pleasing to be able to report as sixty percent increase in the number of questionnaires filled out and returned on this subject. At that, only half the Institutes are represented. It is not that the Institutes are not interested in the subject, but rather that they apparently are not interested in questionnaires. Anyone who could will recall the rural school building of fifteen years or so ago in contrast with today's building, will see the work of the Institutes exemplified. Not that we have accomplished all that is necessary in school improvement but much has been done. The Head Office issues a pamphlet called "School Improvements," which should be read by every Institute before having work done on a school building so that there may be no mistakes nor cause for regret and criticism later. There should be no money wasted this year, nor any year, on wrong or unnecessary work. The Red Cross Nurse on her visit will advise on matters which affect the health of the pupils.

A dozen schools report that they have supplied blinds. Several have had the interiors painted and most Institutes report that they attend to the cleaning of the school.

Drinking fountains, wash basins, soap and towels have been added to school equipment and most Institutes reported that they furnish prize money during the year and for School Fairs. The desks in most of the schools are no credit to us. I mean, the ones made to fit the average child, as if all children of school age were average and not individual! We find the small beginner with his toes dangling in ches from the floor and his body tired from the lack of balance of his position. While the well grown boy or girl is literally wedged into and hunched over a desk built for a ten year old. You will appreciate this matter of comfortable desks in these days when you find sitting on an un-upholstered chair for hours very tiring. Think of the children—and the undersize and oversize desks! Vacation would be a good time to have something done. Any carpenter could adapt a few of the desks—all need not be changed.

All these things concern the physical side of our subject and what we may call the spiritual is barely mentioned. In these hard years when there are not jobs enough for the grown men, to say nothing of the young boys, it seems our schools and colleges should have a larger enrollment than ever before. We should try to correct the impression that the boy destined for the farm may leave school without completing the course. This is an old idea of the days when education meant a white-collar job. We shall never succeed in educating all the children until we first succeed in impressing in the minds of the people the great truth that labor is not a curse but a blessing—that it is not the purpose of education to free a child from the necessity of labor, manual labor included, when he is grown but that the end and aim of education is to fit every person to perform better his or her duties to society, no matter how humble these duties may be.

Report on Legislation

Mrs. J. A. MacDonald said that the questionnaire on legislation was responded to by 80 branches, 23 have done nothing in the line of study, but the others are anxious to take up the study of public health. Five branches studied the findings of the Hague Conference respecting the nationality of married women, two the provisions for our juvenile delinquents. Only one has asked for information regarding the making of wills, succession duties, etc. Mrs. MacDonald then submitted some interesting facts concerning the subject of wills and the general law concerning the administration of estates.

Agriculture Report

The following report on Agriculture was presented by Mrs. Allison MacMillan, convener: I have the honor to present to you this 1933 convention now in session the report on agriculture in connection with our Institute work on Prince Edward Island. It seems to me the reports sent in by the various Institutes all sound—of note of enthusiasm and show-

ed that one and all have accomplished much during the past year. 129 Institutes are interested in poultry raising and co-operative marketing. I do not think our Women's Institute can do better than encourage co-operative marketing while co-operation in the many ways we have had it may not be perfect, may have its flaws, still if we are to have a larger and better market for our surplus the only and best way for the farmer is co-operation.

Several districts have taken an interest in calf clubs, another worthy movement, and I am sure we have read with pleasure the creditable recognition our calf club members have received in the province and under provincial judging 25 institutes have given assistance to school fairs.

Institutes today as in the past are interested in community improvement, planting of trees, rubbish cleaned up, school gardens attended to, school signs, flag poles erected, etc. 79 Institutes reported growing small fruits and vegetables for home use, while 92 showed an interest in growing flowers. 106 Institutes have had some phase of agriculture at some of their meetings. Many have assisted with Arbor Day celebration.

In conclusion permit me to emphasize the value of individual effort in connection with community improvement, if each one would become possessed of a true vision of the possibilities of the community and kindle a flame of sincerity and unselfishness, not to be discouraged by knocks and disappointments with a willingness to lead or follow, courageously attack the problems of rural life, we would soon bring our communities to that high excellence which shall be a model for the world.

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Fragrant! Refreshing!



Sold throughout the Maritimes

CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for Queen's County news of local interest but advertising of a new nature may be inserted at 4 cents a word strictly payable in advance.

WATER RATES—Monday the 10th, is the last day for paying water rates. 1643-7-8-21

AT HOME—Mrs. H. R. Hillson and Mrs. George E. Robinson will be at home to their friends at The Birches Tuesday afternoon, 1639-11

THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION of the C. W. L. takes place in Charlottetown on Thursday and Friday, July 13 and 14. 1636-11

MOTORED FROM PENNSYLVANIA—Mr. Martin Sinnott, and two children, with Mr. and Mrs. Kortka and son, motored to this city from Vandergrift, Pa. The party will spend a week on the Island visiting friends.

PLAN TO ATTEND St. Peter's Bay Horse Races on Wednesday afternoon next. They should be among the best of the season. Just a nice drive to St. Peter's Bring all your friends. 1644-7-8-21

SERVICE WILL BE HELD in Rose Valley Church under the auspices of the Women's Missionary Society on Sunday, July 9, at 3 p.m. An address will be given by the Rev. M. C. MacDonald who is spending his vacation here.

ENJOYING MOTOR TRIP—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crockett and son Billy motored to the Island from Windsor, Ont. They were accompanied by Miss Eva Smith from Ottawa. The party had ideal weather and made a good trip.

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS—The following from Bridgetown School received their Public School Certificates: Margaret McKenzie, Harry Ross and Lloyd MacLeod. Much credit is due their teacher, Miss George Matheson, who was untiring in her work.

SNEAK THIEF BUSY—Mother Hubbard "wasn't in" with the lady from one of Charlottetown's suburbs who on going to her cellar for a can of preserved fruit, one day recently, found that some miscreant had been there before her and had stolen her entire stock of canned fruit and preserves, leaving her cupboard quite "bare."

Mrs. Alma Finlayson motored to the city from New York to spend a vacation with her sister, Miss Blanche Finlayson, Dorchester Street.

Mrs. S. A. Blondon and her daughter Miss Phoebe, of Fredericton, who have been visiting friends in the city this week, leave on return to their home this evening.

Sport Shoes

Advertisement for Sport Shoes by Brady Footwear Company, featuring images of men's and women's shoes and prices.

Advertisement for 'LAST CALL FOR BABY CHICKS' offering 3,000 one week old chicks and 3,000 one day old chicks at 13 cents each.

Advertisement for 'COACH EXCURSION' to Shediac, N. B. via Moncton, featuring arrival of Italian Air Fleet and special low fares.