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TALK GIVEN BY MRS. J. ROBINSON FUTCHER, PAST FEDERATED BOARD MEMBER, AT DUTTON ON FEBRUARY 19, 1947 AT A WINTER PICNIC-- HONORING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO, and BROADCAST FROM C.F.P.L. LONDON. ONTARIO RADIO STATION.

I was given a large assignment to-day - namely a brief outline of the Women's Institutes for the past 50 years. I assure you, it rather taxed my powers - to attempt to cram into a talk of a few minutes- Institute happenings of the last 50 years. I can only touch on a few subjects and I hope this brief summary I've prepared will be acceptable.

This 50th Anniversary day is a day of rejoicing, and a day for fun, and happy social re-unions-- but, it is also a time for thinking back, for a quiet meditation and bringing to mind the women who have been responsible for the success of our organization.

The name of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless comes first- the Organizer of our first Institute at Stoney Creek in 1897 at Squires Hall. We all know her story-- her intense interest in Domestic Science, because of the death of her first born son. In her ignorance, she fed him impure milk. She felt she should have known the danger, and also that careless

farmers must be stopped peddling impure milk. Just as a pebble thrown into a pool causes ever widening ripples, so her efforts can well be said to be the forerunner of our modern sanitary measures- Pure Food laws, Pasturization etc..

This remarkable woman was instrumental in building of MacDonald Hall at Guelph. Feeling every rural girl should have the latest knowledge in nutrition and home-making, she personally interviewed Sir William McDonald of Montreal and he granted \$200,000 for the building at Guelph that bears his name. A life size portrait of Mrs. Hoodless hangs in the entrance Hall there-- be sure and see it when you visit Guelph on June 18.

So, Ladies see what this one woman's influence in our Province has been:-

- (1) She organized Women's Institutes.
- (2) She took the first step in urging better public Health laws.
- (3) She interested the Public in Domestic Science and was instrumental in the building of MacDonald Hall at Guelph Ont.

What a wonderful contribution she made- and how well she served ! It is to honor the memory of this remarkable woman that Ontario Institutes want to set up the Adelaide Hoodless Scholarship Fund for our rural girls at Guelph.

That is where your \$1.00 per member went last November.

NEXT - Let us call to mind our Superintendent in Toronto, who piloted our Institute ship through many stormy seas: these 50 years.

- (1) Mr. F.W. Hodson 1898-1900 (deceased)
- (2) Dr. G.C. Greelman 1900-1904 (deceased)
- (3) Mr. G.H. Putman 1904-1934 - 30 years of service. He laid the foundations broad and strong He is also deceased.
- (4) Miss Bess McDermant- now married and living in the United States.
- (5) Miss Mary Clarke- has gone over to the Department of Education and is an Inspector of Home Economics in the Province.
- (6) Miss Anna Lewis ex-teacher in the Vocational School in St. Thomas. She is going to England this summer to visit English Institutes and will be one of the Ontario delegates at our international Conference in Amsterdam, Holland this coming September. ¹⁹⁴⁷ There have only been four other Associated Countrywomen of the World (A.C.W.W.) meetings, the first in Vienna in 1930 the 2nd in Stockholm in 1933, the 3rd in Washington

in 1936, and the 4th in London, England in 1939. War broke out and now once again Institute threads will be gathered together at Amsterdam in September. Mrs. Alfred Watt a former Ontario farm woman is the first and only President of A.C.W.W.. She is now well over 80 and has resigned. A new International President will be elected at this Conference.

Each of these Superintendents in their own way, tried to grasp our need, and foresee the trend of the times and through the Co-Operative program, to give us the information we wanted and keep us up to date in all matters pertaining to better rural living.

Let us now look to those who have served us in our own District. You will be surprised, as I was, at the length of the list- five secretaries and twenty one different Presidents.

Secretaries

1. Miss Minnie Gow
2. Mrs. McLevey
3. Miss Eva Morrison- In office for a long term
very efficient
4. Miss Grace McCormick.

They all did their best to keep the Presidents straight and out of trouble.

Presidents

If my information is correct many of the early Pres-

idents served just one year. I feel that must have been one of the early by-laws of our District.

1. Mrs. Docker Wallacetown
2. Mrs. ~~Graham~~ Rodney
3. Mrs. Duncan Brown Shedden
4. Mrs. Ray
5. Mrs. ~~g~~ Mary McPherson Fingal
6. Mrs. Seins West Lorne
7. Mrs. Trestain Clachan
8. Miss Letty Sells (Mrs. McIntyre) Fingal
9. Mrs. Whiting Rodney
10. Mrs. Mac. McKillop West Lorne
11. Mrs. J.C. McMillan Crinan - wnet on to be
Chairman of London Area.
12. Mrs. ^U~~Mike~~ Brown Iona
13. Mrs. John Sells Shedden
14. Mrs. Hugh McKillop now Mrs. Becker of St. Thomas,
would be with us to-day if she were home- is holi-
daying in Florida
15. Mrs. Docker Wallacetown
16. Mrs. McLevey West Lorne
17. Miss Margaret Lyle Middlemarch
18. Miss Minnie Gown Dutton
19. Mrs. Nickleson West Lorne- who because of
ill health couldn't finish out her term.

- 20. Mrs. J.R. Fatcher Middlemarch
- 21 Mrs. McKellar Talbotville
- 22. Mrs. Harvey Miller Rodney.

All of these Institute women gave something of themselves to our District Organization and contributed to its development, in her own individual way, supported in her efforts of course by your loyalty and interest .

We must consider our accomplishments these past 50 years. I have time to mention just a few and have placed them in order of importance, you may not agree at all. Any organization must show by its works the reason for its being.

1. I put first the development of the Institute member herself and the enrichment of her life.
The education we've received through our organization has made us better home-makers and kept us up to-date in nutrition. *Our study of* ~~our~~ steady citizenship has made us mentally alert and aware of the staggering problems facing our world today, and has given us an honest desire to share in the solving of these problems. Socially also, it has enriched our lives, we've all made many pleasant contacts through our Institute meetings.
2. Second in importance ~~comes~~ our community activities. The projects undertaken by our various branches have been tremendous. They are

as varied as the needs of a Community vary, for whatever needs doing in a Community, the Institute takes hold and does it. We've beautified school grounds, supplied hot school lunches and milk, pioneered in Dental and Medical inspection. As far back as 1913 North Middlesex was organized for both these services, in fact, our Minister of Health, Mr. Kelly made this statement not long ago. "There would be no Public Health if it had not been for the Women's Institutes." We've sponsored Music in our rural schools, we've improved cemeteries, cleaned up bad corners and made them into Parks, we've encouraged education through Scholarships, sponsored Oratorical contests, we've built skating rinks and playgrounds, supported Fall fairs, and hospitals, we've set up libraries and established rest rooms in Towns and Villages. By great effort we have built Community Halls, which are the centre of the social life of the Community for we realize we must have a proper place for Social activities. All these things and more, we have done, such as help to needy and stricken families. Don't you agree that our community activities come second in importance? Never forget this- The Branch Institute is the first and most important part of our whole Institute set up, from it has grown every other part . and to serve it all else exists.

3. These are some of the accomplishments of the individual Institute, what we have done collectively is equally great.

1. Ontario Institutes have just collected over \$6,000 for a new Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto.

2. We sent to Britain during war years, 1,000,000 lbs of jam or 500 tons. Those who couldn't make the jam supported those that did by a sugar fund that reached \$6,000.

3. We sent vegetable and garden seeds to Britain each war year at the cost of \$3,000 a year.

4. We are preserving for all time the pioneer life of our Communities by the writing of our Tweedsmuir Village Histories. It is hoped that the end of 1947 will find every History started.

5. Our Institutes collected during the War over \$40,000 in a Central War Charities Fund. From this Fund, grants were given to every worthy cause in our name.

6. In 50 years we have grown from 1 Institute to an International Organization.

7. But we must leave this list incomplete and hurry on to the aims and the future of Women's Institute.

1. Our first aim is 50,000 members by the end of 1947
Do your share, each of you, bring a new member to your meeting and try and interest communities in

Tribute to Mrs. J. R. Futcher on Her Election as President of the Ontario Federation

Presentation of Beautiful Silver Tea Service Follows Tribute That Acclaims New Officials True Worth; Fine Address by Miss Ethel Chapman, of Toronto



THE GUEST OF HONOR, Mrs. J. R. Futcher, of Middlemarch, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, with the speaker of the evening, Miss Ethel Chapman, of Toronto, editor of the home section of the Farmer's Magazine; and the presidents of the East and West Elgin Institutes. From left to right, the pic-

ture shows: Mrs. George Silcox, of Shedden, president of the West Elgin Institutes, who presided at the gathering; Miss Chapman; Mrs. Futcher; and Mrs. Cyril Williams, Edgeware Road, president of the Women's Institutes of East Elgin, who made the presentation address.

our organization where there is not an Institute.

2. Continue the good work in our Communities. Do what needs doing, set an example as an organization of right living and right thinking.
3. Give more active support to our National and International Organization. Our National Organization, F.W.I.C. has asked for 5¢ per member, and our International Organization has asked for 1,000,000 penny memberships, that 2¢ per member and a million of them means \$20,000 for our International Organization in London.

Wouldn't it be a fine way to celebrate our anniversary day in our local branches, as most of us are on February 1. Make each February as it comes along the month for paying our 5¢ to F.W.I.C. and our 2¢ to A.C.W.W.. Both these collections would ^{go} to Mrs. McCulloch, Brampton- ear marked to be sent on- such a little for each one of us to contribute and yet in the aggregate, a goodly sum.

4. And our last aim is that our Institute program of better living must go into all Countries of the World, and be re-established in others. Our comprehensive Institute program can be a more vital factor in maintaining Peace



A view of the many guests from all parts of the county attending the Women's Institute banquet in honor of Mrs. J. R. Futcher.

—Photos by Stollery.

and happy relationships than any of us dream. And- Ladies, this very thing is facing us this coming 50 years. That is why I feel so strongly that a 50 cent fee is necessary to accomplish the great expansion and to prove this statement, Mrs. Russel told us our Central Office had had enquiries from 30 different countries as to how to set up W.I. in their rural districts. SERVICE AT HOME AND ABROAD, should be our slogan these next 50 years. Through organizations like U.N.O. and F.A.O. the way is surely opening.

China and India must first stabilize their Governments and then the reconstruction forces can go to work. We must help raise the standard of living in less- privileged countries.

Women's Institutes have travelled a long way in 50 years from that first little group at Soney Creek. If our aim continues to be Service in the spheres of right living and betterment of our fellow man, we will continue to flourish.

1951



Flood Relief From Ontario to Manitoba Women's Institutes.

Just before sailing for Europe, Mrs. Fitcher, President, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario handed a cheque for \$17,105 to Mrs. J. Rose, Ochre River, Treasurer of the Manitoba Women's Institutes Flood Relief Fund.