

Canadian Institutes Federated

Meanwhile, among Canadian Institutes, the need for a co-ordinating body had arisen. Consequently, in 1919, delegates from each Canadian province met in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was formed, under the Presidency of a distinguished and beloved Canadian Judge Emily Murphy.

Today under the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, more than 70,000 rural women are organized "for Home and Country" in more than 3,000 local Institutes.

At the biennial meeting of the F.W.I.C. to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 9-13, 1947, and at the various district and provincial conferences this year, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institutes will be celebrated.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, like its member Institutes, is strictly non-sectarian and non-partisan in politics. In addition to co-ordinating the work and serving as a clearing house for the activities of the provincial Institutes, the F.W.I.C. has the following objectives:

1. To raise the standard of homemaking.
2. To develop agriculture.
3. To promote educational, moral, social and economic measures.
4. To encourage co-operation and community efforts.
5. To initiate nation-wide campaigns in accordance with the objectives of the Federation.

Officers are elected at the biennial meeting of the Federation for a two-year term and consist of an Honorary President, President, two Vic-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director and a Board of Directors made up of two representatives from each province.

The work of the F.W.I.C. is financed by its member Institutes who contribute at an annual rate of five cents per individual member.

Local Institutes are united in some provinces in district or regional Federations, and in provincial Federations in all provinces. These groups meet annually and their conferences are attended by delegates from local Institutes. The work of the Institutes in most provinces is supported by small grants from provincial governments and is assisted by a Superintendent, who is an officer of the provincial Department of Agriculture, or the provincial University. These officers also serve as counsellors to the F.W.I.C.

An important phase of Institute work, and one receiving more and more attention in Canada, is the development of Junior Institutes or Girls' Clubs. Programs are designed to assist the girls in the fields of personal, home and community living. Girls' Clubs frequently join with Junior Farmers' Clubs in educational, agricultural and recreational programs.

Work of the Institutes

The war record of the Women's Institutes from 1939-1945 was outstanding. Members were represented on many wartime boards and commissions. They provided ambulances, mobile kitchens and canteens, Station wagons and vast quantities of hospital and medical supplies, clothing and knitted goods. Thousands of dollars worth of vegetable seeds were sent as gifts to British Institutes and hundreds of tons of jam were made and sent overseas. Cash contributions to various war charities were substantial.