

Hospital, and ship fruit to South Vancouver Relief Association, per Central Park Women's Institute.

Election of officers resulted as follows: Mrs. T. D. Tucker, president; Mrs. P. Green, first vice-president; Mrs. F. J. Hardwicke, second vice-president; Mrs. E. H. Hardy, secretary-treasurer; Mesdames Hardwicke, Brown, Geo. and Robert McConkey and Osborne being elected directors.

#### HAZELMERE INSTITUTE

A very interesting and instructive talk on rose culture was given by Mr. M. T. Robinson, of Cloverdale, to the members of the Hazelmere Institute, on March 16. Mr. Robinson spoke on the different treatment the various kinds of roses needed in regard to pruning, spraying, etc., also giving advice on various kinds of spray mixture suitable for roses and giving a list of the most suitable roses to be grown here. He also spoke on the growing of sweet peas, of which he makes a specialty. The members plied him with a number of questions during his remarks, regarding many difficulties they had met with.

This institute is working hard at Red Cross work and expects to continue as long as it is needed. They also expect to hold a flower show this year.

#### CENTRAL PARK INSTITUTE

Owing to unfavorable weather conditions some of the business pertaining to the annual meeting of the Central Park Women's Institute was carried over to the regular February meeting.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring president, Mrs. Bell, the following officers for 1916 were elected: Directors, Mesdames Bell, Verry, J. B. Todrick, Reid and Ford; president, Mrs. Verry; first vice-president, Mrs. G. C. L. Reid; second vice-president, Mrs. J. B. Todrick. The secretary, Mrs. Thos. Todrick, and the treasurer, Mrs. Somerville, were re-elected. Miss Summers was re-appointed convenor of the Red Cross committee, with Mrs. Stapleton as treasurer. Delegates to the Local Council of Women were appointed as follows: The president, the secretary, and Mesdames Bell, Stapleton and Sutton.

The new president made a stirring appeal for increased activity along Red Cross lines, and a communication from Mrs. Kemp, president of the Consumers' League, was well received. It was decided to have an Institute Rally Day in March.

Central Park Women's Institute has reason to congratulate itself upon the work accomplished in 1915. In addition to relief work done in conjunction with South Vancouver Local Aid Association, many unemployed were given seed, and vacant lots were provided, resulting in profitable gardens. A prisoner of war has been adopted, and regular contributions forwarded on his behalf. The Red Cross committee under the supervision of Miss Summers, has received and expended the sum of \$230 in material for hospital supplies, socks for soldiers, etc. A highly successful Flower Show was held in August and was well attended. Matters relating to home and society have been discussed at the meetings and a lively interest shown in all movements that make for the betterment of conditions in Canada.

Everything points to a year of greater opportunity, and therefore greater activity for the institute and a better record for 1916.

## Farmers Institute Annual Convention

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#### Pure Bred Sires.

Dr. S. F. Tolmie, of the Dominion Live-stock Branch, urged the farmers of the country not to miss the opportunity the Dominion government offered of distributing through the country, free of charge, pure bred sires. He explained that stallions and bulls are distributed in the spring and boars and rams in the fall. All that is necessary to get these free services is for ten farmers to form an association and apply to Dr. Tolmie in Victoria.

He also showed that the introduction of a pure bred sire in a farm in Ontario had resulted in doubling the output of milk from the herd. He advocated community breeding, so that all farmers in one district should keep one breed of cattle. This gives a district free advertising among buyers, who know just what breed of cattle they can get there.

Mr. R. C. Abbott, market commissioner of Vancouver, discussed market problems, pointing out that the success of the city markets in this province has not been very great. He attributed this chiefly to the lack of business management and the failure of the farmers to inspire confidence as to the consistent quality of their goods. In one city, he said, that where a market was opened, there was an attendance of nearly 8,000 persons for the first few weeks, but the attendance began to fall off and soon dropped to 25 persons. Investigation of the causes showed that some of the farmers had been foisting poor quality goods on the public, some were giving short weight, some selling third grade meat at the price of first grade, and others selling cold storage eggs as fresh eggs. Such dealing, he declared, would ruin any business in a short time, and the farmers could not expect the public to be slow in finding out the deceptions that were practiced. "You can beat the public once," he said, "but you can't do it always." Mr. Abbott asked the British Columbia farmers to pay more attention to the appearance of their products and pack them in the best style, as is the habit of the American farmers.

#### Oppose Day Labor.

Many of the delegates asked that the government substitute day labor for contract in the building of roads.

"The roadwork throughout the rural districts of the province under the present system is given to the nominees of certain parties or to members of certain cliques," said one delegate. "Many of the men who are now working on the roads have never done a fair day's work. The bosses don't know what a fair day's work is. They are wasting money and a lot of time. Under the contract system the work could be done 10 per cent cheaper.

"Another factor is the question of economy. The government under the day labor system introduces a rate of pay into the district that the farmer can't afford to pay. The result is that the farmers can't keep the men working on the farms. They all go to the roads, where they get higher pay and easier hours."

The habits of the Doukhobors in "coming in and doing work on the roads at a price that no man could compete with" also excited the wrath of the convention.

It was finally decided to ask the government to allow the farmers in each district to nominate the road boss in that district.



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