

Mrs. McIntosh and Mrs. Stone, auditors; Mrs. H. Morrison and Mrs. Allen, delegates for the conference.

The 1916 officers of the Langford Women's Institute are: President, Mrs. Dewar; vice-president, Mrs. Simpson; directors, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Saltmarsh, Mrs. Espley; treasurer, Miss Pimlott; secretary, Mrs. J. H. Waterhouse.

The election of officers of the Surrey Women's Institute at the annual meeting, January 4, resulted as follows: President, Mrs. Whiteley; vice-president, Mrs. Currie; directors, Mrs. R. D. MacKenzie, Mrs. J. Touey; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Croft.

BURQUITLAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

The Burquitlam Women's Institute had a most successful year in 1915. The receipts from various sources during the year totalled \$79.20, which with \$18.50 balance from 1914, made a total of \$97.70 available for the work of the institute. Of this \$94.35 was expended, leaving a balance on hand of \$3 35. During the year the institute, which has 44 members, has collected for Red Cross purposes \$165.35, and expended \$118.25, leaving \$47.10 on hand for future work.

The advisory board of the Women's Institute will meet at the Parliamentary buildings on February 2 to make recommendations to the provincial government. Mr. Scott is superintendent of this body as well as of the Farmers' Institutes, and as a result of the meetings gets very valuable assistance in his suggestions to the minister of agriculture which form the basis of the legislative programme for that department.

Mr. Scott expressed the opinion that there was every promise that the present year would prove a red letter one in the history of agricultural production in this province. Those engaged in the industry had successfully ridden out a storm of stress and trial, had laid a firm foundation for future success. As there was a constantly broadening of markets for British Columbia products there was an assurance that the industry was about to enter upon a new era of progress and development.

ON WHOLESALE ROW

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to remember is that it takes all kinds of people to make a world, and certainly the Row will draw its share of them all.

My advice to you if you are a shipper, is to meet personally some of the men with whom you might want to do business. If you knew men and find one to your liking—stick with him. The man in the country who ships perishable stuffs to a dealer in the city must always, under any system, lean largely on the honesty of the consignee. Do business with a man you have faith in. There are honest men there. I know, for I have met them.

As the reporter for a newspaper I am on the Row every day. My commanding officer in the room where copy is made has laughingly suggested at times that I must be in with the wholesalers. I seemed to take their view of things, he thought. Well, I'm not. I know how little the producer receives sometimes for his labors. And I have wondered if there may not be some solution of the problem. But I also know the problem has two sides. One cannot broadly say that Wholesale Row is where the profits go.

I have seen the juice trickling like water from a car of soft fruit, just spotted on the tracks behind the wholesale house to which it was consigned. You would have needed a sponge to eat the fruit it contained. So you see such things do happen. I have seen fruit packed in soap boxes, in fact in every kind of a box and package imaginable with no grading or sorting whatever done, shipped to a wholesaler who was expected to get a good return for it. While on the same train there might come to that wholesaler another consignment of the same kind of fruit, properly packed and graded and sufficient to last the dealer for the length of time such fruit would keep. Whose fruit would be sold? The consumer, you know, wants fruit 99 per cent perfect—and therein lies one of the reasonable answers to the problem of tracing the big money paid by the consumer for fruit. The big money the producer pays is largely eaten up in the long process of keeping that fruit 99 per cent perfect.

As for Wholesale Row, self-styled solvers of the problem of the high cost of living have many times arisen to say they had a system to take its place. A long and thorough investigation last year by the government of the United States resulted in the final announcement that Wholesale Row was essential to business. There are improvements possible. But they will not come with a sudden flurry. There will be no elimination of the wholesaler for some time to come at least. That you have just complaints at times with the blot on the system that a simple indictment of an individual.

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