

PATRIOTIC WORK.

MRS. McPhedran now came to the platform and said she had been asked by the convenor of "Red Cross" work to convey her thanks to the members of the Institute for the great work they had done for that society.

No Government could supply sufficient socks and other necessities, so the mothers had been asked to help. From Dec. 1914 there had been 74,565 pairs, a goodly supply of comfort. She asked them not to weary in well-doing, but to continue in the good work until the war was finished.

Send what you can in cash. A buyer in Eaton's had told her that by the spring, wool might be five dollars a pound. She also asked aid in providing for prisoners of war both our own and those of the Allies, who are suffering greatly. We who have never seen anyone suffer from hunger should give gladly. From this well-fed country much should go at this Christmas season. We should deny ourselves to give more. Mrs. McPhedran read a letter from a twenty-one-year-old boy of a friend who had been with the flying corps and was now a prisoner. He said they were better treated than most, "but mother dear, send lots of porridge, rice and macaroni, and please send sweet stuff, and get all your friends interested."

Mr. Putnam then read the names of the committee on nomination, which were as follows: Dr. McKenzie Smith; Miss Gertrude Grey; Mrs. Todd, Orillia; Miss Chapman; Miss Scott and Miss Sutherland.

The report for West Durham was then read showing the same excellent work done for patriotic objects.

A discussion on preparation of programs followed and suggestions asked as to whether a month to month or yearly programme was best. Mr. Putnam said, events were moving so rapidly that our programmes must be kept up to date and although it was wise to prepare it for a year ahead, room must be left for contingencies.

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The Haldimand report was now read and the delegate spoke on the responsibility of officers, saying that the head of any organization must use tact and see that all persons get into the place for which they were best fitted and could be most useful and it was her duty to avert unpleasant situations.

In the planning of programmes home talent was used as much as possible and other branches were invited in to supply talent.

DISPLAY OF WAR BREADS.

WE would like to mention here the display of war breads made by Miss Davidson, Director of the Domestic Science Department of the Technical School.

The bread had been made by the girls of the classes and was certainly worth inspecting; there were rye muffins, barley bread, oatmeal wafers and bread, and many others.

**Afternoon Session Thursday, Nov. 22.** (Mrs. W. R. Browne, Cherry Valley, presiding.)

Before the chairman took the chair Mrs. Graham gave directions for making *Trench Candles* as follows:

Spread eight sheets of newspaper and begin rolling at long edge; roll as tightly as possible until half rolled, then fold back three sheets towards the rolled part and continue to roll almost to first fold, now fold back another three sheets and roll up again to margin of paper. On this, consisting of two sheets, spread glue or paste and finish rolling.

Cut along line of columns with sharp knife, pruning shears, or hay cutter; boil for four hours in paraffin wax, or old candle ends. When starting to roll, turn in your edge and roll as tightly as possible.

Mrs. W. R. Browne called on the delegate from Prince Edward to read her report which was an excellent one in regard to all patriotic and other work.

She mentioned that the prizes given at the school fair had been tickets for the Women's Institute to girls and for boys tickets to the Board of Agriculture. One way of raising money was to leave Red Cross bags in every house and have the girls collect them.

Mrs. Wallace of South Oxford, then gave a paper on *Business Methods*, mentioning that if business methods were carefully followed out, in all

details, affairs would run smoothly. A good district secretary with tact was an absolute necessity. All accounts must be carefully kept and vouchers given for all expenditures.

A paper on the *Duties of Officers* was given by Miss Brodston.

"Let each Branch handle its own affairs," she said. "Don't attempt to settle disputes in branches."

Questions were then asked as to the distribution of funds in connection with the district how they should be divided, and a spirited discussion followed, whose substance was that all difficulties must be settled by the exercise of common-sense and arrangement to suit the individual needs of branches and districts.

WHAT THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES CAN DO TO HELP IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL; ADDRESS BY MR. BURGESS, INSPECTOR FOR GREY COUNTY.

WHEN asked by Mr. Putnam to give this address Mr. Burgess had wondered what new thought he could give, but some old thoughts would stand repetition. In the life of a people, school, church and home were the three greatest forces, and rural schools were a particularly big problem. The decline in rural population makes it necessary that some means be found to keep the young people on the farm.

He was glad to know that the farmer was at last getting some of his rights—better pay, better homes and better schools.

Heretofore the trend of teaching has been too much away from rural life.

Rural schools should prepare definitely for rural life. It is necessary to train public sentiment and the Women's Institute can lead in that direction.

Get women on rural school boards, then get a square deal in rural schools. Much slovenliness is shown about our schools, old stoves, dirty walls, uncomfortable seats, broken fences and untidy grounds. These have been much improved since women have taken charge of teaching, but there is still much to be done.

The results of medical inspection showed that most children who suffer from handicaps are two, three, and five years behind others, therefore much benefit comes when these are corrected. One serious evil in rural schools is irregular attendance. There is danger for the future of the boy who is kept out of school to do work at home. Large numbers of boys never get beyond the third book. While a mother will work on hands and knees to keep her girl at school, the boy stays home, and the result is that the great majority in the fourth book are girls, therefore our girls, are better educated than our boys and will not seek a partner in life from among them.

School games should be encouraged, as play is the natural instinct of all children. The Institute could lend much help in helping along this line. Annual school picnics have good results. Sound education is of special importance at this time. Because of the war a new Canada will arise and the creators of it are in our schools to-day.

Women must give school a place in the work of the Institute.

Mr. Putnam then read a letter from a lady who made a strong appeal for the shortening of the school hours for the younger children in rural schools. She had found on enquiry that city schools had shorter hours for the younger children.

The chairman said that women who were mothers should be on the school board. "Farmers' sons can be trustees at twenty-one years of age,—why not women?"

Another spirited discussion here took place, in which Dr. MacMurchy, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Gardiner, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Burgess and others took part, the universal opinion being that women should serve on school boards. Dr. MacMurchy suggested that the next election for trustees be made the occasion of a picnic or social—probably to get the men in good humor—and Mrs. Gardiner suggested that when peace comes each should celebrate it by planting a tree in the school grounds.

Mr. Burgess gave some instances of how hard it was to secure things necessary for the schools from trustees, and someone asked if the inspectors had power to authorize expenditure of money. Mr. Burgess said no, but they could withhold the Government grant.



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