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Opening of the Macdonald Institute

On Wednesday, December 7th, at 1:30 o'clock, the Macdonald Institute, the Macdonald Hall, and the Consolidated School, at Guelph, Ont., were formally opened and placed under provincial government control. President Creelman, of the O.A.C., occupied the chair, and with him on the platform were associated Dr. Jas. Mills, Hon. John Dryden, Dr. J. W. Robertson, and Mrs. Hoodless. There were also many other distinguished personages in the audience.

"Ten years ago," said Dr. Mills, who was the first speaker, "Mrs. Hoodless recommended manual training and domestic science as a part of the regular public school course. In the face of great opposition she strove to arouse public sentiment along this line and at length succeeded in establishing the Hamilton School of Domestic Science, which was the first of the kind in this province. On my own failure to secure the assistance of Sir Wm. Macdonald in the building of an institution for girls similar to the O.A.C., I enlisted the co-operation of Mrs. Hoodless, who was deeply interested in the project, and Dr. Robertson, who has in his keeping the keys to Sir Wm's money chest. The result of our combined effort you see today. The Consolidated School is designed not only for this locality, but also as an example to the trustees of the province.

"The home is the foundation of the State," continued Dr. Mills. "By means of the Macdonald Institute we expect both directly and indirectly to elevate the home. This is a day of triumph for those who have struggled to obtain means of thorough common sense along educational lines."

"Sir Wm. Macdonald and I are partners in convictions, hopes and ideas of responsibilities," said Dr. Robertson, "and we are working together for the welfare of the people, especially in rural communities. Sir Wm. is a mas-

ter of large giving, for he turns everything to good account, and the Macdonald Institute is but one part of the machinery of the great plan, the first purpose of which is to provide special training for teachers already in the service of the people, and the second, the introduction of household science into the public school. Education is hindered by calling it schools and schooling, rather than a training for the largest and finest living, and the glory of living in the present hour. Education should aim at strength in manhood, character, good habits, high standards and noble ideas in regard to life. Books cannot take the place of these. The school should train for life in one's own locality and incidentally for the pupil who wishes to leave for a larger sphere. Loss of time in youth is suicidal, because the plastic form of brain and endeavor readily become fixed, and no later effort can overcome this."

Mrs. Hoodless claimed that the only sure method of getting rid of a weed was to strike at the root. In other words, the principles of right living must be inculcated in the home. The source of the present day evil may be purified by educating the home-maker and by commencing with child-life in the kindergarten. We provide education for the professions, but what has been done for the home-maker?

In accepting the Institution on behalf of the Ontario Government, the Hon. John Dryden felt that its management incurred a great responsibility which, however, that body would assume to the best of its ability. He stated that Mr. Wing, of the United States, had remarked to him that in his opinion there were no finer or better equipped buildings in the United States than the Macdonald Institute. Mr. Ross, of Scotland, had also rendered a tribute by saying that on his return he would advise the Scottish ladies to come to Canada for the purpose of completing their education.

JEAN STAFFORD

The Women's Institute in Convention

Such has been the growth and interest in the Women's Institute that the auditorium in the Macdonald Institute at the O.A.C. on Dec. 7th and 8th proved really too small to accommodate the ladies attending the convention held during the Winter Fair week in Guelph. Mrs. S. R. Bows, Milton, presided at the opening session and welcomed the ladies in a neat address, the keynote of which was that there are two classes of people, those who lift and those who lean, and the women before her, she felt sure, were those who were busy lifting, and so in every way raising the standard of mankind.

President Creelman and Dr. Jas. W. Robertson eulogized the good work the women were doing, and said no movement was making such rapid and substantial progress as the Women's Institute, and certainly no other organization had such a power to improve home conditions and make life more worth the living. The remainder of the session was devoted to a description of the work carried on in the Macdonald Institute. Miss Watson, the principal, explained the different courses, the normal course of two years for those intending to teach; the home-makers' or house-keeping course of one year, for those wishing a more thorough knowledge in all the branches of house-keeping. Miss Helen Holland explained in detail the advantages and large amount of useful knowledge to be had from the three months' course. Miss Roberts outlined the benefits of a thorough training in the use of the sewing needle. To be well balanced, there must be co-operation between the eye, the brain, and the hand. Sewing was a form of manual training, and brought the brain to the ends of the fingers. Simplicity and adaptability of dress to the wearer were dwelt upon.

THE HEAD, THE HAND, THE HEART

Mrs. J. H. McNeilly, Stoney Creek, made a good presiding officer at the afternoon session. Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, gave a well thought out address. Education in the early ages was confined largely to one class and cloistered in abbeys; the preacher and the teacher were the same person. Gradually education permeated all classes and conditions, but only during the past twenty-five years had agriculture been placed under scientific lines, but it had begun at the outside, the soil, the barns, the cattle, where what received attention—the farm home and its inmates neglected. The change had come and now they were working from the inside and this has largely been the result of the Women's Institute. The boys and girls had been educated too much along the lines of the three R's. As to these the three R's, the training of the heart, the hand, the heart, and they will start out in life well manned for the battle.

THE KITCHEN

The speaker brought from afar was Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws, of Appleton, Minnesota, a woman comely to look at and pleasant to listen to. In her two addresses she said so much that was good, it is difficult to give a short account of them. She began by stating: "The kitchen is the most important work room in the world, and yet how little planning and consideration it receives, far less than a shoe maker's or carpenter's shop. It is the kitchen, and when arranging my working utensils I stand in the centre of the floor and say: Where will I be using such and such a thing the most, and then settle the place where it will be the most convenient. I have plenty of shelves and moldings filled with hooks. My sink is lined with tin and from the drain in it I have a piece of hose conveying