

The Great World-Drama.

Is this the fifth act of the great World-Play,

Or but the Prologue to its Acts and Scenes?

Who knows what the stupendous Drama means

For whose performance blood and tears must pay?

Is the War lust in man so deep implanted

That nothing can pluck out its evil root?

Must the war-drum for ever still lute?

Will the Marseillaise of peace be never chanted?

Say not that War has elements of good,

And cures the ills bred by the reign of peace.

'Tis false; there is no saving power in blood,

And every evil doth with war increase:

As well declare the burning lava-flood

That all destroys makes all contention cease!

Bertram Dobell, in T. P.'s Weekly.

Women's Institute Convention, Ottawa.

THE FIRST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CONVENTION OF EASTERN ONTARIO.

(Special Correspondent.)

There was an appreciative, delighted expression on the faces of the 150 delegates who attended the W. I. Convention, held at Ottawa last week. It was a look that plainly said, "Things have been brought our way and we are glad of it, and determined to make this, our first convention, such a success that we'll have one each year." And so they did, for it was conceded by many of the old members that a better convention of its kind had never been held, even in Toronto. It was a wise and happy thought on the part of our good Superintendent, Mr. Putnam, to split up the big annual convention and hold three—one in Ottawa, one in Toronto, and one in London.

With so much that is really interesting and profitable still fresh in our minds, it seems a pity that much will of necessity have to remain untold, of what we heard, owing to each of the three mental banquets having to have a share in the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate."

At the four sessions the following ladies respectively presided: Mrs. Geo. Clark, Manotick; Mrs. Wm. Johnston, Athens; Mrs. J. J. Wilson, Pakenham, and Mrs. D. C. McDougal, Maxville.

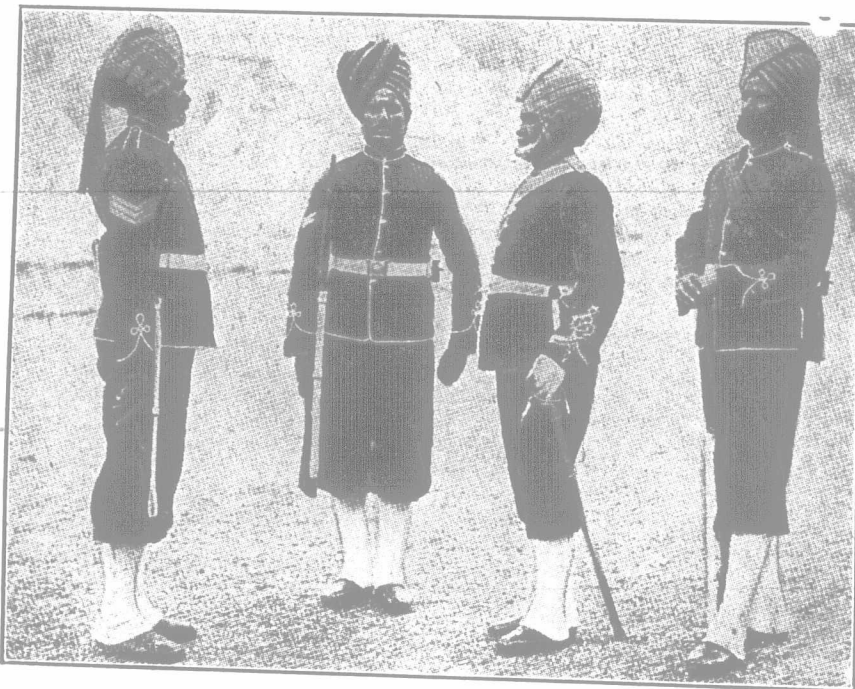
The hearty singing of our National songs was a feature of the gatherings. The most interesting part, and from which the most practical good could be derived, was the giving of reports of the Institutes represented.

It was not short of astonishing the variety and amount of work the individual Institute had accomplished during the past year. Halls built, pianos, without number, purchased for public institutions, parks planned, streets lighted, large donations of money, clothing, fruit, jams, vegetables, etc., sent to hospitals, children's shelters, and like worthy establishments, prizes awarded at fairs—for essays, map drawing, seed collections by school children, dressing rooms built for boys and girls at bathing beaches, girls' sewing clubs organized, open air skating rink made, installed drinking fountains in schools, inaugurated a civic clean-up day—these are but a few of the activities that the ladies mentioned in their report—but the

one note struck by every representative present had in it the clarion call—not "To Arms" but "To Work"—and they had gotten to work in real earnest and are keeping at it—collecting and raising by many new and unique methods large sums of money for the Patriotic Fund. Knitting and sewing as hard as accustomed busy fingers can fly; having weekly sewing circles, and even giving up the pre-arranged interesting monthly programs that the time might be de-

most excellent paper on The Place of the Institute in the Community.

It had demonstrated its worth to the community by its phenomenal growth in its 17 years of existence, by now numbering 850 branches, with a membership of 30,000. The woman in the home has been developed by the Institute; her view-of-life broadened; her social sphere enlarged, and her responsibility, not only as a wife and mother but as a citizen, made more apparent. The In-



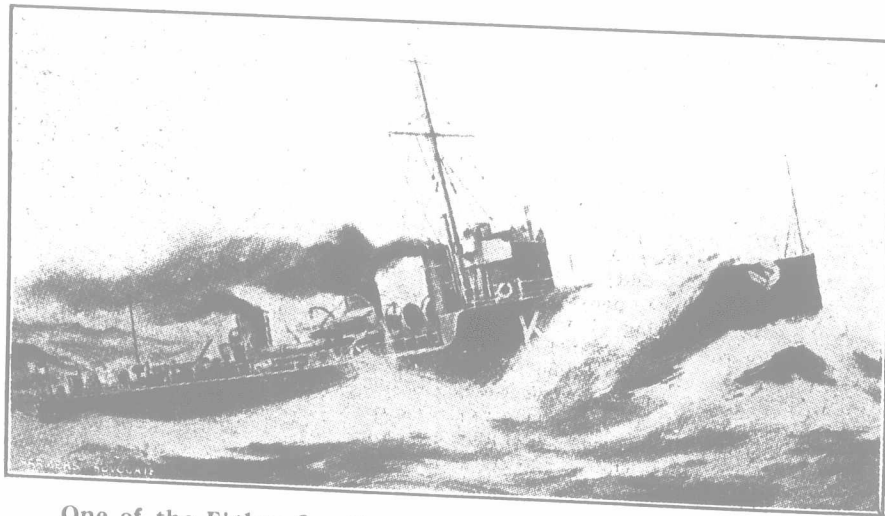
Officers and Men of Sikh Regiment.
British subjects fighting with the Allies.

voted to work for the needy and oppressed. The work in the aggregate that the Women's Institute of Ontario has been able to accomplish in the past two months has opened the public eye as nothing else could. Mr. Noel Marshall, Chairman Executive Committee Canadian Red Cross Society, said he had to confess that he knew nothing whatever of the Women's Institute before the war broke out, but they have

stituted has been a potent factor in developing an interest in the rural school and bringing about needed reforms.

Sir J. M. Gibson, K. C. M. G., and Dr. J. W. Robertson, spoke at the evening session on the War Problem, and our share in helping to relieve the awful distress.

Dr. Malony, Health Inspector, outlined the important work of his office, and asked the ladies present to be diffident in



One of the Eighty-five Destroyers in the British Home Fleet.
From "The Great War" magazine.

In a most tangible manner made every Canadian citizen realize their great helpful strength and sincere patriotism. The Institutes of Ontario alone have sent in \$5,000 for the hospital ship, and \$19,000 to the Red Cross Society Fund, besides hundreds of bales of clothing and other useful articles. As some one said, it would almost seem as though the Institute had been created to help in this, the Nation's great hour of need.

Miss E. McGee, Chesterville, gave a

calling for assistance when sanitary conditions needed looking after. He said it was a grand and noble thing to heal the sick, but a much better thing to prevent people from getting sick.

Miss Jean Cameron Smith, of Powassan, threw much light on the urgent need for medical inspection, and the statistics she presented would convince any rational being of the necessity for having the health of each child attending school inspected by a qualified nurse

or a doctor. In Simcoe County, where conditions are perhaps better than the average, out of 1,277 inspected children only 171 were entirely free from defect, 608 needed medical treatment, 957 dental attention. If we are working for better heredity we must care for the child. Physical health is really more necessary than mental development, for without the former it is difficult to attain the latter.

Dr. Helen MacMurchy, Toronto, carries an inspiration with her which enthralls others to greater effort, and her talk on "The Girl in the Home," was full of thought.

The girl is our biggest investment. We may do our work with hand and brain, but it is only half done if we do not provide for the carrying on of the work. The Doctor is getting to be more an advocate of early marriage, and lamented that the having children was really in this present day an expensive luxury, but everything should be done to make it as easy as possible, for the country will be more in need than ever of good, Canadian-born citizens. The girl should be scientifically trained in all that is modern and good, in house keeping, and urged the giving of diplomas to qualified household help, so that their social status might be raised. She spoke of the pamphlet just published by the Department on "Best Foods for War Tissue."

Mrs. H. W. Parsons, sincere and pleasing in her address, gave an inspiring talk on "The Social Life and Education of the Girl." The girl should be safeguarded in her early years, yet every girl should have the opportunity of self support. The mother has much to do in placing her daughter in the proper social environment, but too often the girl is left to drift where she chooses, and select her own companions, and the after results are frequently most disappointing to the parents—the pioneer in the movement.

Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen Huntingdon, Que., gave the closing address, taking as her theme "My Country, My District, My Home." Canada, she said, comprised the one-fifteenth part of the area of the earth, and nearly one-third (80%) of the area of the British Empire. For variety and extent of resources; scenic beauty, and climate it was excelled by no country.

"I am content with Canada, and ask no fairer land than has been given me. No greater joy, no more inspiring task than to uphold and share its destiny."

Our district should be our pride. We should strive to have the best and cleanest highways, the prettiest lawns and gardens, public buildings modern and sanitary, and get out and work for these things.

Then the home—the dearest, sweetest spot of all the rest, the spot of earth supremely blest. Everything within one's means should be provided to make the home comfortable and convenient. It is little short of a disgrace for a person to have a good bank account and yet no inside toilet in the house.

The importance, though, is not in things material, but in the happy, loving atmosphere that should fill each home. The great evil of the world is not intemperance, is not immorality, but is selfishness, self-saving. We want to give of our love, our time, or means to those of our immediate household, and to the vast multitude of others who need our sympathy and help.

The Local Council of Women, of Ottawa, entertained the delegates to the Convention to afternoon tea at the Y. W. C. A. parlors. The ladies left for their respective homes more impressed than ever with the greatness of the work suggested by the Institute motto: For Home and Country.