

# Farm Women's Clubs

## CO-OPERATION BEST

The Alberta Woman's Institute has just completed three most successful district conferences. They were, in a way, an experiment and one which proved conclusively the women were ready to meet and discuss ways and means of improving their branches and we have every reason to believe each one attending was more than repaid for her effort.

Through Miss Mary MacIsaac's zeal the institutes have increased wonderfully since March last. Then we had a membership of 3,500, and now we boast of 8,000, truly a wonderful gain. The women come from the southern boundary line to the farthest north and all realize that in working for "Home and Country" there is no line of work we can not take up.

The institutes are of three kinds: the purely country, the purely town and those taking in the town and country women. The latter is in a way the ideal institute for the sooner the town and country women each realize the sterling worth of the other the better it will be and in working harmoniously together they will accomplish sooner the better things for "Home and Country." We feel assured the conferences were a great success, and will prove of great benefit to the women of our Province.

### Stand By Your Officers

How many of the Grain Growers' Guide readers read the splendid article written by Miss Mary McCallum in the September 26 number, called the "Responsibility of Office"? It was so splendid, and so very appropriate for this time of year that I recommend it to every branch institute, and hope they will read it at their December meeting, just before the election of officers, and then keep it in their archives for future reference. May I also add a word? When you have chosen the officers and they accept the responsibility of office, stand by them. Do be charitable. Remember we all make mistakes and say often what we would give a great deal to recall. Any club will die if unfriendly criticism is indulged in, so let us, above all things, be considerate and remember "We may not pass again this way," and a smile, and "That was good" helps wonderfully.

ISABEL NOBLE, Pres.

Alberta Women's Institute, Daysland, Alta.

## SPLENDID REST ROOM

I believe our rest room was the only municipal rest room up to the time it was opened. We are fortunate enough to have a municipal hall in Portage and the ladies of Burnside Home Economic Society thought it would be fine to have a rest room in Portage and after talking it over at their meeting decided to try and get one started, but the war broke out and they dropped it. I called up the man in charge of our present rest room and told him what we wanted. He went personally to the council and the council said certainly we could have the room, and appointed a committee of ladies of the different wards in the municipality, one from each ward, and we superintended the decorating and furnishing of the rest room. These ladies meet once a month, the day the council meets, and superintend the rest room. The council provides a matron who keeps it clean and serves lunch to whoever wants it. The receipts from the lunch bear the expense of the rest room, the council paying for the matron, telephone, lights, and water, in addition to this the same committee is asked by the council to look after clothing for the poor of our municipality. The committee is chosen by the council. Our rest room is a great boon to the ladies of our municipality.

About the work of our Home Economic Society, we have appointed a

parents' day in the school, that is by our influence in writing to the different schools, to have the parents visit the schools and find out just what is most needed in the schools for the children's comfort. Our Home Economic Societies cater to the boys' and girls' fair, serve the meals and donate so much of the proceeds to the children's prizes, the rest goes to patriotic purposes. We did away with teas and domestic tables and asked for voluntary contributions to raise money for Red Cross purposes, and we have tried to form a branch of the Red Cross in Portage. There is a mass meeting for next Thursday, called to form a branch of the Red Cross Society, but we do Red Cross work in our own society. We have bought and paid for a new piano. We have just been formed two and a half years.

MRS. J. D. MCKENZIE, Pres.,

H.E.S.

Portage la Prairie, Man.

## IMPROVING THE CEMETERY

At one of our Home Economic meetings, upon talking over the neglected and desolate appearance which our cemetery presented to the passersby (it lying on the direct route between two neighboring villages), we made up our minds to go to work and have some improvements made. A party of ladies autotied out one meeting to survey the scene.

we were disappointed, so towards the end of 1916 we made a resolution to get busy early in the spring of this year. We were fortunate in obtaining, in time, the services of a man who would give full value in work for our money. The work consisted of cutting, piling and burning the scrub, old grass and weeds; filling in any graves which were sunken, and collecting all tins and pieces of boards. When finished, everything presented a neat appearance to the travelling public, and many commented favorably upon the changed aspect of the homes of those dear to us who had gone before.

It is our intention to go over the enclosed ground (three acres) again next summer, also to have the main drive gravelled, if possible. The work that we have done does not deter anyone from personally attending their own plots. We look after the general appearance and those lots belonging to owners who have moved away. I might also say that we have been asked to undertake the oversight of the cemetery to the west of our town next year. We might ask why should our country graveyards present such a forlorn and forgotten look, when we think how strangers in a foreign land are tending and caring for the last homes of our brave boys who cannot return to us?

MRS. T. J. LAMONT,

Treherne, Man. Pres. H.E.S.



STREAMSTOWN U.F.W.A. MEMBERS

The President, Mrs. S. Thompson, is sitting in the arm-chair, and to her left is the Secretary, Mrs. Fred G. Miller. This is a very antiques shop, situated ten miles from the nearest town, Kildonan, Alta.

Coming back they were utterly dismayed to think that such a state of things had been allowed to continue as long. They described having found weeds and scrub, and rank grass covering all the vacant land, paths, and even the graves; in fact, sometimes they were treading upon graves, nearly obliterated from sight of people whose friends had left our vicinity. It seemed as if those left behind were indeed forgotten.

After our inspection committee had given their report, we nominated a few ladies to obtain the names of those having lots and mentioned each family represented. We said that if these gave one dollar a year we could have some good work done. The clerk of the municipality was first called upon and asked to assist by giving us any list of names he might have. Afterward we obtained many forgotten names from old-timers. Personal canvass was made wherever we could and letters were written to those who had moved away. In this way we started quite a little fund. Then our troubles began. We advertised in our local paper for a man to cut the grass and scrub, but no one wanted the job! Everyone seemed to think, if they didn't say it, that it was some woman's fad. Then we tried to get a returned soldier who might have a knowledge of gardening, but again

## RED CROSS WORKERS

The regular monthly meeting of the Medstead Homemakers' Club was held at the home of Mrs. Scott on November 15. The meeting opened with the singing of The Maple Leaf, but owing to the prevalence of colds amongst the members, the singing was not all that could be desired. Members agreed that the annual meeting should be postponed until March, after a communication regarding this matter had been read. A paper from the Grain Growers' Guide was read and it was decided to send reports of meetings to that paper.

The Homemakers agreed to take the monthly teas held in aid of the Red Cross Society into their own hands, as other ladies seem rather indifferent on the matter, two ladies to volunteer at each club meeting to furnish refreshments for the following tea. Mrs. Starling and Mrs. Turnbull were the volunteers for the December tea.

All members were in favor of a dance being given as a send-off for the boys about to join the new army, and November 28 was the date fixed upon. The meeting terminated with the singing of the national anthem, after which refreshments were served by the hostess.

C. L. WHITT,

Medstead Homemakers' Club Reporter.

## LABOR-SAVING DEVICES

Mrs. McNeal of Expanse, Sask., is the convener of the committee on labor-saving devices for the Saskatchewan Women Grain Growers, and in this interesting letter tells of those devices which she has tried in her own home. It is worthy of special attention from those who endeavor to lighten work for the farm women.

M. P. McC.

The department which you contemplate conducting in The Guide is, I think, a very commendable idea and one which every woman would appreciate. My special hobby in the Women Grain Grower work is domestic economy and I am especially interested in labor-saving devices for the farm woman. Among the ones tried in my own home and which I find successful are a one and a half horse power gasoline engine, a gasoline flat iron and a bread mixer. These are three important articles on a farm where electricity is not available. I put two belts on my engine and wash and churn at the same time. While a batch of clothes is being washed the butter can be removed from the churn and taken care of. Of course by using a shaft for the belts one could do several things at once. However, this really necessitates having a permanent room for your engine and machinery, which, by the way, is what we should have, and yet many of us cannot have such a room at first.

One needs to be particular in getting a good reliable make, as nothing is more annoying than an engine which refuses to work on wash day. Every farm woman should have a power washer and after using it for a time she will wonder how she ever managed without one. Three of my neighbors are using the gasoline engine for power and one neighbor is using the windmill for power, which is also successful, providing of course that you have a power wind-mill and the wind is blowing enough to run it the day you wish to do the washing.

I consider the gasoline iron is both practical and useful in any home unless you are fortunate in having an electric iron. About a pint of gasoline will iron three hours and saves many a step to and from the stove, especially on a hot day, for the tired housewife.

To me, another essential article which should be in every home, is a bread mixer. I find the bread mixer a great help. One cannot always go by directions as I think it should be turned longer than three minutes; so much depends on the kneading, not more so by hand than with the mixer.

There are numerous small articles I might mention which we know to be good and which some time I may be able to tell you about.

IDA McNEAL.

## THE DISTRICT MEETINGS

Very encouraging reports are coming in from the district directors of the value of district meetings.

J. M. N.

## DISTRICT NO. 2 REPORT

Owing to the shortage of help both indoors and out it was almost impossible for me to get away to do organization work. I wrote to W.G.G.A. secretary at Airrie, but she said they had passed out of existence. So far I have not received any calls; but if there are any in my district who would like to organize I will try and be of any assistance in my power and if there are those who know of ladies who might be interested I wish they would kindly hand me their names.

There certainly is great need of organization among women. Though it is rather disheartening to those of us who have organized and worked for the provincial franchise to now be deprived of the federal franchise. Our Ottawa politicians evidently have very little respect for and place very little value on the women of the west, for to disfranchise a person is to place him in the class with criminals, most especi-

ally the you not be old. They have to face the moral and man who are far more aid than the greed for the political they do not country the disfranchise all, is it not country?

Pangman, S.

## GIMLI HOI

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Gimli, Man.

## BIRTLE'S SI

Our Birtle was organized decided to op course funds u to over 100 f donations. Tw raised the tow \$200. We fee Main street—l with a good h We partitione hall for a lavs the basement f one room with chairs, two co We also stene tains. The floo This we stain On February room (that is v How to fina problem. We s bers to serve a day—plain bre