

pictures, everything was taken into the garden to make a bonfire; they took all the jewelry, silver, etc., and then set the house on fire. No fighting or firing took place there, and there was no reason for such brutality. Heaven grant we may not make a nearer acquaintance with this terrible war. One bright spot in all this is the wonderful way in which all classes unite in helping the brave Belgians. I have heard that 250,000 more refugees are coming. In spite of the many thousands already in England, there are hundreds of homes waiting for more. In this small town there are dozens of homes prepared for refugees. We have joined with other ladies in preparing a house for a party of thirteen Belgians of the better classes who have lost everything, or nearly all.

We secured a pretty villa, furnished, with garden. Then we obtained weekly subscriptions from our friends, even my sister's cook gives a shilling a week. Our milkman gives a liter of milk a day; the baker a loaf of bread a day; the grocer a sack of potatoes a week and ten per cent. off all goods. Ladies who have kitchen gardens supply vegetables and fruit. We give them the house, coal and gas free, and \$5 a week to buy food.

The day before they arrived we asked people to come and see the house, and each to bring a pound of something to help start the household. It was a great success, so much was brought, I'm sure there were enough candles, groceries, jams, etc., to last six months. One lady brought hot-water bottles for every bed. Even the cabs bringing them from the station refused payment, and there are thousands of such homes. It is really beautiful."

The Second Annual Convention of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia.

HELD AT NOVA SCOTIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, TRURO, N. S., JAN. 12-15, 1915.

An audience of one thousand filled the large auditorium at the College at the opening meeting of the second convention of the Women's Institute of Nova Scotia. Those present were mostly the lady delegates from the Institutes and the students attending the short courses, with a good sprinkling of town people.

The meeting was presided over by Miss Jennie A. Fraser, the able Superintendent of the N. S. Women's Institutes. After Rev. W. P. Grant had invoked the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the Convention, Miss Fraser told of the progress of the Institute movement in Nova Scotia. It was only a year and a half since the first Institute was formed, and now there were thirty-six organizations, and in the course of another year this number would likely be more than doubled.

At the first convention the delegates had drafted a resolution to the Government asking that a woman's building be erected on the college ground. Miss Fraser was proud of the fact that a handsome new building was in the course of erection where domestic science was to be taught, so that in the future the young ladies of their Province would not have to go to outside schools to secure technical education along these lines.

Mrs. John Stanfield, representing the local National Council of Women, welcomed the delegates, and urged closer co-operation between these kindred organizations which had so much in common.

Principal Cumming, on behalf of the college staff and Mayor Slackford on behalf of the town of Truro, extended hearty welcomes to the visitors.

Miss McGuire, of Bridgewater, made a fitting reply.

Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen, of Huntingdon, Quebec, gave a bright and interesting review of the work of the Women's Institutes in Canada. Having been associated with the organization since its first conception seventeen years ago, Mrs. Stephen's words carried conviction to every hearer of the great importance of the Institutes and the marvellous amount of good they are doing for Canada. For many years the programmes and the efforts of the members centered almost entirely around the home, now civic work of endless variety was taken

up by the ladies and successfully carried through. Nothing daunted them; if the town needed a park they secured land, and forthwith a pleasure resort was the result; if it lacked a hall, by bazaars and concerts and subscriptions, money was raised and the building became a proud reality; sidewalks laid; street lamps installed; school houses and grounds renovated and cleaned, are but a few of the many things the ladies are cheerfully turning their attention to. But the main benefit of the Institute still remains paramount, namely, the united social element it fosters and keeps keenly alive in a neighborhood, rich and poor, young and old, Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, meeting together one afternoon of each month on the mutual common ground of the common good of all, is doing a great work in cementing the interests of our communities.

Hon. Geo. H. Murray, Premier of Nova Scotia, was the next speaker, and rounds of applause greeted him.

He said he felt somewhat ill at ease surrounded by so many ladies, as he was

of which surpasses any Province in the Dominion.

Technical education was the need and the means that would solve our great industrial problems.

It was when the Premier in closing touched on the Belgium situation that he showed himself the man of sympathy and generous ideals. Belgium owed us nothing, but to Belgium was due our present secure position. She had blocked the doorway when she could have stood aside. She had suffered ruin rather than be dishonored. All we could do for her in her dark hour of want, counted as nothing in proportion to what she had suffered for the good of the world at large. Nova Scotia had given generously, but must not yet stay her hand. Belgium must be cared for, and every Nova Scotian must do his part.

At the close of the addresses the band and the firemen of Truro gave a splendid entertainment, and before the large audience dispersed, chocolates were passed for the ladies and cigars to the gentlemen.

The sessions of the two following days



View in Nydeck.
Showing the odd, projecting roofs.

far more at home on the war path of politics, but he gave an address ringing with sincerity and full of wholesome thought. He said no one could deny the important part women played in every walk of life, and so long as they didn't go beyond proper bounds their banding themselves together in systematized organizations could not but be of immense benefit to the communities. At the present terrible crisis, the Nova Scotia women, and especially those connected with the Institutes, had risen in all their feminine strength and worked unceasingly for the sick and dying on the field of battle and for the fatherless and destitute.

Mr. Murray said: We have men and women the equal of any in the world. We have given Presidents to the Universities of Toronto, Queen's, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Our little Province is renowned for her statesmen and educationalists. But we are not getting the best from our natural resources, the extent and variety

were largely devoted to demonstration work.

DRESSMAKING.

Mrs. Hopkins, of the Technical College, Halifax, gave practical talks on dressmaking.

Don't use coarse needle and thread in your machine. You cannot do nice stitching, and besides, it is very much more wearing on your machine.

Those who had not a form model would find a feather pillow a most satisfactory substitute. When once the dress was properly fitted, fasten it about the pillow and an astonishing good form is made, then trimmings, etc., can be adjusted.

Amateurs err in cutting the neck too low. Leave it to the last before making alterations. Sleeves are always a trouble. Put them in and straighten out the arm, and have the straight of the goods in line with the top of the shoulder.

In altering a pattern, take out or let in, in several places, do not meddle with

the front or back seams in a waist. Alter under the arms.

The drop sleeve goes out; the set-in sleeve is in again. The Russian blouse has a yoke back and front, is gathered or box-pleated, and hangs without being belted. Many waists will be elaborately trimmed. High collars will be worn. The bell and the gored skirt, four yards wide, are said to be coming in.

The war is stamping the styles. Short military coats, ornamented vests, high coat collars, open in the front and showing the old-fashioned embroidered collars, are among the smart things.

Sand color, with a gold tinge, is the vogue, and the feminine touch to the khaki. White stitched in black, and with black stock and tie, is considered very proper. In fact, black-and-white combinations are ever good taste.

Shirtwaistings of Madras and pique are the coming wash materials. Taffeta will be as fashionable as of yore.

Miss Redmond gave demonstrations in soups and salads.

Mr. L. A. DeWolfe gave a talk on "Schools." In the child's welfare, the teachers, the preachers, and the women must do the work; don't expect much from the average man; he is too busy. The school buildings were far from satisfactory. The first cost was often the only one considered. There should be hardwood floors and good ventilation, a furnace, and a water supply. Schools should have a janitor. The children should not be allowed to sweep the school floors. Provision should be made so that children living at a distance could have a hot dish at the noon hour—an easy way to introduce a little domestic-science lesson by the teacher.

The school should and could be made a social center for entertainment, etc. The consolidated schools have not proved altogether successful so far in Nova Scotia. The school exhibitions have done well, but it was found that the child's home garden was the better plan than a school-garden plot, as vacation, lack of proper fencing, dry weather, and so on, made it difficult to bring flowers and vegetables to perfection.

Interchange of school visiting was advocated. Many might cry out, "We are not paying a teacher to take her pupils off on a holiday." Such lose sight of the importance of children knowing something of good form and social custom.

Mrs. Sexton, Halifax, gave a lengthy, masterful address on "Women's Work in Canada," an address hard to curtail in a short report.

To always be on the home guard a woman had to have a very broad outlook. She had to watch the butcher, the baker, the plumber, the water supply, the moving-picture show, everything in fact, else the health, the comfort, the morals of her family might be endangered. Women should be represented on the school board, and there should be sewing and cooking taught in all schools.

Mrs. Sexton spoke warmly of the Red Cross work, and said Nova Scotia had already sent 35,000 garments, exclusive of handkerchiefs, bandages, etc., across the sea.

Rev. W. P. Grant gave an appealing address on the Red Cross Society and the duty of the home people with regard to the war situation. We must give as much as we feel we can afford, and then give more.

A resolution to the Government was passed asking that all that is possible be done to protect our Canadian boys from the wet canteen at Salisbury, and the boys in camp at Halifax from the saloons.

Mrs. M. Cumming, of the Agricultural College, entertained the delegates to afternoon tea, a social event much enjoyed.

The Convention throughout was most successful, and the future of the Institute movement in Nova Scotia is bright.

IMPROVE YOUR PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

An attractive personal appearance is a great asset in any walk in life; and often, with a little treatment, the unpleasant may be banished and the pleasing take its place. The Hiscott Institute, 61 College St., Toronto, gives treatments for pimples, wrinkles, scalp troubles, and goitre, also for removal of superfluous hair. For further details see their advertisement elsewhere in this issue.