

(From Annual Report of the Homemakers' Clubs of Quebec Province for the Year Ending March 31st, 1917.)

As this is the first printed report of the work of the Homemakers' Clubs of Quebec Province, a brief reference to the history of these organizations will not be out of place here. Their history, as compared with that of the other provinces in the Dominion, is unique, inasmuch as the women of Quebec, unassisted by the Government, began this work themselves. In all the other provinces of Canada, the provincial government has not only assisted in establishing Agricultural Societies for the benefit of the farmers, but has established separate organizations for the women of the farm homes, and has made special provision for giving them instruction along lines bearing directly upon the duties devolving upon them as homemakers.

The first Club was formed in Dunham in January 1911 through an executive of interested women of Missisquoi County, and later on the work was extended to Farnham Centre, Clarenceville and Cowansville. About the same time an executive of men and women in Pontiac County were considering the formation of a similar organization and, through their efforts, clubs were formed at Wyman, Shawville and Bristol in March 1913.

In 1911 the work was started in Chateauguay County, at Howick, also through an executive of women of the County. It was owing to the efforts of the late Rural Dean Robertson that a club was formed in Cookshire, Compton County, in 1913.

Macdonald College, through the School of Household Science, has from the beginning taken an active interest in this work, a member of the staff being present to aid in the organization of each Society.

As the work grew, so many demands were made upon the College that it was decided to appoint a graduate of the School of Household Science as Demonstrator to these organizations to be known henceforth as the Homemakers' Clubs of Quebec Province. The appointment was made in October 1913.