

# Farm Women's Clubs

## MAKING THE CLUB WORTH WHILE

The month of December is round again and with it our annual meetings in the different clubs. This should be a good time to take a survey of the past year's work and criticize our failures with a view to greater and more satisfactory results in the future.

A friend speaking to one of the clubs the other day said, that in the early days of the club life the members asked themselves, "What can the club do for me?" but as things developed they asked the more important question, "What can I do for the club?" Where you have each member asking themselves that latter question you may be sure of a live club. In making our survey of the past year's work it would be well to ask the following questions:

Has the club been of benefit to the members?

Has it been of benefit to the community?

Has its work been of benefit to the larger life of the country as a whole?

It seems to me that if the club fulfills its functions it should be able to answer those questions in the affirmative.

In the first place, it should benefit the members by providing social intercourse, by widening interests, by stimulating the mental life, so often allowed to atrophy from want of use. Secondly, it should benefit the community by awakened and organized interest in such matters as rural schools, public health, wholesome recreation for boys and girls, school field days, rural municipal hospitals, district nurses, and in districts where there are colonies or groups of foreign-born, the important matter of establishing a point of contact with them. Then thirdly, as the circle widens there comes the larger question of how, as a club, we can benefit the life of our country as a whole. We shall have done this very materially by fulfilling the answers to the first two questions. We can do still more by studying, discussing, having occasional papers on important public questions such as Our Immigration Policy, Public Health and Its Relation to Efficiency; What the Social Service League of Alberta is Doing, and the various subjects which come under the Farmers' Platform. Do not content yourselves with platitudes, but dig into these and a thousand other questions for yourselves.

At your annual meeting try to bring in as many of your members as possible into the active work of the club by means of committees and let those committees be entirely responsible for their own job, keeping correct minutes of their meetings and of work done. It is the working members that keep a club alive; the idle ones are always liable to drift away from sheer boredom.

Here are a few suggestions for committees:

A Patriotic Committee to take charge of Red Cross work or any relief funds such as Military Y.M.C.A., Belgian Relief, Prisoners of War, etc. This committee would procure Red Cross sewing for members of clubs, give it out, pack and forward to provincial depot, also receive subscriptions for the above funds, etc.

An Entertainment Committee, who would hunt out all the local talent to be found in the neighborhood, arrange for concerts, plays, picnics, an occasional speaker from the outside, socials and all the many other forms of entertainment for raising funds for the club or patriotic purposes.

A Social Service Committee, who would especially befriend those in the district who might be sick or in trouble or strangers in a strange land, and who would keep in touch with what the Social Service League of the province is doing in the way of child welfare work, etc.

A Library Committee, who would take charge of the library if the club has one or otherwise would start raising funds to gradually build up one, who would procure travelling libraries from the university, take charge of these and work up a magazine circle

so that some really good periodicals are passing through the different homes all the time.

One could go on indefinitely adding to these committees, but for the present I am only going to mention one other and that is a Study and Program Committee. Put your brightest and brainiest women on to this and have them get into touch with Miss Montgomery of the Extension Department of the University of Alberta, who will give them much help in regard to study outlines and getting up papers or debates. Remember that the greatest

more of our locals are alive to this very important matter:

Whereas, the government has disfranchised all men born in alien countries;

Whereas, many of those men are loyal Canadians, and not in sympathy with Germany;

Whereas, their wives are energetic workers in the Red Cross and all other forms of patriotic work.

Whereas the government has given the franchise only to women who have near relatives at the front.

## DO YOU KNOW

That there are 600 farm women's clubs in the three prairie provinces?

That these clubs aggregate a membership of 17,000 women?

That a conservative estimate of the money contributed by them for patriotic purposes in 1917 is \$100,000?

That they have sent hospital supplies and field comforts overseas valued at nearly \$50,000?

That they have improved the rural schools, have established more than 400 rest rooms, have improved the local cemeteries, in a word that they are the greatest factor for the betterment of life on the prairie to-day?

If you should wish to form a farm women's club in your community write to the provincial secretary of the club you wish to form. The provincial secretaries are:—United Farm Women of Alberta, Mrs. R. W. Barritt, Sec. U.F.W.A., Lougheed Building, Calgary. Women's Institutes of Alberta, Miss Mary MacIsaac, Supt. Women's Institutes, Parliament Buildings, Edmonton. Saskatchewan Women Grain Growers, Mrs. Violet McNaughtan, Sec., Piche P.O., Sask. Saskatchewan Homemakers' Club, Miss A. DeLury, Supt. Homemakers' Clubs, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. Manitoba Women Grain Growers, Mrs. E. C. Wieneke, Sec., W.S.G.G.A., Stoney Mountain, Man. Manitoba Home Economics, Mr. S. T. Newton, Supt. Extension Dept., New Parliament Buildings, Winnipeg.

For those who know nothing about these great provincially organized associations a word of explanation might be useful. The Manitoba Home Economics Societies, the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs and the Women's Institutes of Alberta are promoted by the respective provincial governments and receive some form of support from the government. This support is either a yearly grant to the society, or the paying of a delegate's expenses to the annual convention, or both. The United Farm Women of Alberta, the Women Grain Growers of Saskatchewan and the Women Grain Growers of Manitoba are independent bodies of women. To offset any disadvantages a lack of government aid may have the Grain Grower women have the whole organized farmers' movement behind them to aid and abet them in their schemes for rural betterment. Each club has done an inestimable good for its community and for its province. Each has special advantages. The choice of club must rest with each individual community.

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curse of any club is indefiniteness. To be a success we must have a definite aim before us, and then throw ourselves into the work to accomplish that aim, with every ounce of enthusiasm and energy we possess.

IRENE PARLEY,  
Pres. Alberta U.F.W.A.

## THE WAR-TIMES ELECTION ACT

Considerable correspondence continues to come in regarding the unfairness to which many of our best women are subjected under this Act.

We cannot alter the Act for this coming election. We can show our representatives that we are awake on this question, and that we expect them in future to leave no stone unturned to remove the injustice so generally acknowledged.

It is gratifying to receive the following resolutions, which we hope will help to remind our federal representatives of one of their coming responsibilities.

VIOLET McNAUGHTAN.

## THE SPY HILL W.G.G.A.

The Spy Hill W.G.G.A. feel that the Canadian women have a just right to protest against the disfranchisement of so many women at the coming election. It looks like a scheme. The women of this district feel strongly on this matter, and we would like to hear from you at an early date and would ask for petition forms that we may have them signed against such treatment.

## THE KENASTON W.G.G.A.

The Kenaston W.G.G.A. submits the following resolution, and trusts that

Be it resolved that we the ladies of the Kenaston W.G.G.A. express our surprise and request that all women and loyal Canadians be treated alike.

## OUR W.G.G.A. RED CROSS AMBULANCE

Some members may not be aware that the Women Grain Growers are providing, as a special personal gift, a Red Cross ambulance, carrying on its side the emblem of our Association. For this \$600 is required. Contributions are to be sent direct to me marked "Red Cross Ambulance Fund." This fund is not intended to divert money from the regular Red Cross work.

MRS. JOHN McNAUGHTAN,  
Piche, Sask.

## OXEOLA W.G.G.A. AGAIN

The Oxeola W.G.G. started the Red Cross Ambulance Fund. This week they sent me \$15 for the Y.M.C.A. Military Fund. They have raised about \$100 from a bazaar. They have only ten members. They are contributing to the local V.O.N. hospital. Congratulations, Oxeola!

V. McNAUGHTAN.

## PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

The Women's Section of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association has felt handicapped in its work because it did not have a definite constitution for its own branch of the organization. At the executive meeting held in Winnipeg, on Friday, Dec. 7, a tentative constitution was drawn up and will be presented to the annual convention in

Brandon for the convention's endorsement.

The following tentative constitution is in no way a final draft. It comprises what the executive believes to be the outstanding essential clauses for a new constitution, but it is subject to amendment or alteration by the convention. The whole matter of constitution must be discussed and decided upon in detail by the convention. The executive asks that each Women's Section or Auxiliary in Manitoba carefully study, individually, and in meeting assembled, the following copy of the proposed constitution. Furthermore, each Section or Auxiliary is asked to send its delegates to the annual convention prepared to present and speak to any alteration or amendment the Section should deem desirable, or to support it as it is printed below:

## Constitution.

1. Women shall have the same standing in the Association as men.

2. The Women's Section of the Grain Growers' Association shall consist of at least five members, and may be formed at any meeting of the women called together for that purpose, either by any officer of the organization or any interested person in the district. Upon assembling, a chairman and secretary shall be appointed to take temporary charge of the meeting until officers are elected.

First motion in order is that a Women's Section of the Grain Growers' Association shall be organized. After motion carrying, those wishing to join shall submit their names to the secretary and pay, or arrange to pay later, their fees.

Next in order is the election of officers. When more than one name is to be voted upon, the decision should be by ballot. In the case of directors they may simply be nominated and voted upon in open meeting by show of hands.

After election of officers a committee of the officers and all, or part, of the members shall be appointed to arrange a program for a few succeeding meetings; also to arrange time and place for following meeting.

3. At the annual convention the women delegates may meet in the general meeting or separately, as they see fit. In separate meeting they may discuss any question or matter not inconsistent with the objects of the association, as set forth in the men's constitution, but it shall not be competent for them to petition parliament or the legislature on any matter independently of the central.

4. Such separate meeting may be called the Women's Section, and it shall have power to elect a board composed of such officers as it may see fit. This board shall have especial charge of such branches of the Association's work as relate especially to women and children.

5. A membership of \$1.00 per annum shall be paid by each member to the secretary, who shall make payment of all membership fees owing to the Central, promptly, and at least every three months.

6. Objects of Women's Section: The objects of the Women's Section are those of the Association as a whole and particularly:

- (a) Better rural schools.
- (b) The development of local taste for the finer things of life.
- (c) Wholesome recreation for old and young.
- (d) The promotion of better legislation—Dominion and Provincial—for women and children.
- (e) Education of women in the duties of citizenship.
- (f) Strengthening of the Association.

7. Each Women's Section of a Local may hold meetings at the call of the president or the secretary-treasurer and shall hold an annual meeting of the members not later than December 31. Nominations of officers shall take place at the meeting prior to the election of such officers. The annual meeting shall elect a president, a vice-president, a secretary-treasurer and three or more directors, who shall hold office until their successors are appointed.