

Mrs. Nellie McClung, an "arch conspirator" and one of her greatest friends, she herself once said, "I hear you and I am accused of being high-brows; why the first sound I ever heard was the squealing of a little pig under the gate near the farm house where I was born." "Why," said Mrs. McClung, "I was the person who pulled that pig from under the gate." Whether this last was only imagination is not known. "At any rate," concluded Mrs. Murphy, "together, in later years, we have pulled many blind pigs from under gates, and how those pigs have squealed!"

Her actual experience as a farmer is a record any man would be proud of. On a farm of her own buying in Alberta, Mrs. Murphy ploughed the land, bought the seed, tested and sowed it,—"I know all about seed," she said,—reaped her crop and threshed it, engaged her cars, made her contracts with the purchaser, and banked her cheque.

The wealth of the land lies in the land. We must teach our children by example that agriculture is an honorable profession. The real patriot is the one who feels that he is as much a part of his country as the trees and flowers.

Remember, the Women's Institutes bear no grudge to any other organizations. Work as "Comrades even comrades on the old highway."

Miss Guest.

Miss Emily F. Guest, organizer of Women's Institutes in Scotland, said she found the Scottish men as well as women most enthusiastic over Institute work. Co-operation between men and women in Government is typical of the family spirit which would have kept the Empire intact even if the Navy had gone down. The idea that home-making might be a department of the Government, as much as an Army or Navy, had not occurred to the people of the old land, and it appeals to them. Sir Robert Grey and Miss Cameron are heads of the Scottish Institutes. The men are becoming very enthusiastic over the introduction of labor-saving devices into the home.

The subject of temperance is creating much interest. One woman who had visited Ontario related to her friends: "Think of it, there is a town there named G-A-L-T, with 4,000 Scotchmen in it, and it is a prohibition town!"

The Ontario Institutes are being studied by many countries, even Russia, and Miss Guest urged her audience to keep the spirit of unselfishness in all their work in order to maintain the high standard already achieved.

Thursday Session.

The Thursday session was filled with reports, discussion and short addresses and every report showed the hive of interest each Institute becomes when every member is willing to give her talents to the service of her home and community.

In the morning reports from West Hamilton, Cold Springs, Embro, Lanark, Carleton County Junior Institute, known as the "Janey Canuck", and North Hastings were read, all being enthusiastic records of work accomplished. The outstanding features of the reports were variety of work done and ideas for the future, showing that each Institute is looking out for its own community needs.

Some of the ideas revealed have been worked out successfully by various Institutes; others are still to be tried. Rothsay Branch endeavors to carry to a successful conclusion whatever public improvement is undertaken. The talents of everyone are used; the meetings are conducted on the business principles laid down in Mrs. Parson's Manual, and there is no discord; the men are equally enthusiastic, showing their respect by never interfering with Institute Day.

Miss Watson, the presiding officer, hoped to see the Public Libraries in the rural communities receive more attention and suggested that a sinking fund to pay for the care of hitherto neglected cemeteries would do away with this depressing sight.

Mrs. Watt, who was charged with authority from the English Institutes to link them up where possible with Canadian Institutes, suggested this might be done materially by an exchange of articles made by home industry. Members of Institutes bearing the same county name, or for other reasons, might correspond.

Mr. Albert H. Leake, of the Depart-

ment of Education, prophesied a revolution in the rural school if women would concentrate their energies on the subject for a year. Ill health and disease is somebody's fault and we must be prepared to back up our ideas with money to make better conditions for child and teacher. Three essentials in the success of the hot school lunch is the attitude of the teacher, sympathy of the Inspector and assistance of parents.

The delegates were served with a box lunch and cocoa at Trinity Methodist Church, Bloor St. W., at noon.

In the afternoon an hour was given over to discussion of District and Branch work, led by Mrs. Brethour. "Plan your work and work your plan, but always have an emergency programme," was her advice.

Mrs. Edith Lang, author of "The Handy Guide to the Laws of Ontario" brought out the interesting point that Canada is the first country in the world



Not an Institute Speaker.

Just the Dowager Queen of Siam (widow of the late King Chulalongkorn) who died recently,

to allow a married woman to keep her own nationality.

The Franco-Canadian Orphanages were described by Mrs. Henry Osler, Toronto, who hoped the Institute women would continue the work of playing Fairy Godmother to these little war orphans. A dollar from each branch in Ontario would mean \$900 toward the care and education of the little French children. Mlle. Guerin, 17½ Howard St., Toronto, will be glad to give detailed information regarding the work. Mrs. Osler, who had visited Vimy Ridge, said that at the time of her visit, the shell-scarred fields were covered with red, white and blue flowers; poppies, daisies and cornflowers.

Mrs. Watt.

In the evening Mrs. Alfred Watt gave a very interesting account of the life in rural England during the war. The English Village is full of rich material for Institute work, as they are composed of every class of society, intellectuals, land-workers and wealthy retired persons who have travelled far and near, so

that the Institute programmes showed a wide variety of interest. The greatest benefit accomplished by the Institute work aside from the increased production, was the marked effect of bringing together the people of the various sects in Wales, and of noted women such as the Countess of Plymouth, Elizabeth Robins, Baroness Orczy, who as presidents of various institutes came into direct contact with people in humbler walks of life. By the principle of the freedom of expression which Mrs. Watt claims as the basis of a successful Institute, every woman gained in self respect, and simplicity of manner, and no one is snubbed or looked down on. It was Mrs. Watt's privilege to watch the dawn of the consciousness of Empire in rural women of England due to the fact that the colonies were in the fight too.

Mrs. Watt regards the education of woman of prime importance because the education of man depends on it. "Man is the head, woman is the heart; he has reason, she has sentiment, and sentiment makes character." The generosity and sympathetic attitude of the British Government was revealed by the fact that Mrs. Watt's expenses were paid to visit the Institutes of Belgium, Canada to gain the benefit of her experience. There the nuns give instruction and are secretaries; also the priests. The whole thing is wonderfully managed—in fact, too well managed for the women themselves to do much actively.

Dr. Waugh.

In the opinion of Dr. John Waugh, Chief Inspector of Public Schools in Toronto, the Women's Institute is the most important and unique society in the world because its activities are unlimited. The care of life is the main concern and you go straight to the root of things when you care for the health of children. On the request of any Institute, the Department of Education will send a doctor and nurse to make a survey and to organize clinics; and he outlined a plan by which at a cost of \$30 or \$40 to be paid by each school a nurse could be secured who could keep the interests of 30 schools of ordinary size in mind. The Women's Institutes might furnish maintenance, lodging and transportation.

Friday Session.

The Friday session was taken up by a number of short addresses.

Mrs. Jean Muldrew, Director of the Home Branch of the Soldier Settlement Board, stated that every movement in Canada to-day circled around repatriation "mending the wounds of war" and she urged the women to work out some scheme by which the orphans and fatherless children of the war who are now being cared for by their father's comrades in arms, the G. W. V. A., should receive "mother care" as well. There is work to do and we must not be lazy. In Canada alone there are 17,000 fatherless children, 10,000 widows and 788 children who lost both father and mother.

Dr. Skinner Gordon of the Women's College Hospital, 125 Rushholm Road, Toronto, spoke of the need for student nurses and she hoped their ranks would be recruited from the daughters of the Women's Institutes.

Commodore Jarvis impressed upon the audience the obligation of Canadians to raise more and export our surplus production and maintain a merchant marine adequate to do so. Canadians must turn their eyes to the sea and pay our debt to the merchant marine by giving them a safe and pleasant home when on the land.

Mr. J. J. Kelso, of Toronto, in a short address on "Homes for the Homeless", spoke on behalf of the children who starve for lack of affection. He hoped more women would become interested in motherless children.

Miss Hodgetts of the Margaret Eaton School of Expression gave a demonstration of simple exercises by which our bodies can be kept straight and well-developed. Drooping heads, round backs, too much fat, these things are remedied by bringing other unusual muscles into play. More games and folk dances will help give our bodies all-round exercise.

Dr. Edna Guest's account of experiences in the war zone told of the monotony of suffering and disaster, relieved only by the wonderful heroism and cheerfulness of the wounded men. A trip to the gift room of the hospital where articles sent

from the home land were given out was always a happy event for our boys over there.

Veneral diseases and their social aspects as a community problem was the subject of Dr. Gordon Bates. These diseases are a more serious cause of disability than wounds, because they can be transmitted from one person to another. A film entitled, "The End of the Road" was shown for the first time in Canada to the audience during the afternoon and is one of the first attempts on so large a scale to show how Venereal disease eats its way into every class of society. Treatment after infection is important, but home teaching in facts and ideals is one solution of the social side of the problem.

Our New Ministers.

The session was brought to a close by a short address from the Hon. Mr. Drury, who hurried over to the Convention after having been sworn into office. "Our Government has come in on the crest of a moral wave," he said. "The most important product of a country is its children. You women must see that human life is developed; wealth measured by dollars must not be our standard. I wish Godspeed to the work of the Women's Institutes."

Mr. Doherty of the Department of Agriculture promised that fullest freedom under his department would be given to women in their work for the preservation of life.

Resolutions.

Resolved—That adequate accommodation as near their home as possible be provided for the mentally deficient and feeble-minded children, where found their presence in the class-room is a detriment to the whole class.

That the Government be requested to make adequate provision for more thorough and systematic instruction along lines of interest to the Women's Institutes including health, food, housing problems, girl's activities, business methods in the Institute and the lighter lines of agriculture suited to women, and would respectfully ask that favorable consideration be given to the employment of fully qualified permanent workers.

Recognizing the great need for better provision for the care of the sick, the Women's Institutes respectfully request that the Government take the necessary steps to enable municipalities to establish hospitals and that the Government bear a portion of the general expenses, with special grant for both equipment and maintenance for Northern Ontario.

That the Government be asked to look carefully into the matter of lodging accommodation for travellers throughout the Province and as Institute members we express a willingness to co-operate in providing said accommodation.

That we approve of the changes in the constitution as passed at the Eastern and Western conventions.

(Presented by West Kent Branches.) That the Women's Institutes memorialize the Government for the establishment of Juvenile and Women's Courts in each county and that in each case a woman be required to attend such courts.

(Presented by Listowel West Branch.) That the Women's Institutes memorialize the Government at the next session of the Ontario Legislature to pass a law giving to the mother equal guardianship of her children with the father.

In order to carry out the programme as outlined in the various addresses at our Federal and Provincial Women's Institute Conventions it is necessary that the Institutes themselves lend considerable financial assistance and that the Government give service by furnishing qualified specialists to lead in the various departments of work.

Be it therefore, resolved that the Branch Institutes be asked to contribute a sum equal to not less than 15 cents per member for first year, on the understanding that a full statement be rendered to each branch from time to time throughout the year as to the activities of both Provincial and Dominion Federations, and also upon condition that they be allowed to express their preference of the programme of activities under consideration. Carried.

We thereby wish to express our appreciation of the courtesy extended by the city of Toronto in tendering a banquet which was so much enjoyed and appreciated by all delegates.

To the Board of Education Staff of the Technical School for the splendid ac-