

found by some of our brainy legislators when the time is ripe.

Well, I must lay aside the pen and take up the knitting-needles. The winter approaches and socks are the greatest need, good thick ones to fill up the big army boots, and they must be well shaped, for the marches ahead may be very long and the roads rough.

Greetings to dear Canada.
Folkestone, England.

SIBYL.

The Institute Convention at Toronto.

At least 700 women met in the fine Auditorium of the new Technical School, Toronto, on the afternoon of November 21st.

It was a great gathering, and Toronto's finest weather greeted the delegates, but a gloom was cast over the audience by the announcement that even at that hour Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Jas. Duff, was being borne to his last resting-place. In honor to his memory the meeting was adjourned after the opening exercises and address of welcome.

In her brief address, Mrs. Johnston of Islington, who was in the chair, noted that this was the fifteenth annual Convention of the Women's Institute, a great society whose work has led out and out until it serves, not only the individual, but the community and the nation. Mrs. Johnston spoke of the tremendous work the W. I. has already done for the Red Cross and kindred causes, but warned her hearers that the war, which still rages with unabated fury, is still far from an end, so the work of the women must go on.

Rev. Dr. Fraser, before pronouncing the invocation, referred feelingly to Mr. Duff, whom he had known all his life.

The Address of Welcome was given by Lady Hendrie, wife of the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario. She hoped the Convention would be an inspiration, and acknowledged the "remarkable response of the Women's Institute" to all patriotic endeavor. That work, she said, emphasizes the power of organized women's work to the country in any good object which may be taken up.

Objects which come within the especial province of women are those which concern the development of some of the best resources of the country, for instance, the children. Medical inspection of city schools reveals that to-day there is less disease among city children than among those of the rural districts, whereas formerly the opposite was the case. She thought this sufficient to impress the necessity of more thorough medical inspection in the country schools.

Closely allied with this is the improvement of conditions in the homes. Much still remains to be done there. Good house-management is a science; to know how to make the very best of one's food supply, for instance, is surely worth while. Simple meals well cooked and appetizingly served are one of the guarantees of good health.

Then, the women have to do with the social element of the neighborhood.—It is necessary to the child's development that he be kept bright and happy.

Lady Hendrie closed by saying that she hoped, on the following day, to welcome all the delegates to Government House.

Mrs. Wm. Todd of Orillia replied to the address of welcome. As a member from Simcoe County, she could speak from much personal knowledge of the kindness and sympathy with which Mr. Duff had assisted the Women's Institute. In expressing thanks to Lady Hendrie and the city for the kind welcome just extended she was glad to be welcomed for the work of the organization,—an organization which exists not only for the war time but for all time. She commented upon the "come back" power of the branches; "the more you put them down the more they bob up." The Institute is, in short, a real band of workaday, every day women, members of the true aristocracy that induces the land itself to bring forth.

The Institute has been thought by some to deal only with little things; but it deals with great things, and, throughout, it is being trained in all the fundamentals of English Parliamentary rule, fixing its foundations upon fair play of speech and action. Some day this alone will result in something very great.

But there is no measuring line for service. Our work is distinctly constructive, but what is our chief duty to-day?—"To help to get men for our Empire." We can help to do this by using every resource, for example, by

making use of our gardens. If every woman were helping in that way it would mean something to the food production of the Empire.

Simcoe County Institutes, she said, had raised \$3,600 for special work,—had bought a motor ambulance and two field kitchens. Every county could do as well.

Mr. Putnam and Rev. A. H. Scott of Perth both paid tribute to the memory of the late Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Scott, whose three sons enlisted for service, spoke of the heroism of the women who are willing to make the sacrifices demanded of their sons at this time. Whatever our work is in the present crisis we must do it quickly; we must do our duty grandly for the honor of God and our country.

Evening Session.

At the evening session Dr. McKay, Principal of the Technical School presided, and, in opening, told something of the work of the great school in which, even as he spoke, 1,800 young men and women were busy in the various night classes, learning how to be more efficient and happier in their work. In all there are 6,000 students in the school, and 150 teachers. The subjects taken up include domestic science, home nursing and first aid, dress-making, millinery, lace-making, art, use of machinery of all kinds.

Home Garden and Canning.

Miss Yates of Point Credit told most entertainingly as well as practically of the Government's Home Garden and Canning Contests, a venture undertaken by Mr. Putnam at first tentatively, but which is

Gardens should be encouraged if only for the variety in our food supply. It was not creditable that last year we imported from the United States fresh vegetables and fruit to the value of \$10,000,000. We should use plants whose edible parts grow above ground more than we do; they are especially good to guard against rheumatism and gout. Among these are spinach and chard, but do not ruin them with lumpy white sauce—a horror to the French.

The "human side" of the gardens, too, is worth while. It was beautiful to see the interest of "the men" in the plots.—In the canning contest four cans are asked for, to be shown at the local fairs.

To be sure there are pests and troubles of all kinds—pigeons, hens, cows, sheep, dogs, rabbits, even the neighbors' children!—But people must learn to be like "Togo" in the "Good Housekeeping" story, and endeavor to be most cheerful when most defeated.

Address by Col. Williams.

A very spirited address was given by Col. Williams, Chief Recruiting Officer, Div. No. 2. After the war, he said, we shall be confronted with new problems, racial, ethical, economical, and spiritual, we shall look at things differently. We have found out that education—"kultur"—alone does not eliminate hate. Our faith in dogmatic Christianity will be gone. Some even think there will be an increase of atheism, but this is not so. Faith in God will recover its hold and become more real than ever. God is only lost by the

Our first duty is to get a realization of what this war means, and what it would mean to us if the Kaiser, as he evidently wished, became world-ruler. The Germans have been checked, but they are not conquered yet, and we women of Canada have to help to win the war. To keep a man from going to the war is a disgrace to any woman.

We rural folk represent the factories of the food supply of the nation. Another of our duties is conservation of life and health; we must reduce infant mortality down to the lowest point and take care of our own health so that we may be efficient. Good food and proper raiment mean health and life. We must think of the cheap and nourishing foods, in these days of high prices. As Prof. Harcourt had pointed out in London, oat meal and skimmed milk is one of the best. When we purchase we must think of real values. We have been wasters; we must begin to practice thrift.

In clothing too, we must learn economy; this is no time to prink up with fenderols, when our boys are at the front, facing death night and day, and doing without even the common comforts of life.

Keep on knitting. Your good home-made socks keep up the morale of the boys in the trenches, who must have a change every 4 days to save them from trench-foot. . . . Women, too, can do much in agriculture. If we did more outdoor work we would be a harder race. She detested hearing women called the "weaker vessel." If we are weak it is because we don't use our muscles. Women must learn to like practical work,—a woman who can use a golf stick can use a fork to pitch up hay. And why cannot a woman drive a tractor ploughing engine as well as a motor car, and get as much fun out of it too? If only it became fashionable all the sports in the country would be ploughing.

Dr. Backus here spoke of women's work in the munitions factories—as given before by her in London and reported in these pages. She advised her hearers to read Mrs. Humphrey Ward's little book "Britain's Effort." In closing she emphasized the need, not only for thinking but *Doing*.

Miss McMurchy's Address.

Miss Marjorie McMurchy of Toronto was the last speaker,—her subject "Woman's assets as a worker where she looks for paid employment." The woman who wants paid work must consider the thing she can do best, must be in earnest, keep well, possess character—"have something to her," be good-natured, well-disciplined, and ready "to take her licks" occasionally, as "Kit" had said. She must be determined to improve and to depend on herself, and she must remember that money is not all one should get out of one's work.

The Government, she said, is establishing an Employment Bureau, which will be a great help to those needing work.

To be continued.



The Queen of Roumania and her two daughters, the Princesses Marie and Elizabeth.

Who are nursing the wounded in the Palace at Bucharest, which has been converted into a Hospital. The Queen was an English Princess, daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh and granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

Underwood & Underwood.

proving very successful. Twenty-two branches took part in the contests this year, and 245 gardens were judged. For making these gardens 15 varieties of seed had been sent out by Mr. Putnam with full instructions for growing. From the fact that, in 120 of the gardens, endive—one of the plants selected—was not tried, simply because little known, she sometimes wondered if some of the members could read. All the literature sent out is useful. Bulletin on Home Canning, No. 236, should be read by all, also the excellent bulletin on Vegetable Growing.

The plots for the contest were 30 feet by 40 feet, and in some of the branches very high marks, ranging from 90 per cent to 100, were taken. Miss Gladys White, Dufferin Co. had taken 100 marks. Among others mentioned especially were Mrs. Carruthers, Mrs. Hammond and Mrs. Niles (I hope these names are right) all of Kimberley, Grey Co., Ont.; Mrs. Fairbairn, Orangeville; Mrs. Stevenson, Laurel; Mrs. Brown, Colpoys Bay; Mrs. Moffatt and another whose name I did not catch, at Bognot.

Speaking of the difficulty in getting over the hills of Grey to judge, Miss Yates said, when you got there you found "live wires" and plenty of brains.

soul surfeited by wealth and sensual gratification. We never are so godlike as when we rise to supreme duty regardless of consequences.

All honor to the women who have risen to the present crisis, but there are still some who have not done their duty. Next year the great death grip will come. We must meet it with men and money, else those who have fallen will have died in vain. Those who evade clear duty shrink and degenerate; the boys who ought to go and do not, must lose. So far, Canada has only given about 300,000 men; we have promised 500,000.

Address by Dr. Backus.

Dr. Backus of Aylmer spoke on "Women's Responsibility During and After the War." We must know, he said, not only our duties, but how to obey duties—the things we should do and the things we should refrain from doing. Among all the nations, now, women are doing things they have always been told they had neither strength nor brains enough to do.—In passing she paid tribute to the band of women physicians and nurses from the United States who have done such splendid work in stamping out typhus amid the dangers in Serbia.

The New Zealand Government has erected during the past nine years 548 homes for workmen in that Dominion, under the act entitled "Workers' Dwelling Act of 1905," which originally provided that the homes should cost no more than £300 (\$1,460) each, and these were to be placed at the disposal of the workers under a lease of 50 years, with a fixed rental of 5 per cent. of the capital value of the dwelling, plus insurance and taxes. Amendments have been introduced from time to time. The value of the building that might be constructed by the Government has been increased, and the cost of rental or payments has also been raised, until now the rate of 7 per cent. is collected instead of the original 5 per cent. The homes are built to cost as much as £550 (\$2,676), in case of men receiving as much as \$12.16 a week.

During 1915 the Government built 162 workers' homes, and there are now 38 under construction in the Dominion. This is undertaken in the interest of keeping down the cost of rent to the working people, and so far it seems to have been satisfactory. It has been a real boon to the working class.—Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, in U. S. Commerce Reports.

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