

growth. Their memberships have learned so much of concerted and concentrated action, and of the conduct of meetings and business, that the knowledge has had a considerable influence on the trend of character in the second generation.

At the same time, or in the years following, were organized the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Young Women's Christian Association, the National Council of Women, the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, and others. Twenty years ago, the first Women's Institute of the country women of Canada was formed in Stoney Creek, Ontario, with its watchword, "For Home and Country". There are now Women's Institutes or Home Makers' Clubs in every Province of Canada. A few weeks ago the National Federation of Women's Institutes was consummated, with a membership of 100,000 rural Canadian women, possessed by a desire for unity and action. The Women's Institute movement has spread from Canada into the United States, and notably in the last three years to England, Scotland, and Wales, where organization is being carried on with rapidity and effectiveness. There is also the remarkable movement of United Farm Women in every Canadian Province. The Central Council of Agriculture of the Grain Growers and United Farmers has its counterpart in an Interprovincial Council of Farm Women, formed either as a section of the Council of Agriculture, or in close connection with it.

We are too accustomed to the organization movement after forty years to recognize its extraordinary character. Let us try to recapture its true meaning. If women had been preparing to take their part in such a day as this, to meet the war which those of us alive now will never try to describe in a phrase, and to seize these moments of promise which are with us still, what else would they have done forty years ago

but knit themselves together in a living unity on which the shock of an undreamed-of conflict must fall in vain? The pain and loss of that shock no one can express, but the unity for effort and service remains unbroken. "Unbroken" is not the word; the movement for organization has been greatly strengthened. In recent years, no one can turn round in Canada without witnessing the evolution of some woman into the perfect president or secretary. It is the same with Canadian girls at school. In every part of the country executive committees are as frequent as leaves on trees, and there are few rooms left of any size in which has not been held the successful meeting.

It would be useless to try to exhaust the meaning of the organization movement. Why has it come? What will be its consequences? No one can safely do more than make a few remarks, joined possibly with fewer predictions. The movement is beneficent. Its consequences will last a long, long time. It has had already, and it will have, a great influence in the development of the political, social and economic life of women. No one who attempts to understand women of to-day, or to co-operate with them, should fail to study their power to associate themselves with other women. But the study is not possibly as simple as it may seem. All these great national associations came into existence for the sake of ideals. The ideals must also be studied before the organization will reveal its meaning. Generally speaking, the movement belongs to the well-to-do, but it cannot rightly be described as fashionable. It belongs indeed to the world, and to the times.

I do not know whether the attitude of girls and women to-day towards employment is more characteristic of this age or more permanent than their power to organize, but I am certain that the feeling on the part of young women towards