Farm Women's Clubs

Red Cross Work

A COPY of a very interesting letter which Miss Spiller, secretary of the United Farm Women of Alberta, is sending to the clubs has come to The Guide office. So many requests come to this office from all parts of the prairie regarding the Red Cross work that we are giving all club women the benefit of Miss Spiller's information on Red Cross work. "How can clubs carry on Red Cross work through the local branches of the Red Cross Society, so that the U.F.W.A. may get the credit for the work which they do, and not lose their identity in the Red Cross Society?" There appears to be a little misunderstanding in some places in regard to this whole matter, so I am quoting herewith an extract from a letter received from the provincial headquarters of the Red Cross Society at Calgary. I might say that if our locals will work with the local Red Cross branches as suggested in this letter, and keep their own records as to the amount of work and money turned in to them, it will amount to exactly the same thing as if the locals turned it in to the provincial headquarters as an association, or sent it through the Central Office. Of course where there is no branch of the Red Cross in a district, the Central office will be glad to handle the money as we have been doing in the past:—

Extract from Letter

"In regard to arrangements for the co-operation of your local branches of the United Farm Women of Alberta in Red Cross work in this province, we believe that the best and most harmonious relationships will result if it is understood that in all localities where your branches desire to work for the Red Cross Society, they shall do so as auxiliaries to their nearest Red Cross Society.

"Since it is the duty of the Alberta Provincial Branch to organize branches, of the Red Cross in every town and district of the province, we hope that you, as secretary of the United Farm Women of Alberta, will co-operate with us in the organization of our Red Cross branches, especially in those centres where the United Farm Women are already organized, and that we should endeavor to establish and preserve the most harmonious relations between our organization and the United Farm Women.

"In districts where work has already been undertaken by members of the U.F.W.A. we would suggest that these members should either call a public meeting themselves for the purpose of forming a Red Cross Society, or that they should co-operate with those who are prepared to arrange such a meeting. Of course, in districts where the work has been in the hands of other societies, it would be only right that such societies should have the opportunity of organizing the branch. When the proposed branch is organized, the U.F.W.A. as a whole will then work as an auxiliary to the branch.

"Relative to the term auxiliary, the position of any society working for the Red Cross under this name should be clearly understood. The present methods of carrying on Red Cross work are:—

"1. By the organization of local branches.

"2. By the organization of auxiliaries to local branches.

"The charter and constitution limit the use of the words 'Red Cross' to organized branches or auxiliaries of the society; hence it is imperative that we should develop our work in accordance with the pursuance of the charter and treaties on that behalf.

"Red Cross auxiliaries are organized under, and are responsible to, local branches. Each local branch furnishes its auxiliaries with sewing materials for which no charge is made, and such supplies, when completed, are returned to the local branch which furnishes them. Any money collected by the auxiliary for Red Cross purposes must be turned over to its local, and is administered by that branch as part of its own funds. An auxiliary to a local branch may not raise money in the name of the Red Cross without authority from its local branch, nor can memberships in the Red Cross Society be issued by any auxiliary, as all membership fees must be paid direct to local branches which are responsible for the issuing of all certificates of memberships in the society.

"Records will be kept by the local branch of all supplies made and donations received from its auxiliaries, and these will be shown in the annual reports of the work accomplished by the local branch. The work of the auxiliaries does not otherwise appear in the Annual Report of the Provincial Branch as this only deals with the work of the branches operating directly under the provincial office. We will instruct all local branches to keep exact records of work done by their auxiliaries, but for the purpose of reporting work accomplished by the U.F.W.A. in this province the United Farm Women themselves will furnish these reports from their own records. The responsibility for the publication of such reports will rest as heretofore with your office."

Our Young People

Dear Members: It will not be very long now before the days begin to shorten, and not very long before old winter will begin to draw his cold fingers across our ears. How would it be, were we to begin to make plans for next winter's long evenings? What are you thinking of doing to improve and amuse your young people?

The Young People's Committee of the W.G.G.A. of Saskatchewan wishes to assist you in this matter. Accordingly, they have a suggested program, which they hope will be of service to you, and which will appeal to you. Of course, we are aware that every community has certain characteristics of its own, and we leave it to each to decide which part will be most adaptable.

Efforts are being made to encourage the four-fold development of our boys and girls, namely, physical, intellectual, spiritual and service. For the physical powers we would suggest hockey, skating, ski-ing, tobogganing, snow-shoeing, curling, etc. For the development of the intellectual and spiritual faculties we have good reading, and discussion of the same, debating studies in citizenship, music, both vocal and instrumental, spelling matches, magic lantern, good plays, glee clubs, action songs, waxworks, etc.

The need for something of this kind has long been felt by our rural young people here in the west, and we sincerely hope to hear from one and all. A couple of hours spent in such enjoyment will not require late hours, nor undue fatigue, and would certainly be educational, as well as very pleasing. The idea may need a little push, and extra energy, but I am sure you are all quite capable of that, and the pleasure and profit you will derive from so doing will fully repay you.

Write to Mrs. McNaughtan, honorary secretary, Harris, or to Mrs. Alex. Wallace, Guernsey, for any desired information, for our suggested program, or for list of plays, or interesting books.—Mrs. Alex. Wallace, Convener of Young People's Committee.

District No. 4 W.S.G.G.A.

Feeling, as I do, that a closer relationship should exist between our Women's sections and their director, I wish to make an appeal to the secretaries of my district, for information regarding their work of the past few months.

What community work have you been doing?

Have you carried out any part of our "plan of work" successfully?

Have you discussed any topics, or discussed or demonstrated any labor-saving devices? In fact, have you done anything worth while—if so, write me.

If your section is accomplishing all that you could wish, or if you are discouraged in the work, write me. I am anxious to know if my district is above or below the average. Of course, I know you are writing Mrs. McNaughtan regularly, but just at this time, previous to our district convention, I am particularly anxious to hear from each of you, so as to give a good report of the district work.—(Mrs.) Ida McNeal, Director District No. 4, W.G.G.A.

Three Years of Success

Early in 1915, O. W. Bowlus, a prominent member of the U.F.A., of Blackie, proposed that there should be a Ladies' Auxiliary formed. As a result of his proposal in February of 1915 the women of Blackie met to discuss the matter. Mr. Bowlus was in the chair and as a result of the meeting the Blackie U.F.W.A. was organized. Those first officers were: President, Mrs. Mitton; secretary, Mrs. McKibben; treasurer, Mrs. Crockett. At the next meeting in March there were enrolled 38 members, and it was decided to serve refreshments at the close of each meeting. At the opening of the April meeting, each member responded to roll call by telling of some vegetable she had been very particularly successful in raising. On June 5, 1915, we were addressed by Hon. J. R. Boyle, Minister of Education, on the subject of consolidation for schools. Miss Reed, provincial president, also gave an address that day and gave many helpful hints to our young society.

In February of 1916 another election made Mrs. Watson president, the other officers accepting their offices for another year. It was moved and seconded at the March meeting that we have a supper to provide funds for a hall. At this meeting too we decided to have an egg circle. The minutes of the April meeting reveal the fact that we had $68.80 in the treasury. In July of 1916 we had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs. Parlby and Mrs. Barrett, both giving excellent addresses which were enjoyed by an attentive audience.

Another election in February of 1917 made Miss Wilderman president. A committee was appointed to prepare printed programs for the year, stating the members on literary duty for each month, also the hostesses for each month. By this plan each one knew her duty in time to be prepared for it and many thoughtful papers have been presented.

Through the good offices of Mr. Bowlus a shack has been moved, comfortably furnished and finished by the members of the Blackie U.F.W.A., with chairs, tables, cook stove and dishes. It is a very convenient rest room and resort for small gatherings. It is used by the U.F.A. and Red Cross. It needs only a piano to be quite complete. Our president for 1918 is Miss Ruth Bowlus, an energetic young lady and a good parliamentarian. This year we have raised $50 for the Y.M.C.A. and $100 for a Y.M.C.A. hut. At each meeting we take a collection for the Red Cross.—Mrs. Ada G. Trotter, press correspondent, Blackie U.F.W.A.

Victor Breaks Record

One of the most interesting reports which we have received for a long time has come to hand from Victor U.F.W.A. in response to my appeal in a recent circular asking secretaries to report regularly. I wonder how many of our other locals are not reporting because they think they are not doing anything unusual which would be of interest to outsiders. Reports of this kind cannot fail to be an encouragement not only to other locals, but to farm women generally, and are certainly a source of inspiration to the Central office. At the time of organization, Mrs. Stevenson predicted that Victor would be a live wire, and I think the following shows that her predictions are being fully realized.—M. W. Spiller.

"Up to this time I have not reported the meetings of our U.F.W.A. local here, thinking that nothing had been done in our local unusual enough to write about, but since receiving a letter from you a few days ago, urging secretaries to send in reports no matter how little the work which was being done, I have decided to tell you as well as I can what we have accomplished and are planning to do.

"Our local at Victor was organized in March by Mrs. Sam Stevenson, of Craigmyle. We decided at once, after organizing the local, to hold a social evening at the hall and to give the proceeds to the Red Cross. The entertainment proved to be a success and the sum of $20 was raised. I wish to say before going further that our president, Mrs. Sibbald, of Victor, is very energetic and keeps the life of the local up by her untiring effort and perseverance. At our second meeting, which was held on the first Saturday in April, it was decided to apply to the university for a travelling library. A committee was also appointed to arrange the program for the year. I believe, however, that the most important topic which we discussed at that meeting was that of a school fair. The members seemed greatly interested, and decided to hold a fair at the Victor Hall and to ask the schools around to join. I might say that only my own school and one other seemed willing to enter, but the work is being carried on and we hope to make it a success nevertheless. This fair we intend to hold in September, and on the evening of the same day we will hold a Red Cross sale of the exhibits

The U.F.W.A. Picnic at Mirror. The Building in distance is the large new Consolidated School.

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