

Canadian Girls in Training

THE GIRLS OF OUR CANADIAN OUT-POSTS

A New Venture in British Columbia

By Anne Fountain

"Mabel Jones, sixteen, lives on a lonely homestead on an island, five miles from anyone else, and that by water.

Alice Johnson, fifteen, and Marie, thirteen, live on a lonelier homestead than the Joneses.

Margaret Waters, thirteen, lives with her father and mother and younger brother in a lighthouse on one of the islands in the Straits of Georgia."

Did you ever think that there might be girls in our provinces who are living in such isolated places . . . girls who seldom see anyone outside their own family circle for months at a time? We discovered that there were hundreds of these in British Columbia, and felt that surely something could and must be done to give them a chance to taste the fuller joys of girlhood. We wanted them to have a share in that wonderful "something" we experience in our C.G.I.T. groups. And so we wrote to four of the missionaries who serve the coast settlements by our mission boats and asked them for the names of a few teen-age girls on their fields whom they thought would like to be linked up with groups of girls their own age. The names of 45 girls were received, each with the age and brief description. Then forty-five groups in various parts of the province took into associate membership one of these girls, making all the advances themselves. The attitude is not, "Oh, you poor girl. What an awful life to live! We must send you a missionary box." No, not at all! This girl becomes an actual member, and as such, must be kept posted on all the activities of the group. Every week she receives the Sunday School papers. As much as possible she takes part in the group projects too. If the girls are working on a quilt, she sews her share of the patches. If it is scrapbooks, she can make one too. In some cases the girls are planning a circulating library. The most popular sharing projects at this season of the year are nature projects of all kinds. The associate member has a very real contribution to make in this, for she is usually a keen

outdoor girl, and the rocky coast islands abound with flowers unknown to our mainland girls.

It is only since Christmas that we have experimented with this new branch of our work, but even in this short time it has proved what boundless possibilities there are in it. In trying to explain C.G.I.T. to their absentee member, the girls have discovered a depth and breadth of meaning in their programme they had never realized before. And such lovely projects they can carry out together too! They can scarcely wait to try them.

Canadian Girls in Training! The lonely isolated girls are not all living in wave-swept lighthouses on the British Columbia coast. There must be numbers of them in your province just like these of ours. Wouldn't your group like to enjoy a fellowship like this?

—Girls' Own Number of "The Torch"

A PEEP THROUGH A WINDOW

By "A Granny in India."

Kindness of "Round the World."

Will you all pretend you are in a house far away in India? The houses there are called bungalows and have no "upstairs" to them, as all the rooms are on the ground floor.

Of course, one of the first things you will do is to run and look out of the window. Just outside is an enormous tree. You will want to run out soon and climb up into it, but before you go just stay ever so quietly by the window and watch for the little people who live in the tree.

Really it is two trees grown together; one is called banyan tree and the other is a pipal (peepal). In the middle is a great seat, big enough to make a bed on. The branches stretch out on either side, wider than the house. Now look! there are some of the little people for whom we are watching. Dear little grey squirrels with black stripes down their backs. Numbers of them frisking about playing such games together. They fly along the branches chasing one another, down on to the ground and then up ever so high in the tree again. Sometimes they