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The
What, How and Why
of the
Q. W. I.

WHAT is the Quebec Women's

Institute ?

It is an organization of rural women--some members are from small towns, but the main interest of the members is concerned with rural matters.

What other provinces have Institutes ?

The Women's Institute movement is world wide. There are Institutes in each of the provinces of Canada, in the British Isles, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, U.S.A., and many European countries.

WHAT are the membership

requirements ?

Any woman may belong to the Women's Institutes if she pays a membership fee of from 25c to \$1.00 a year, depending on the branch.

**WHAT is the motto of the Women's
Institute?**

The motto is "For Home and Country".

**WHAT was the beginning of the
movement?**

The first Women's Institute in the world was organized February 19, 1897 at Stoney Creek in Ontario, by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, to raise the standards of rural living. On January 27, 1911 at Dunham, the first meeting was held in Quebec and in 1915 the movement was started in the British Isles.

**Now, just HOW do the Women's
Institutes raise the standards of rural
living?**

This question is best answered by looking at the aims of the organization which are as follows:

- (a) to encourage the development of Agriculture and to promote school fairs;
- (b) to raise the standard of homemaking, maintain the national traditions of handicrafts, and to encourage the production and use of Canadian made goods;
- (c) to promote all educational measures, particularly rural education;
- (d) to teach Canadian citizenship and to foster a true spirit of patriotism, to assist in the colonization of new Canadians, and to promote world unity and international understanding;
- (e) to promote the welfare of the child and the health of the public, cooperating to this end with the local authorities and social agencies;
- (f) to disseminate news or information regarding the Women's Institute in order that the objects here referred to may be fittingly attained.

HOW do they carry out these aims?

They carry on local projects under the headings of the various convenerships, study along these lines, and raise money in a variety of ways for the furtherance of the provincial, national and international organization. Among the projects sponsored by the Women's Institutes are School Fairs, hot school lunches, community centres and libraries. More specifically they study improved methods of preserving foods, nutrition, budgetting and homemaking in general, new agricultural techniques, improving their homes — inside and out — gardening.

They cooperate with the local and provincial health units in their work in the community and in the school, studying and carrying into practice health measures such as first aid instruction, control and prevention of venereal diseases, pasteurization of milk, child care, etc

They study the newer trends in education, encouraging improvements, and giving more practical assistance by means of school libraries, hot lunches for school children, installing playground facilities, etc. The whole objective of the Women's Institutes is to raise the standard of health, economics and recreation in rural life, to better our Canada as a whole and to promote world fellowship.

HOW often are meetings held?

Meetings are held monthly, usually on the same day each month — i.e. the first Monday or the second Thursday, etc. These meetings are not all work and no play. After the business is completed there are talks, demonstrations, or discussions on current topics of particular interest to that group; and for relaxation, amusing contests, humorous readings or just the social hour over the teacups. Each branch may plan their program to suit their own particular need. Counties hold annual and semi-annual conventions and each summer, usually in June, there is a convention at Macdonald College where delegates from each Branch get together and discuss the Work of the year.

HOW is the Women's Institute

organized . . . what offices are there, etc.?

Besides President, one or two Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, there are conveners of standing committees which may vary

from province to province. In Quebec these convenerships are Agriculture, Education, Welfare and Health, Home Economics and Canadian Industries, National and International Relations and Publicity.

**WHY should I organize a Women's
Institute Branch in my community?**

If you think that your agricultural practices are profitable and satisfactory, that your children are well fed, housed and schooled, your medical services adequate, your homes well managed, your citizens conscious of their civil duties and the recreational needs of your community fully met, then you have no need for such an organization. If you lack even one of these benefits then you should be interested in forming a Women's Institute Branch. Get in touch with one of the members of your County executive (any W. I. member can tell you to whom to write) or write to the Demonstrator-Secretary at Macdonald College.

Two weeks after application, a meeting of potential members will be held and if it is decided to organize, the county officer has the power to do so. Minutes of the meeting should be sent immediately to the provincial president and to the Demonstrator-Secretary.

WHY NOT FORM AN INSTITUTE
NOW? YOU WILL ENJOY EVERY
MINUTE OF IT!

If you wish any further information write to

Office of Quebec Women's Institutes

Box 264,

Macdonald College, Quebec.



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