

# HOW WOMEN'S INSTITUTES ORIGINATED IN ENGLAND

**First Institute was Formed in North Wales by a British Columbian Lady in 1915—In the Two Following Years 117 Other Institutes Sprang Into Existence—The Total Number in Existence is Now in Excess of 700—Convention at St. John This Month.**

Negotiations are now on to establish institutes in each county and to assist in the establishment of cooperative industries. At the present time (October 1913, there are 700 institutes

Mrs. Alfred Watt, Chief Organizer of Women's Institutes in England and Wales, and Mrs. Cogman, District Organizer of Women's Institutes in England, are in Canada now and will meet with the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada early in November to complete arrangements for this alliance. Moreover, women of New Brunswick an opportunity will be given you at the Annual Provincial Convention of the New Brunswick Women's Institutes held in St. John during the last week in October to hear Mrs. Cogman explain the conduct of Women's Institute work in the Motherland and to catch with her a glimpse of future developments for this representative organization.

Note the following article from the Journal of the Board of Agriculture, London, England.

In 1913, Mrs. Alfred Watt, M. A., Secretary of the Women's Institutes Advisory Committee to the British Columbia Department of Agriculture, came to England. She spoke on Canadian Women's Institutes at different gatherings and shortly after war broke out issued a leaflet showing how the establishment of women's institutes in villages would help towards an increased food supply. In 1915 Mrs. Watt, who had for many years been connected with the Women's Institutes of British Columbia, discussed the matter with Mr. Nugent Harris, then General Secretary of the Agricultural Organization Society, and after further investigation and reports the A. O. S. at its annual meeting on 23rd, June, 1915, passed the following resolution:

"That this meeting is of the opinion that the Women's Institute movement which is filling so important a part in the rural life of Canada, could be adapted and made equally suitable to English rural conditions and that the body to organize it in this country is the Agricultural Organization Society and that it be a recommendation from this meeting to the Governors of the Society that they should be responsible for the work."

This resolution was approved by the Governors, who appointed a small sub-committee to carry out the work.

The first districts visited by Mrs. Watt were North Wales where the first institute was formed at Llanfairpwll in September 1915 and East Dorset, where the first English institute was formed at Wallisdown in November of the same year.

By December, 1916, 50 institutes were in existence and the number increased steadily. By October 1917, there were 137 institutes in England and Wales, and the importance of the work they were doing with respect to increasing and preserving the food supply had become so evident that the Board of Agriculture with the approval of the A. O. S. offered to assist in their formation by creating a special Women's Institute Section under the Women's Branch of the Food Production Department to undertake propaganda in close co-operation with the Women's County War Agricultural Committees. Representatives of all existing institutes were summoned to a general meeting in London, and they (a) decided to accept the offer of the Board, and to transfer to them all work in connection with the formation of new institutes; and (b) elected an Executive Committee to continue and develop the work hitherto carried on by the A. O. S. of assisting and strengthening existing institutes. The Executive consisted of Lady Denman, Assistant Director of the Women's Branch of the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture; representative members of various institutes; four members nominated by the A. O. S. two members nominated by the Board of Agriculture (the Women's Branch) two by the Board of Education, and one by the National Union of Women Workers. Mrs. Watt as Chief Outside Organizer and Mrs. Harris as Head of the W. I. Section attending ex officio.

So rapid was the growth of the institutes and so vigorous was the desire to co-operate and to break new ground, that it soon became advisable to strengthen the organization by forming federations to link together the

Federations including the North Wales Union.

Nor has the movement been confined to England and Wales. In the spring of 1916 Mrs. Blair of Hoprigg Mains, Gladsmuir, and Mrs. Gooch of Torcastle, Banavie (who has seen something of the working of Institutes in England) independently approached the Scottish Board of Agriculture to ask whether they would give favorable consideration to the formation of Women's Institutes. More over, in April, 1917 (at the suggestion of Mrs. Blair) the Scottish Council of Agriculture passed a resolution that Women's Institutes on the lines of those in England should be established.

A deputation to the Secretary for Scotland was favorably received and Mrs. Watt was invited to address public meetings organized in the north of Scotland by Mrs. Gooch, and in the

south by Mrs. Blair. An Advisory Committee to the Board of Agriculture for Scotland was set up, and they appointed Miss A. Campbell as Organizer for the period of two years. By August, 1918, 35 institutes had been formed, with a membership of 1,391.

In Ireland, the work done by the United Irishwomen on similar lines is bearing excellent fruit. The aim of this association which was started in 1910, is to raise the standard of health and living and to press into the service of their country all classes and all sects among women whose homes and interests lie outside the township areas. Such women have often felt that their talents are somewhat wasted and their opportunities of assisting in public work have been too few to be worth considering. The United Irishwomen offers all women an opportunity to assist in the regeneration of their country at a time when the as-

sistance of every man and woman is required as it has never been wanted before. The aim of the Women's Institutes movement is precisely the same, and the two are in close touch with each other.

## MURDER TRIAL AT GAGETOWN

Gagetown, Oct. 10—The prosecution completed its case on Thursday night in the case against Mike Petrovitch, who is charged with the murder of Frank Kaschitz, at Minto. Today four witnesses for the defence were heard including the accused whose testimony took up the greater part of the time. He went on the stand and, examined by his counsel, C. D. Richards jury by evening.

told through interpreters a very straight-forward story, explaining his whereabouts during the time when the murder is alleged to have been committed. His evidence was corroborated to some extent by the two men who went some distance into the woods with him and another who met him on his return from the hunting trip on which he said he had been. He was subjected to a gruelling cross-examination by the attorney-general, and at time was greatly excited.

The prosecution called altogether twenty-three witnesses and the defence will complete its case tomorrow morning, that the addresses by the attorney-general and the prisoner's counsel will take up the greater part of the afternoon and the case will go to the

# Five Minutes To Eleven has not yet come for those who stayed at home



The gallant Canadian army kept right on fighting until five minutes before the Armistice was signed.

The last lap of the war for those men was indeed a smashing, glorious finish!

While the fighting ended at five minutes to eleven on the morning of the eleventh of November last year, the war has not yet ended for those of us who stayed at home.

Our "Five Minutes to Eleven" has not yet come. There is a great deal more for us to do, before our war job is finished.

There are still heavy demobilization expenses to clean up. In a few short months we have brought home the troops that were transported overseas during four years of war—four years' transportation expenses crowded into a few months.

Many millions are still required to complete payment of demobilization and for other purely military expenditures.

The Victory Loan 1919 which is necessary to meet these war obligations is the great objective in the last lap for those who stayed at home.

The Canadian Corps, during the war, never lost a gun,—never once retreated and never failed to take an objective.

Keeping that glorious record in our minds, and carrying that "no surrender" fighting spirit into the new Victory Loan campaign, there can be only one result:—Success, overwhelming and triumphant.

When the figures for the Victory Loan 1919 are totalled up, the result will show the world that those of us who stayed at home have taken another glorious objective on the road to our "Five Minutes to Eleven."

# Victory Loan 1919

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