

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES IS GIVEN BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, MISS ALMA WELDON

Institute Work is Increasing, Report Reveals

A comprehensive report of Institute activities throughout the province was given by Miss Alma Weldon, Superintendent. It continued as follows:

The months have rolled by and once again I have the privilege to present to you the report of the Women's Institutes of the province of New Brunswick for the year ending May 31st, 1937. It gives me great pleasure to extend cordial greetings to all assembled here this morning.

This large gathering shows that the interest in Institute work through out the province is increasing and each year more and more of our Institutes are finding out the value of sending a delegate to the annual meeting. I wonder how many acted upon the suggestion I made last year of having a convention fund to make sure of being able to meet the expense of sending a delegate.

The most outstanding event of the year was the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on May 12th. I presume many here this morning were up at five o'clock to listen in to the broadcast.

How clearly and distinctly we heard our new King in his first broadcast and on his Coronation day, just a few hours after he had been crowned.

Every Institute in the province contributed in one way or another to the celebration in their respective communities. Pictures of their majesties the King and Queen have been presented to many schools. Coronation medals were given to the pupils, these, no doubt, will be treasured for years. Many trees were planted to commemorate the day. Hampton as far as I have learned is the only Institute that secured a seedling of one of the Royal Oaks. I believe several of these were planted in Hampton one especially for their Institute. To Mrs. Guy Humphrey, a member of "The Men of Trees" Society in Toronto goes the honor of getting these seedlings and acorns. A tree like the Peace Garden is a living memorial to this Coronation Day.

New Institutes

During the year just ended, nine new Institutes have been organized as follows: Gordonville in Carleton county; Nepisiguit, Shippegan, Upper Carleton in Gloucester county; St. Louis in Kent county; Baker Brook in Madawaska county; Barabois in Westmorland county; Plaster Rock in Victoria county, and Coronation in York county. We have now 133 active Institutes.

Representatives are here this morning from all of these new Institutes. I feel that everyone here this morning joins with me in extending greetings and best wishes to these representatives. The Department realizing the benefits derived from these annual gatherings assists the newly organized Institutes by paying the railway fare and board of one delegate. This should be an incentive to every Institute to have a delegate here each year.

Home and Country

During the past year our Institute paper has been edited by Mrs. Lloyd Boulter, Hamtown Corner. I regret very much that Mrs. Boulter finds it impossible, owing to home ties, to continue.

I am sure you will all agree with me that Home and Country has improved under the able management of Mrs. Boulter. One hundred and thirty-nine Institutes subscribe for one or more copies. Every Institute should subscribe for at least one copy. Helpful suggestions for programs are given, and many interesting papers.

District Conventions

Fifteen district conventions were held during the summer and fall months. I attended all but the one in Victoria county.

Kennebecasis Valley district held their 13th annual convention all nine Institutes were represented and reported on their work. A demonstration on making of sandwiches was much enjoyed.

Peticodiac district also held their 13th annual convention, the eleven Institutes giving reports eight reported on work taken up by their local convener. Carleton county voted \$20 for prize money for an Institute exhibit at the Woodstock exhibition.

Victoria county held their eleventh annual convention, all but two of the Institute were represented and reported on work being done.

Fundy district also held their eleventh annual convention, the seven Institutes were represented and all members of Bain's Corner were present. The Fairview Institute demonstrated canning in tin cans. An interesting feature was an exhibit of applied quilts, knitted bags and a garment made from one yard material not to exceed 25 cents.

Wohelo district was another to celebrate their eleventh annual conven-

tion, all but one Institute were represented. They had an exhibit of house dresses, crocheted collars and knitted sweaters.

Loyalist district held their eighth annual convention. Seventeen of the twenty-three Institutes were represented. Ten dollars was voted for prize money for the Fredericton exhibition, and a committee was appointed to interview the Fredericton Exhibition Association, to find out if they would contribute an equal amount. The exhibit to be a patchwork quilt, men's socks made from York Mills yarn and a string dress.

Bay Chaleur district held their ninth convention and had a good exhibit of handicrafts. They are taking a keen interest in the Bathurst exhibition.

Charlotte county held their seventh annual convention with representatives from the four Institutes present. Demonstrations were given on making a cake, uncooked candy, bandaging and the making of a mustard plaster. An interesting exhibit of handicrafts consisted of rugs, quilts, knitting, needlepoint, aprons and thrift. Ten dollars was donated for prizes.

Sheddy district held their sixth annual convention, all six Institutes in the district gave interesting reports. The exhibit was house dresses and a child's knitted sweater.

Chignecto district held their seventh annual convention, all six Institutes were represented. Fifteen dollars was voted towards an Educational Fund in hope of having a scholarship at some future date. A flower exhibit attracted much attention.

Ouigoudi district also had their seventh annual convention. Eleven of the twelve Institutes in the district were represented and gave good reports.

Madawaska district held their annual convention with the three Institutes in the district represented.

Sussex Vale district held their third annual convention, the eight Institutes in the district were represented. This district voted \$20 towards paying the expenses of some rural boy to the Short Course in Fredericton. There was an exhibit of patchwork quilts and knitted sweaters.

Northumberland county held their third annual convention seven of the eight Institutes were represented. The exhibit included fancy door stop, laundry bag, not bowl made from cocoon shell, hooked rugs and patchwork quilts.

Splendid papers are also given at these conventions. The attendance speaks for itself, nearly all Institutes are represented. The programs vary, there are arranged by local executive and show the different interests. Some prefer addresses, others exhibits, demonstrations and contests.

If there is any Institute represented here this morning that has not linked itself up with any district or county organization, let me say, you are missing more than you realize. District convention days are red letter days for every Institute member, such a social friendly gathering, where old friendships are renewed and new ones made. Formality is thrown aside and all thoroughly enjoy the supper or picnic lunch which ever it may be.

Monthly Reports

Monthly reports are coming in quite regularly but each year we have to remind some secretaries that at least eight meetings must be reported before their government grant can be forwarded to them. It may not seem necessary to you to forward a report after each meeting, but really they are our only connecting link with the work being done.

Reports are very different, this is really to be expected where some Institutes have been working for twenty-six years and others are just being organized. It is most encouraging to watch the new ones develop and fall in line or begin something entirely different.

Some interesting items taken from reports received. Amateur programs have been a popular means of swelling funds throughout the year.

Havelock and Fredericton have held tonsil clinics during the year. Dalhousie paid expenses of nurse to take Refresher Course in Saint John.

One secretary reports renewing subscription to McLean's Magazine stating "it brightens at least fifteen homes. Who cares if it is a bit worn?"

Elmsville reports, "We have an understanding in our community that any one who is overburdened in any way is welcome to any help we can give, not as a recipient of charity but that it is our duty to help non members as well as members." If every Institute in the province would adopt this same understanding and endeavor to live up to it what a wonderful influence for good the Institute would be. Reports received show that nearly every Institute had a Home Products supper the first of April. It would be interesting to know all the different menus and how many have at least inquired about home products when buying

canned goods, soap, etc.

Book clubs of various kinds are reported. Some have mentioned Study Clubs, but I regret to say these have not been carefully reported and I do not know if they were a success or not.

Many report foreign correspondence. From letters and books, real interesting study groups could carry on and find out how people are living in other countries. Take for e.g. New Zealand, are we familiar with their climate, their flowers, birds, methods of farming, their foods and crops? This information could easily be obtained.

Jacksonville has encouraged the setting out of apple trees. A sprayer has been purchased for the use of the community.

Co-operation is the key note of success if men and women would co-operate, in many of our communities there would be no end to the good that could be accomplished, but little misunderstandings steal in, one neighbor feels that another neighbor is getting more help than he is, the women take no interest in the Agricultural Society and the men take no interest in the Institute and soon both die. There are problems to be solved in every community and it needs combined effort to solve them. So work together, discuss your community needs, and endeavor to improve every home in your community.

Schools

Every Institute is taking an active interest in education. We find practically every Institute co-operating with the teacher and pupils in putting on a special program for education week.

The problem facing our rural communities today is advanced educational opportunities for our rural girls and boys. Every boy and girl does not wish to take a high school education leading to a college degree, but every boy and girl whether they live in a rural or urban centre, requires a secondary education to fit them to become useful happy citizens; so that they are capable of making an independent living.

Many improvements have been made in the one-roomed school through the efforts of the Institutes. Compare a school with a first aid kit, a wash basin, soap and paper towels; dust bane or some preparation to keep down the dust; a covered water cooler with individual drinking cups; kleanex to take the place of the forgotten hankie; attractive framed pictures, and yes, white curtains at the windows with the school that many of us here this morning can remember, probably the one where we started our education.

Outbuildings are more sanitary and in many cases toilet paper has been provided. All these improvements must encourage the teacher and leave a lasting impression on the pupils even though perhaps they seem most ungrateful.

I noticed recently where a man who is now living in Chicago but who was born in New Brunswick is offering a prize for letter writing in our Normal School and it just flashed through my mind, why not consider letter writing more seriously in the lower grades? Many who never get to normal school would find this knowledge very useful.

I was quite surprised when I attended one district convention last fall to find that the women were still afraid to go to the school meeting. There was a splendid piece of poetry in the December or January copy of "The Farmer" entitled "The Woman Trustee." I wish every man in New Brunswick had read it, I will quote the last verse:

"No, she hasn't preached, or berated us men,

But we are more courteous, more manly since when
They elected a woman trustee.
The years she has served have been bright, pleasant years,
She has been a great help, in spite of our fears;
So, I'd like to advise that regardless of years
You'll elect a woman trustee."

Every woman might not be a good trustee, neither is every man, but every community has one or more women who could qualify for trustees and I venture to say with the poet, our decided improvement in rural schools is dated since they allowed women to attend the school meeting. As John Oxenham says:

"Preachers and teachers all are we
Sowers of seed unconsciously
Our hearers are beyond our ken,
Yet all we give may come again
With usury of joy or pain
We never know
To what one little word may grow,
See to it, then, that all your seeds
Be such as bring forth noble deeds."

Garment Making Clubs

I am just going to mention this phase of the work here since Miss Margaret McMullen, Fredericton, has been appointed to attend to this important work and she will give a full report later on the program. I would urge every community to endeavor to have a club.

Advisory Board

The Provincial Advisory Board met in the Superintendent's office December 8th and 9th, 1936. All members being present except Mrs. Colin Campbell, Director for Albert, Westmorland, Kent and St. John counties.

Orange Pekoe Blend "SALADA" TEA

Routine business was dealt with, the minutes in full will be read during the business session of this convention.

Provincial Flower

It is gratifying to many of us to know that by an order in council recommended by His Honor, Murray MacLaren, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, that the blue violet so common in all our fields has been proclaimed as our Provincial Flower.

A few years ago our organization discussed this matter. A circular was sent out soliciting the support of the school children in their choice. At that time the Blue Violet led and we are greatly pleased that our Lieutenant Governor felt we should have a Provincial Flower and chose as such the one the youth of our land wished.

Short Course

The four weeks Short Course was held in Sussex, February 24th to March 24th. Thirty-five girls were registered for the full course, but after the first two weeks, two girls were called home owing to the illness of their father.

The 1937 course was perhaps the most successful course we have ever had. There was such splendid co-operation on the part of the girls.

Practically the same course of work was carried out.

Miss Clara LeBlanc, Assistant Superintendent had charge of the elementary sewing and dressmaking.

Miss Margaret McMullen, B.Sc., Supervisor of Girls Clubs had charge of menu planning, cooking, table setting and sewing. She also gave instruction in knitting.

Mrs. Edward Lawson, Moncton had charge of weaving. I had charge of needlework, including cross stitch, needlepoint and crocheting.

Miss Lois Hains, R.N., Moncton, had charge of Home Nursing.

Lectures were also given on poultry raising and horticulture.

Eleven of the fifteen counties were represented. The attendance speaks for the popularity of these courses. The girls attending this year wrote a letter of appreciation to the Minister of Agriculture and asked that the course be made a six weeks course rather than four weeks. They felt that their hours were too long and too full, with not enough time for recreation or games which would be of great assistance to them as community leaders when they returned to their homes.

Twenty-one of the thirty-five girls enrolled, were assisted financially by their Institutes, one Garment Making Club paid half the expenses of one student.

Many Institutes have never assisted any girl financially, think this over and plan on sending a student to the next course.

Six one-week short courses in dressmaking have been held at Barabois, Ledges, Carleton Place, St. Joseph South Tilley and St. Therese. Tracy had a oneweek course including sewing, needlepoint and weaving. Several reports for short courses have been received but owing to pressure of work these had to be laid over.

Associated Country Women of the World

The Third Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World was held in Washington, D.C. May 31st, June 11th, 1936. New Brunswick was represented by your delegate, Mrs. Byron Keith and by your Superintendent.

Twenty-three nations were represented by approximately 7,000 delegates, most of this number were farm women.

Ladies! they have the same problems, the world over, that we are facing here in New Brunswick, viz., marketing farm products, keeping young people on the farm, secondary education for rural boys and girls, unemployment and recreation. The success of our work depends largely upon your co-operation.

UNDER RED RULE IN SPAIN

Sun Reporter Finds Getting Out of Spain Harder Than Getting In, and Sees World the Loser No Matter Who Wins the War

(By Gault MacGowan)

SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE OF SPAIN, June 8.—Slipping out of Spain today is something like slipping into the United States from Canada in the prohibition era. A grim-faced customs officer gives you the once over; and then he calls in a "tough guy" to give you the twice and thrice over. But the combined frontier exertions of the United States, France and Great Britain are mere formalities compared with the examination of those about to depart from the new "land of the free"—the so-called popular Spain.

In my case, my credentials were good. If they had not been I should not have been able to write this article. For the customs examination of those whose credentials are second rate is quite unprintable.

The object is to make sure that you have no uncensored dispatches concealed on your person and that you are taking no more money out of the country than you brought in. Of course, should you happen to have had a business in Spain and want to take out part of your investment, that would be just too bad. All your capital is needed to pay the wages of your workers who aren't working for

you. One of their committees, however, will look after your money for you, because if you did not leave it, the workers would not get paid. And if the workers did not get paid they would be under the painful necessity of shooting the committee. So the committee sees to it that capitalists in Spain stay there.

Unhappily, some of them have died there. Others have died there unhappily. One of them I met lurking behind a pile of coals in a cellar told me he was waiting for a Scarlet Pimpernel to come and smuggle him across the border into Andorra.

Sounds as if I were going to drag some romance into this story. However, it is plain fact. There are real Scarlet Pimpernels working today in Red Spain, smuggling aristocrats from the shooting galleries.

If you want to know how it is done, re-read the stories by Baroness Orczy of the French Revolution. They describe the technique. More details at this moment would prevent the extension of the idea in Spain. And the Scarlet Pimpernels would be up against the wall instead of helping others over it.

Nothing Incriminating Taken Out

In my case, I had taken the precaution to have no incriminating evidence upon me; no notebooks, films or pictures, and considerably less money than I had declared on entering. But for all that I was thoroughly searched. Alien hands were run all over my body from shirt to socks. The addresses of my New York friends in my wallet were suspiciously scrutinized. A fine tooth comb was run through my baggage. I took nothing out of Spain I should not have done—except some of the largest bug bites I ever remember.

These were definitely red. But a lot of people have complained to me since I left that Red Spain is not really Red, only pink and popular.

It is no balm for my bites that they obscure the situation by the use of initials such as C. N. T., F. A. I., P. S. U. C., and U. G. T. These mean National Labor Federation, Iberian Anarchist Federation, the United Socialist Party of Catalonia and the General Workers Union. And to modest adherents of progressive democratic development, this spells Red.

It may be slightly unfair to the pinks, but it is definitely kind to the scarlets. The use of Red and White to differentiate the warring parties seems fair and classical. There is the precedent of the War of the Roses in England, the Russian revolution and the game of chess. For the black pieces in chess were formerly traditionally red. But the propagandists of the Government viewpoint here and abroad frequently seek to impress the world that there is nothing in the situation at all except a Fascist, attempt to seize the reins of power from a popularly elected government.

That may have been in some measure true on the first day of the outbreak, although General Franco maintains he led the rising to forestall the outbreak of class warfare.

However, this may be, within a short time the exigencies of the military situation decreed the disappearance of the vociferous pinks on the White side and too vocal creams on the Red side. These mutual blood purges speedily produced purer white on the White side and clearer red on the Red side, with occasional unpleasant eruptions such as the Basque revolt on the White side and the anarchist revolt on the Red side.

Rows May Have Direct Bearing

Whichever side can get its internal troubles cleaned up first and concentrate on winning the war should gain the victory. Today the situation is as obscure as it was in 1917 in France before the weight of America was thrown into the scales. The conclusion is drawn by some military experts that, because Germany lost after a surprise attack in 1914 that failed, Franco must do the same in 1937.

There are some grounds for this thought.

Every day that Franco dissipates means a present of time to the Government in which to train fresh troops to replace those that deserted to Franco; to replace officers that were shot by anarchists; to teach peaceful citizens the spirit of the bayonet, and to stiffen the defenses of Madrid.

Madrid has become a Red Verdun. "They shall not pass," is the spirit that the Government is endeavoring to instill into the defenders of the historic capital. And in the eyes of the world the possession of Madrid still means control of Spain.

But actually Madrid is just another city in the battle area. It is realized by those who really appreciate the situation that Franco's failure to capture Madrid does not imply that he cannot. He might, if he were willing to sacrifice men, take it by direct assault. But he would lose too many men in the operation to make it worth while since the Loyalists have a machine gun in every window.

His other course would be to reduce Madrid to dust by heavy bombardments.

But this course would upset his financial arrangements. The bulk of those who are supporting him have heavy investments in Madrid. They

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would not welcome a victory which would mean destruction of their property. A Madrid householder who has contributed to Franco told our correspondent that he would consider his money lost if he returned to the old capital to find his home blown to pieces.

Forces Strategy of Successes

Multiply this example by hundreds and the extent of the pressure that is put on the Whites not to take Madrid may be gauged. Franco's tactics therefore are to compel a retirement from the old capital by successes elsewhere. Meanwhile he is making those successes easier by keeping the flower of the Red army occupied in defending Madrid. His successes against the Basque indicate that he has been successful in this policy. He has been able to conduct two campaigns at once.

And while he has been doing this, the Government, instead of relieving the Basques by violent counterattacks against Franco's positions in the Madrid area, has been obliged to dissipate its energies in clearing up the situation behind its own lines.

The Government, when faced with the military rising, was obliged to arm civilians. This meant arming the anarchists as well as the moderates. And now the anarchists, having realized their life-long dream of arms and ammunition in abundance, refuse to give them up at the behest of mere communists or Socialists.

In Barcelona, friends of the old regime regard the whole civil war as a class war. They are at a loss to understand why the world outside does not realize this. They argue that if the Reds win, then Russia will have an ally on the Mediterranean. The next country then to be undermined will be France, then England. Franco feels the same way.

I have been authoritatively informed that had not Franco expected the nations opposed to Communism to rush to his assistance with money and arms, he would never have started the war. As it is, he is bitterly disappointed that every weapon is being used to make his cause unpopular.

On the other hand, the Government, is indignant that the great democratic nations of Britain, France and the United States do not come to the support of democrats—however Left Wing—in Spain.

In the Barcelona War Museum they have a huge map of the world showing that their propaganda services are delivered into every great city of the world as far as Nome in Alaska.

They have fed the Spanish public with the belief that the workers of the world are ready to unite to throw off all forms of organized restraint. Now, because these claims are proving unjustified, they are raising the cry of perfidious Albion, traitors France and callous America.

My summary of the situation is this. Whichever side wins in Spain, the world is out of luck. Franco is trading mining rights with Italy and Germany in return for their support; Red Spain is trading political and economic support with Russia in exchange for experts and airplanes.

World Won't Profit

If Franco wins, the French communications with Morocco and Algeria will be cut by an alliance of Fascist Powers. If the so-called popular Government wins, then the Hammer and Sickle will rule on the Mediterranean seaboard and the Atlantic coast of Europe.

Spain today looks like a large scale try-out for a fight to the death between Fascism and Communism. Russia has learned that her airplanes are more effective in wet weather than the German and Italian. Russian officers are experimenting with the technique of inducing pacifists to die in the last ditch with the fervor of Valley Forge. Germans and Italians have been learning under what conditions the Fascist spirit may not be so good as they thought it was and why victory may sometimes not go to the side with the most motorized army.

The only hope is that the present policy of isolating the warring factions in Spain may lead them to compose their differences and agree on a workable and co-operative policy.

But that is a sane man's policy. And no one seems sane in Spain today.