

Citizenship Problems and Helping Rural Life

The Foresters' Hall was again crowded for the last morning of the Women's Institutes Convention, Mrs. F. C. Doane of Newmarket presiding. The reports showed increased enthusiasm, and brought in especially co-operation with Church work. Mrs. McLennan urged that all should combine, as in different churches many women do not know each other. The Institute, being undenominational, should be a mighty factor in the furthering of Church union. The busiest woman is always the one who can do "just a little more." The speaker urged that all mothers and wives who had given their dear ones to King and country should do everything to unite, "and not keep themselves in cold-storage, and thus give anyone a chill."

Keep Children in Country.

Mrs. Forney of Gravenhurst spoke of a big undertaking, a possibility for family, not entirely personal, life, in "The People's Institutes," and so keep communities together—to give the advantages in the country, and thus keep sons and daughters from drifting to towns. A plan has most successfully worked for Gravenhurst, beginning with "Donation Day," when \$300 was given for the room where a monthly meeting is held for forty members. Here all visitors were also welcome, and a multitude of work taken up, from Victorian Nurses to sewing committees, societies innumerable, Church work, social meetings, co-operating in patriotic work, renting crockery for tea from the Women's Institutes, lectures and papers from members and visitors. A building is wanted, with rest rooms, Carnegie library, general utility room for concerts, etc. And the speaker pleaded for a "Game Room" for their boys, so as to have a healthful, cheery place in which to meet outside of their homes, also a museum room, for the interesting articles now scattered through the country. A bureau for unemployed and information and an "Emergency Room" for accidents were also thought of. Mrs. Putnam had done enormous work.

Helping the Newcomers.

Mrs. Dawson of Parkhill spoke for the foreign woman in our midst, whose children will be Canadians, and therefore whose environment should be considered as having effect in after life as valuable citizens. Schoolhouses have to be looked after, morally and literally; the children sent from careful nurture in sanitary homes must have these surroundings not lowered among intellectual efforts, and the "reflex blessing" will be clearly seen. Visits to Township Councils, playgrounds and schools will further this insistence on the excellent laws of Ontario being carried out. The tremendous answer to Red Cross work by women in the country is the consequence of this leadership in Institute meetings, and the value of being able to discuss outside things with the men of the family is above estimation.

Mrs. Dawson said 25 years' devotion to home still left 20 years for State and community, an intelligent mother never stopping growth, but

widening in knowledge, judgment and sympathy. The women of Canada meant 30,000 meetings each month for the public good. Mrs. Winter of New Brunswick brought greetings, and spoke delightfully of the new view revived in the convention. Sixty-one branches, with a membership of 2,000 were in New Brunswick. The patriotic work had done an infinity of good in every direction.

The members appointed for committees by Mrs. Putnam, subject to confirmation, were as follows: Eastern Convention, Mrs. McDougall, Glengarry; Mrs. R. N. Fowler, Perth. Central Convention: Mrs. William Moxon, Picton; Mrs. J. R. Falkins, Millbrook; Miss K. McKay, Beaverton; Mrs. William Bacon, Orillia; Mrs. Buchanan, East Grey; Mrs. P. W. Hodgetts, Clapham; Mrs. A. P. Thomas, Beamsville. Central: Mrs. Edgar, Sundridge; Mrs. T. L. Dinsmore, Scult Ste. Marie; Mrs. E. Darlington, Barnhardt; Mrs. J. Brethour, Burford; Mrs. R. Graham, Ripley; Mrs. D. Wilson, Parkhill.

Making Good Citizens.

At the afternoon session Mrs. J. M. Godfrey of Port Credit spoke in a sympathetic and enlightened manner on "The Stranger Within our Gates," the European immigrant that has done so much for the development of Canada. As Mrs. Godfrey pointed out, Canada cannot do without these people, so the problem was, how to make the immigrant a good citizen. The first thing to be done was to teach him the English language. The children, the speaker said, were equal mentally and morally to any Canadian child. She suggested for this object the securing of assistance from the school trustees, so that the village school might be made a community centre as a basis for bringing the foreigner into the life of the people. Let them bring to this centre their native industries, their songs and their folk-lore. The naturalization of the foreigner was the foreigner's right. Mrs. Godfrey cited the case of a goldsmith who had shoveled coal for twenty years in the United States because he was a foreigner. The agricultural laborer, she said, was prone to desert the agricultural districts from sheer lack of sympathy and companionship.

Speaking of medical inspection in schools, Mrs. (Dr.) Wilson of Parkhill said that the rural districts were awakening to the benefits of medical inspection. Fifty to 90 per cent. of the children in the rural schools were suffering from defective eyesight.

Following an address from Miss Hobson of Parkdale, who recounted the excellent system of school inspection in Great Britain, and the assistance of the Government in this respect, a resolution was passed to ask the Government for a grant of money for medical school inspection in the rural districts.

In an address on "The Macdonald Institute," Mrs. M. V. Watson said the prospects for the year were good, but the work was curtailed from lack of space. Preference was given to foreigners' daughters, who were taught dietetics and home housekeeping, and there was nothing to prevent Ontario from having an effective school for immigrant girls. Mrs. Watson suggested the institution of a school where all the work would be done by the pupils. Mrs. H. M. Moxon of Picton presided in the afternoon.