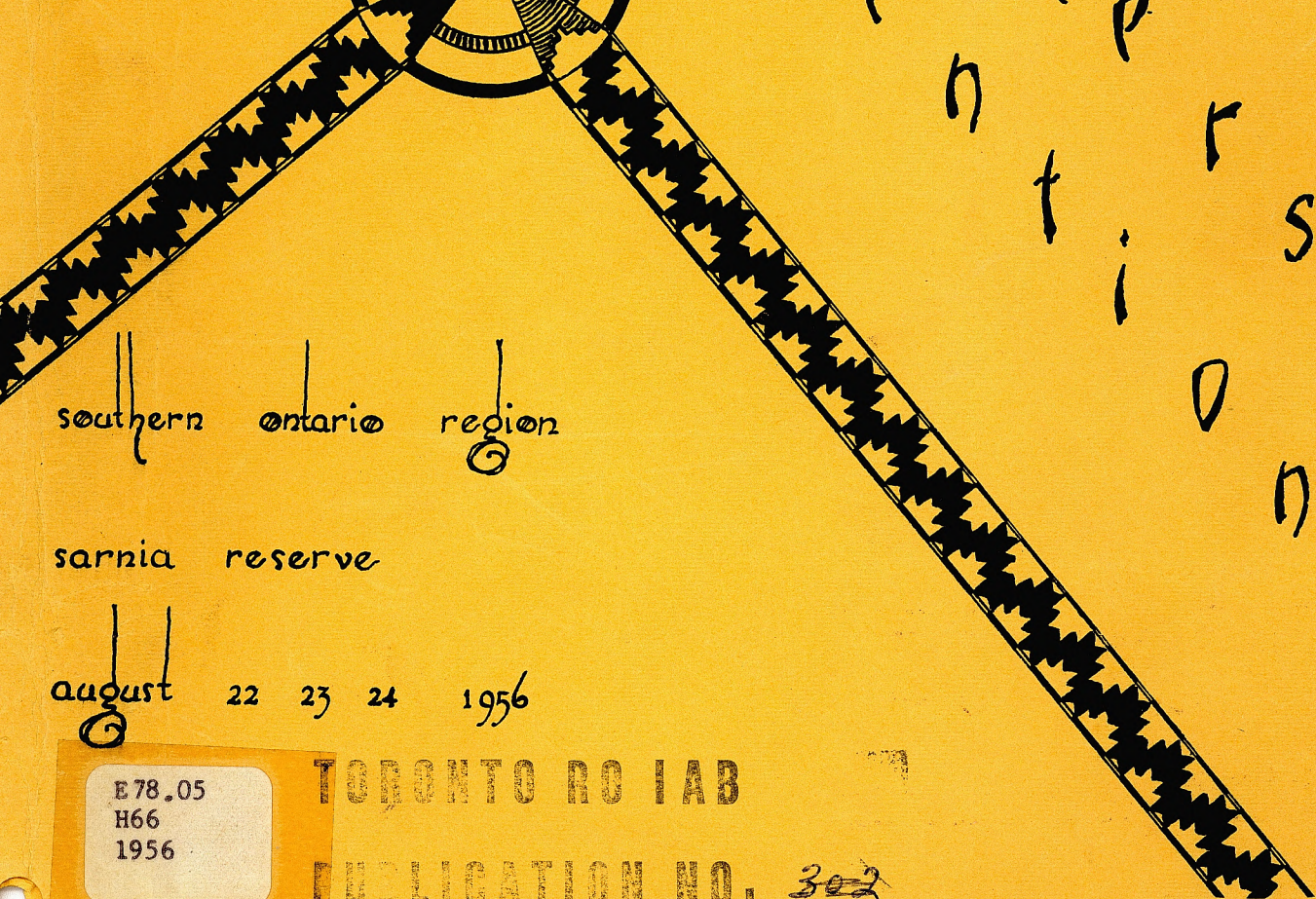


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Dear Homemakers, Speakers and Guests,

I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all of you who were present at the 11th Homemakers' Convention for making it a success. This was possible only through your co-operation, good will and able participation.

A thank you to the Hostess Club who planned and prepared the wholesome meals, made us all welcome and feel at home.

Someone said to me "I will tell you something, I am glad I attended, you know, they are real nice people on that reserve. I like them".

A thank you to the speakers who did such an able job and taught us so much.

A most sincere thanks to the delegates who showed such interest in the proceedings and participated so well in all activities.

I am very proud of all of you.

This booklet contains a summary of the proceedings. I hope you like it, ladies. Please show it to all the members of your club.

Sincerely,

Helen Martins

(Miss) Helen Martins,
Social Worker,
Indian Affairs,
Regional Office, Toronto.

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The 11th Homemakers' Convention

took place on the

SARNIA RESERVE, SARNIA, ONTARIO

August 22, 23, and 24, 1956.

Chairwoman - Mrs. Nicholas Plain

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22.

The Convention opened with the singing of "O Canada".

Invocation - by The Reverend Gordon C. Raymer, M.A.B.D.,
Minister of St. Clair United Church:

"O God, our Heavenly Father, Who art the giver of life and light, the source of love and mercy, we seek Thy blessing upon our homes, that they may be defended against all evil. Make them sanctuaries of purity and peace, love and joy. O Thou protector and friend, keep all our dear ones within the safe shelter of Thy love.

"Grant Thy blessing, bestow Thy guidance upon all the deliberations of this Convention. Bless and inspire all who preside and those who speak, that in the end, this gathering may prove of great value to all Thy servants.

"This we ask, in the name of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour.

Amen."

Mr. Ward L Leroy, Superintendent, Sarnia Agency, welcomed the delegates:

"Madam President, of our host Homemaker's Club, Delegates and visitors, Officials from Regional Office, Members of the Sarnia Club and friends; it is with humble pride that I have the honour to be the first to address you, and to officially open this, the 11th Annual Convention of Homemaker's Clubs, here at the Sarnia Reserve.

"May I welcome you all here, this morning, and I trust your visit with us will be an enjoyable one. I notice many old friends among you, and if I may, I should particularly like to welcome the delegates from Parry Sound.

"It was with some misgiving that I arose this morning, when I thought of having to face all you ladies; and I wondered just what message I might give you. Then, I thought of the word "Homemaker" and I thought, what a wonderful thing the word "Homemaker" is. Did you ever stop to think just what it did mean? H-o-m-e-m-a-k-e-r, say it slowly and think just what it might mean. To me, it is the maker of not only a home, but homes. Whoever coined the word, I do not know, but you, I am sure, must all feel proud that you are members and representatives of an organization with that name. Without the persons who make our homes, where would we all be? Speaking for each of us, individually, the person who made our home from the day we were born, gave us our first impressions of life, and moulded unknowingly to us, at that time, a part of our lives that would never leave us. You will no doubt, think of that person as your mother. The mother of the family is basically the first and foremost true homemaker. But, in my opinion, there are others with whom you come in contact throughout your life who are also homemakers. Here is an example of what I mean. If we had on this large world only one home with one person living in it, could you, using the true sense of the word, call that person a homemaker? I do not think so. But if that one person went out and found another person in the world and said to him, "you have no one to look after you, you have no home to live in, you have no one to teach you how to live in this world, you have no one to talk to, you have no one to help you if you take sick, you have no one to comfort you, if you are worried - come with me, I will help you, and show you and give you the way to acquire all these things", immediately that person actually begins to do all these things he or she becomes really and truly a homemaker.

"Fortunately for us, throughout our whole lives, we come into contact with people who do these things for their fellowmen - and they help to mould our lives, our character and achievements.

"You ladies, who are gathered here today, have I know, for your aim and as a basis of your constitution - to help others in your communities, to assist them when they are in need, and to do everything possible to improve living conditions and social conditions in the areas where you live. You have done this - you are doing this - I know you will continue to do this - and you will live up to your name.

"May your Convention be a wonderful success, and when you leave for your homes, when this Convention is over, may you carry with you some new ideas, and some new thoughts that will help you, help your neighbours and friends to be better people and homemakers.

.....

Lloyd Williams, Chief of the Sarnia Band, was introduced by Mrs. Plain: "We are very proud of our Lloyd. He has been a Council member for many years and has always worked for the welfare of his people. We trust him, he is a real nice man".

Lloyd Williams:

"Ladies and Gentlemen and delegates from the different clubs. We are grateful and feel honoured that you should choose our reserve for your Convention. We are proud of it, the same as you who come from the different reserves are proud of yours. I want to keep it that way. Be proud you are Indian and never, never be ashamed of it.

"We hope you will have a good Convention and that when you go back you will be more inspired to carry on your work on your reserves. While here, we want you to feel one of us and enjoy each other. Don't be afraid to speak up or afraid you may offend somebody. Your problems are our problems. It is your job to speak up and talk about your problems and discuss them so as to become better citizens. Co-operate with our officials and with each other to make your reserve a better place to live.

"On behalf of the Homemaker's Club of Sarnia, welcome to the Sarnia Reserve. May you have a very good Convention.

.....

Little Miss Williams and young Master Jacobs then welcomed the delegates:

"Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: - On behalf of the Homemaker's Club of Sarnia, welcome to the delegates, welcome to the officials of our Department, welcome to the guests. May you have a very successful convention".

Gleanings from submission presented on Sarnia Reserve by
Calvin Adams:-

"By the Treaty of July 10, 1827, the Sarnia Chippewa Nation of Indians surrendered two million, two hundred thousand acres of land, more or less, expressly reserving to the said nation of Indians and their posterity ten thousand, two hundred and eighty acres."

The demand by industry for reserve land at high prices has since caused the Indians of Sarnia Reserve to reduce their land holdings to some 3,425 acres.

"At one time there were 38 farmers on the reserve, but since we are surrounded by industry, most of the men are now employed at factory and construction jobs. It is considered there have been great improvements on our reserve, in homes, through rehabilitation funds for our boys and men who served in the armed forces, and some borrowed money from our band funds to build and improve their homes.

"Since our last Convention here, we have organized the Cubs and Boy Scout groups. We have young men of our reserve as leaders of these groups, and have officers of these organizations come down from the City to help and cheer our leaders along. We also have a group of Canadian Girls in Training, and the Explorers. We are exceedingly grateful to the broad-minded and true-hearted young ladies who come down from the City and devote their valuable time to assist or train our young girls. We have nice group of teen-age boys and girls in the Young Peoples Union of the Church.

"Our Indian children are now attending the City of Sarnia schools, and the experiment started last year we find to be quite a success. We consider it is to represent the general policy of the Department at Ottawa to bring Indian pupils into the local public schools wherever possible. The Department of Indian Affairs and the Sarnia Band have engaged buses to take the Indian children to and from school, and they have assumed to pay 50 - 50 on the expenses for the transportation of the school children.

"We have a beautiful new church, built and opened some three years ago, and of which we are very proud. It meets the needs of our people as a centre of religious life.

"We are thankful to the Department of Indian Affairs for sponsoring the Homemakers' Clubs.

"According to various reports of the different clubs, their work has been wonderful. Wishing you greater achievements, we humbly extend to each and every delegate and all visitors a sincere and hearty welcome from our Reserve".

.....

Mrs. Plain called on Mr. Morris. She said "He doesn't need an introduction, we all know him, he is our beloved Mr. Morris".

Mr. J. E. Morris:

"Madam Chairman: I wish to express my sincere thanks to you for your kind introduction. Delegates of the Homemakers' Clubs: It is a real pleasure for me to be with you again at this, your eleventh Convention. On behalf of our Director, Lt. Col. H.M. Jones, I wish to express his regret at not being present today. He is a very busy man and as there are Homemakers' Conventions taking place in other parts of Canada it is impossible for him to attend them all. However, he wishes me to extend to you his sincere greetings and the hope that each representative will enter into the discussions and benefit from the proceedings, and then go back to your reserves with enthusiasm to carry on your work and improve the conditions on your home reserves.

"There has been a marked improvement in the living conditions on the various reserves in Southern Ontario since your first Convention held at Deseronto twelve years ago. The delegates here will observe a vast improvement in the living conditions of the people on the Sarnia Reserve since the Convention last held here five years ago. You, as Homemakers, contribute much to these better conditions and the better way of living amongst your people; without your work, goodwill and co-operation, little can be accomplished. I would ask you to encourage young women to join your Clubs and become active in Homemakers work on the reserves.

"Every Homemaker should be interested in better housing, which means planting shrubs, trees and blooming plants, keeping the grounds clean and tidy, painting the exterior of your homes, improving them inside by furnishing them adequately, including electrical appliances. Hydro, as you know, is on every reserve in Southern Ontario with the exception of one, namely, Georgina Island on Lake Simcoe. We hope very shortly to have the Ontario Hydro Commission agree to provide a cable to bring electricity to that Island. I will only be happy and satisfied when hydro is available in every home on each reserve in

Southern Ontario, so that all Homemakers will be able to make their work that much easier with the use of modern electrical appliances.

"Drinking water is very important, and you should have your wells tested regularly. It is intended at this meeting to project a film entitled "Water - Friend or Enemy", which clearly describes how wells should be constructed and maintained. If your water supply is not good then you should bring this fact to the attention of your Indian Council and your Superintendent. Sanitation is also very important. All debris and cans should be buried. Your outside toilets should be kept in a clean and neat condition. As Homemakers you should be interested in keeping your cemeteries free of weeds, and cutting the grass. I am very proud to mention that the Homemakers on the Moravian Reserve have taken full responsibility for their cemetery, and it is kept in excellent condition all the year round.

"In the Province of Ontario you receive all the social benefits provided by the Province of Ontario as well as those provided by the Dominion Government. The moneys paid out for old age security, disability pension, blind pension, mothers allowance and babies bonus all add up to very large sums. It is suggested that you make a survey of your own reserve with the help of your Superintendent, to find out how much money is actually being paid to members of the reserve in social benefits. You will be surprised to know that at the Six Nations Reserve, where the population is approximately 6,000, about \$400,000.00 is received each year by those who qualify for benefits under the various Acts. This assistance, together with the facilities for employment at high wages, is contributing much towards improving conditions on the reserves.

"The question that I wish you to ask yourselves is, 'Are you as individuals doing enough for yourselves or contributing as much as you should to make your reserve a better place to live?' You should be interested in your church. See that your families attend church services regularly. Regarding education, tomorrow you will hear discussions by men who are well informed. I would ask you to listen to them attentively and to co-operate as fully as you can to see that the young people benefit from the facilities that are readily available. Good schools are being provided, certified teachers are being engaged and transportation is available. Many parents appreciate the need for more and more education. However, there are still a few parents who are careless in this regard; they permit their children to remain away from school for any trivial excuse. As Homemakers you should visit these mothers regularly and prevail on them to do more to encourage their

children to go to school. There are jobs for every trained and educated person. It is your duty as Homemakers to do everything humanly possible to become better educated and fitted to accept responsible positions and take your rightful place alongside your non-Indian neighbours.

"At the Mohawk Residential School each summer we have between 40 and 45 girls and boys who remain there throughout the summer holidays as they have no home to return to. I would like to suggest that consideration be given to the possibility of the Homemakers sponsoring a summer camp at Christian Island which could be held for a two-week period each for these boys and girls. Such a holiday would be very beneficial to these youngsters. After all, they come from every reserve in Southern Ontario. I think it would be a worthwhile undertaking for each Homemakers organization to set aside a small sum of money to assist in such a project.

"As Homemakers you should be interested in the prevention of trespassing and liquor traffic on the reserve. These two problems are serious in some places. You know very well that a non-Indian should not be residing on the reserve unless he is living there because of a lease that is officially approved. Moneys voted by Parliament cannot be used to provide non-Indians on the reserves with welfare assistance such as clothing, food, and housing. We do permit them to attend school up to Grade 8. However, when they have to attend High School off the reserve we cannot pay for their tuition or any cost in connection with their education. Similarly, they are not entitled to medical assistance. Therefore, every effort should be made to discourage them from coming on the reserve. If you know of any such cases you should report them to your Council and your Superintendent.

"Regarding the drinking of liquor, the privilege of going to beverage rooms does not entitle a person to become intoxicated. You should be interested and concerned, and endeavour to help those men and women who use liquor to excess, neglect their children and are not a good example to other members of the Band. With regard to trafficking in liquor by bootleggers, you should assist in every possible way you can to provide information to the Police to convict such persons and stop the illegal sale of liquor. As Homemakers it is your duty to take an active part in every phase of life on your reserve.

"The Homemakers of Southern Ontario should give thought to assisting in the financial cost of your Homemakers' Convention. It should not be too much to expect reserves who have large Band Funds and where

the people are earning large incomes, to pay for the transportation of their representative to the Homemakers' meeting. Small financial assistance should be voted by each club to assist in defraying the cost of sending their representative to the Convention. Consideration should be given to paying a registration fee for each delegate attending the Convention. During your meetings here I would recommend that you frankly discuss and suggest ways and means of providing some financial assistance to defray the cost in connection with your Homemakers' Conference.

"Please keep in mind that you are the original citizens of this country. You should be proud of your heritage. It is your responsibility to become accepted members of this prosperous and growing country. I am firmly convinced that you can do anything as well as anybody else if you make up your mind that you want to do it.

"In closing, my wish is that you will benefit from your talks and discussions here, and when your return to your home reserves you will report your findings to the members of your clubs and encourage them to work together and co-operate with officials so that the greatest possible improvement will be made."

.....

Discussion on following topics suggested by delegates:

Family Allowances
Financing future conferences
Juvenile delinquency

Leaders reported on discussions -

I. Family Allowances

Mrs. Nadjewan, Cape Croker, reported that her group had decided Family Allowance is to help children. Some fathers and mothers spend it with no concern for the children, or the father will go the Post Office, sign the cheque and spend it. Also, some mothers live in the United States and continue to get Family Allowance in Canada.

Suggestions: (1) That someone, Social Workers or officials of Indian Affairs, should see that this was corrected.
(2) That since such practices had to be reported before action could be taken, the Homemakers could do this.

Mrs. King of Christian Island reported that on her reserve, everybody uses the Family Allowance wisely and does not spend it on foolish things. Problems are discussed at Homemakers meetings.

II. Future Conventions

The leaders of this group said their group had made the following suggestions:

- (1) That each delegate pay \$1.00 registration fee.
- (2) That hostesses raise money to help with expenses.
- (3) Should the Convention be held annually or every two years?
- (4) That the Convention be held the first week in August.
- (5) That a handicraft competition be held, and that the Branch be asked to donate prize money as people are encouraged by prizes and do better work.
- (6) That a new list of handicrafts be made up - the ladies to send in suggestions - as not everybody could make baskets.

Nos. 3 and 5 were put to a vote. Delegates voted unanimously in favour of having the Convention every year, and that prizes be continued.

III. Juvenile Delinquency

Mrs. Bigwin of the Alnwick Reserve reported the group discussed this problem but had not come to any solution.

The Rama representative reported some of the problems there were bad language and the ringing of church bells. Someone had suggested the offenders be brought before the Juvenile Court.

Mrs. Mary Riley, Caradoc Reserve, suggested how to improve school attendance. The children should be made to understand the importance of education. Excuses should not be tolerated. They will then realize that you mean what you say. Children should be home in time at night, and get enough sleep so that they can study next day. Unless you watch them and teach them, children develop bad habits.

.....

Lunch

.....

Chairwoman for the afternoon of August 22nd - Mrs. Calvin Adams.

Following is a summary of a speech given by Mr. W. W. Struthers, Executive Director of the Sarnia Children's Aid Society:

Mr. Struthers said he was delighted to have this opportunity to speak to the delegates. Today he would try and give some idea of the nature of his Agency, outline some of its functions and categories of work, and mention some of the problems.

The Sarnia Children's Aid Society is a private organization, not a Government Agency. They have a Board of Directors, about twenty people, who, within certain limits, set down what they are to do. Since 1955 the Child Welfare Act of Ontario has been the law by which they work. They receive direction from the Child Welfare Branch in Toronto on how to enforce the law.

The Act is divided into three parts, namely - PROTECTION, ADOPTION, and SERVICE TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

The Board of Directors is divided into committees. One of these has to do with financing. Money comes from three different sources:

1. Grant from the Province to assist in protection work.
2. Donations from private sources or the Community Chest. This amounts to about \$13,000.00 a year.
3. Statutory money is received from the municipality - here it is the City of Sarnia and the County of Lambton.

The cost for every child taken into the care of this agency is \$1.80 per day. This money goes to provide board and room, clothing and medical expenses for the child, plus Social Workers salaries and travelling expenses. Costs amount to approximately \$16,000.00 a year.

There are 15 full time employees on the staff of the Sarnia Children's Aid Society and one person part time. This includes Nurses, Psychologist, Social Workers, office workers and others.

Services provided by the Society:

PROTECTION

Almost half the time is taken up with protection work, which includes prevention. When complaints are received about neglected children, the

Children's Aid Society have the authority to investigate the home, and see what the problems are. The Workers discuss the problems with the parents and try to help them to do a better job. If the children are abused or the parents are not capable of caring for them, the Society has the authority to place them in a foster home. Within 10 days the case is heard before a Judge of the Juvenile and Family Court. The parents are notified so that they can be present to explain their side of the story. The Judge decides whether the Children are to be returned to their parents or if the Society is to keep them. If the latter, they are made temporary or permanent wards of the Society. Temporary wardship can be granted up to a maximum of two years. During that time, the Social Workers try to help the parents to plan for a better home so that the children can be returned to them. The Society is very concerned about this, and if at all possible, the children are returned to the parents. It is a serious thing for children to have to leave home, especially after three years of age. When they are away from their brothers and sisters, mother and father, they still have memories, and all their worries come out in their behaviour. When children lie and steal, something is wrong in the family.

The Society tries to provide suitable foster homes for children who are wards. In the past few years, people have been more willing to offer foster care to children. Teen-agers are more difficult to place.

Permanent wardship of children is given to the Society by the Judge when the parents have made no plans for their children or there is no hope that they will provide a suitable home for them. The Society then assumes all responsibility for them, provides a home for them and tries to give them an education in keeping with their ability.

ADOPTION

Children who are permanent wards may be placed for adoption as well as children whose parents wish to have them adopted out. The Society does not place a child unless it is satisfied that the child is in the best possible home most suitable for him. The Social Workers who find homes are carefully selected. Children stay with their future parents for a year before adoption is finalized.

All adoptions go through the Children's Aid Society, and are finalized by the Court.

Some children are not adoptable. They may be temporary wards, have some physical disability, limited mental capacity or be quite disturbed.

SERVICE TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS

Unmarried mothers usually have a lot of worries when having a baby. They worry about themselves, about their parents, and what their friends and neighbours will say.

When an unmarried mother comes to the Society, the workers try to help her to make plans for the birth of the baby, and for its care afterwards. They may also try to get maintenance or some financial assistance from the father of the child until it is 16 years of age. This is often difficult. If the father refuses to sign an agreement the Society can take him to Court. In some cases it is difficult to obtain substantiating evidence that he is the father.

Some girls feel it is in the best interests of the child to give it up for adoption. The workers do not force her but try to help her to work out a realistic and practical plan for herself and the baby. If a mother decides to keep her child, they try to assist her in every way possible. It is difficult for a girl to be mother and father and go out to work as well.

OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED and PROBLEMS FACING THE SOCIETY

The Children's Aid Society of Sarnia also conduct investigations for Family Allowances and divorce cases.

One of their problems is that there is a shortage of staff.

There is also the problem of what to do with teen-agers who get into mischief. The one social agency who gives counselling service to parents and teen-agers is too small. There were 130 youngsters up in Court this year. The Probation Officer is only working part time because there is not enough money to hire him full time. Each community should have a full time Probation Officer who can help teen-agers in trouble. Many juveniles who could have been saved have ended up with years in an institution because there was no one to guide them and their parents. Institutions are not the solution; even if it were, there are not enough to hold them.

Another problem in this community is with a group of problem

families who cannot manage by themselves and need day to day supervision from a homemaker. You probably can think of such families in your own community. The solution may be for a group of women who are interested to get together and select those who would be willing to go into a home under adverse circumstances and do the job of a homemaker - by doing this, it is hoped the mother of the family can absorb and learn from her.

Mr. Struthers said, "I leave this to you - you may think about it, explore it further and maybe do something about it".

Question: Are the services of the Children's Aid Society available to Indians?

Answer: Up until now, the Children's Aid Society has only given nominal service. The Indian Affairs and the Children's Aid Society are working on a formula whereby all services will be made available to Indians.

Question: Can a man be made to support a child if he is in the United States?

Answer: The Deserted Wives Maintenance Act is open to deserted wives and mothers, and action can be started by a mother. This is difficult if the man is in another country. If a woman has residence in a municipality when the charge is laid, and she needs help, she can get it from the Welfare Department of that municipality.

.....

Mr. Douglas Simon, Scout Leader, Sarnia Reserve.

Mr. Simon gave a brief report on the 26th Sarnia Boy Scouts which is summarized as follows:

The Scouts started in May, 1955, and the Cubs started about 1½ years earlier. They had 20 boys registered last Fall - 16 Indians and 4 white boys from Blue Water. They ended with 10 Indians and 2 white boys. These boys went to camp at Johnson's Harbour, and all boys almost completed their 2nd class tests. They earned their swimmer's and stalker's badges, working under the Patrol System and the Court of Honour. They meet once a week. Any boy who wants to join brings his application to the Court of Honour.

Mr. Simon said, "I like to call them my boys, because I'm proud of them. They have always done what I asked them to do".

Last winter Mr. Simon had them entered in the Sarnia Men's Athletic Association to play hockey and football; they played 16 games in all; he believes that taking part in such activity helps to build their character.

Mr. Simon showed a film he had taken of the boys while on a camping trip at Tobermory. The film showed 12 boys on their way to a Cub meeting and at the camp. There were pictures of tents, patrol flags, the boys cooking, eating their meals, putting up a flag, making tables, sawing wood, swimming, taking 100 yard swimming tests with boats beside them, hiking through the woods, fishing, doing their morning exercises, practicing bandaging in the woods, etc.

Mr. Simon concluded:

"On behalf of Cubs, Scouts, Scouters and Girl Guides, we are indebted to the Homemakers Club of Sarnia for their voluntary support in hockey, uniforms and camp. As far as we are concerned, they have been a tower of strength for us. Thank you".

.....

Mr. J. E. Morris thanked Mr. Simon, and the members of the meeting had a sing-song.

.....

Mr. Everett Maness, Cubmaster, Sarnia Reserve.

"Madam Chairman, Ladies of the Homemakers Club, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our reserve. I hope your stay with us will be pleasant and fruitful.

"Now I would like to give you a brief outline on our Cub-Scout activities here on our reserve.

"The movement was started three years ago in the fall of 1954 by Mr. John Henderson of Sarnia. Since that time, our group has grown to the point where it has been possible for us to take over the leadership ourselves. I have the privilege of being the Cubmaster with Leo Deguirse as Assistant Cubmaster.

"We are registered as the 26th Sarnia Chippawa Scout Troop and Cub Pack.

"In a Cub Pack, the boys are taught to develop character, good citizenship and leadership. They learn how to keep themselves healthy, tie knots, the rules of the road, the Union Jack, exercises, and numerous other lessons too numerous to mention them all.

"It is my firm belief that the Scout and Cub movement is one of the best ways that there is to train young boys to grow up to be honest, friendly and responsible young men. For these reasons, I urge each one of you who do not have a Scout Troop or Cub Pack on your reserve, to try and get one started as soon as you can, for you will be rewarded many times over for your efforts.

"Our Cub Pack has taken part in Church Parades in Sarnia, along with all the other Cub Packs in the city.

"On nice week-ends we go on a hike through the bush, making our meal and eating it there.

"This summer we are going on an overnight hike on the Kettle Point Reserve, so that some of the Cubs will be able to pass their outdoor tests and get a chance to feel the thrill of living outdoors and cooking their meals over a campfire."

.....

Miss Jane Ayers, Canadian Girls in Training
- introduced by Mrs. Calvin Adams.

Miss Ayers is the leader of the C.G.I.T. Group on the Reserve. The girls meet every week in what used to be the Sarnia Indian Day School. Miss Ayers is a Registered Nurse and is also active in C.G.I.T. work in the City of Sarnia.

What is C.G.I.T.?

"CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING, familiarly known as C.G.I.T., is a Christian Education programme for girls twelve to seventeen. Its concern is the development of Christian character, Christian attitudes and responses in everyday living.

"Canadian Girls in Training is promoted and directed by the Canadian Girls in Training Committee of the Department of Christian

Education of the Canadian Council of Churches. Co-operating in the Committee are the Baptist Churches of Christ (Disciples), Presbyterian, and United Churches, and the Provincial Councils of Christian Education. This co-operation makes available to the groups and their leaders many sources of denominational and interdenominational help and guidance, and --most important of all--makes them keenly aware of the larger fellowship of the total Church of Jesus Christ.

The C.G.I.T. Purpose

"The life of Jesus gave inspiration to the C.G.I.T. movement; "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man". Luke 2:52. So a Canadian Girl in Training expresses her purpose:

As a Canadian Girl in Training
Under the leadership of Jesus,

It is my purpose to
CHERISH HEALTH,
SEEK TRUTH,
KNOW GOD,
SERVE OTHERS,

And, thus, with His help, become
The girl God would have me be.

Programme and Organization

"C.G.I.T. is designed to help girls grow into responsible Christian citizens and Church members.

"The unit of organization is the small group with its leader. The ideal group is a Church School class, meeting on Sunday to study the lesson, and on a week night for a programme which includes games, singing, worship, business meeting, and a project (e.g., crafts, mission study, discussions, dramatics, and activities that serve Church and community and are both education and fun for the group).

"Through this experience of thinking, playing, working, worshipping, and learning new skills together, the girls develop habits of living consistent with their growing understanding of the Christian faith.

"Camping is an important part of the C.G.I.T. programme. C.G.I.T. camps are held every summer in every province. Girls who attend them come back to their group with new enthusiasm for C.G.I.T., new ideas for the group to try, and new friendships linking them with other groups throughout the province.

- Uniforms - black tie (friendship knot - first used in Alberta)
- maple leaves
- chevrons
- missionary affiliation badge

Among other activities, the Sarnia girls made trays, had skating parties and mother & daughter banquets.

For what are we in training?

"We, the members of the C.G.I.T. movement in Ontario, are only a small part of C.G.I.T. Girls across Canada and of our sister movements across the world. Our title says that we are in training. Many people do not realize for what we are in training, and there are even some members who do not know. Canadian Girls in Training are in training for life and service. It is through the mission projects, times of worship and meditation, through the fun and friendships made in game periods, and through camping that we are trained to enter life, ready to give our best. In group life and camp life we are finding new ideas and ideals, new skills and interests by which to live freer, fuller and more Christian lives.

What do we gain from being a member?

"C.G.I.T. helps us to interpret Jesus' way of life in terms of everyday living. Each of us must live our lives in a variety of complex situations in the home, community, church and school. C.G.I.T. helps us to put our whole selves into these relationships, thus enriching the lives of others and at the same time developing our own personalities.

What are we?

"In our purpose we say that we are striving to Cherish Health, Seek Truth, Know God and Serve Others. This means that C.G.I.T. means a group of girls who are striving together to "Grow in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man". If we keep these thoughts in mind and carry out our purpose, we will be more than the girls that God would have us be."

.....

Chief Lloyd Williams thanked Miss Ayers for the wonderful work she was doing on the Sarnia Reserve, and said, "I am sure if you delegates will go home and put a little more effort into this type

of leadership, no one can go wrong". He then read from the Holy Bible, 127th Psalm, first verse:

"Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain that build it:
except the Lord keep the city,
the watchman waketh but in vain."

"Without Christianity in your home, no matter where you go, it will not be the home you expect". He also said that activities such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides and the C.G.I.T. were the very best for boys and girls.

Chief Williams said the people of Sarnia Reserve very much appreciated the interest Miss Ayers took in their girls. It was not always easy for her to come, and travelling at times was difficult. He thanked her for coming.

.....

Question Period

Question: How old are the girls in C.G.I.T.?

Answer: 12 to 17 years.

Question: How often do they meet?

Answer: Once a week. They can earn a badge for regular attendance of meetings and Sunday School. They also have special meetings. At meetings, they have a business period, followed by a project. After that there are games. They go camping in the summer for ten days at a cost of \$13.00.

(Information can be obtained by writing to the United Church of Canada, 299 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ont.)

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Meeting Closed.

Supper was served at 6:00 P.M.

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On the evening of August 22nd, the following films were shown by Mr. J. E. Morris and Miss H. Martins:

"No Longer Vanishing"
"Homemakers' Convention 1954"
"Boy Scout Film"
"Water, Friend or Enemy"
and others.

Chairlady for the morning - Mrs. M. Rodd.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23.

Delegates attended church services before the meeting.

The first speaker for the day was Mr. H. G. Mingay, Inspector of Schools.

Mr. H. G. Mingay

"I am always pleased to come to Sarnia, particularly when I speak about educational matters. It was here that we initiated in a large way the integration of our children with the public school system of the Province. That you have your children in the Bluewater School was in a large measure due to the desire you people had for such a move and the efforts made by officials at Ottawa, and regional officials to bring this about. Of course, it could not have been accomplished had we not had the goodwill of the Sarnia School Board and the desire on the part of the citizens of Sarnia to do something for the Indian people living in their city.

"My talk this morning is supposed to be on citizenship, and why I was given this topic is more than I know. Of course, citizenship is something about which a lot of people speak, and everybody pretends to know what a good citizen should be. However, it is something that has concerned people ever since they began to live together. It was quite a privilege to be a free citizen in Greece while the Helots did the work. It was only the more distinct Romans who were Patricians and enjoyed the full right of citizenship. Again, there was a group known as Plebeians who carried on the everyday work. What is a citizen anyway? Citizen is a person who lives in a community, is interested in other people in a community, who pays his share towards schools, hospitals, roads, and does his part in a community. A

citizen is one who does something for someone else. Summed up in words of scripture: 'Man who does unto others as he would be done unto'.

"At the Lake Couchiching Conference this year, I was rather surprised to hear a young Indian state that his people were a good deal like the Helots of Greece. Of course, he did say that the means to change their status was within the possibility of the people themselves to a marked extent. However, it was pointed out that the Indian people did suffer some restrictions to which the ordinary citizen is not subjected.

"I do not think the Indian people themselves should be too sorry for their own condition. Too little leadership comes from the Indian people themselves. In the main, they seem to sit back and wait for administrators to do many things they should do for themselves.

"The Government is alive to any suggestions which the people make through their various organizations. I believe that through discussion groups, organizations such as the Homemakers, Band Councils and such groups, the Indian people have the means to show to the Government that they are ready for a great deal more responsibility, and only they themselves can illustrate the manner in which these responsibilities can be allocated and assumed by their own people. For instance, I would like to think that your Homemaker's Convention was not organized by the Regional Office but organized by yourselves and that the few administrators like myself who might be invited to come here would consider it a very high privilege indeed to be honoured in this way by a group of Indian people. I was quite amazed at the initiative shown by the Indians at Moose Factory who now have a Community Hall worth somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$35,000.00 built almost entirely by their own efforts - most of the money was raised by bazaars and sales. When the building was about to be opened, it was the Indian people who were hosts to the officials of the Ontario Northland Railway at the first large dinner held in the new hall.

"I think too that the people in the South have a lot to learn about their own people in the North. The Northern Indian is still very much in need of any help that can be afforded him, and it has been gratifying to know that at least some of the Southern Indians are taking an interest in the welfare of others of their group. I find among the Bands, particularly in the South, that they are not aware of the conditions that other Indian people are facing. As a matter of fact, I believe through discussion groups the Indian people in communities such as we have in Southern Ontario, could learn a

great deal about their own people and their own problems.

"A good deal of progress has been made through education, and it is to the young people who are presently in our schools, and to the teen-agers who are leaving school, that the Indian people and the Indian Affairs Branch must look for leadership and stimulus for the welfare of the whole Indian body politic. It is gratifying to know of the increased number of children leaving our Indian Day Schools who are eager and willing to assume the responsibility of acquiring a secondary school education, and it is pleasing to know that a good many of them do very well in the field of higher education.

"The Indian people have many things at their command which can assist them in making themselves an independent group of people, proud of their own heritage and accomplishments, yet integrated into the citizenship of this great Canada. This will take a good deal of hard work and a great deal of forbearance and good-will on the part of the Indian and non-Indian alike, but in the very near future I should like to think we shall have a body of Indian people who will be an active and vocal part of Canadian social and political life."

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Mrs. Rodd asked Mr. Morris to introduce Mr. R. LeMay.

Mr. LeMay is in charge of Vocational Training in the Education Division in Ottawa. Before joining the Indian Affairs staff he was a very successful teacher in the City of Cornwall. Mr. LeMay is familiar with conditions across Canada and is very interested that our young men and women learn a trade so that they will be qualified to obtain employment at good wages.

Mr. R. LeMay

Vocational Training

"Vocational training may be divided into four broad classes:

1. Industrial Arts as it is taught in the school commonly designed as Manual Training.
2. Domestic Science or Home Economics.
3. Adult Education training either on reserves or at some non-Indian school and lastly
4. Handicraft.

Industrial Arts:

"Education of the child is the main reason for the existence

of manual work courses at the elementary school level. It is not intended for vocational training, but merely for initiation and preparation; it is not meant to teach a trade, but simply to prepare for that study. The object in view is a well rounded programme including both theoretical and practical training; a harmonious and systematic development of the sensory and intellectual faculties; a better preparation for life including the establishment of good habits taking into consideration the intelligence of each child, his character, his emotional life, his kinetic and creative powers and his environment. The aim is therefore one of initiation, orientation and pre-vocational.

"Most of the pupils attending primary or elementary school will be called upon, either from inclination or necessity, to earn their living through manual work. They will become farmers, journeymen or simple labourers. Should they select a liberal or scientific career, the inclusion of industrial arts in the elementary school programme will certainly not be harmful. On the contrary! Everybody has the opportunity to do manual work. There are so many circumstances when one is happy to manage by himself for the repair or installation of every day utilities.

"Manual work may constitute for everyone an honest and useful hobby. The elementary school, which has the responsibility of preparing the men of tomorrow, has found it necessary to include in its programme a course in manual training. It is important for parents to remember always, that the elementary school i.e. up to grade 8 does not aim at forming apprentices or journeymen but at developing in the child an inclination towards work and initiative through the contact of the tools he will meet later on in life. No matter how modest it might be, this teaching exerts a profound and often decisive influence on the future of a great many school boys.

"I always remind the shop teachers of our Department that the aim of his teaching is to initiate the boys under his care in the work of the hands, to discover manual aptitudes, to promote the education of the senses and to instill habits of intellectual and physical discipline. This training is a factor of integral education.

"It is not our intention, however, to sacrifice general culture to this type of training and the following schedule has been generally adopted by the Department as a happy medium:

- 1 hr. per week in grade 5.
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr. per week in grade 6.
- 2 hrs. per week in grade 7.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ or one half day per week in grade 8.

"The industrial arts training has also been adapted for the training of pupils poorly gifted for abstract studies who are grouped in one class where they follow a special programme. These have been established in a number of our Indian Residential Schools and some of our larger Day Schools. These classes are opened only on the recommendation of the regional school inspectors and the welfare of the children concerned is the sole consideration.

Home Economics:

"The young girl attends elementary school at a time when she is most likely to develop good work and health habits, to adopt sound moral principles and to develop her personality. For these reasons and because, as we have outlined above in our discussion of Industrial Arts, the complete education of the child is the aim of our schools. All provinces have developed in recent years a course of study in Home Economics. Conscious of its responsibility towards these future citizens, the Department is endeavouring to evolve a system of teaching Home Economics which will be made available to the great majority of our school pupils and is planning as you will see later to offer this training to young women on reserves.

"Through her contact with household science, the young girl discovers, by observation and practice the secrets of sewing, knitting, and cooking. She is also taught to develop good habits and receives some training in the care of infants and sick people. This training should also teach her, apart from the practical knowledge necessary for the accomplishment of her daily duties, the love of the work she will be called to perform later in her own home.

"The aim of the Department is to teach Home Economics as a necessary part of all feminine education. It does not aim at making of the young girl an experienced "chef" in the art of cooking, a "skilled seamstress", a "professional", in a word; but it prepares her to manage independently in life. Should she have to earn her living through the practice of a trade, become a housewife or simply help her mother in keeping the house, she will have thus acquired a practical initiation.

"Lately, there has been a heavy demand in the employment field for good, responsible domestics and the Immigration Branch has been seeking abroad immigrants who have had training as 'domestics'.

"With this in mind our Educational Programme is giving more

attention to teaching our young Indian girls the management of a household without being always supervised.

"It is evident that such a programme, in order to be really useful and educational, should include a certain proportion of practical work and parents must understand the necessity for such work as is done in our schools. In short this whole training is to prepare your daughters to become the valiant woman of Holy Scripture, the treasure of her family and the pride of her country.

Vocational Training:

"I now come to a very important subject, one recently mentioned by the Honourable Mr. Pickersgill in the House of Commons.

"On the 8th of August Mr. Pickersgill, speaking on the education of Indians, had this to say about vocational training: 'There has been an increasing stress over the past few years and there will be still more stress in the future on vocational education and on ordinary high school education wherever the pupils are promising'.

"This formal statement by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs emphasizes the policy which the Education Division has been following of recent years. On October 27th, 1953 in a speech delivered in Ottawa before representative Indians, Mr. Davey had this to say with regard to vocational training: 'Every encouragement is given for Indians to receive vocational training, and the same assistance offered to enable them to attend High Schools is also given to assist them to attend vocational schools or to receive trade training'.

"Now this trade training does not necessarily have to be taken at school. It is no doubt advisable to plan one's future in such a way that trade training follows immediately after the completion of the academic studies but this is not always possible. It is for this reason that the Department has initiated in recent months a programme of adult education with emphasis on vocational training. In Alberta, for example, over 250 young men and women were given training in agriculture on their own reserves. These courses were held on approximately 15 reserves and lasted between 2 and 3 weeks. At the conclusion of these courses the best students were chosen to take an eleven-week course at the Olds School of Agriculture. 100 young men and 50 young women attended this course which consisted of field husbandry, animal husbandry, horticulture, poultry, farm mechanics, farm management and social relations. The home-making course includes cooking, nutrition, sewing, laundering, home nursing and home management.

"A similar course was offered recently at Prince Albert in Saskatchewan for some 60 young adults. The course which was of three weeks duration proved to be so successful that a request was recently received to run this course between four and five weeks next year.

"I should like to mention here that eleven of the boys who took this course have requested that they be allowed to take the year course at the school of Agriculture in Prince Albert.

"In The Pas, Manitoba, a course in guiding is presently being offered to some 24 men, to help them secure employment in the growing demand for guides in the north-west. This course is to be repeated at regular intervals during the coming seasons.

"Closer to home, courses in agriculture are offered on the Six Nations reserves and plans are being made to have adults enrolled in similar courses on the Tyendinaga Reserve, where a course in carpentry was inaugurated last year, and where it is hoped to enrol interested adults. At St. Regis during May and June courses in cooking and sewing were taken twice a week by a group of approximately 30 young women. Consideration is being given to offer similar courses on any reserve provided a competent instructress is available and a sufficient enrolment is maintained.

"Gardening is another feature that may be improved upon in places. However, good progress has been observed on many of the reserves and the Department is proud in its being taught in a great many schools. In fact, in many regions some of the gardens are quite outstanding. In all my talks with vocational teachers lately I have emphasized this aspect of vocational training and it was with great pride that I observed the accomplishment of one teacher at Seven Islands. Four years ago, the Department built a big Residential School there. On the occasion of a visit I paid to that school last Fall I remarked that the grounds could vastly be improved by some very elementary landscaping. I was assured that no grass would ever grow there. However, I succeeded in having the teacher agree to do some experimenting. This year, I was agreeably surprised to find a well-kept lawn not only around the school building but in front of many of the Indian homes.

Handicraft:

"At the present time there is an evident heightening of interest in Indian handicraft and a general feeling that perpetuation of these

crafts should be encouraged. I understand that many efforts have been made along these lines in the past with more or less success. Reconsideration of the present situation could be undertaken by various groups such as the Homemakers' clubs which have always shown a great deal of interest in these matters and I feel that if you were to make a study of the problems involved you would achieve something beneficial to a great number of Indian craftsmen.

"Any programme which would provide a source of income for skilled craft workers would appear to be worthwhile and any effort expended well justified in view of the growing demand for Indian souvenir items. However, craftsmen must be careful in producing items that can be labelled traditional Indian craft and which when put for sale will not retail at prohibitive prices.

"I have outlined the four main activities in which our Branch is directly interested in the field of Vocational Training. In concluding I should like to remind you that the Department is following a policy of direct assistance to enable students to obtain the training of their choice. This policy which involves the giving of tuition grants enables students who want to work and who have the ability to pursue both academic and vocational studies. You are all familiar with the conditions for obtaining these grants and my last advice to you is to make sure that your children, when they receive this assistance, make the best possible use of it."

.....

Mr. LeMay urged the Homemakers to emphasize vocational training on their reserves.

During a discussion period, delegates showed great interest in sewing courses. The following question was asked several times.

Question: "How can we organize sewing classes?"

Answer: "Organize your group, discuss what you want, make your plans, and see your Superintendent. He will let us know through the Regional Office in Toronto, and we will do our best to make arrangements for you".

.....

Mr. M. McGregor - Principal, Bluewater School.

Mr. Mingay said Mr. McGregor had always been interested in Indian Education. The conversion of the Sarnia Indian Day School could not have been accomplished had not favourable consideration been given by the Sarnia School Board. At that time, Mr. McGregor had shown a great deal of sympathy and tact in dealing with them. "He is a young man, well qualified for his job. Your children could not be in better hands".

Mr. McGregor expressed pleasure at being invited and conveyed greetings from the Sarnia School Board.

He said the education of the child is divided into three brackets:

(1) The child, (2) The home and (3) The school.

- (1) The child: must be willing to learn, willing to be disciplined, and later must discipline himself .
- (2) The home: the duty of the home is to see that the child is in normal health to attend school. In this he is like an adult who regularly goes to work. It is the parents' duty to see that the child is properly clothed, fed, has sufficient rest, and the right attitude toward school. There are homes where the members do not live harmoniously together. This does not give the child a proper home background and makes schoolwork for him difficult.
- (3) The school: endeavours to prepare the child for the future. Jobs require men and women of much greater education than in the past. For industrial workers, high school education is a necessity. At present, there are a number of persons holding such jobs without this education. However, when these jobs, such as process work, are filled in the future, a minimum of a Grade 13 education will be required.

How does the school encourage children?

At 5 years of age, they are encouraged to enter kindergarten. Here they get used to being with other children, learn discipline and are taught to play together. The Bluewater school has a separate playground for pre-schoolers. After five months this becomes a primary class. The children are taught some words, a little spelling

and begin to count. They are then ready to enter Grade 1 with some reading ability. This is very important. Children are tested on reading when they enter school and again after the end of Grade 1. If they cannot pass the reading test they are not ready for Grade 1 and must be held up. Each pupil is tested again at the end of Grade 1. If a child does not pass the test he is put in the auxiliary class. Teachers try to understand and correct particular difficulties children have so they will not get discouraged. Last year, there were 16 pupils in Grade 1 who were good at everything else but English. They had been fortunate, Mr. McGregor said, to obtain a teacher who gave them special coaching in English. Six overcame their reading disability and were promoted. Children especially good in their grades are accelerated and promoted according to their ability.

Children are also tested in mathematics, comprehension and other subjects. Music is taught at the Bluewater School. Pupils participate in the Sarnia Music Festival. The teachers at the school made the uniforms for them. There is a Physical Training supervisor who instructs in sports; last year the school won the city volleyball championship. Youngsters also get one-half day a week manual training.

A qualified Guidance supervisor helps children to sort out their interests for the future and helps them to select a job they can train for. Beginning in Grade VIII a choice of subjects, taken right through high school, is made, depending on whether the youngster will some day take technical, commercial or University training.

Mr. McGregor was asked to comment on job placements. In the Sarnia area, he said, there were jobs for skilled workers. "We all know if unemployment happens, the fellow without education goes, the one with education stays".

Education and training, he said, is of primary importance today. In the past, children started to school too late. They should start at the age of 5 or before and not wait until they are 6 - "Every year a child fails is like putting \$2,000 - \$3,000 in the stove. Get them to school when they are young".

.....

Mr. McGregor excused himself and left to keep an appointment.

DISCUSSION

Mr. T.L. Bonnah, Mr. H.G. Mingay and Mr. R. LeMay were asked to lead a discussion on education. Delegates were eager to ask questions.

Mr. Bonnah started the discussion by saying he would like to talk about education for boys. There is approximately one boy for every seven girls going to High School, he said. Education of boys definitely has to be stepped up. There are many job opportunities for boys who have a trade. They are the future bread-winners and need education and training. There cannot be harmony in the home if a woman has a Grade 13 education and the man a Grade 3.

One of the delegates recalled a case of this kind on her own reserve.

Mr. LeMay urged the women to encourage boys on their reserves to continue school.

The general consensus of opinion was that parents should take more interest in the education of boys and that this interest should be sponsored. But how?

Mr. Mingay said that this had to be done in the home. He gave an example of his own son who had to be encouraged to continue school in order to get a job later on instead of quitting school to get a temporary job.

One delegate told about her son and the many experiences she and her husband had had to keep him interested in furthering his knowledge.

Mr. Morris and Mr. Leroy suggested that the women should contact other women, have discussion groups, and visit fathers and mothers to get them interested.

The delegate from Georgina asked if they could have music taught in their school.

Mr. Mingay said that this would be difficult to arrange as a Music Teacher would have to be there $\frac{1}{2}$ a day, but he would ask the Branch about it.

They also wanted sewing - Mr. Mingay said that an extension

course could be arranged for a week either in the spring or in the fall. If a dozen or so women and girls were interested to attend the whole course, they should send the request through the Superintendent to the Regional Office.

Christian Island also asked for music in the schools and sewing for the younger girls. Mr. Mingay said he would see what could be done, and that if there was a Home Economics Teacher available he would endeavour to have her teach in both schools.

Parry Island also asked for a sewing teacher.

Curve Lake asked for a music teacher.

Gibson asked if it could be arranged to have kindergarten on their reserve as there were only 8 children presently attending school.

The delegate from Golden Lake mentioned that they had a boy with a Grade IX education who was interested in Radar. Could he take the course? - The answer was that he needed Grade X. Mr. LeMay suggested the boy go back to school and try and get his Grade X so that he would qualify.

Mr. Morris said to get ahead a boy or girl had to have the desire to work at whatever he is doing as it takes work to succeed.

Mr. LeMay then explained the educational requirements for apprentice trades. He stressed that many trades require a minimum of Grade X education. Listed below are trades open to Indian boys:

- (1) Carpentering;
 - (2) Machinist;
 - (3) Barbering;
 - (4) Plumbing;
 - (5) Lathing;
 - (6) Garage mechanic;
 - (7) Steam fitting;
 - (8) Brick laying;
 - (9) Plastering;
 - (10) Painting & Decorating;
 - (11) Sheet metal;
- and others.

Mr. LeMay stressed that inquiries should be made on what education was required for these trades and how they could be obtained.

Many of our reserves are located near centres where night classes are available in almost any field, and it is a pity they are not taken advantage of.

Mr. LeMay then mentioned trades open to Indian girls, which are as follows:

- (1) Nursing Assistant;
 - (2) Hairdressing;
 - (3) Commercial;
 - (4) Registered Nurse;
 - (5) Teaching;
- and others.

For most of these, a Grade X education or Senior Matriculation is a "must". The Nursing Assistant and Hairdressing courses are the only ones in which girls will be taken with a Grade VIII.

Mr. LeMay cautioned those interested in Nursing courses to be sure to enrol in a Government sponsored course as they are the only ones in which a certificate can be obtained.

Chairlady for the afternoon - Miss Joyce Plain.

Mr. Morris then introduced Mr. Bonnah. He said Mr. Bonnah had been with the Indian Affairs Branch for a long time and is now Assistant Supervisor in the Regional Office. He said, "He is not only a Supervisor but also pushes us a little bit. Mr. Bonnah likes Indian people, and has many pleasant memories associated with his work. When you listen to him, you will know him immediately as a friend of and person interested in the Indian people".

Mr. T.L. Bonnah:- THE INDIAN AND HIS FUTURE

Madam Chairman, our congenial hosts, and Homemakers from Southern Ontario:

It is not only an honour but a privilege to have the opportunity of talking directly again to so many Indian people.

As some of you know the greater number of years of my service in the Government were spent with the St. Regis Indians.

During those happy years of experience I always worked under the assumption that our present Indians should feel happy and proud to be descendants of the first inhabitants of this wonderful country.

Admittedly the first few months at St. Regis were somewhat disturbing but as I began to appreciate more and more the views of the Indian people it became easier for me to steer a course with the objective in mind of not trying to make white persons out of the Indians but to make them better Indian citizens of Canada.

Being better citizens of Indian origin, of course, is just like being better citizens anywhere, regardless of colour, race or creed.

It involves a multitude of little things, simple in themselves but when put together contribute to the make-up of a great people, a great community and a great country.

Do not have any misconceptions about the contribution the Indians have made towards our present way of life. The Indians have made a great contribution, not only in the long past but also toward the betterment of present conditions here in Canada and throughout the North American continent as well.

The theme of my talk today, however, lies not in the contributions made by the Indian in the past so much as his place in the future picture of this great country.

For obvious reasons we are chiefly concerned only with Indians living in Canada, but to obtain a true perspective one must look beyond our immediate boundaries.

Many Canadian Indians have taken on what might be termed an international complex. Because of employment conditions these goodwill ambassadors go back and forth across the international boundary of these two great countries, Canada and the United States. This is as it should be. But as the years go by our way of life steadily grows more complex, even for an ambassador.

In the Cornwall area, as you know, a great transformation is taking place on the surface of the earth under the name of a Seaway and Power project. In the Sarnia and Walpole Island areas further developments may take place perhaps in the near future.

Many Indian men are occupied on this giant project - some

performing daring feats of skill in which nerves of steel are needed. Many more are employed, as on other projects in Canada, as common labourers.

But wherever one goes the story seems to be the same. With few exceptions all could be holding down better jobs were it not for the lack of formal training. A misfortune - often self imposed - that has been the drawback of so many of our older Indians in the past.

But it is not in the past we must dwell; we should cast our eyes into the future and in this future there appears to be a very important place not only for you Homemakers, but for the Indian people in general.

I shall go one step further, perhaps a bold statement to make, but if your children do not occupy the place they should in the future of this land there is no-one you can place the blame on but yourselves for education is denied no deserving Indian.

At St. Regis where I laboured for so many years, there were two things that I felt we should all be proud of. The first was the tremendous strides made in the education of the young Indian people. Secondly we were all very proud of the fact that every inch of available agricultural land on that reserve was farmed not by white people but by the Indian people themselves.

I mention this because only when the Indian people themselves make proper use of their own talents and resources for the good of their own people will they ever gain the knowledge so necessary to exist and compete in the industrial life and future expansion of this nation.

The Indians have a proud heritage and a promising future. But they cannot live in the past even with all its colourful memories. Today is here and tomorrow will soon be upon us. You must prepare for what lies ahead, and in this advancing tide of civilization it may well be that only in preparedness lies your survival.

If there are any among you who feel that life in the future will present no complications, let me remind you to ponder for a moment on the past, and if I might add - the place you mothers and Homemakers have occupied in that picture.

I am sure that after analyzing your own situation there are few among you who can truthfully say that you gave gone "all out" to improve the educational, social and economic life of your own Indian people.

Now, in a general sense, this would not unduly disturb me were it not for the fact that the Indian population of Canada is relatively small in comparison with the total population. Such being the case, public opinion would then have a considerable bearing upon your general welfare and your future.

We all know that public opinion changes, and with this in mind let me ask you one question. Can you afford to put your future destiny into the hands of the general public alone?

I think the answer is obvious and it is in the negative.

Only you and every other individual Indian from the Atlantic to the Pacific can chart the future into a permanent pattern for the continued betterment of the Indians of Canada.

A program without your playing an important part would neither be wise nor workable.

So, my dear friends, do not wait for public opinion to mould your future. Take hold of it yourselves!

In the Department's submission to the Royal Commission on Canada's economic prospects it was pointed out that in 1944 the Indian population in Canada was 125,686. In 1954, ten years later, the Indian population in Canada was 151,558. In the short space of ten years it will be noted that the increase was 25,872. This is a phenomenal rise and is certainly bound to have some bearing on the future economic prospects of our Canadian Indians.

In terms of Indian Reserves this increase in the Indian population can only mean one thing and perhaps one of the most important things that you women have to give consideration to is the fact that an increase in population will mean overcrowding conditions in the homes. In some instances it might also mean, on reserves where the area is very small, that more Indians will have to go out and take their place in the general economy of the country. You cannot put six quarts of berries in a four quart basket. If you try that many of the berries will spill out over the top. The same thing may happen on many Indian Reserves where the area is small and resources limited.

Probably you are wondering now if this is really something to get excited about. From the alarmists points of view I would say "No", but from the practical point of view I would say definitely "Yes."

In a country as young as Canada and with such an expanding economy as we have before us today, there is definitely no room for pessimism. This should also apply insofar as our dealings with the Indian people are concerned. While we admit we have many shortcomings I do not think the Branch is suffering from pessimism. But what is the basic difference between a pessimist and an optimist? I would say that the chief difference lies in the fact that the pessimist generally looks behind and the optimist looks ahead. Here then may lie the crux of a lot of the trouble insofar as our Indian people are concerned, for I am quite sure that in all fairness you will have little hesitancy in saying that too many of our Indian people look behind rather than ahead.

The past is gone, the present is here and only the future lies ahead. Only you have the keys to that golden future. The question now arises as to what you can do to unlock the door to your future. There are many avenues of approach. Some are rough. Some are smooth. Some are long while others may be shorter. But regardless of the route you take there is one thing to keep in mind - the door to your future will open only through hard work, education and planning on your part. But open it you must.

Some Indian people have come all the way themselves without even turning back to lend a hand to a groping friend. Others have, on the way up, been more alert to their Christian duties, but still, the great majority have yet to reach this open door that paves the way to full equality in the political and economic life of this country. But do not be discouraged my good friends. The struggle for survival in such a fast changing world is bound to be difficult and while it may be hard on such a small group as yours, it is hard on everyone.

You do have a lot of friends, however, and it seems reasonable to believe the transition can be made without anyone getting hurt.

Perhaps the most important part you can play lies right in your own home. Home is the centre of civilization, and if we have good homes the rest comes automatically.

By good homes, I do not mean palatial buildings. The house should be comfortable, yes, if at all possible, but it need be neither a palace nor a luxurious abode, for neither make a good home.

It takes people. Kind, and well meaning people. People who not only fear God but love Him as well. People who are not selfish

but who love one another. These things and these alone are the basic ingredients that go to make up a good home, and as I have intimated earlier, if you take care of the home you have taken care of everything else.

So, my dear Homemakers, despite anything you may hear to the contrary, there is a very important place for you and your children in this wonderful country.

Be proud of Canada. It is your home and as each one of you must take an active interest in the affairs of your own home - if it is to be a success, so should you take an active interest in the affairs and management of your country.

See to it that your children are educated. Help your husband to hold on to his present job, and if possible work his way up the ladder of success. Encourage your sons and daughters, through better education, to take their rightful place in society.

It is a task. But it is not an impossible one. It will take courage, planning and a stout heart.

It is a challenge to the Indian people, a challenge to each and every one of you, and unless I have been sadly misled in my faith in the Indian people I know it is a challenge you will accept.

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GROUP DISCUSSION

Three groups of delegates discussed general problems on reserves and gave suggestions.

GROUP I - Mrs. B. Brant, Tyendinaga

Advocated better church attendance, better schooling, and training of more good leaders. Advocated Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. Decided fathers and mothers should stay home, look after the children and see that they get home in the evenings.

GROUP II - Mrs. J. Bigwin, Alnwick

Education should be encouraged. Boys and girls should be taught to be honest and trustworthy and should be shown a good example by their parents. Where parents bicker, children cannot thrive. Parents cannot expect their children to do as they are told without proper guidance and without good example. Better homes should be encouraged. Children should be taught to be proud of their heritage and to live their lives so that we can be proud of them.

GROUP III - Mr. L. Baptiste, Golden Lake

Parents leave children alone too much, also excuse children who stay home from school to mind others. They have a Home and School Club in Golden Lake now which is a big help.

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Miss Joyce Plain asked Mrs. Rogers, who is a member of the Sarnia Council, to say a few words. Mrs. Rogers was in charge of all the meals. She did all the shopping, planned the meals and supervised the preparation and serving.

Mrs. Rogers welcomed the delegates: -

"We in the Council and Homemakers try to do all we can to make our reserve a better place. Several interested persons from the city come and help us. Now we have our own young men as Scout and Cub leaders. We have Young People's and Home and School clubs.

"The Band pays half the transportation of the children on school buses. We try to help our children get a better education. The Homemakers helped raise money to enable girls to go to camp."

Mrs. Bessie Gray, Councillor, was then called on.

Mrs. Gray stated:

"Almost everything has been said. We have much to be happy about here in Sarnia. There are opportunities for work here and it's nice to see the paycheques coming in. Sometimes I get calls from the companies asking for boys to work for them. I like to help to give those boys a start. When they start work, they find they need more education and need encouragement to attend night classes. Today everybody needs more education.

"We have a good reserve and are very proud of it. Tomorrow you will go on a tour and see it and part of the city. You will see our nice blue river, called the St. Clair River. Those of us who live near it enjoy seeing the blue water and watching the boats go by.

"We in the Council try to improve conditions and hope we can help our people. Children coming from good homes make better citizens. I have visited many reserves and enjoyed it very much, but it is always nice to come home."

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Mr. Telford Adams was then asked to speak.

Mr. Adams served the Sarnia Band as Chief for many years and is still very interested in the welfare of his people.

"Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen, and Friends:

"I am happy to have this opportunity to talk to you. The main thing I want to say to you is - I hope you enjoy yourselves and get home safely. I'm glad the Indian Affairs sponsored the Homemakers; they certainly have done a lot of good on our reserve. They have the ability to make us all feel welcome, and I have enjoyed the talks and discussions'.

Mr. Adams then talked about the housing project on the reserve; how houses had been built out of Band Funds - the money being paid back with 5% interest.

Today, he said, there is plenty of work in industry here and everybody who wants it and is qualified can get a job.

Education, he said, is entirely up to the parents. They must provide the homes, food and clothing, and encourage school attendance. The Indian brain will develop, given a proper chance. He said his people are satisfied with the present school system (children from Sarnia Reserve attend the school at Bluewater).

Concerning hospital care, Mr. Adams said "It seems the Canadian Government does not intend to carry us too much longer. The hospitalization I have is semi-private. Now I can say to anybody 'I am as good as you are, I'm paying my bill'. The sooner we realize we have a responsibility the better".

"We have to get to the point and face facts. Living costs are going up and we all need ready cash. I have worked hard all my life and tried to save my money. Anybody can do the same. I would say to you, get your boys and girls to school, give them a good education; they need it today to get good jobs."

"Again I say to you, have a good time here and get home safely".

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Dr. P. E. Moore, Director, Indian & Northern Health Services -
introduced by Mrs. Benson Brant.

"Madam Chairlady and fellow homemakers.

"Homemakers clubs are one of the finest things on our reserves. It is wonderful the way you women have banded together on various reserves, helped your fellowmen and improved home conditions. Home is the essence we all live for in Canada. During the years in my professional life it has been a great satisfaction to me to see such improvements in your communities.

"Colonel Jones and Mr. Morris are interested in reserves. We concentrate more on health. For good health, good homes are needed. We cannot have healthy children, healthy working people or healthy old people if we have not good homes. You homemakers have done much to contribute to better homes and to the better health of your people. We have been able to develop a health service over the years of which we are proud, and everyone belonging to it should be proud of it. It is as good as any in your municipality.

"Public Health Nurses, Doctors and Clinics have been especially active in T.B. care. If anyone has tuberculosis and will not go to a sanatorium to be treated, he can be made to go in order to prevent others from getting it. In the early days, patients would not go to the sanatorium; they felt they were only going away to die. Such a person was made as comfortable as possible at home to prevent spreading of the disease. A person who does not know he has tuberculosis can infect many others. One Indian woman who did not know she had the disease lost five children from tuberculosis. Mobile X-Ray Clinics are sent to the reserves periodically to X-ray everybody. It is a great assurance to people to know that they have not got the disease. Where symptoms show early treatment is most important. Homemakers can do a great service to their communities by helping to encourage the people to be X-rayed.

"Salk vaccine is used as a preventive against polio. Most Indian school children have received the Salk vaccine. It is in short supply but more will be available in a few months. The vaccine is not an absolute guarantee that the child will not get polio but he has a much better chance of not contacting the disease if immunized.

"The Indian population used to die in great numbers from smallpox. Out of three who get this disease, one dies. People can get it if they are not vaccinated. Every once in awhile when people get careless, an epidemic breaks out. Diphtheria can also be wiped out if people are all immunized; if not, an epidemic can break out and unnecessary deaths may occur among children.

"These are the things we are trying to do, to prevent sickness. The homemakers can help by encouraging people to come out to the clinics.

"Doctors and nurses who join our staff work with a missionary spirit in trying to prevent sickness and disease across the country. They could get better jobs elsewhere but feel they have an obligation to their profession. Our aim is to prevent sickness and disease across the country."

Dr. Moore said he was just back from a trip to Pikangikum and Deer Lake. He spoke about a missionary there who goes about by canoe. A long time ago this man used to be a 'Medicine Man'. When he saw that he had too much opposition from the doctors and nurses, he became a missionary; he still has his drum. In the Sioux Lookout Agency the superintendent is Mr. Gifford Swartman; during his twenty years of

service there, living conditions on the reserve have improved greatly. About a year and a half ago, Mr. Swartman became very ill and we thought he would die. The old man called all the people together and said: "Let us all pray, Mr. Giff is ill". Mr. Swartman got better. The prayers of these people were as good as any the Archbishop of Canterbury could offer.

"All across Canada we have more and more services for people in remote places. We do not worry too much about you people around here. If you want advice we will help you, but will try and make you independent and expect more from you. Let us get away from the idea that the world owes you and me a living. We will try to get the bands to take Blue Cross and Health Insurance. No one who cannot pay will be denied services, but those who can, will have to. I have an insurance policy, and there is no reason why you should not have one. This is a departure from the policy we had before, but it is only fair. All across Canada, from the Maritimes to British Columbia, where bands and individuals have the means, they will be asked to contribute. We will pay for part of the insurance where they are unable to do so - I know this is not popular, but the tax-payers should not be asked to pay for free medical treatment of Indians who are in a position to pay for their own. I am prepared to meet any Indian Band or Band Council in Canada to explain why we are advocating this policy. There was some talk about promises the Canadian Government made to the Indian people and some talk that these were not fulfilled. The Canadian Government has kept its promises and has gone far beyond any promises made to the Indian Bands.

"Last year I was asked to speak at a Commonwealth Conference on the care of native people. This conference took place in Toronto. Of the different lands, Canada gives the best care to its native people and offers the most opportunities to assist any person to help himself.

"I was also a delegate to the World Health Assembly. There I heard Doctors from all countries of the world tell about their problems, and they certainly had problems. We, as Canadians, should all get together and work individually for ourselves, our communities and our country. During the last war, the response of our Indian people from the reserves was excellent, equal to that of any other people. My message to you is: 'Let us all be good Canadians without thought of race, creed or religion, and work together to become better citizens and make Canada a better country to live in!'"

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Mr. Morris thanked Dr. Moore and said: "Dr. Moore was at our first annual conference. He likes the Indian people, works for them, and wants to work with them. His staff in the field are doing a magnificent job. He spends all the money the Government allows him and more on the Indian people. If he asks you to make a few sacrifices, you should do it for him".

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Dr. Gordon Anderson, Medical Officer of Health, Lambton County.

Dr. Anderson outlined the school health services provided in his area. School children are regularly examined by the nurse. There is first the pre-school examination. Last season 750 children were examined to detect early defects in order that they could be corrected; they are later checked, with yearly inspections, to see if these defects have been corrected. The nurse prepares the child and the doctor examines it.

The nurse visits the school about once a week and has a certain programme to carry out. Hers is not primarily a first-aid service. The Public Health Programme includes going over cards, making home visits and checking up on certain cases to see that corrections are made. The nurse is always on the lookout for communicable diseases, scabies, lice, etc., as some people get careless. The children's vision is also checked in grades 4, 7 and 9, or yearly if necessary.

The schools are used as immunization centres. Immunization is important as a child may get diphtheria, smallpox, whooping cough or lockjaw if not immunized. These diseases can be prevented. The nurse carefully checks each child to see that it has been immunized; this is very important as some mothers will say their children have had toxoid when this is not the case. Polio vaccine is also given.

In High Schools, the health programme is operated more on a 'consultant' basis, and students will go to the nurse with their health problems.

There is also a Child Health Clinic where mothers can take their children to be immunized. These services are available to everybody.

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Miss V.M. McRae, Indian Health Services' Nurse, Walpole Island
was asked to say a few words.

Miss McRae said she was very interested in the prevention of sickness. She urged the delegates to teach the people at home to go to the clinics for check-ups before they became so ill that they did not know what to do.

"Prevention is much better than cure. For instance, when a home burns down, you can rebuild it, but you can never hope to put everything back. It is the same with your health. Look at a new born baby - it is perfect. Why not try to keep him that way. We do so many things to wear down our health. We keep late hours, don't eat the food we should, don't wear the proper clothing, get overtired, etc., then we run to the doctor and say 'do something'. The only one who can do anything is ourselves. We all should do more thinking and should do everything possible to preserve our health'.

Miss McRae talked about BCG which gives immunity against tuberculosis, and also about Salk vaccine which prevents polio. She said anyone who did not understand these preventive measures could always come to the clinic or ask the doctor and have it explained to them.

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AMATEUR NIGHT

Douglas Simon - Master of Ceremonies.

This was an entertaining and enjoyable evening. Everybody was a good sport. Youngsters and adults performed for the audience on a moment's notice, as if they were old stage hands.

There were pantomimes, skits, mouthorgan recitals, boogie woogie dances, boy scout tricks, a soupy shuffle dance, skits, readings, stories, jokes, hog calling, solos, trios and quartets. Hymns in Chippewa, Delaware, Mohawk and English were sung. There was also community singing.

The audience entered into the spirit of the evening. All had many laughs, good fun, and good singing.

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AUGUST 24th

HOMEMAKERS' REPORTS

Cape Croker Homemakers Club - President, Mrs. P.C. Nadjiwon

After a year of inactivity in our Branch, a meeting of the ladies of the reserve was called by Mr. Purser, our Agent, on Monday, August 13th in the Council Hall.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows: President, Mrs. P.C. Nadjiwon, Vice President, Mrs. Howard Chegahno, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Joseph V. Akiwenzie, Sick Committee Convenor, Mrs. Christine Waukey, Entertainment Committee Convenor, Mrs. Gordon Johnston. It was decided to hold the meetings in the ladies' homes every two weeks, with work nights alternating with business meetings. The delegate chosen to attend the convention in Sarnia was the President, Mrs. P.C. Nadjiwon. Two delegates were chosen to attend the Social Leaders Training Course at the Saugeen Reserve in September. The next meeting is to be held in the Council Hall on August 30th at 2 P.M. where the ladies will help decorate the auditorium for a wedding which will be held there on August 31st.

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Oneida East Homemakers Club, Caradoc Agency - President, Mrs. Joe Elm. Report read by Mrs. Cardelia Nicholas.

Chairman, officials of the Department and lady delegates. This is the report of the Oneida East Homemakers Club.

We haven't had meetings very much this year, but we are doing the best we know how. Helping others with their work around the house. We also had a quilting bee in one of the homes. We also had several weddings and we helped with the wedding dinner. Gave a flower tribute. Gave money to the sick; also to the new born babies. November 11th we helped serve a meal for the veterans of the two world wars. This concludes our report but we wish to add that we are happy to be represented here and hope we will have more to report next year. Thank you.

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Back Settlement Homemakers Club, Caradoc Agency - President, Mrs. Carl Riley, Secretary, Marybelle Riley.

Our report is not very long, as we haven't been very active since the New Year. However in the past year or so we have done our best to help out the sick, needy and the bereaved whenever possible. We have made several quilts which we gave the newlyweds and poor people. We have donated money to our Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association on the Reserve.

We gave treats and presents to the children in our neighbourhood at Christmas. We gave canned goods to our aged people in the winter and we always manage to aid our own members when they are sick. All money was raised through Bingo's, Ice Cream Socials held in the members' homes.

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The Oneida West End Homemakers Club, Caradoc Agency - President, Mrs. John Green. Report read by Mrs. Cardelia Nicholas.

The West End Homemakers Club start each meeting off with a Bible reading by one of the members, or the Lord's Prayer repeated by the whole group. We have been having baby showers for every arrival at our end of the reserve. The Club also donates money and in some cases groceries to the sick and needy as we see fit.

At Xmas and Easter we prepare boxes of goodies to be distributed among the children and elderly folks and the sick. In order to raise the money for the sick and needy, we have pie socials, bingos, and we also make quilts and crib blankets and then raffle them.

We hold our meetings every two weeks.

In cases of bereavement in a family, we send a bouquet of flowers with a card expressing our sympathy. We do not have a large number of members in our club but we all believe in doing some good anywhere and at anytime. We have closed our meetings until October 2nd, and we feel fortunate in having \$18.00 in the treasury to start us off with in the fall.

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Christian Island Homemakers Club - Report read by Mrs. Harriet King

On behalf of the Homemakers Club of Christian Island I wish to thank you for sending an invitation to be present at this Convention and I am very happy to be able to tell the other members of what I learned and what I have seen which will help us to improve our work at home.

The Christian Island Homemakers Club 1955-56 President is Mrs. Effie Hawke. Regular monthly meeting was held on May 21st at the hall. Discussion was on field day. It was decided to have a pie social, proceeds to go toward the field day.

Proceeds from raffle on quilts - \$36.66. We made four quilts during the winter and also children's clothing and various articles. We had two baby showers for our members and three pie socials for our patients in the sanitarium. Gave a gift to our new wedded couple Mr. & Mrs. Robert Marion. Bought flowers for our late Mr. William P. Assance who passed away suddenly this spring.

We have 12 regular members. There are 20 members but only 12 are paid up.

We had a surprise party for one of the regular and oldest members, Mrs. Lucy Monague.

Money on hand - \$40.16.

Once again, I wish to express my thanks for your hospitality during our stay at this convention.

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Golden Lake Homemakers Club - Report read by Mrs. Leo Baptiste

Chairlady, Mr. Morris and other official delegates:

We are very few in numbers; ladies are dropping out. However, we had our annual picnic and cleared about nine hundred dollars. We hold bean suppers and bingos to raise funds for the benefit of the P.T.A. We also gave prizes for the school children, the sum of twenty dollars, for the best attendance - a first, second and third.

We also entered the Renfrew Trade Fair and sold Indian leather goods. We hope to do better in the following years.

Thank you.

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Moravian Homemakers Club - Report by delegate, Mrs. Leonard Noah.

From August 1955 - August 1956.

Number of regular meetings - 6. Number of work meetings - 30.

We meet every Thursday afternoon with an average attendance of 5. We have 10 paid-up members.

Our work consists of -

Caring for our cemetery. We clean it up in the spring, then we employ a man to cut the grass and weeds during the summer.

We did quilting on 6 quilts for other people for which we were paid. We made 3 quilts, 2 were sold and 1 was presented to our Junior School teacher who is always helping us in many ways. Last term we gave her a cake plate and server.

Six baby dresses and 3 sets of two diapers were given to our new arrivals. Three small girls received flannelette panties. 4 nightgowns were given to sick ladies, and one received a silk bed-jacket. A widow received \$5.00 and another sick girl received \$2.00. 2 suits of pyjamas were issued to two hospitalized man and another man received a pair of house slippers. 2 accident victims received \$2.00 each. Flowers were given for the bereaved on three occasions. Get-well cheer cards were sent to the hospital shut-ins. A scrap-book is in the making for all the "Thank-you" cards and notes sent to the Club.

During the year, we made 348 suits of pyjamas for the Government. We are grateful to this Department for this work. It not only gives us a bit of pin money but we give $\frac{1}{4}$ of our earnings to the support of the Club. This all helps to keep up interest in our Club. We catered to the Girls' Softball supper last fall.

During the year our reserve was honoured by a visit from the Honourable Mr. Pickersgill, our Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs. Maybe the baby tornado we had a few days before flew him in. Our M.P. Mr. Blake Huffman and our M.P.P. Mr. John Spence also came on this occasion. The reserve people and others came to the Junior School to meet with them.

Mr. Morris and Miss Helen Martins visited us twice during the year. In September they attended our Home and School Club, then in January, they showed films in the Hall. The films were on the various types of work done by Indians across Canada.

Most all our school children received the Salk-vaccine treatment for the prevention of polio.

Our methods of making money for the club work is (1) by donations, (2) by sale of various articles members bring to each meeting which are sold after lunch, sometimes on a lucky winner choice, (3) by a bake sale, (4) by a bingo, (5) by getting paid for quilting, sometimes we sell a quilt.

(6) Our memorial day service at the cemetery netted a good sum.

All our meetings end with a social half hour over a cup of tea and sandwiches, often visited by our two school teachers and Mr. Spence, our Agent.

Financial Report 1955 to 1956 August - Moravian

		<u>Received</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Aug. 1955	Carried forward	51.70	
	Donations	105.75	
	Bingos	47.98	
	Quilting	36.00	
	Government cheques for pyjamas	195.75	

Expenses for the year.

Flowers for bereaved	23.00
Pyjamas & slippers for sick	30.64
Flannelette & thread for sewing pyjamas	54.35
Cutting grass in the cemetery	84.10
Paid out for making Govt. pyjamas	195.75
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	437.18 387.84

Balance on hand: \$49.34

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Parry Island Homemakers Club, Parry Sound Agency - President, Mrs. Florence King; Secretary, Mrs. Matilda Tabobandung.

Madam Chairman, Honoured Guests and sister delegates, greetings and good wishes to you from Parry Island Club members.

The Homemaker's Club of Parry Island Reserve have appointed me to present our report of the past year's work.

We have sixteen members and three new members have just joined our club, making now a total of nineteen members. Our sewing convenor has been keeping our Club members busy sewing. We have made two quilts (finished) two quilt tops made, 4 pair pillow cases, 2 ladies dresses, 3 ladies slips, 3 girl's dresses, 6 girl's blouses, 3 girl's jumpers, 4 cotton shirts, 8 pr. child's bloomers, 1 woollen baby set, 3 pr. men's socks, 1 pr. men's mitts. We have been sewing every Tuesday afternoon during the summer

months and in the winter months we sew in the evenings.

For our young people we entertain them by having dances, 'fun-for-all' at which we have games and lunch is provided by our Club. We also tried our luck in having a bean supper but that was not very successful. We had eleven baby showers for the expectant mothers, the Club providing the lunches. We help the sick at home and those in the hospitals as well as the bereaved families by giving them money to buy what they need.

We raise our funds by having euchre parties, bingos and rummage sales.

We raised for the year 1955	\$301.68
Expenses	297.30
Balance on hand, transferred to 1956.	<u>4.38</u>

These are the few things we've done since January. We wish the Homemaker's Clubs every success at the Convention this year. We are only sorry we cannot all go and meet you all.

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Mud Lake Homemakers Club - Report by Mrs. James Coppaway

Madam Chairman, official delegates, visitors and guests. I am happy to be here in this convention and represent our Homemakers Club from Mud Lake.

We have 12 paid up members and we meet every third Wednesday of each month. We have our meetings in each members home. During the winter we have bingos, box pie socials, also fish-ponds. On Civic Holiday, we had a buffet dinner.

We spend our money in helping the sick and shut-ins. We send fruit and flowers to the ones in hospital. Every Christmas us members of the Homemakers Club would go around and sing carols to the old and give them candy. But last Christmas we had it a little different - we bought 50 pounds of turkey and all the trimmings and we brought the old folks to the hall, about 40 of them, and gave them a good turkey supper and had a social after; they really enjoyed themselves.

We bought oilcloth for our tables in the hall; also paint for the windows in the church. We are going to have a fish fry on the grounds when we have our fair and sell them. I hope to see some of you in our Pow-Wow we are having next week.

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Mrs. James Bigwin, Alnwick Reserve

Madam Chairman, Honoured Guests, Sister Members -

Before giving my report I must first say how pleased I am to attend this Homemakers Convention in Sarnia. Meeting new friends and renewing our acquaintance with the old does something to us. We are inspired. Hearing the different reports gives us new ideas. We have a broader outlook, and if you feel like I do, we will go home encouraged and ready to do a better job through the coming year. It is a challenge to us and we must resolve to live better, more true and as fine a Homemakers as we can live.

At last Convention in Tyendinaga, Mrs. Jack Simpson, a skilled and faithful member of our Club, was President. On retiring, we presented her with an electric tea-kettle.

During the year, three historical meetings were held - we have had slides shown and splendid talks given us by Dr. Robertson of Cobourg and a Professor from the University of Toronto. At these meetings, the ladies of the Homemaker's Club sold candy during intermission; serving refreshments to the guests at the close of the evening.

Approximately 25 boxes of fruit and get-well cards have been sent to the sick and injured in the home and in the hospital. Cards of comfort have been sent to the bereaved. Not only do we send cards, but we go to them with help in any way possible.

At Xmas, prizes have always been given for best attendance at Sunday School; 3 prizes to each class. As assistant superintendent with the children each Sunday, I did not like this arrangement so I changed things a bit. For the last two years we have given each child a gift, who has attended any time during the year. We varied the gifts, giving each according to his or her record of attendance. This does not take much money, but it has done more in bringing the children to Sunday School than anything else we could have done.

Last winter we held two hunting matches which were well attended by the men-folk. This really is a sport any Indian would enjoy, and one occasion where the men will come out in numbers.

The ladies of our Club served supper, with proceeds amounting to around seventy-five dollars at each meet. It is a splendid way to make money, as well as making good clean entertainment. During the evening of the hunt, a euchre party is held from which we derive more money. Selling lunch is also profitable at all our social gatherings.

For some time we have made quilts and given them out to the different families. Of late, we make a charge as it does take something to make a quilt, and we are planning to do bigger and better things this coming year.

Another way we have found to be good is having a bazaar and rummage sale. We make aprons, children's clothing, tablecloths, etc. Homemade candy and baking are a good seller. Used clothing is donated.

Our Club has been invited to the branch meetings of the Women's Institute, around our district, as well as many of the other meetings where they have a guest speaker.

My Aunt, Mrs. Al Simpson, has been guest speaker at most of the W.M.S. meetings this past winter and spring. Usually, our group is invited and we are asked to sing in the Indian language.

Although we do not consider money important in our Club, it still is a necessity. Our main object, through the years, has been to try and bring comfort and cheer to the needy, as well as the sick in the home and in the hospital. These are just some of the things done by our Club. Our members have been faithful and have given me the ardent support, so necessary in making a Club, worthy of the name of Homemaker. Without their help and co-operation, we, as Presidents, could not accomplish very much.

To the Ladies of Sarnia, we wish to thank you so much for the gracious and hospitable manner in which you have treated us. It has been a memorable occasion and one which we will not forget.

And now in closing, let us all remember, alone we can do so little. Through faith in each other and with love in our hearts we can accomplish much.

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Sarnia Homemakers Club - Report by Mrs. L. Adams

Madam Chairlady, Officials of the Department, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: Greetings from our Sarnia Reserve Homemaker's Club.

It is my pleasure to present this report from our club.

First of all we had our election in September, 1954, and elected Mrs. Eleanor Plain as President. To date we have 18 paid up members, and have had 25 meetings up to August 1956 with an average of 12 members present.

Ways and means of raising funds are from monthly bingos, banquets, donations and membership fees. We have a sewing convenor, assisted by a sewing committee who have done splendid work in helping our young girls with their sewing. We also have a Sick and Visiting committee and whenever we receive a report of some one being sick or in the hospital, we send fruit baskets or flowers. To mothers who were blessed with new babies we gave baby blankets or flannelette; some patients received bedroom slippers or nightgowns or whatever was required. We supplied a day bed for a blind elderly widow and a cook stove for a needy family. The following are also some of our expenses -

Donation to Church Fund	\$400.00
3 oil bills for Church	105.14
\$50. to a family whose home was damaged by fire	
\$50. to a family re hospital expenses	
\$25. to a family re funeral expenses	
\$125. to President of N.A.I.B. - personal expenses	
\$50. for delegates expenses re Duty Case	
\$54. to complete a widow's home	
\$65. to Sunday School	
\$125. to Xmas Tree Committee	
\$25. to Girl's Softball Team	
\$25. to Boy's Hockey Team	
\$25. for chartered bus to take Field Day Contestants to Walpole Island.	
\$10. each for 4 of our boys who went overseas.	
\$31.52 for money orders and Easter cards for boys in the Service.	
\$10. to Explorer's girls group.	
\$25. to family - father sick in hospital.	
\$15. travelling expenses to Toronto for lady to have a fitting for artificial foot.	
\$15. to Canadian Cancer Society.	
\$15. delegates' expenses to Church School.	

\$64.70 for 12 pr. blankets given to our older people.

We have also bought 12 flannel shirts and 12 pairs of socks for our oldest men; 8 pairs of socks for Father's Day; sweaters or house dresses for 6 of our oldest mothers on Mother's Day. 9 choir gowns were made. We paid for material for the built-in cupboards in the recreation room.

We gave a present to our Ex-Chief, a Xmas present for the Ex-President of our Club, and we presented our retired treasurer Mrs. Flossie Williams an honorary membership pin, making her an honorary member of our Club. Owing to ill health, she has retired as Treasurer after several years of faithful service.

We also supplied two large turkeys for the annual New Years Feast and paid \$10. for the dance orchestra.

\$3 each was given to 8 of our graduating Grade VIII students for school supplies.

Gifts are given to newlyweds. We have catered to several banquets, and we gave a surprise party for our Nurse.

Our motto is to help wherever it is needed. Our expenditures to date are incomplete, but we do have a bank balance of \$200.

At this time I want to take the opportunity to thank all the officials and all who have made this Convention a success. I hope you have enjoyed your visit with us.

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Rama Road Homemakers Club, Simcoe Agency - Read by Mrs. Sam Williams

As most of you know we are a new club; we have 31 members. The club was organized in April, 1955.

We are glad of the opportunity to attend this convention. I will take back with me more ideas that will help our club.

We raise money having socials. We have bought dishes, cups and saucers, cutlery, also material and an electric sewing machine. We make quilts, dresses, shorts and slips.

We take fruit to the sick, also flowers at bereavements.

Recently we gave a house warming to brothers who have just moved into a new home, and put up curtains in the home.

We also have a baby clinic. We had nursing classes last winter.

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Georgina Island Homemakers Club, Simcoe Agency - Report by Mrs. Leslie McCue.

I am glad to be here at this convention again. I attended the one in Deseronto last year and enjoyed it very much. This year I was elected to represent our club on Georgina Island, so here are a few reports of our club work.

Our church anniversary was held last fall and one hundred and sixteen dollars was cleared. This money was spent for candies and prizes for the children at Halloween and gifts of clothing and toys at Christmas. We held bingos and box socials to raise funds. Boxes of fruit were given to the sick and diapers and blankets were given to the new babies; also a present for each couple that were married last year. We also made quilts which we sold or raffled.

I am sorry to report that our club is not very active during the summer months as most of our seven members are away from the reserve, but we hope to get started again soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the other Homemakers the best of luck and success in everything they do. Thank you.

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Cornwall Island East Homemakers Club, St. Regis Agency - Read by Mrs. Agnes Benedict.

The first of December we had a benefit bingo for the children; part of the proceeds went towards the purchase of candy at Christmas time. We supplied soup for the children during the winter months, four months altogether at \$12.00 a month.

There was a fire in our neighbourhood in which one family was left homeless. The members of the Homemakers Club donated household items and others gave them used clothing and flannel to be made into quilts.

Whenever a member is confined to a hospital the usual custom is to send flowers on behalf of the members.

Baby blankets were given away recently to the members who had new born babies.

Also, when Miss Auckland left our reserve, we gave her a gift of money - \$22.00; and gave money to the school children's picnic - \$10.00.

We have 12 members. We don't have much money in the treasury - only \$15.00.

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Chenail Homemakers Club, St. Regis Agency - Report by Sara Lazore, read by Mrs. Mary Adams.

The Chenail Homemakers Club have had a somewhat interrupted year caused by the Seaway work going on in our district. Because so many of the men in our families are on different shifts, it has been necessary for the women to stay at home more than usual to take care of the meals which are at so many different hours.

We, in the Homemakers Club, did however manage to hold a few meetings. Last December, our project was to raise money for the children's Christmas party. This was done by holding bingos and food sales.

Several calls were made during the past year to homes where there was sickness in the family. When a helping hand was needed in these homes, the homemakers saw to it that this help was given.

We in the Chenail are all looking forward to the time when cooking and sewing classes for women and shopwork for the men will be taught in the newly built school in our district. If this type of adult training can be offered in homemaking, we feel that we can become Homemakers in the true sense of the word.

Also, we gave Miss Auckland, our nurse, when she left our reserve, a homemade quilt and money in the amount of \$22.00.

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Eastern Homemakers Club, Tyendinaga Reserve - Report by Secretary,
Mary E. Brant.

The Eastern Homemakers Club has 12 paid members and 3 honorary members. Each month we have one business meeting on the second Tuesday of the month and a sewing meeting towards the last of the month.

On October 25, 1955, we had our annual meeting with the election of officers. The following officers were elected:

President - Mrs. George Culbertson
Vice President - Mrs. Abel Green
Secretary - Mrs. Frank Brant Jr.
Treasurer - Mrs. Percy Green

During the year we raised money by means of card parties and home baking sales. We also made quilts. We donated \$25 to the organ fund of Christ Church, and we gave \$40 to be used for other improvements at the Church. At Christmas we gave \$10.20 for the purchase of candles for the Candlelight Service.

In January our club sponsored a basket making class. Mrs. Thomas of St. Regis came for the week to instruct the women.

At Christmas we bought treats for the Eastern School children and for those who were sick in our section or in hospital.

Cards of sympathy and get-well are sent by our sick and social convenor.

At our October meeting the Eastern School teacher, Mrs. S. Hazard, told us of her experiences when she and her husband were teaching at an Indian Residential School near James Bay. Our Nurse, Miss McAlpine, gave us an interesting and instructive talk on Allergies.

Although we have only an average attendance of about six members, we have had quite a busy and successful year. Our meetings are held at the home of one of the members and we use our Homemakers Prayers for the opening and closing of the meetings.

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Mission Homemakers Club, Tyendinaga Reserve - Report by Mrs. Maracle.

The annual report of the Mission Homemakers Club is as follows.

We hold two meetings a month. We have about five active members on our roll call. These members help care for a little church in our community. At our meetings we hold auctions to make extra money for our funds. We also hold card parties. We have a quilt, quilt top and bathrobe on hand that was made by members at our meetings. Flannelette or money is given to new babies in our district, and flowers or money is given to the bereaved, whichever is necessary. Christmas boxes were packed and given out to the old and sick in our community. Cards and fancy hankies are sent to our members on their birthdays. Our club has recessed for a few months but as we, as delegates here at this convention, go back home to our members with new ideas, we hope that it will be a help to make our club more active throughout the coming year.

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Central Homemakers Club, Tyendinaga Reserve - Report by President,
Mrs. John R. Brant.

The following is a summarized report of our activities and financial status:

We have two meetings each month, one for business affairs and the other for our sewing. These meetings are held in members' homes so that we are able to save money which would otherwise be spent on rent for our hall.

At the present time we have eleven members and one honorary member.

During the Christmas season, we realized a profit of \$35.00 from the sale of tickets on a turkey. Part of this money was used to pack 25 Christmas baskets for our people of 70 years and older. As this is a rather costly undertaking, our members donated quantities of fruit, nuts, candies, etc. One lady who is not a member, very kindly donated some fudge.

During March of 1955, we donated the sum of \$59.73 to All Saints Church. Again in February of 1956, we donated an additional \$25.00 towards All Saints Church Chimney Fund.

To the sick, in hospitals and at home, we have given 20 baskets of fruit and 25 plants and floral arrangements at a total cost of \$79.50.

To families in bereavement, we have sent 8 sprays of flowers at a cost of \$40.00.

Seven Dollars were donated to one member as a gift for her new home. Donations to Red Cross totalled \$5.00. The amount of \$2.00 was donated to a new baby in our district.

In order to raise money, we hold several euchre parties throughout the year at our Council House. The rent for the hall is \$3.00. Ninety-nine per cent of the food and prizes are donated by the members.

Each member receives a birthday cup and saucer, value of which is not to exceed \$1.00.

Tickets are sold on articles donated by members at the meetings, which helps to raise a little extra money. Also, we have auction sales which provide entertainment as well as added income.

Our bank balance at the present time is \$55.12.

I think this covers our activities pretty well.

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Chairlady for the morning session was Mrs. T. L. Williams.

After the Homemakers reports were read, several of the ladies thanked the Sarnia Club for their hospitality. The general feeling among the delegates was 'We will go home and do a better job'.

Mrs. James Bigwin expressed the thought when she said: "Meeting new friends and renewing our acquaintance with the old does something to us. We are inspired. Hearing the different reports gives us new ideas. We have a broader outlook, and if you feel like I do, we will go home encouraged and ready to do a better job through the coming year," and "through faith in each other and with love in our hearts we can accomplish much".

Mrs. Bigwin then invited the Homemakers to hold the convention in Alderville next year.

Mrs. Benson Brant from Tyendinaga, who has visited many reserves during the course of her duties as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Ontario Government, said she was happy to be at the convention, meet old friends and hear about the many activities the women took part in. She said the Homemakers are always ready to help and come forward with money. "Bless them", she said, "what would we do without them?"

Mr. Bonnah, on leaving, said: "If you ladies just keep on working and improving the way you have been, it will give us the food we need to keep us working all the harder".

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DISCUSSION ON FUTURE CONVENTIONS

Since the delegates had expressed definite views during a previous discussion about holding a Homemaker's Convention annually, Miss Martins asked the ladies if they wished to discuss the matter of annual or semi-annual conventions at this meeting and indicate their opinion as a group. The discussion ended with a show of hands; the ladies were unanimous in that the convention be held every year.

A suggestion was made to elect a Chairman and Secretary to act as a Regional Program Committee to prepare a program for the next convention, and nominations were called for.

Nominated for President were:

Mrs. James Bigwin, Alnwick
Mrs. Nicholas Plain, Sarnia
Mrs. Benson Brant, Tyendinaga
Mrs. Simpson, Alnwick (declined)

After the nominations were closed, ballots were taken and Mrs. Nicholas Plain was elected.

Mrs. Plain said: "Thank you ladies, your choice makes me feel humble. I didn't expect it and don't feel qualified. I hope you will give me all the help you can to do this job you have elected me for".

Nominated for Secretary were:

Mrs. Calvin Adams (declined)
Miss Joyce Plain
Mrs. Benson Brant (declined)

Nominations closed. Miss Joyce Plain was chosen as secretary by a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Plain asked for suggestions on:

I Where the next convention should be held.

Had two invitations: (1) Golden Lake
(2) Alnwick

Moved by Mrs. B. Gray, seconded by Mrs. Calvin Adams that the convention be held at Alnwick - Alnwick was chosen by a closed ballot vote.

II Program for next convention.

Suggestions: (1) $\frac{1}{2}$ day of sewing or cooking;
(2) Change of prize list. Each club is to send in suggestions to Mrs. Plain on what they want on the prize list.
(3) Each club is to send in program suggestions for next convention.

III Registration Fee.

After some discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Mary Culbertson and seconded by Mrs. John R. Brant to charge a \$1.00 registration fee for each delegate attending the convention. This motion was unanimously approved.

IV Payment for meals.

After discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Louise Pawis and seconded by Mrs. Leslie McCue that unofficial delegates be charged 50¢ per meal. Motion carried.

V Election of Regional Chairman and Secretary.

Moved by Mrs. John R. Brant, seconded by Mrs. Doris DeGurse that

an election be held at each annual convention to elect a regional chairman and secretary for the coming year. Motion carried.

Mrs. T.L. Williams asked the group if they could give some advice on when club dues should be paid. One of the delegates said her club members paid their dues at their first meeting after each election.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

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The delegates enjoyed a sight-seeing tour of the reserve and interesting points of the City of Sarnia. The Hostess Club chartered a bus for this occasion.

Following this, a hat trimming contest took place. Hats consisted of paper plates with trimmings of vegetables. 14 ladies entered. Prizes were donated by the Sarnia Homemaker's Club.

1st prize - \$3.00 - won by Mrs. James Bigwin, Alnwick Reserve.
2nd prize - \$2.00 - won by Mrs. Leslie McCue, Georgina Island.
3rd prize - \$1.00 - won by Mrs. Lizzie Johnston, Cape Croker.
4th prize - a plant - won by Mrs. James Sahanatien, Gibson Reserve,
donated by Mrs. Jacobs of Sarnia Reserve.

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EVENING ACTIVITIES

Mr. Calvin Adams - Master of Ceremonies

A beauty contest was held; winner to be called 'Miss St. Clair'.

Entrants were: Verda Williams, Rozella Nahmabin, Goldie Bunce, Geraldine Rogers, Judy Rogers, Mae Williams and Elsie Gray.

The girls were made to parade on the stage to music. They looked lovely.

Winners were: (1) Rozella Nahmabin
(2) Verda Williams
(3) Elsie Gray

Winners were presented with prizes donated by the Sarnia Homemaker's Club.

Representatives of the Sarnia Observer were on hand and took many photographs of the girls.

Tickets for a chair, donated by a Sarnia merchant, had been distributed earlier. Winner of the chair was Rudy Williams, a member of the Sarnia Reserve.

Mrs. Nicholas Plain was presented with a corsage by delegates. Presentation was made by Mrs. Benson Brant, Tyendinaga.

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Mr. Jack Henderson, Sarnia Policeman, was made a brother and honorary member of the Sarnia Band. He is active in welfare work on the Sarnia Reserve and is a friend to all. Douglas Simon, Scout-leader, told the audience about Mr. Henderson's many activities; starting the Boy Scouts and Young People's groups, getting the church floor waxed, picking up the youngsters on the reserve and taking them to Sunday school every Sunday, and being always ready to help. He is presently assisting reserve neighbours to paint their houses.

Mr. Henderson was asked to come forward. Chief Lloyd Williams made the presentation and said:

"Adopting an honorary member into the Sarnia Chippewa Band is a ceremonial rite equivalent to birth. We deeply regret we did not have time to secure the required articles to proceed in carrying out this great ceremony."

Chief Williams then placed an Indian headdress on Mr. Henderson's head, saying "From now on your name will be known as 'Nee Kon Nis', meaning 'Brother'."

Clarence Plain (in headdress) talked to Nee Kon Nis in Indian giving him a long name, meaning "Brother Clear Skye". Mr. Plain and his son, also in headdress, instructed Mr. Henderson on the art of Indian dance, after which all three danced on the stage to the accompaniment of tom-tom music, simulated on the piano by Mrs. W. L. Leroy. The audience kept time by clapping.

When Mr. Henderson stepped from the stage, the audience filed past

him in single file, each shaking hands with him.

The newspapermen took pictures of Mr. Henderson and Miss St. Clair.

Jack, to whom this had been a complete surprise, was overwhelmed. He said, in summary:

"I am certainly very proud to be accepted as a brother and made an honorary member of the Band. I want to sincerely thank you.

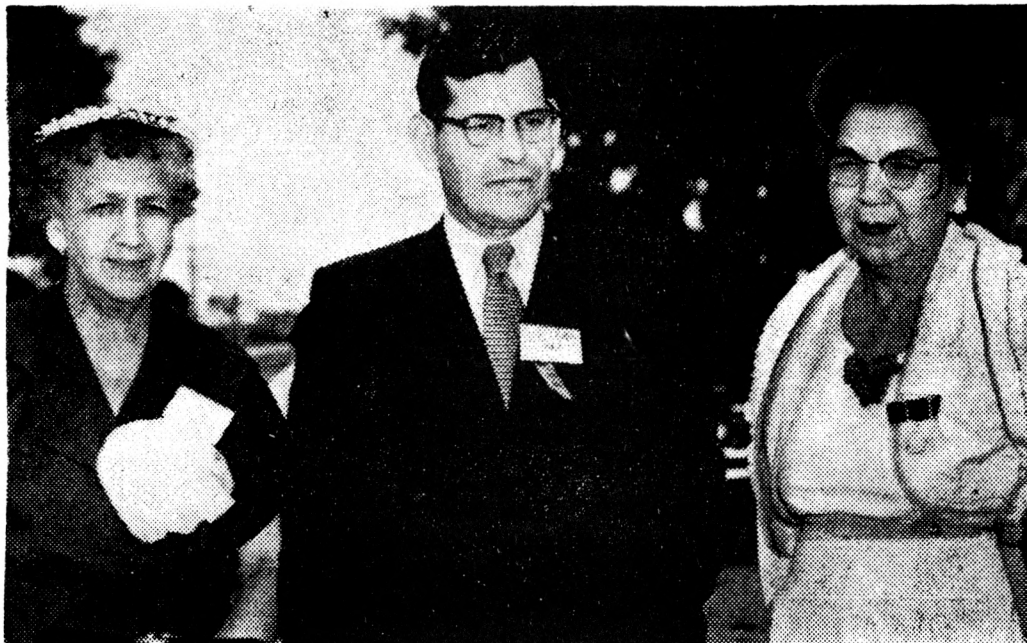
"As long as we know that God is the highest person, and we follow in his footsteps, we will make progress and go ahead. The greatest things we have to conquer are the evil influences within ourselves. If we put the thought of evil out of our minds and hearts, we will continue to go ahead".

Clarence Plain said he wished to thank everybody - men, women and children, for taking part in this ceremony. "I take great pleasure and consider it an honour to accept this young man into our Band".

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Chief Williams then brought the meeting to a close, with the exception of a dance to be held immediately after. He asked the audience to join hands and sing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

London Free Press, Thursday August 23rd, 1956.



INDIAN CONVENTION—The 14th annual Indian Homemakers' Convention got under way at the Sarnia Reserve Wednesday with delegates from 12 reserves in Southwestern Ontario attending. Highlight of the three-day convention will come Friday when a beauty contest

will be held to crown Miss St. Clair. From left: Mrs. Nicholas Plain, president of the convention; Lloyd Williams, chief of the Sarnia Reserve, and Mrs. Bessie Gray, of the Sarnia Reserve.

(Star Sarnia Bureau Photo by Bill Shields)

Handicrafts, Discussions

Highlight Convention



—Free Press Sarnia Bureau Photos
Butter-soft leather moccasins, intricate porcupine quill baskets, dressed dolls and quilts were some of the handicrafts on display at the convention. Admiring "Double Wedding Rings," an entry by Mrs. James L. Williams, of Sarnia, are left to right, Mrs. Ted Radd, Sarnia, in charge of the display, and Mrs. Alfred Simpson, delegate from Alderville.



Annual convention of Southern Ontario Homemakers' Clubs from 13 Indian Reserves met at Sarnia Reserve yesterday to begin a three-day get-together to discuss problems of child care, home making and methods of improving living conditions. Pictured chatting are four members of the host reserve: Lloyd Williams, chief; Mrs. Nicholas Ploin, club president; Mrs. Stafford Rogers, member of the Bond Council, and Mrs. James L. Williams, treasurer of the club for many years.

Sarnia Hostesses

Program of "Self-Help" Demonstrated At Indian Homemakers' Convention

BY MARION SODEN
Free Press Staff Reporter

SARNIA, August 22 — First step in a Government program of "self-help" to improve standard of living on Canada's Indian Reserves took tangible form here today as 50 delegates from 13 reserves in the Southern Ontario region met for their annual convention of Homemakers' Clubs.

Comparable to Women's Institutes, though as yet not as far

advanced, the Homemakers' Clubs were introduced in this region by the Department of Indian Affairs about 1940, to help Indians "help themselves."

Opening day of the three-day convention comprised a summary of the Sarnia Reserve History given by Mrs. Ted Rodd, discus-

sion of homemaker and welfare problems by J. E. Morris, regional supervisor, Department of Indian Affairs, films on Boy Scout activities and an address by W. W. Struthers, executive assistant, Sarnia Children's Aid Society.

Typical of the 13-member groups is the Sarnia Homemakers' Club. Organized about 12 years ago, the group has more than 30 members. "Our aim is to help the aged and less fortunate, improve living conditions on the reserves and generally help whenever we can," Mrs. Stafford Rogers, council member explained.

Members live up to their aims by providing baskets of fruit to shut-ins, giving money and clothing to the poorer families of the reserve, visiting and sending flowers to the elderly.

Chief problem on all reserves is youth, modern problem of every Canadian community. As in other towns and cities, organized youth groups provide one answer. A Boy Scout group "Chippewa Troop 26, Sarnia," a Cub pack, Girl Guides, Explorers and CGIT are all active on the Sarnia Reserve.

"We donate money to the Scouts and the girls groups," Mrs. Rogers said, "and raise the money by having bingos."

Younger women on the Sarnia Reserve are learning dressmaking skills through help of the Homemakers Clubs — just as the WI's sponsor girls 4-H Home-making Clubs. Each interested girl is given \$2 by the club to invest in material and patterns. The Government provides one sewing machine and the club provides sewing accessories such as pins, scissors, tapes, etc. This past year the young girls made aprons, blouses, skirts and dresses.

"When the ball games are over, the girls will be interested in sewing again," Mrs. Nicholas Plain, president, said.

Sewing also seems to be the favorite hobby of most of the

older women. Mrs. Rogers, mother of 11 children, the youngest now 13, manages to work crocheting into her busy schedule. And, like other mothers, she is teaching her daughters home-making skills.

"I had to go away for a few days and left my two daughters, 13 and 15, in charge. I'm telling you, when I came home, the house looked better than I ever had it."

Mrs. James L. Williams, who proudly wears a silver medal honoring her for services to the Homemakers' Club as treasurer, likes to quilt. One of her quilts sewn in the double wedding ring pattern was part of a handicrafts display at the convention.

Mrs. Plain, who had eight children, said "homemaking was her hobby" — a fitting statement for a Homemakers' Club member.



HOMEMAKERS'

CONVENTION

Sarnia "Observer"

Thursday August 23

1956

Looking over the agenda with Lloyd Williams, chief of St. Clair Chippewa Band, upper right, are, from the left, Mrs. Nicholas Plain, president of the St. Clair Homemakers' Club; Mrs. Alex Gray, Chief Williams and Mrs. Calvin Adams. Examining some

of the handicrafts, lower right, are Mrs. Ted Rodd, Sarnia, who is in charge of the display and Mrs. Alfred Simpson, a delegate from Alderville, near Coburg. The convention began Wednesday and will conclude Friday night.
(Observer Staff Photos)



THE LONDON FREE PRESS

Wednesday, August 22, 1956.

Indian Home Makers

Thirteen Reserves Included In Three-Day Sarnia Event

SARNIA, August 21—Some 50 delegates from Indian reserves in the Southern Ontario region are expected to attend the annual home makers convention at the Sarnia Reserve Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The convention will be highlighted by addresses on such topics as "The Indian" and "The Indian and His Future," plus discussion groups in the mornings and afternoons.

Another highlight will be a beauty contest to crown Miss St. Clair on Friday evening.

Delegates will be present from the following Indian agencies: St. Regis, Rice Lake, Golden Lake, Thayendanaga, Mud Lake, Lake Simcoe, Parry Sound, Christian Islands, Cape Crocker, Kettle Point, Moraviantown, Caradoc, and Sarnia, the sponsoring group, in conjunction with the Indian Affairs branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

PULCHRITUDE ON PROGRAM,



SARNIA "OBSERVER"

Thursday, August 23, 1956.

Many attractions have been provided for the 45 delegates from 13 Indian Homemakers Clubs in Southern Ontario currently meeting in 11th annual convention at St. Clair Reserve. Two of the beauties who will feature in Friday night's beauty contest, upper left, are Miss Betty Nahmabin, 16 (left) and Miss Elsie Gray, 15.

H. G. Mingay, inspector of schools for the Department of Indian Affairs was a delegate at yesterday's session of the Southern Ontario Hamemaker's Convention in Sarnia when extra aid for Lambton Health Unit's Indian service was pledged.

Here Mr. Mingay is with, left to right, Miss Helen Martins, social worker with the department; R. Lemay, of the Vacational Training Department, Ottawa; T. L. Bonnah, assistant regional supervisor for the department.



— Free Press Sarnia Bureau Photos



Others attending the Sarnia convention included from left: Miss V. M. MacRae, field nurse at Walpole Island Indian Reserve; Dr. P. E. Moore, director of Indian Affairs and Northern Health Services, Department of National Health and Welfare; Miss Jayce Plain chairlady for the afternoon session of yesterday's 14th annual convention.

LONDON FREE PRESS
Thursday, August 23, 1956.

WOMEN

THE SARNIA OBSERVER, Thursday, August 23, 1956 PAGE 15

TOWN ECHOES

Ancient Indian Arts Fading From Scene

By MARCELLA BROWN
Women's Editor

The Indians are learning the white man's arts but are rapidly forgetting their own native crafts. This truth brought mixed feelings to a small group of journalists who had a preview of the handicraft exhibit in the former St. Clair Reserve school room. Intermingled with dresses, aprons and quilts were down-soft doe-skin moccasins, sweet-grass baskets and boxes ornamented with porcupine quills. The items will be offered for sale this afternoon and again tomorrow afternoon. Chief Lloyd Williams of the St. Clair Reserve confirmed the fact of the vanishing crafts.

"I used to weave the odd basket myself, but don't do it anymore," he revealed. One reason for the decline in basket weaving is the disappearance of the raw material, black and white ash. The process is lengthy and demanding involving the cutting of the tree in eight foot lengths, stripping the bark, a small section at a time, then pounding the moist, raw wood until it comes off in the thin strips which will be woven into the baskets. The colored portions are dyed with commercial products although in times past blood root and various flowers indigenous to the district were used.

Combining the traditions of the proud race and the progressiveness of modern Indian women is Mrs. Alfred Simpson, a delegate from the Alderville Reserve Homemaker's Club, near Coburg. Her basket combining birch bark and sweetgrass and decorated with the head of an Indian Chief wearing ceremonial headdress is truly a museum piece. She has campaigned for women's rights and was instrumental in getting the vote for distaff members of her tribe in council matters. There are two women chiefs, she disclosed, one at Curve Lake in the Georgian Bay district and another in the west. Sarnia has two women councillors, Mrs. Alex Gray and Mrs. Stafford Rogers. The empty schoolhouse on the St. Clair Reserve was viewed with some regret by Mrs. Simpson, although she philosophized that the Indians must "move with the times."

Back at their home in Mooretown from a holiday on the west coast are Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Prentice and sons, Clifford and Joey. In Victoria they were guests of Mrs. Prentice's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Andrews and her brother, George Andrews and in Cordova Bay with another brother, Major J. J. Andrews, Mrs. Andrews and family. En route the travellers stopped off at Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks and visited the Badlands of the Dakotas.

Pursuing two months research at the University of Western Ontario, Dr. Ian Hamilton, London, England was a recent visitor with Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Craig, and family, Nelson street. Dr. Hamilton is the son of Professor William Hamilton, dean of the college of medicine, London University, London, England.

Mrs. Herbert Nilson of Euphemla street north will leave this weekend for a week's holiday in Hamilton, where she will visit Mrs. Frances Miller.

Mrs. Stella Harris and son John, 166 Queen street, are vacationing at the Grand Hotel, Mackinaw Island. They will also visit Chicago before returning to Sarnia in early September.

Ottawa to Stop Paying Rich Indians' Medicals

London Free Press,
Friday, August 24,
1956

Free Press Sarnia Bureau

SARNIA, August 23 — The Federal Government is not going to continue to pay medical bills for the Indian in cases where the Indian or his band can afford to meet the cost themselves, Dr. P. E. Moore, director of Indian and Northern Health Services, Department of National Health and Welfare, said today.

Dr. Moore was addressing delegates of the Southern Ontario Region Homemakers' convention, being held on the Sarnia Indian Reserve.

Help in North

Dr. Moore said the Government would cease to pay medical costs for the Indians who are "better off" in favor of helping the northern reserves.

"Here in Sarnia," he said, "you have more opportunities than they have in the northern regions, to help yourselves. We are going to put you more on your own. We will aid you when necessary, but let's get away from this idea that the world owes the Indian something. We've all got to get out and make a living," he said.

"You're all fair-minded people," continued the doctor, "think this over and you'll see. From Queen Charlotte Island to the Atlantic, we're going to start asking for contributions. Out in Edmonton alone, there are 21 oil-producing wells. They can afford to pay."

Beyond Treaty Rights

The Government of Canada, he continued, has "gone far beyond its promises on treaty rights. Canada, in this respect, has the best record of any country in the world. "The Indian can't complain of his chance for the opportunity to help himself."

"Of course," said Dr. Moore, "we're limited by what Parliament decides. We're people only trying to carry out policies."

Dr. Moore encouraged the Homemakers to encourage their respective bands to take out a form of hospitalization plan.

The seeds of citizenship must be sown within the Indians by themselves, H. G. Mingay, Toronto, inspector of schools for Southern Ontario, told the convention, adding that this urge must come from the Indians themselves.

Responsible for 170 classrooms and 16 Indian agencies in Southern Ontario, Mr. Mingay said the Federal Government will not give citizenship until it feels that the Indian can look after himself. In this regard, he stressed the importance of education.

\$16,000,000 Provided

Approximately \$16,000,000 was spent on educating Canada's 151,000 Indians in 1955. Of this total, about 40 per cent was spent in Ontario. All this is paid by the Federal Government, or, more realistically, by the Canadian taxpayer. About \$20,000,000 in all was spent on Indian affairs, including education, plus another \$18,000,000 on Indian health services, during 1955.

"The Indian must accept his full responsibility," said Mr. Mingay. "He must obtain his full status."

Dislike Dependence

Ex-Chief Telford Adams, told the female gathering that "the Government is indebted to the Indian." Although he charged that the Government in the past "did not give us a cent," he stressed the importance of educating his bandmen to the point where they would eventually become self-supporting. He said the Indian does not like to think of himself as being a dependent.

On vocational training, R. Lemay, Ottawa, Vocational Training Department, said the department is following a policy of direct assistance to enable students to obtain training of their choice.

Indian Maiden Chosen Queen Of The St. Clair



Gaiety and high spirits pervaded the Sarnia Indian Reserve Friday evening. Occasion was a beauty contest and dance to round off the week's Homemakers's convention.

The Council Hall on Tashmoo avenue was crowded when seven beautiful young Indian maidens paraded before the judges, whose difficult task it was to select a queen for the evening.

FIRST PLACE

The competitors were Verda Williams, Goldie Bunce, Geraldine Rogers, Rozella Nahmabin, Judy Rogers, Elsie Gray and Mae Williams.

Mike Perry of The Observer and Bob Jones of the London Free Press acted as judges. After asking three of the girls to parade a second time they finally awarded first place to 17-year-old Rozella Nahmabin. Runner up was Verda Williams and third was Elsie Gray.

A ribbon with the title "Miss St. Clair" was pinned on the winner by Mr. Perry, and the crowning ceremony was performed by Mrs. Eleanor Plain, who placed a head-band, complete with feather on the head of Rozella.

Prizes were given to Miss St. Clair, Verda Williams and Elsie Gray by Calvin Adams, beauty contest official. Also present were Chief Lloyd Williams, Ward LeRoy (Supt. Sarnia Indian Agency,) and W. J. Morris (Regional Supervisor for Southern Ontario.)

'MISS ST. CLAIR' SMILES AT FORTUNE

Policeman Made 'Blood Brother'

Braves in white sports jackets, Indian maidens in bathing suits and a white man doing an Indian war dance. They were all present Friday on the Sarnia Indian Reserve when Constable John Henderson, of 312 Front street north, was made the first honorary member of the Sarnia Indian reserve.

This induction ceremony culminated the Eleventh Annual Homemaker's convention, with re-

presentatives from more than a dozen tribes present for the three-day affair.

NEW NAME

Const. Henderson, of the Sarnia police force, was named "Nee-Kon-Uis," which means "brother," by Chief Lloyd Williams.

Clarence Plain also named him "Shebwasah Keeshig," translated means "clear sky."

Mr. Plain addressed the group

in the native Chippewan tongue and said Const. Henderson had given his best to the tribe and the only way they could return their gratitude was by making him a 'blood' brother.

Mr. Henderson has done a lot of social work for the Indians and was responsible for the formation of the Cubs and Scouts on the Reserve. The official name of the

scouts is "The 26th Chippewa Pack."

OLD AND NEW

Mr. Plain, his son Sanford, and Const. Henderson donned war bonnets and performed a realistic war dance around the beauty contest winner, Rozella Nahmabin.

The floor was cleared and modern dancing took over, after the group sang "O Canada."



CLARENCE PLAIN, 'BLOOD BROTHER' JACK HENDERSON, CHIEF LLOYD WILLIAMS SWAP GREETINGS

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