

Founder of Women's Institutes. 1897.



Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless.

The first Woman's Institute was founded at Stoney Creek, Ont. by a Canadian woman, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and so started a movement that has spread almost all around the world. There are now Women's Institutes in every province in Canada, in Great Britain, Belgium, France, New Zealand South Africa and India, and no doubt the institute idea has prompted the formation of some other groups that go to make up the world's organized country women.

It must have taken the courage of a pioneer, fifty years ago to launch an educational movement for women who were right in the thick of their heaviest family responsibilities; most of them farm women with all that this implies in the way of limited leisure time. It took a pioneer vision to lay plans so sound that the objectives are still adaptable to changing conditions; the program still attracting women after half a century.

In Ontario, back in the late 1800's the farmers had what they called Farmer's Institutes. They also had an