

BULLETINS FROM BRITAIN

The following excerpts from "Bulletins From Britain" published by the British Information Services, New York, will interest all rural dwellers.

Meat Pies for War Workers

The meat pie has been mobilized for the war effort. Under communal pie plans, thousands of them are baked in "job lots" to provide rural war workers with a hot mid-day meal. The Women's Voluntary Services and the Women's Institutes started the plan last summer for harvest laborers. They arranged with local food offices for allotments of the rationed ingredients needed for the pies—meat, cooking fats, sugar, bacon, cheese and preserves. These are in proportion to the community's needs.

In some places the village baker has taken over this mass production of pies. In others, large private kitchens do the baking. If the rural community is near a British Restaurant (government-sponsored canteen which serves twenty-cent meals), the pies are cooked at the Restaurant, then called for and distributed.

Food container vans travel between remote areas in some counties, carry food communally cooked. Villagers unable to do agricultural work collect the meals for the men and women who are out in the fields. One Sussex woman buys 200 meals from the van and keeps them for the workers to call for on their way home.

Some vans supply fried fish to districts far from the fish centers. One county alone now receives 2,000 fish meals weekly under this system.

Communal feeding was unknown in pre-war Britain. Women in the services and in local war organizations worked out the plan and have put it through successfully, without official commands or regulations. And the system is growing rapidly. No food is wasted, and there is no strain on the country's pocketbook.

Towards a Better Countryside

A detailed "blueprint" for post-war rural Britain has been drawn up, ready for the Ministry of Works and Planning to carry out as soon as the war is over.

The programme calls for the elimination of "cold comfort" farms, rural slums and unsightly patches of industrial development which mar Britain's countryside.

Houses will be designed to fit their surroundings. There will be no red semi-detached villas set incongruously in green fields. In windy areas, houses will have a deep porch. They will have greater storage space than town houses, larger ground area with less height. They will be wired for electricity and piped for gas and water.

Tied cottages—cottages owned by a farm and let only to workers on the farm—will be reduced in numbers. The cottages will be kept for workers who have to live near the farm.

The village will have a social center, hall, theater, library, and possibly a canteen and a clinic. The village inn will be for the villagers, and not a road-house "where townspeople come to keep late hours."

Foot-paths, stiles and bridges will be maintained by the local authorities. In remote or hilly areas, foot-paths and forest ways will be marked by bands of color on the trees, in the continental fashion.

Advertisement billboards will go, unless they meet with the approval of the local authorities. Gasoline stations will have to be unobtrusive. There will be no main road traffic to scare the hens and endanger the village children. New trunk roads will go around the villages, and existing main roads will be by-passed.

Good soil near towns and villages is to be kept for open spaces, market gardens or allotments.

The Farmer of Windsor

Windsor, home of British Kings for nearly a thousand years, is as busy

helping to grow food as any farm in Britain. It provides an outstanding example of British agriculture at war, and King George VI is as keenly interested in agricultural problems as any other farmer in the world.

Of the total of 451 acres, 300 are now arable, which is three times the area which was under cultivation before the war. There are 109 acres of wheat, 70 acres of barley, 35 acres of oats, and the remaining acreage has been planted with potatoes and root crops for stock feeding.

The only residents of Windsor who have suffered by this triple growth in agriculture are the famous Windsor deer. In peacetime, all the Great Park was their kingdom. There were over a thousand red and fallow deer, which roamed through the old trees of the park; now they have been reduced to a nucleus herd of 100. Also, instead of having the freedom of one of the most beautiful and historic parks in Britain, they are now penned in a special section of the park which is not fit for cultivation.

The King's famous dairy herds—the pedigree Jerseys and Shorthorns—are at full strength, and carriage horses, which in peacetime used to draw the King on his ceremonial drive to Ascot, have been used for mowing to provide hay for the cattle.

Shortage of feeding stuffs has meant that the beef herd has had to be reduced to a nucleus of breeding stock, and the pedigree herd of large white pigs has also been cut down.

Land Army Helps

Three members of the Women's Land Army work on the Royal farm, and the supervisor has nothing but praise for their work. In the Great Park is something which has never been seen before in Royal Windsor. By the King's command the park has been given over to wheat growing, and before another season has gone by, its beauty will provide the setting for a farm of 1,500 acres.

The quantity of food grown here is sufficient to make this home of British kings an appropriate illustration of the service which the whole of agriculture is rendering to the nation in its hour of need.

One old laborer on the Royal estate, Mr. G. H. Elsbury, has been working there for fifty-two years. His father before him had an equally long record of service. Mr. Elsbury can recall previous cropping on the Norfolk farm, one of the two areas set aside by George III for farming operations, but he cannot recall that the Great Park, now under wheat, has ever been used for this purpose.

In fact, it was not until the Windsor records were gone through that it was discovered that the Great Park had been ploughed before, many centuries ago.

Local farmers were dubious when it became known that the Great Park was to be cultivated. "It won't grow anything," they said, but, despite their gloomy prognosis, wheat is now growing.

It is probably the biggest wheat field in Britain—an uninterrupted stretch of wheat a mile long and a mile across at its widest part.

JAM FOR BRITAIN

A full report of the season's activities will appear in the Winter "Home and Country." The response has been excellent but figures are not yet available.

THE SUGAR FUND

Money contributed by Institutes for sugar for the jam-making enterprise totalled \$2,163.66. To date \$1,959.92 has been expended. An audited report of this Fund will be presented to the Provincial Board by Miss Mary A. Clarke, Superintendent, at the end of the year.

HOME ECONOMICS TO-DAY

This message from the Home Economics Convener goes out to you at a time when our standing committee work is of the utmost importance—to every Institute, to every member and in every community.

One of the headings under which we work is "Food". We all realize that food is, perhaps, one of the most vital words in use to-day. Our members have played a large part in producing food this year and will continue doing so. When the story of this war is written, the people who have made it possible for the country to be fed will go down in history as "warriors of the soil".

Use Nutrition Knowledge

As we listen to radio broadcasts on nutrition or read newspaper and magazine articles on this subject we realize the golden opportunities we have in instructors who stress nutrition and food values. We have studied food values, the conservation, preparation and preservation of food, but fail to link them as closely with nutrition as we might. If we have neglected to use our knowledge to the full in the past, we must do so now and in the future. Every care should be taken to keep our families well nourished. In this way we can lessen the physician's visits to our homes. Many communities are without medical aid and in others the available doctors are finding it almost impossible to cope with the work, due to the enlistment of so many medical men. Do remember that food alone will not keep you well nourished. You also need rest, exercise, sleep and as much freedom from worry as possible.

Substitute Wisely

Every day we are finding the need greater to use substitutes for different foods as meat, sugar, etc. Always make certain that the substitute measures up to the original in food value. Some families have completely cut out the use of sweets. This is a mistake as they are needed to maintain a balanced diet. The sugar ration should be used or a substitute. Keep in mind that food is essential to our well-being and is also essential for trade.

I might spend a great deal of time on nutrition and food values. However, while this is an important question, I feel we have had numerous opportunities to become well informed on this subject.

We must endeavor to keep abreast of the Government regulations, adopting them ourselves and aiding others to do so.

The children of to-day are the adults of to-morrow. As we build now we will reap later. Girls and boys should be encouraged to take advantage of coaching classes. If they become proficient in these subjects, they will be a great deal more useful at home and will be ready when called upon to take an adult's place on the farm.

Plan Family Living

During war periods, our standards of living are in danger of being lowered as every one is so busy and over-worked. It behooves our members to guard against this in their families and communities. It is the women that set the pace for rural life. See that it is a pace worth setting. After the last war, it was said that members of the Women's Institutes had a "big job" to do in keeping up the standard of our homes. This job still rests with us.

Family life will take on a new meaning now that more time will be spent in the home. Endeavor to have at least a short period for recreation every day along with the ordinary tasks. The old saying "all work and no play" is still true. I feel we can do no greater service for our country than keep the home front strong.

The local Institute meeting might well practise a bit more recreation. The members all have problems they want to get away from for a time.

The reports coming in from area conventions appear to stress the fact that the members are going back to Women's Institute programmes. In numerous branches we have rather let the regular work of the Institute down in order to sew and knit for the war effort. Now we are realizing that anything we can learn about taking care of our own clothing, about food habits and other Institute platforms will really help us to further our personal war effort. Reports show that clothing, textiles, household arts and nutrition are being studied to a greater extent. The branches which have been fortunate enough to have had a course in "Buy-manship" will be well repaid at this time. We certainly need a knowledge of proper buying when purchasing either clothing or household articles at this time. Women's Institute members do not need to be reminded to avoid buying unnecessary clothing, furniture, etc.

Budget Time and Resources

Budget your time and your resources to make the best possible use of both. Budget your money to enable you to purchase War Savings Stamps and Bonds. Every twenty-five cents saved is a step toward "Freedom". This all points to a worthwhile war effort and a duty on your part.

The Women's Institutes were founded forty-five years ago. They have encircled the world. Why? Because they have filled a need felt in the particular locality where organized.

Have you taken stock of your local Institute? Is it filling its rightful place in the community? If not, why not? All progressive businesses take stock from time to time. This may be the hour to do so in your Institute.

The Women's Institutes foster a worthwhile way of life and you are needed in your particular place to carry "the torch".

(Contributed by Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Provincial Convener.)

A CHILDREN'S CHARTER

The Inter-Allied Conference convened by the New Education Fellowship and meeting in London on April 11th and 12th, 1942, humbly requests the Governments of the Allied Nations to approve and adopt the following Charter for children (above and beyond all considerations of sex, race, nationality, creed or social position) as a statement of the basic and minimum rights of children to be secured and guarded.

1. The personality of the child is sacred; and the needs of the child must be the foundation of any good educational system.

2. The right of every child to proper food, clothing and shelter shall be accepted as a first charge on the resources of the nation.

3. For every child there shall always be available medical attention and treatment.

4. Every child shall have equal opportunity of access to the nation's stores of knowledge and wisdom.

5. There shall be full-time schooling for every child.

6. Religious training should be available for all children.

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other interests and hobbies, but no one considers these as bars to friendly intercourse. The sooner we can think of people in other lands as just 'other families,' the nearer we shall be to that understanding for which Captain Swicz pleads."