



Christiansborg Castle, Copenhagen, where A.C.W.W. Meetings Were held.

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feasible and necessary to deal with agricultural surpluses. It affirmed its sympathy with the basic principles of the international wheat agreements.

"At the election of officers, Mrs. Sayre was re-elected President by acclamation. Eight vice-presidents were chosen, of whom I, as President of F.W.I.C., was one. The others came from widely separated areas of the world. The other officers are resident in or near England, where the central office is presently located.

"Social functions were wonderfully planned and carried out. The gracious patronage of the Danish Royal Family set a very high standard for the Conference. The glowing beauty of the red and white flags and flowers used so lavishly bring back to us all a picture of loveliness that we will never forget. We have invited the Conference to come to Canada in 1953. I wonder if we can equal the Danes in hospitality?

"Was it worth while to take such a group of women from their homes, across continent and ocean at such an outlay of money and time? Could this money have been spent to better advantage at home, be it South Africa or Canada? The answer is 'No'. It has been said that without vision the people perish, and we have come to realize that our responsibilities are not only to our own country, but that on our efforts, the future of the world depends. We are a heterogeneous people; our culture has its roots in all the countries of the world. Let us guard this heritage from the past, and treasure what it has brought to us; and let us turn our eyes and thoughts toward the future."

Delicacies of Denmark

An article on the A.C.W.W. delegates' ten-day visit in Denmark would not be complete without special mention of those Danish delicacies—food, hospitality and manners.

Although Denmark is austere in rationed in many commodities, the foreign visitor receives the best in Danish culinary arts because Danes are excellent cooks and the foreign visitor provides a good excuse to make the larder groan once more. With restrained modesty the Danes pride themselves on the food they serve, the foreign languages they speak and the cozy homes they keep.

The stranger is made to feel so welcome in the Danish home that one could imagine that these people had always been friends. The delegates realized the truth of the expression, "A stranger is a friend you haven't met yet," for everywhere they had met "friends".

Many of the delegates were guests in the homes of Danish members for the duration of the Conference, but on Saturday night at the close of the sessions every delegate and visitor registered had a taste of that renowned hospitality. They had a full evening within the family circle of those cozy Danish homes.

When invited to a Danish home it is customary to take with one or send beforehand a few flowers. On enter-

ing one begins by saying, "Thank you for inviting me". Even though the invitation is just for the evening and not for dinner, the guests shortly after entering are invited to the dining room for food; then again food is served in the living room later in the evening. Always, on arising from the table, one says, "Thank you for the food". On departing after the evening is over, it is "Thank you for the evening" and on next meeting, it is "Thank you for the last time we were together". (One courtesy report at a Danish Women's Institute meeting would never do!) Shaking hands is another custom entered into 'with great gusto'. It is not unusual for ladies to stand up and shake hands when introduced and it is not considered bad form for a man to remain seated when a lady enters the room. It is considered impolite to leave food on one's plate and, when people are asked to dinner, the host and hostess might think the party unsuccessful if the guests left before midnight.

Breakfast in a Danish home is usually coffee and an assortment of rolls, both sweet and plain. It may include uncooked oatmeal, a soft-cooked egg, marmalade and pastry. Lunch consists of "Smørbrød", (open-face sandwiches), the national dish. Rye bread is the favourite base for these sandwiches and shrimp, herring, smoked salmon, or thinly sliced roast beef, the favourite top. They are tastefully garnished with parsley, thin, twisted cucumber slices, onion slices or rings of tomato. Dessert is cheese or a pastry. Coffee is served after everything else is taken away. There is never any hurry or flurry about Danish meals. Dinner is quite similar to the Canadian dinner and is served about six or seven o'clock. Vegetables are not used by the Danish people as much as their nutritionists would have them.

Danish specialties include "Rødgrød med Fløde", or "Sødsuppe" made from strained red-coloured fruit (usually raspberries), thickened with flour and served with rich cream; "Able-skiver", a Danish variety of doughnut, and "Klejn", made from doughnut dough cut in a diamond shape with one half the diamond slit and knotted; "Kransekage", a special Danish pastry built up in beautifully decorated tiers and used at weddings, christenings and birthdays; "Lagekage", like a thin sponge cake in several layers with cream filling; "Goering Cakes", so named only because Goering always ate them; "Vinerbrød" or bread from Vienna.

With all these delicacies available and the overwhelming insistence of the kind hearted Danish hostesses, it was no wonder some had to loosen belts because of excess 'avoirdupois'. It is easily understood why Danish countrywomen have a tendency to be 'chubby'.

Rural Denmark

To add to the enjoyment of the delegates several tours were arranged through rural Denmark immediately following the Conference. On that

sunny Sunday, September 17, North Zealand, a province in Denmark, really measured up to its reputation as a fertile, productive agricultural country. Crops were excellent, fruit trees were laden and those Danish pigs and cattle really looked as though they could provide the finest bacon and dairy products in the world.

The farms were small and the neat, scrupulously clean farm buildings were, in general, grouped in a square around a cobblestone courtyard. Not a weed could be seen. The thatched houses with their stuccoed walls in white, yellow or pink provided an artistic background for the lush, vividly-coloured flowers attractively grouped in the perennial borders.

In two or three places a stork's nest could be seen picturesquely built on top of a thatched cottage. No wonder the chimney pots have hip-roofed covers so no stork could go trespassing!

At Fredericksborg Castle, a perfect gem in Renaissance architecture, the art treasures of Denmark were seen. Beautiful oil paintings, tapestries, glass, silver, furniture, and carved and ornately decorated ceilings bespoke the wealth and antiquity of Danish culture. In the king's audience chamber the king's chair was peacefully reposing in a 300-year-old elevator shaft. This is reputed to be the oldest elevator in the world and was installed in order that the king could be raised and lowered into the room at his bidding. What a convenience way to be relieved of bothersome courtiers and ambassadors!

This castle, built by King Christian IV in the early 16th century was a royal residence until after a fire in 1859 destroyed nearly all the interior. It was restored and made a national historical museum in 1884. Until 1840 all Danish kings were crowned in the exquisitely beautiful chapel within the castle walls. With its red walls, its proud towers and its deep moat it gives a picture of the royal pomp of earlier days.

Fredensborg Castle, a few miles further along the route, was quite a different type of structure. Built in Italian baroque style it dates from 1720 and still is one of the king's residences. It was in this residence that King Christian IX, dubbed the "father-in-law of all Europe", entertained his illustrious relations, among whom were several reigning monarchs. (King Christian IX had five children: (1) Queen Alexandra, wife of King Edward VII of England, (2) Prince Frederick, who later became King Frederick VIII of Denmark, (3) Prince Vilhelm who became King of Greece in 1863 under the name of George I, (4) Princess Dagmar, wife of the Czar of Russia, Alexander III, (5) Princess Thyra, wife of Duke August of Cumberland,—of the House of Hanover.)

At Elsinore, the castle stronghold of Hamlet fame, Kronborg Castle, was breath-taking in its beauty and majesty. Here could be seen the ramparts along which Hamlet's father's ghost is reputed to have walked. Here also were the banquet hall, the huge fireplaces and the ornate chapel, heav-

ily carved and decorated in blue and gold. In the cobblestone courtyard famous Shakesperian players from all over the world come each year to reproduce the play, Hamlet, in this original setting. The coast of Sweden was seen very clearly across the sound from Elsinore. From Elsinore to Helsingborg on the Swedish coast it takes only 20 minutes by ferry.

Kronberg Castle, the finest Renaissance castle in Northern Europe, was erected in the 15th century as a stronghold to dominate the narrow body of water dividing the Baltic and North Seas and to force all passing ships to pay the toll or sound dues. These sound dues were, for 500 years, of great importance to Denmark's income. Kronberg is now an officers' academy and contains a commercial and maritime museum.

In the town of Elsinore the old commercial houses from the Middle Ages were seen. Their elegant fronts were a symbol of the wealth of those former days.

At Elsinore, too, is the famous International Peoples College to which students come from all over the world. This school aims to foster an international fellowship in which the student finds it possible to appreciate and yet to surmount the differences of nationality.

Along Stradvejen, the Danish Riviera, on the drive back to Copenhagen, groups of fishing vessels could be seen out in the beautiful, blue Baltic and beside the shore fishing nets were strung up to dry. Near Copenhagen is another royal palace, where the king's father was a voluntary prisoner for two years during German occupation. This palace has never been used since by the Royal family.

After a delightful evening at the Danish opera, to which the King and Queen came, the delegates were loath to pack up their bags ready to leave the charming city of Copenhagen. During the week that had fled by, much had happened in the lives of the delegates. Now it was a memory—but it was a glorious memory for it was to influence markedly the future thoughts and actions not only of the delegates attending the Copenhagen Conference, but also those five and a half million women with whom the delegates would come in contact back home.

Bright and early the delegates started out on their two-day visit to the district and branch groups of the Danish Country Women's Organizations. Many buses were lined up outside Christiansborg Castle to take the A.C.W.W. delegates out on their country tour. Each bus went its assigned way to visit a special district and delegates were arranged so that representatives from several countries were occupying each bus. This provided a further opportunity to mingle with country women of many nations.

The personal contact and insight into the farm and home life of the people of rural Denmark was an enriching and ever-to-be-remembered experience. Lasting friendships were established and much was learned from the Danish way of life. Particu-



Kronborg Castle at Elsinore—Of Hamlet Fame.