

larly impressive was the information gleaned on agriculture, education, social services, co-operatives and the activities of the Danish Country Women's Associations.

Five nationally organized Danish Country Women's Associations co-operated in the planning and carrying out of the Conference and the post-conference visits with Mrs. Johanne Dahlrup-Petersen acting as over-all head. The Danes are to be congratulated on the excellent plans made and carried out. Their organizational ability was beyond conception. Every detail was looked after and every want fulfilled.

The Danish rural woman, through her organizations, does much in Home Economics extension work and adult education in general. A series on "Who Knows What", on special household problems has been worked out and distributed; research is being done on the use of household linen; and badges and diplomas are given out, as a mark of honour, to housemaids who have been working in the same place for five, ten and fifteen years. The Association is represented on the Danish National F.A.O. committee, on the state commission for the settlement of prices, the council of consumers, the state building-research institute, the national radio programme planning committee and the Danish council of women.

Each July a special holiday is arranged for the members of the Association at the Youth College. The holiday study programme includes lectures and discussions on problems concerning social life, children, and intellectual topics. Singing, folk dancing, and excursions are also arranged during this holiday week.

Through Denmark's South Zealand

The tour of South Zealand included a visit to the Spanager school for underprivileged children, to Julius Helt's "small holding" of 2 acres, to majestic Vallo Castle where maiden ladies of the nobility live, to lunch at Vallo Inn where Stevns Union (Women's Institute) acted as hostess at another of those delectable Danish meals. Even the serviettes carried out the typically Danish motifs in the form of characters and scenes from the Hans Christian Andersen fairytales. After lunch and a cherished visit with the local (Institute) members as they toured Vallo Castle together, the women travelled through the lush picturesque countryside to Fakse, a quaint old town dating back to the 12th century. Here they visited an old folks' home and were royally welcomed by the staff and inmates. The inmates, in true Danish, jovial fashion, revelled in telling fascinating Danish anecdotes and describing old Danish customs. The old folks were allowed to bring to the home some of their cherished possessions in the way of furniture, pictures, etc. It gave their rooms a very homey, lived-in appearance. One old chap had more than a dozen of those long Danish pipes. How he revelled in demonstrating to these "foreign" visitors the manipulation of these fond possessions!

Delicious afternoon tea was served at the "home" and a very warm welcome extended by the Mayor of Fakse and several other officials. "Tak for mad" (Thank you for the food) was a very important phrase because everywhere that the delegates visited the tables were laden with delectable Danish Smørrebrød and mouth-watering Danish pastries. At this tea the famous Danish "Kransikag" was featured. This delicacy, as explained above, is only served at weddings, birthdays and other very special occasions and is formed by placing rings of a special Danish pastry, similar to shortbread, one on top of the other, each ring smaller than the one below it, so that it forms a cone-shaped mass. This is tastefully decorated with plain and coloured icing and, on this particular occasion, tiny Danish flags were inserted here and there all around the "Kransikag".

Points of interest visited in Fakse included the beautiful old church with its "stair-step façade", built in 1470 and the lime quarry started in 1200. This lime quarry is a geological rarity, originating from the chalk period, formed of corals about 100 million years ago when this part of Denmark was under the sea.

At the public square, Fakse, hostesses were on hand to welcome their guests and take them to their separate homes (some in town, others on farms). After a 'tidy-up', visit, and supper, they made their way to the town hall where literally the whole town—men, women and children—turned out to meet them.

The evening's entertainment was thrilling and impressive. It included folk songs, folk dancing, tableaux depicting the Hans Christian Andersen fairytales and an impressive pageant on peace. Again those famous Danish delicacies, many speeches of welcome and gratitude, happy conversation, thank-you responses and home again!

The next morning this congenial group of delegates from many countries started out again. This time to visit a co-operative cheese factory and co-operative dairy at Bregentved and the several famous schools in Haslev. The first school visited was the Haslev Folk High School. It was explained to the group that Danish folk high schools were started in 1850 by Grundtvig as a Christian revival at a time when Denmark had lost about 1/6th of her country, (North and South Slesvig), through war. Grundtvig's slogan was, "What we have lost outside we must learn inside". His aim was to provide a stimulus for intellectual uplifting in order to help people fit better into society. These schools seek to apply the principles of Christianity to individual and social life. Through the years they have furnished a cultural basis for the growth of democracy and co-operation in Denmark. The students, who range from 18 years of age up, study at the folk high school for 3 to 5 months and may return for the advanced school if they so wish. Subjects studied are non-vocational and include history, literature, sociology, psychology, gymnastics and handicraft. No degrees are conferred. Danish educationalists are thoroughly convinced that adult education is essential for human and world betterment. Mr. Magelund, the principal of this school stated: "If our adults are not seized with a new ideology we cannot progress".

At the Haslev Technical School crafts such as furniture-making, metal work, ceramics and painting are taught. Before entering the school the student must have served at least two years as an apprentice to a master craftsman. The students, who come from all groups and classes of people in Denmark and other countries, live in residence under the same conditions. Rooms are given to them by lot and, the principal said, only one rule prevails and that is unwritten: "You behave here as you would behave in a good home". Both students and teachers work very hard. The delegates who were entertained to lunch at this school, were each escorted to the dining room by one of the students who acted as her host for this delicious meal.

The Holmegaards Glassworks was next visited. This glassworks, the first in Denmark, was founded in 1825. The original glassmakers came from Norway, but, a few years later, three glassmakers arrived who were smuggled out of Bohemia. (Glassmakers, at that time, were not allowed to leave Bohemia). From this small beginning a Bohemian settlement is to be found at Holmegaard. The delegates watched with fascination the various processes involved in blowing, moulding, and cutting glass.

At Fensmark the group was shown through a public school and an old folk's apartment house. At the latter, aged couples who cannot afford to rent dwellings of their own, are provided with an attractive apartment where, without financial worries they

may spend the 'harvest years' together. The method of segregating the aged men and women in 'Industrial Homes' is obsolete in Denmark.

Much was learned about Danish farming at Mr. Laurits Hansen's 10-acre farm near Kalkrup. Farmers co-operatives have meant a lot to the Danish "small-holders". Through the co-operatives they derive many of the advantages of large-scale production and, as well, the advantages arising from the personal contact of the small owner with all the production processes in his organization. Co-operatives are a great educational medium. The Danish farmer keeps in close touch with scientific research so that his land produces to capacity and nothing is wasted. Agriculture and home economics are considered essentials for rural boys and girls. The family works as a unit on the farm and in the home. Of the four million people in Denmark one million are farmers.

Mr. Laurits Hansen's farm was typical of the province. The 150-year-old buildings, neatly stuccoed and thatched, were grouped in a hollow square around a scrupulously clean cobblestone courtyard. There were 16 milk cows, 'Red Danish', 1 bull, 15 young cattle, 3 horses, 600 hens, 1000 chickens. His buildings were completely equipped with electricity, milking machines and other conveniences. On visiting the farm home the group found Mrs. Hansen's dining-room table laden with Danish delicacies. After all their tramping around the visitors did the delicacies 'full justice'.

"Herlufsholm", a residential school for boys, was the next stop. Here young lads, between the ages of 11 and 19, with especially high intelligent quotients, study under ideal conditions. The beautiful old buildings at Herlufsholm were built in 1260 as a Benedictine monastery. In 1565, at the time of the Reformation, the buildings were taken over by the state and used as a school for the noblemen's sons. Recently it has been turned over for this specialized type of education. It was a revelation to follow the methods used in developing the brilliant minds of the boys attending this school.

This memorable visit in rural Denmark was brought to an inspiring close when the Næstved district (Women's Institute) held a mammoth banquet for the delegates as a farewell gesture.

With barely time to reach Copenhagen to board their train for Germany and Holland, the Canadians, who had been separated from each other for these two days, met at the Copenhagen station platform. On board their pulman bound for Germany a glorious time was had relating experiences. Certainly, they agreed, there was nothing 'rotten in the State of Denmark'. This had been a happy enriching experience—one to be remembered all the rest of their lives.

Through War-torn Germany

Travelling through Germany was a sad experience. Station attendants were maimed and crippled. Hamburg, Osnabrook and Bremen were still in ruins. Only women could be seen working in the fields with perhaps a man here and there overseeing the work.

The rural women are once more taking an interest in their rural organization, "Deutscher Landfrauenverband". Following the visit of Mrs. Sayre in 1948 the link, broken by Hitler in 1934, was welded again and German women were welcomed into membership in the A.C.W.W. Six German women attended the Conference in Copenhagen. The Canadians were fortunate to sit quite near the Germans and, although they did not understand the language, they could exchange friendly greetings. Representatives of the German organization have been guests of sister A.C.W.W. organizations in The Netherlands, England and the United States. Women from England and the United States have helped in their respec-

tive zones in Germany to lend a hand with the German rural women's organization.

With lumps in their throats the Canadian women travelled through Germany, proud that the German rural women were partners in the A.C.W.W. The German women, too, realized that war must not happen again and shared the same aims and ideals that other country women of the world hold in common.

Gratitude Shown in Holland

Warmth, affection and gratitude shone in the eyes of the Dutch Women's Institute members (Nederlandsche Bond van Plattelandsvrouwen) from Overyssele Province as they met the Canadians at the Deventer station the evening of September 20. One would think these women, Canadian and Dutch, had known each other all their lives; it was like a homecoming. This was because Canadian boys had lived in Holland—in the homes of these very people and had helped liberate their country from German occupation. Then, too, Canada had made a home for many Hollanders since the war and it was in Canada that the little Princess was born. All these reasons, in addition to a common interest in a world organization, brought the Dutch and Canadian women very close to one another.

The Canadian group was divided that night so that eight separate Dutch communities could entertain. No two Canadians were guests in the same home because so many Dutch families wanted to act as hosts. Never had the Canadians felt more like princesses. No "red carpet" nor "fatted calf" could have made them feel more welcome. After supper, at the home of the hostess, the Canadian was taken to a most interesting and informative Women's Institute meeting. Everyone stood in her honour as the Canadian guest was escorted to the head table to the strains of "O Canada". The next morning, after touring their separate villages where they had been guests, the Canadians, accompanied by their hostess and Women's Institute officers from Overyssele, visited the Canadian Military Cemetery at Holten. Here wreaths were placed reverently at the cenotaph. Each with a prayer in her heart remembered those horrible days of war and the loss of loved ones. With feelings too deep for words each fervently prayed that those days might never come again. The Canadians and the Dutch were very close to one another as they, together, silently viewed this beautiful cemetery with row upon row of white headstones, red rosebushes and soft, green grass. The Canadians were grateful to the Dutch for the loving care they were giving these cemeteries. This was a sad but cherished experience which will always be remembered.



The Canadians at Holten Cemetery, Holten.

At Holten the Canadian flag was flying over the hotel where the women were the luncheon guests of the Holten Town Council and the Overyssele