

from the Food discussion group led by Ontario's Helen McKercher was that the members of the constituent societies offer their full support to the World Food Program as presently set up by F.A.O. and U.N. and urge that it be extended with all possible expedition, and that members of constituent societies feel free to suggest projects within their own countries and stand willing and ready to cooperate in carrying out these projects.

Education in Nutrition and Agriculture

Speaking of the need of education to combat hunger, Miss Jean McNaughton said:

"If we put into practice the technical knowledge available now, food yields could be increased enormously — getting more potentially arable land under crops, increasing productivity of land already being cultivated by use of better seed, fertilizers, and so on; making better use of the resources of the sea. What, then, are the barriers? Many factors are involved—social, economic and political, both at government level and in the village. Above all, there is the need for education, a program to wipe out the widespread illiteracy in many rural areas, to combat the distrust of change on the part of the farmer, to disseminate technical information to farm families. Large numbers of agricultural extension workers, trained not only in methods of, and techniques to increase, food production and use but also in communications, are an urgent need.

"In our own homes and in our communities do we know what an adequate diet is within our own food pattern? Do we teach our children good food habits so that they will have a foundation of health?

"In every country there are government agencies, usually the Health Department, which produce literature giving information on feeding your family wisely. Do you know what is available in your own country? Do you encourage other people to use it? Does your organization encourage the government, or whatever agency is responsible, to run training courses in nutrition for health educators, for agricultural extension workers, for teachers, for public health nurses, for all the people who can influence rural families, so that the agricultural extension agent encourages the farmer to grow crops that will improve the nutritional status of his family, so that the health educator can teach the housewife the best foods to use, and how to cook them so that her family enjoys them?

"Being an informed consumer and thus combating food fads is an important role of the housewife in the prosperous countries. Nutrition quackery is a million dollar business in the U. S. and is getting a toe-hold here in Australia. (In other countries, too. Ed.)

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A PIPER

Seuman O'Sullivan

A piper in the streets to-day
Set up, and tuned, and started to play,
And away, away, away on the tide
Of his music we started; on every side
Doors and windows were opened wide,
And men left down their work and came,
And women with petticoats coloured like flame,
And little bare feet that were blue with cold
Went dancing back to the age of gold,
And all the world went gay, went gay,
For half an hour in the street to-day.

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"What can the constituent societies do at state and national level? In the prosperous countries they can sponsor training programs, encourage their governments to step up their assistance to the developing countries.

"Is there more that the A.C.W.W. can do internationally? Mrs. van Beekhoff has already given you the answer to this question—more funds for the Lady Aberdeen scholarships so that you can share your knowledge with your sisters from other countries."

Miss McNaughton quoted the Chinese proverb: "If you give a man a fish you feed him for one day. If you teach him to fish you feed him for many days!"

Our Changing Agriculture

Following are quotations from a factual and witty address by Dr. Nancy Adams of Saskatchewan on the increasingly complex problems of agriculture the world over. After a survey of the international picture and some of the problems Dr. Adams made these observations of conditions on our own continent:

"One of our able research sociologists in Canada, Dr. Helen Abell, found that drudgery tasks still were the lot of the rural women. Gardens were planted and weeded by hand by the homemaker. Friend husband often does the gardening, if there is a garden tractor. Often the farm wife has learned to run the mechanized equipment, as she has learned to drive the family car. She may drive the truck during the harvest season and haul the grain. Shovelling has been eliminated with hydraulic lifts on the truck and power operated augers to put the grain in the granary. This has become a necessity because of farm labor shortage, the movement of young people off the farm, and to cut the costs of farm operation because the woman works for free—or for love.

"The investment cost is so high that farmers' sons find it impossible to start up unless they are able to take over the family farm. These vacated farms are usually bought up or rented by an already large operation. Some