



Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Hon. W. A. Stewart with the Ontario 4-H Homemaking Club girls assisting in the Ontario Government's part in the 1962 British Food Fair. The girls are, left to right: Betty Opersko,

Rose Marie Haight, Joan MacCartney, Marilyn Sherwood, Marjory Papple, and their supervisor, Miss Frances Hucks, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition, Home Economics Service, Ontario Department of Agriculture.

## *Ontario Girls at Britain's Food Fair*

By M. Frances Hucks

**L**AST SUMMER five Ontario farm girls had the unique opportunity of helping to promote the sale of Ontario farm products in Great Britain. In the spring of 1962 Agriculture Minister William A. Stewart announced that his Department would sponsor an exhibit of Ontario foods at the British Food Fair to be held in London, England from August 28th to September 12th. To provide an additional Canadian accent, five girls were selected to help demonstrate and sell the products which would be featured. The girls selected are pictured above—all experienced 4-H Homemaking Club members who had won Provincial honors or had been successful in various competitions. Betty Opersko of Waterford was runner-up in the Dairy Princess contest, Rose Marie Haight, Consecon, Joan Macartney, Ramseyville and Marjorie Papple, Seaforth are all outstanding 4-H Homemaking Club "graduates" and Marilyn Sherwood, the youngest member of the group was 1962 National Cherry Pie Champion.

These girls were excellent ambassadors for Canada and worked along with eighteen English girls to make up a gay and efficient team of enthusiastic Ontario food promoters.

After a transatlantic flight the first for all but Betty, the group was welcomed at the London airport on a Sunday morning by the Honourable Charles McNaughton, official Ontario Government representative to the Food

Fair, Mr. E. F. Marritt, Director, Markets Development Branch and Mr. A. E. Fahl, Director, Exhibit Division, Ontario Department of Agriculture, all of whom had arrived in London a week earlier. A day with no duties gave the girls a chance to adjust to the five hours that were lost during the flight and part of that Sunday was very happily spent seeing London on a drive around the city.

Monday was busy with final preparations for the opening of the Fair. Tuesday and Wednesday were Trade days and on Thursday the public came—and continued to come—by the thousands until closing day.

The Ontario stand was popular. Colourful displays of fresh and processed foods attracted attention and the four sides of the exhibit were constantly ringed with people sampling Ontario Cheddar cheese, fresh, ripe peaches, raw carrot sticks, chilled tomato and apple juices, canned fruits, pie fillings, vegetables and soups, Ontario honey, spicy pickles and relishes. And most of those who sampled, bought: sometimes one item, sometimes several items, which they carried home in colorful "Canada" carrier bags. In a very short time the Canadian girls were ringing up pounds, shillings and pence on the cash registers just as easily as the English girls who cheerfully came to their rescue for the first few sales.

The fresh peaches were a great drawing card—twenty-two tons had been sent over.