

said. "We must seek to develop a sense of responsibility that is no less than global—maybe one which strides even to the outer reaches of the universe. Women must be motivated to develop a sympathetic understanding of complex foreign affairs. What can home economics do? How essential is the skill or the subject matter of this or that to a woman as she actually lives her life today? What should be the pattern of Home Economics Extension Services?"

The Director stressed the importance of extension services helping people to become more self-reliant and self-directing, as in making their own designs in handicraft; of encouraging the individual to try new experiences and accept new responsibilities, to think for herself; of breaking down prejudices about race, religion, politics, of leading people to want more learning. (Miss McKercher expressed her disappointment at the small number of applicants for the Summer School in literature, music and art to be held at the College for rural women. At that date only 36 women had registered while the School could accommodate 100.)

"With the increasing regard for science, the prestige of the expert has grown rapidly and there is a tendency to turn major problems over to him," Miss McKercher said. "We are apt to forget that the democratic process requires the participation of all in the decision of the group. We in extension are concerned with more than the conveyance of occupational techniques to homemakers. We are also concerned with developing the understanding and reasoning ability of those we serve.

"Success will not come from resisting change. An extension service that is vital is meeting current needs by solving current problems, a service that is not only developing skills but that helps to create attitudes, to stir an interest and a thirst for more knowledge and to create good feeling—in short, to be an effective force for better living."

The Institutes and Agriculture

Mr. Everett Biggs, Ontario Deputy Minister of Agriculture, spoke of the importance of the work Women's Institutes are doing in creating a better understanding of people the world over—sponsoring children in the Save the Children crusade, setting up an International scholarship to help with the Freedom from Hunger campaign. (Miss Pearl Isaacksz of Ceylon, who had just completed a course at Macdonald Institute with help from this F.W.I.O. scholarship fund was a guest at this session.) Mr. Biggs also commended the home economists doing extension work in Ontario under the Department of Agriculture and said the Department would try to keep the budget

so that their salaries would hold them in this work.

The conference was particularly interested in Mr. Biggs' views on the future of the family farm. He said "We have heard a great deal, lately, about corporate farming as the only farming of the future; we feel that every policy the Department of Agriculture promotes should be planned to retain the family farm, changed in some ways, perhaps, to meet changing conditions." He felt that one reason why the family farm is important is that the wife and mother in the farm home is usually more concerned than the men in how the community is faring morally and spiritually. Another value of the family farm is that in executive positions in all lines of work—as well as in Parliament, we find men with a farm background who, because of their upbringing are sympathetic to agriculture, and agriculture needs the support of all people.

As one very practical means of maintaining the family farm Mr. Biggs referred to Junior Farmer Establishment Act introduced in the Ontario Legislature by the Hon. W. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture. "Credit is as necessary to agriculture as agricultural machinery," said Mr. Biggs "and we found that farmers were paying 12, 19 and even 24 per cent interest on loans. The farmer usually does not carefully look into the amount of interest he pays when he buys machinery on credit. Now, under the new Act a young farmer of 21 to 35 years of age can have a loan up to 80 per cent of the appraised value of his farm up to, but not exceeding \$20,000. And a bank guarantee for operation and development expenses of an amount not exceeding \$10,000 will be available throughout the period of the loan. The rate of interest on a loan is 5 per cent and on a bank guarantee the current bank rate. (For further details of the Act as given by Mr. Biggs, please see Home and Country, Summer 1963, "New Loans for Junior Farmers." Ed.)

The Deputy Minister, explaining the Food Council said: "There's a feeling on the part of some people that only farmers can handle their own business; but agriculture won't survive long on pressures, only on understanding. So the Minister and others conceived the idea of setting up a Food Council representing both producers and consumers to deal with all sorts of consumer problems such as packaging, stamps and others. It was recommended to the Minister—and from a source apart from the Women's Institutes—that because of the prestige of the Institutes they should appoint half of the representatives on the Council.

"The Women's Institute is one of the strong-