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COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Thank God for dirty dishes;
They have a tale to tell —
While others may go hungry
We're eating very well.
With home and health and happiness
I shouldn't want to fuss;
For by this stack of evidence
God has been good to us.

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"We thank you for helping to get slides to send to the Institutes in the North," Mrs. Matheson said. "It is to be hoped that this exchange of slides will prove a source of education for those who have never been down South. The two girls whom we sponsored last fall under a Centennial Grant and brought to the 4-H Club Week with their leader Mrs. Craig, were most appreciative of this instant education. We have made application for a larger grant to bring out three or four girls to the 1966 4-H Week.

"There is a possibility that there will be an Area Convention in the North this year. Each group is so far away from any other that the progress is slow, but with the help of all of us a real break-through in the aims and objectives of our Women's Institute may be in store for us in general and for them in particular. Your contribution, through Gift Coupon No. 367 is used to finance the work here. We hope that our objective of \$20,000 may be reached before 1967, the date when we hope to go over the top! It is not charity that we are giving; we are helping our first Canadians to help themselves."

During the meeting the Ontario Institutes presented Mrs. Matheson with a cheque for \$2,500 for work in the North and a collection taken at the meeting of \$187.22 in Pennies for Friendship.

International Interest

After paying a tribute to the hospitality of the Irish Countrywomen's Association at the 1965 A.C.W.W. Conference held in Dublin, Mrs. Matheson reported something of the interchange of ideas among the delegates from the "have" and the "have not" countries of the world. She said:

"The work which the Irish Countrywomen's Association members did in organizing and carrying out the responsibilities of being hostesses to such a tremendous conference of approximately 1500 delegates and about the same number of guests at some times, had to be experienced to be really appreciated. The warmth of the welcomes, the hospitality, the friendliness, the concern, the organization, the laughter and lilt of Irish voices still remains

with us. From the first 'Céad Mile Fáilte' to the last 'God Bless' it was a thrilling, educational and never to be forgotten experience.

"Among other things, we heard of the project carried on in eighteen villages of West Bengal. The aim is to spread education and train the village women in literacy, home economics, home management, budgeting, nutrition, handicrafts, child care, etc. Local leaders will be selected from amongst those who attend classes. Refresher courses are being held to give further training to those leaders, from the six villages, in the art of guiding and educating these rural women. In the second year, a similar project is carried on in another set of six villages and the third year in a further set of six villages. These plans have been carried out with the assistance of Mrs. Arati Dutt as Area Vice-President for Asia — now our International President.

"It is said that the work carried on here is the best thing which A.C.W.W. has ever done. Most of the people being trained are mothers who have never planted a seed, never held a needle in their hands, never cooked a real meal and know nothing of nutrition, child care or the simplest things. The younger generations are being trained, but we are working for a lost generation."

"At the Dublin Conference," Mrs. Matheson reported, "A.C.W.W. agreed during the next three years to (1) Help to improve the living conditions and nutrition of people in Latin America by setting up and backing a pilot training centre for rural leaders in Colombia. (2) Build up its scholarship fund to send women to study outside their country and return to their people with new knowledge, especially in nutrition. (3) Endorse more coordinated research on chemicals essential to modern farming, and become better informed on measures preventing pollution of air, water and land. (4) All societies were urged to study safety programs in their own territories and to urge parents to set an example of courteous life driving to their children.

Changes on the Home Front

After sketching the history of women's lot in this country over the last century—the labor savers, the automobile, the communication explosion, the revolution in our educational system and the fact that in the modern world there is no place for the untrained or uneducated, the speaker said:

"As parents we are challenged to encourage our children to continue with their education as long as possible. Good conversation about worthwhile subjects, around the dinner table, can do much to open children's minds and make them receptive to education."