



Guest at the dinner given to the delegates at the F.W.I.C. convention by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food—Left to right—Dr. Ethel Chapman, Mrs. W. A. Stewart, Mr. W. A. Stewart, Minister of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food; Mrs. J. J. Greene, Minister of the Federal Department of Agriculture; Miss Helen McKercher Director of the Home Economics Branch. Photo courtesy the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

The Honourable J. J. Greene Addresses The F. W. I. C. Convention

“OVER HALF OF the people in the world have a substandard diet, insufficient food to maintain normality and health, yet these same people spend almost 100% of their income on food. They see each night their children go to bed hungry. They know that each day through inadequate diet the bodies of their young ones are deteriorating, their various organs becoming weaker. At the very best, if their young ones survive at all, their future is beclouded through malnutrition in their youth. The fondest, wildest and most hopeless dream of the majority of our fellow human beings is that tomorrow they may have enough to eat.”

The foregoing paragraph is quoted from the speech by the Honourable J. J. Greene, Minister of Agriculture in the Canadian Government at the closing evening dinner of the F.W.I.C. convention.

The sentence used as a title for this story is also from Mr. Greene's speech. He said that he couldn't vouch for its authenticity but some experts had made the statement.

The Minister continued, “I am very certain that we cannot long sit on this island of richness and plenty unless we do fulfill our responsibility to the rest of mankind. In this world of instant communications, even the poor, the humble, the needy in our least developed lands are fully aware today of our affluence, our waste, of our indifference. They can but compare it to their wretchedness, their hunger, their famine.

The pendulum of history is on their side. In the not too distant future, 80 or 90 per cent of the world's people will be the coloured or yellow people. Today, for the most part, they are the underdeveloped nations. You may rest assured they will not forget. Misery, squalor, degradation and human indignity live long in the memory of man.”

Mr. Greene referred to a part of the theme

of the convention, “Opportunities and Responsibilities.” Then he asked, “Have Canadians fulfilled their responsibilities? As a middle power, Canada has a tremendous opportunity.

“Organizations such as the Women's Institutes which care about our land, must make our voices heard, make our strength felt, must see to it that we do assume our responsibilities as well as we enjoy our opportunities,” warned Mr. Greene.

In closing, Mr. Greene paraphrased words of the late President Kennedy. He said, “ask what I can do for the human family and my fellowman.”

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TWEEDSMUIR COMPETITIONS 1964-1965
Cultural Project — A Centennial Poem
Honourable Mention

PIONEERS

By Mrs. H. L. Case, Beebe, Quebec
A hundred years is but a step in time,
Our country looks back in its prime
To all the people, from different parts
That came, with nothing but their hearts,
To work and breathe once more,
The air of Freedom lost in some far shore,
To a humble village and quiet farm,
Where man could live without fear or harm
And the people knew this land, Canada.

And always there the threads of steel,
Drawing like magnets, the turning wheel
Taking them onward and ever west,
To their place of dreams, and with the best
Of wheat, turned the prairie land to gold,
Intermingling forever the new and old
Mountains and rivers were all surpassed,
Linking the East and West at last
And the people knew this land, Canada.

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Next Convention

The next National Convention will be held in late August, 1970 at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. In that year Manitoba Women's Institutes will be celebrating their 60th anniversary and the province its 100th birthday.