

Editorial

What Can You Buy for Two Cents?

There was a time when a child could go to a store with two cents and come away with a fairly satisfactory supply of candy. Those days are gone and it is hopeless to expect to buy anything with two cents. There is, however, something that any Canadian woman can get for two cents and that every Women's Institute member does get and that is membership in an all woman organization which has members in countries around the world — The Associated Country Women of the World.

Many Women's Institute members do not give much thought to the fact that they are members of this large organization and when it is brought to their attention they may say, "Well, well, two cents!"

What does this membership mean to you? It links you with country women all over the world and that means six million women and homemakers in two hundred different societies in fifty-six countries. If you will think seriously and examine the implications of this membership it will widen your horizons. It can widen your circle of friends. It can give you opportunities to assist women in developing countries who do not have the opportunities that Canadian women have. In this respect the old cliché is true, "The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it."

The first aim of A.C.W.W. is to promote international goodwill, friendship and understanding between country women and homemakers of the world; in other words, A.C.W.W. helps you to get to know each other.

When Mrs. Aroti Dutt of Calcutta, India, was elected as president of A.C.W.W. at the Dublin Conference in 1965 she said, "True internationalism means knowledge of other people, their ways of life, traditions, culture and civilization." Then Mrs. Dutt concluded her first address as president by saying that A.C.W.W. is trying to create a type of unity which is truly international, rising above the prejudices of race, colour and political differences.

A second aim of A.C.W.W. is to help to raise the standard of living of rural women all over the world. As Marshall McLuhan says, we are now a global village. We may think that what happens to a young person in a remote African village is not going to affect us in our snug and comfortable homes in Ontario, but that young person may sometime, in this world of rapid movement, face a young person of our family, and his attitude, born of his living conditions and the thinking of his parents and friends may influence both of these young lives. It may be selfish forethought on our part to be concerned with unsatisfactory living conditions in other parts of the world. Through A.C.W.W. a door is open to us to do our part in this restless, troubled world.

Many Ontario members have gone a step further and have become contributing members in the Associated Country Women of the World. (For this they have paid three dollars.) And this membership brings them *The Countrywoman*, the fine little magazine which publicizes activities of the member societies all around the world. The three dollars also brings eligibility to attend the International Conferences. Don't take the attitude that you will never go. Who knows, in this era of rapid change, what changes may come into our lives in a few years.

Those going to the A.C.W.W. Conference in Oslo this year will not only have the opportunity to visit another part of our world but a precious chance to meet and mingle with the delegates from all over the world. You may eat breakfast with a woman from South Africa, lunch with women from Finland, and dinner with delegates from Indonesia.

Think of the exciting potential of these contacts. Welcome these once in a lifetime opportunities. Don't be hampered by problems of race, language or religion. Come back to Ontario with your mind bursting and whirling with new thoughts and ideas.

And think of it! It all started with two cents.

Maryn Lardy