

The Consumer Questions Meat Prices



Waterloo South District Annual. Front row L-r Miss Helen McKercher, Director Home Economics Branch; Mrs. Clarence Diamond, President. Back row L-r Mr. James Murray, New Hamburg, Mr. David Barrie, Cambridge, Mrs. Thos. Sharp, Cambridge, and Mr. Ken Murray, Kitchener.

Prices

A panel representative of various segments, discussed meat prices with the members of Waterloo South District. David Barrie, moderator, a beef farmer, stated that although prices seem high, food is still a bargain and farmers are now only getting what they should have received years ago.

James Murray, New Hamburg, Independent Retailer, related that beef specials of 20 years ago at 45 cents a lb. are now 95 cents a lb. However, wages have tripled. The elderly who retired 20 years ago are now caught in an economic bind.

The consumer on the panel, Mrs. Thos. Sharp, showed concern that part of the problem on escalating prices was caused by packaging which in many cases seemed unnecessary.

Mr. Ken Murray, representing the wholesale industry from J. M. Schneider's Ltd., pointed out that Canada rated 6th as a meat eating nation and it will continue on as long as it uses the top six inches of soil wisely.

Mr. Murray went on to say the press must take some of the responsibility for the scarcity furor and the recent rise in the price of bacon, which in his opinion was unnecessary. It appeared to be a concensus of opinion of the panel that price controls have never worked and the law of supply and demand still is the determining factor.

Mr. Barrie questioned concern for the disappearance of the family farm at the rate of eight a day. What will happen to the primary industry?

PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP

Mrs. W. J. Knapp, first Vice President of Waterloo South District was in charge of Pennies for Friendship. In a unique fashion, she made us very aware of the importance of "Pennies".

ACWW extending into 70 countries of the world include all nations, colours and creeds. Women with a common interest, a common concern "Love for home and Family."

So each of us, through Pennies For Friendship can reach out to other women, and they to us. For whether it is a penny, a drachma, an escedo, a peso — it is with our lowest denomination of money that we reach for the highest ideals of Society.

The Women's Institutes — Country woman's Guilds — Homecraft Institute — call us what you will, in any one of 70 different languages — we are offered two things: (1) An opportunity to advance the knowledge and skills of a modern world which enables us to create better living conditions for our families. (2) Encouragement for women to think for themselves in relation to what they want to develop in ideas and responsibilities for their homes and communities.

May I introduce you to two women I have met: Dorothy from Jamaica. Dorothy lives in a small house among banana and palmetto trees on a hillside. Milk and eggs are available on festive days only. The clothes are washed in the river and spread out on the fences or bushes to dry. Her way of shopping is to buy rice by the penny. Her main diet is the papaya, coconut, mango, bread fruit, lemons and limes from the countryside. Dorothy has five children with five different fathers. She cannot read or write but had a child-like simplicity and almost a childish delight in welcoming us. Her lovely soft Jamaican voice and expressive dark eyes in a black face, gentle as the tradewinds that blow across her lovely island, made us feel humble.

Dorothy needs a better knowledge of cooking and cleaning house, most of all she needs to know she is loved and cared for, and especially needs to fulfill herself by making others happy.

Now meet Vsanda from Peru in the hill country 10,000 feet in the rare air of the Andes.

Her wrinkled dark skin is tanned by the mountain winds, baked to hard leather by the Andean sun, her broad pleasant toothless smile, had all the warmth of the sunshine.

She lives in a shack with the goats, chickens and guinea pigs and eats oranges, fresh water shrimp, bananas and corn.

Vsanda needs to know how to make shelves on cement blocks to get the food off the floor. She needs to know how to market the produce, the llama wool shawls and pottery. Most of all she needs to know something about nutrition and personal hygiene as well as how to read and write.

These two women living in their own environment have a common joy, love of family, the know how to work with their hands, their gentle sweet smiles, their gratitude. Both thirst for knowledge and both have a pride in family and race.

The ACWW is working in Jamaica and Peru and in many countries around the world and your pennies make it possible. This is but a small start for us but lends a helping hand to those who are less fortunate. We really do not miss that small penny, however this just might help a Dorothy or a Vsanda somewhere.