

Conveners' Speak

AGRICULTURE AND CANADIAN INDUSTRIES

Mrs. John A. King, Convener



At the Officer's Conference in Waterloo, Agriculture and Canadian Industries conveners were brought face to face with problems that could confront us in the coming years in feeding our country as well as the other nations of the world.

Mr. Ken Lantz, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture and

Food discussed the changes in agriculture during the past twenty-five years. He said that two-thirds of Canada's population lived in rural areas twenty-five years ago; whereas, now only one-third is rural. A farmer fed five persons then — now 40. He asked, "As the world population increases, can the world feed itself?" In 25 years, the world will double itself from 3.5 billion to 7 billion. India's population alone will increase 2.2% each year; while on the American continent, the population increase will be 1%. Ontario's 7.7 million alone is expected to increase to 12 million by 2000.

The Green Revolution begun in Pakistan five years ago was expected to provide sufficient food for the world, but since then, the world's harvests have fallen below meeting the demands. In 1961 world grain reserves allowed a 95-day supply of food but by Jan. 1, 1975, it was found the supply would only last 26 days.

Since a 60% increase in production is now needed to feed our own growing population, Mr. Lantz stressed the great importance of preserving all our prime agricultural land. To this goal, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has created a new Food Land Development Branch which will promote the retention of good land for food production.

Even with problems facing farmers — producing food at low prices, trade barriers, strikes plaguing food distribution, Mr. Lantz feels we should face the future with confidence in the Family Farm which has been the foundation of agriculture.

As well as conserving agricultural land, Institute members should consider conservation of food. How much food are we wasting? In Tuscan, Arizona a 6-month survey was completed in January, 1975 on the amount of usable left-overs from family meals found in the garbage. Results? 12-15% of the food purchased was thrown in the garbage. This survey revealed that the total value of this waste could mean 11 million dollars alone or 4.5 billion dollars annually for the USA or enough to feed the entire combined population of Viet Nam, Bangladeish and Canada!

And just recently Hon. E. Whelan revealed that we Canadians throw out 18% of the food we buy and that food waste proportions have reached an average of 300 lbs per Canadian per year — an alarming amount!

The trend is clear! If it is to be changed then all of us must do our share in making that change so that a serious food shortage may be prevented.

CITIZENSHIP AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Mrs. L. E. Drayton, Convener



A native of Edmonton, Helen Drayton graduated from the University of Alberta, and after living in western Canada and the United States moved to the Ottawa area.

Mrs. Drayton is no stranger to Women's Institute work, and her interest in the organization doubtless was first sparked by her Grandmother, who was a life member in Alberta. Her Mother was a member of the Alberta organization as well.

Since moving east, "Helen" has been a member of Ramsayville Branch for 14 years, holding various offices and has also been on the executive of Carleton East District. She brings to her provincial convener-ship a wide knowledge of U.N. information, because of her involvement in The National Capital Region Branch of the U.N. organization.

Community involvement takes much time too; an active church member and 4H Homemaking Club leader and organizer to coordinate a senior citizens club in south Gloucester area, she still has time to teach night school classes in dressmaking and crafts.

Her interest in the FWIO has broadened through her leadership at Officers' Conference and she also attended the FWIC Convention at Banff.

There are three children in their family, two daughters, Mrs. S. A. Holland of Guelph, Beverley, a University of Guelph dietetics graduate, and son Gordon attending the University of Guelph.

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORIES

Mrs. R. C. Walker, Curator



As one views the beauty of nature on these lovely sunny days, we are amazed at the wonders of it all; the multi-shades of yellow, red, orange, brown, and green — all blended together to make a panorama beyond the comprehension of man. The trueness of it all even evades the brush of the finest painters, and makes us all realize

the power of the Almighty in the beauty of His earth.

Then, as we travel through this awesome wonder, we find dotted here and there the homes of our people. Sometimes we again are swept into deep thought as to the history of these buildings and the people.