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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

HELD AT
CORNELL UNIVERSITY,
ITHACA, NEW YORK,
AUGUST 18 TO AUGUST 29, 1930

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OPENING ADDRESS

G. F. WARREN

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NEW YORK

THE committee has given me the enjoyable task of calling the Conference to order.

Probably the first thing which I should say is to state how we come to be here. Last year, on the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Elmhirst, an International Conference of Agricultural Economists was held at Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon, England. This Conference enjoyed fine hospitality, fine weather, and a quiet country estate—an ideal place for a conference. Each day, the members of the Conference climbed the war stairway of an old castle to cross swords in discussion. Not having settled all the economic problems of agriculture, the persons present voted to hold another conference. A committee consisting of Mr. Elmhirst and Mr. Currie of Dartington Hall; Mr. Maxton and Mr. Bridges of Oxford; and Mr. Ladd and myself of Cornell, was asked to make arrangements. The Conference also voted to accept the invitation of Cornell University to meet in Ithaca this year. We are, therefore, here on the invitation of the President of the University.

Since the committee could not hold any committee meetings, it had to make all arrangements by correspondence. If you find any arrangements which are not satisfactory to you, it will probably be due to the fact that the American members were unable to obtain the advice of the persons from England on this particular topic.

We cannot hope to duplicate the sessions of last year which were held far from cities, among the trees and flowers of an English estate, but we hope that the friendships made there may be renewed and extended, that the arguments there begun may be continued, and that the intellectual stimulus will be a spur to more work and clearer analysis.

We are dealing with a new subject, or set of subjects, in which progress has been extremely rapid in recent years. Intellectual contacts were broken by the war. It is important, therefore, that the workers in this field meet each other so that we may know the other man's work and know what manner of man he is.

Agriculture is going through a revolution comparable to the industrial revolution. Farming that follows tradition was never

before so out of adjustment with what is needed. National policies respecting agriculture which are based on past experiences were never before so out of line with the needs of the times. Research work must be pushed actively. National and international conferences are needed for the presentation of results of research, for the guidance of future research, and for the stimulus to renewed activity which comes from discussion.

President Farrand has taken a keen interest in this Conference. Unfortunately, he is away this summer, but Dean Mann is here to represent the University and the College of Agriculture.

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME

A. R. MANN

DEAN OF THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGES OF AGRICULTURE AND
HOME ECONOMICS, AND DIRECTOR OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NEW YORK

THE American states have been especially favored in recent years by the number and the character of international scientific gatherings held within their borders; and we are happy that others are in prospect. By reason of our physical remoteness from many of the world's greatest centers of learning, our participation in international scientific meetings has never been in proportion to our interest in them or our desire to share in their benefits. Our anticipation of this present event has therefore assumed large proportions.

In any field of learning, contact among the workers in the same and cognate fields is an important aid to constructive progress and an incentive to superior achievement; and it is also conducive to that proper humility of spirit which characterizes the honest seeker after truth. Correspondence and the interchange of publications between individuals—never sufficiently well done—must always be the main dependence; but the association is vastly enriched when personal acquaintance has entered. This, perhaps, is the most valuable product of such international gatherings as this.

It is peculiarly appropriate that agriculture, which is a meeting ground of all the sciences, and is the basic industry of every nation, should be made the occasion for frequent and varied assemblage of the leaders in progress from many lands. In much of the civilized world the solution of the more apparent and the relatively superficial problems of agriculture has been accomplished, and the time is here when the more fundamental and the more obscure and intricate problems have become the main lines of attack, calling for scientific preparation, application, and collaboration of the highest order. Here, if anywhere, progress will be accelerated by an increasingly close and intimate fellowship among men of science and the integration of minds engaged in related fields of inquiry.

Possibly in no other field of agriculture is the need for comprehensive, international acquaintance and collaboration more likely to prove fruitful than in the fields of agricultural economics, much

of the exploration in which requires accurate knowledge of general and special economic materials and processes on a world basis. The urgent need in many nations for tested knowledge to guide them in meeting the peculiarly difficult economic problems of agriculture at this moment is of itself ample justification for the present gathering. Furthermore, the development of this segment of economics in the several countries reveals so much variation in point of emphasis, in scope, and in method, that opportunity for discussion and exchange may be expected to contribute much to clarification of objectives, improvements in methodology, and coordination of thought.

While men have spoken and written concerning the broad economic problems and relations of agriculture from the earliest times, we can scarcely look beyond the middle of the past century for the inception of formalized and particularized study of the economic forces which directly affect the welfare of agriculture. Rural economy, as a specialized phase of political and industrial economy, has yet attained but modest stature among the fields of knowledge. The progress of the past two decades and the resources in funds and personnel now being brought to bear on this broad field, are indicative of a prospective growth and of an academic and a public awakening of extraordinary proportions. This youth possesses vitality, vigor, and vision which forecast a maturity of exceptional interest and service to the peoples, and especially to the farmers, of the nations.

In common with many fields of knowledge, much of the early work concerned itself with the theory or the philosophy of the rural economy, and deductive reasoning from general economic phenomena was the chief instrument of interpretation. To this has now been added the inductive contributions of vast undertakings of statistical analyses of concrete economic situations in agriculture. An essential to the progressive development of a knowledge of the problems of agriculture is the careful assemblage and critical interpretation of vast bodies of data from original sources and from units of small size, such as the farmer, the merchant, the supply house, the tax-collector, the markets, the carriers, the farm laborer, the consumer, and others. The statistician is providing a vastly enriched medium out of which more reliable generalizations, new statements of economic theory, and new public policies in relation to agriculture may come. But the correlation of these statistical studies for the purpose of discovering the

principles which they may be expected to reveal, and must reveal if they are to contribute to the creation of a dependable body of knowledge as a basis for guidance in action, and are to add to the sum of tested and accepted economic thought, should not lag far behind the statistical analyses. The new generalizations and the revised economic principles are needed currently in the solution of present-day problems; and they are essential if a science of rural economy is to come into being. Society needs as an instrument of progress a scientific approach to the economics of agriculture; and governments everywhere, as they venture into new areas of trial and experience in the application of economic theories in relation to agriculture, are deplorably in need of what a science of agricultural economics should become competent to supply. Statescraft in relation to agriculture is now undergoing its greatest strain, in part, at least, because the economics of agriculture are yet so imperfectly understood. This present conference, with its comprehensive interchange of the latest advances among economists of many nations, and its association of the theoretical economist, the statistician, and all gradations in between is most timely.

In welcoming this body to Cornell University it may be permissible as a matter of record to tell of its origin. In the summer of 1928, three professors associated with the work in agricultural economics of this institution were in England at the time of the meeting of the Agricultural Economic Society of Great Britain, and were extended the fortunate privilege of listening to the Society's discussions. As a result of the interest aroused in the exchange of ideas between countries, a small informal group met to consider the desirability of holding an international conference of agricultural economists. On the invitation of Mr. L. K. Elmhirst, a graduate of Cambridge and Cornell Universities, such a conference was held during the summer of 1929 at his home, Dartington Hall, at Totnes, in Devonshire. This conference created a committee consisting of representatives of Dartington Hall, of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute of Oxford University, and of Cornell University, to arrange for this present conference. To them are we indebted.

Cornell University and the New York State College of Agriculture in connection therewith, are sensible of the high privilege which has been accorded them in the selection of this place for the second international conference. Honored by the presence for these two weeks of so great a body of our fellow workers from

our sister states of this country, and doubly honored by the great number of distinguished leaders in agricultural economics from other nations, whose presence makes this conference particularly notable, we place every facility of this institution at your command. On behalf of my colleagues I cordially greet you and bid you hearty welcome.

H. C. M. CASE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA, ILLINOIS, PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN FARM ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

IT HAS BEEN the experience of all of us from the United States to meet fine personalities among those who have visited us from time to time from foreign countries. It would be easy at times to believe that a part of the impressions we get from these visitors is due to a gentleman's effort to make himself agreeable in a foreign country. However, I shall never have that feeling. Several members of the American Farm Economics Association who had the opportunity of attending the two-weeks conference a year ago, which conference was attended by men working in the field of farm economics from a number of different countries, found genuine personalities. We found that our agricultural problems have much in common and that we could discuss them in amiable disagreement as well as in agreement, and as soon as the conference broke up we could forget our serious thoughts in that wonderful game known as cricket.

It is highly significant that this conference and its predecessor held in England a year ago have come into being. They give recognition to the fact that the problems in the field of farm economics have much in common the world over, and that the best means of progress between nations, as well as within a nation; is to come together to compare opinions and to get a common view of our problems. It carries a pertinent suggestion of the best means of meeting other and more serious international problems. It is indeed a pleasure to me, in the name of the American Farm Economics Association, to welcome our foreign visitors to the United States for a conference devoted to farm economic problems. The only regret I have is that this conference cannot be held at the time of the annual meeting of the American Farm Economics Association in order that our visitors might have the opportunity of meeting a larger number of our members and that

more of the members of the American Farm Economics Association might have an opportunity of listening to and enjoying the good thoughts which I know are going to be brought to us from across the water. I do not know how to express my wishes any more forcefully than to say that I hope this conference will prove as stimulating and as enjoyable as the one held in England last year. I hope members of our association may be able to leave with you the feeling of welcome, serious purpose, practical thinking, and good sportsmanship when the day's work is done, which stood out in my mind following the conference of a year ago.

Words after all are only a feeble expression of our thoughts and I will not prolong any expression of welcome but say a few words regarding the historical development of the work in farm economics in the United States.

The American Farm Economics Association, representing the united interests of about 1,000 workers in the field of farm economics came into being in January, 1919. The adoption of the name at that time, however, merely signified the closer consolidation of the interests of groups and individuals who had been working in that field for some years.

Interest in this field of work developed at a much earlier date. It is even of interest to glance back and find that the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1867 offered courses under the following names: "Farm Management by Lectures" and "Bookkeeping and Farm Accounts." This dates back, however, to the days of the old professor of agriculture who taught about everything that was known about agriculture and with emphasis upon farm practice. However, this generation of teachers left an indelible, practical imprint on the agricultural education of the nation. Gradually specialists came along to take over one by one the specialized phases of agriculture.

Although lacking in subject matter as compared with present day teaching, farm management seemed to hold its place in the curricula of agricultural colleges. A discussion of the scope and work of the colleges of agriculture presented in the *Cyclopedia of American Agriculture*, published in 1912, recognized that the main subjects relating directly to production consisted of the "Crop Growing Group," the "Animal Growing Group," and "Farm Management."

At its annual meeting in 1897, the American Economic Asso-

ciation had given some attention to agricultural economics although it is significant that the general topic might be stated as "Is There a Distinct Agricultural Question?"

A more definite recognition of the fields of agricultural economics and farm management found expression in a joint session of the Association for the Advancement of Science and the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science in 1903. It seems apparent, however, that a definite effort was made to segregate the fields of agricultural economics and farm management. Such an effort may have been partly due to the fact that those interested in the field of agricultural economics and who also represented the American Economic Association were to a large extent an academic group with their training largely within the field of economics while those interested in farm management were concerned directly with the practical problems of that field and their training had been mainly in the field of agriculture.

As a matter of fact, the American Farm Economics Association may be said to have had its birth as the American Farm Management Association on July 27, 1910. So unobtrusive was its beginning that one not present has little means of acquiring complete information regarding its formation. For some years prior to this date a summer graduate school of agriculture was held, circulating from one agricultural college to another. Men of like interests were in this way drawn together and it was during the graduate school in 1910 that plans were made for the organization of the American Farm Management Association.

The purposes of the Association were indicated in the constitution as follows:

1. To promote the investigation and teaching of farm management.
2. To consider lines of investigation best adapted to the needs of the work of farm management and to suggest to various investigators, plans of correlation and cooperation in the work.
3. To investigate the methods of lecture and laboratory work in farm management and to make suggestions to the members of the Association and to colleges intending to organize courses in farm management.
4. To hold annual meetings at times and places designated by the executive committee.

With the tendency to subdivide the work of the agricultural

colleges, it is not surprising that the early workers in the field tried clearly to differentiate between the work of the various specialists. It is of interest to note that in a paper presented before the American Farm Management Association, entitled "Analysis of the Rural Problem," the division of agricultural subject matter under five headings, was set forth as follows: (1) the technical aspect, "farm practices" or "agriculture;" (2) the business aspect, "farm administration" or "farm management;" (3) the scientific aspect, "agricultural science;" (4) the industrial aspect, "agricultural economics;" (5) the community aspect, "rural sociology."¹

Likewise, the report of the committee on scope and cleavage attempted clearly to define the field of farm management from that of other closely related subjects. This tendency to designate sharply the field of different agricultural workers no doubt tended to hold apart the field of farm management from the field of agricultural economics. This is reflected again by a statement in Bailey's Encyclopedia of American Agriculture as follows: "The plan of arrangement of the farm involves two sets of questions, those that concern the practical work or administration of the farm itself or farm management; and those that are involved in the relation of the farm to the community, or rural economy."

While the work of the American Farm Management Association went forward steadily from its organization in 1910, a second group, which may be termed Agricultural Economists, was likewise developing.

In December, 1910, a group of men interested in agricultural economics met with the American Economic Association. The report of this meeting was published by the American Statistical Association.² Under the name of the National Conference of Marketing and Farm Credit the group continued to meet regularly for a few years. The work of this group gradually evolved until in 1916 the Association of Agricultural Economists was organized with the following purposes in mind:

1. To unite the interests of agricultural economists.
2. To promote the study of various phases of agricultural economics; to encourage research and the discussion of problems and subjects pertaining to the theory or practical application of the principles of agricultural economics.

¹ K. L. Butterfield was the author of this paper.

² American Statistical Association Quarterly Publication, Volume 12, pp. 460-489.

3. To disseminate information relating to the subject of agricultural economics.

4. To collect and disseminate information concerning agrarian legislation; and to analyze, digest, and classify agricultural laws in their economic application.

5. To hold an annual meeting at some place to be designated by the members of the executive committee.

In 1917 several proposals were made for organizing as one group those interested in the then considered two fields of farm management and agricultural economics. After much discussion the American Farm Management Association decided to appoint a committee to meet with a similar committee of the National Association of Agricultural Economists to consider some phases of affiliation. As a result of their work, the American Farm Management Association voted, in January, 1919, to change its name to the American Farm Economics Association and to change its constitution so as to broaden the scope of the work to include what was formerly covered by the National Association of Agricultural Economists. The Association of Agricultural Economists gave up their own organization and joined with the American Farm Economics Association. It may be said, therefore, that January, 1919, marks the consolidation in the United States of the workers interested in the field of economic work related to agriculture. While the interests of the agricultural economic workers represented a rather devious course up to this point, it may be said of the farm management group that they directed their efforts along definite lines. Up to the time of the consolidation, the farm management group held their interest very directly to the field of farm management although their interests were gradually expanded. The program presented in 1913 shows from the subjects and content of papers presented that the topics discussed dealt with farm management work with the single exception of one paper devoted to marketing. This, in general, continued to be true the next few years.

The program of the American Farm Management Association during its early years seems to indicate that national interest centered in teaching and that much research work was directed to quite an extent toward use in the class room. Later the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 provided federal aid for agricultural extension work, greatly stimulating the work in farm management and making it necessary to give close attention to the use

of farm management information for extension use and of finding the best means of translating the farm management message to the farmers. While a number of experiment stations had been giving considerable attention to farm management research, the Smith-Lever Act stimulated both research and extension activity along these lines and this was reflected in the programs of the Association. The agricultural economists, on the other hand, had interested themselves in a wide variety of subjects with considerable emphasis on agricultural policy.

To the outsider who has not been closely associated with the work of the various agricultural institutions in the country, it might appear from the recent programs of the American Farm Economics Association and the content of its journal, that the interests of the group have given relatively little space to farm management. In justice to the development of the work in the agricultural colleges in recent years as well as the work of the members of the association, it should be recognized that the kaleidoscopic aspects of agriculture following the World War have presented many problems to those interested in the field of agricultural economics. It is only natural that a dynamic organization such as the American Farm Economics Association should give much attention in its annual meetings to the current problems which arise. The annual meeting of such an association may well be looked upon as a clearing house for bringing together material regarding various approaches to the solution of new and important agricultural problems. The many workers in the field are going to have many ideas regarding the methods of solving agricultural ills and of perfecting remedies, which may well have the benefit of group reaction, even though the research programs in the various institutions are still following well-defined methods of procedure. Work in farm management and marketing research, for example, may be expected to be better defined than research work along some newer lines of interest which have recently come to the attention of the Association. The wide interests of the American Farm Economics Association at the present time is well indicated by the content of its journal including topics relating not only to farm management and marketing, but including co-operation, agricultural finance, land economics, transportation, rural sociology, agricultural legislation and applied to all these interests, refined statistical analyses.

As one looks back to the time when the association definitely

broadened and consolidated its interests in a formal way in January, 1919, and became known as the American Farm Economics Association, the growth of interests has been remarkable. At that time it was the writer's privilege to be present at one of the meetings. Even though the attendance at the sessions ranged from thirty to fifty, the discussions carried ideas of considerable moment. Elation was expressed by certain leaders when for the first time one prominent member of the group publicly stated that he had come to the conclusion that farm management and agricultural economics could not exist independently of each other. The happenings at that annual meeting more than at any other were undoubtedly responsible for the development of a strong, harmonious organization.

It is indeed significant that at this international meeting of agricultural economists the attendance probably exceeds in numbers that of the American Farm Economics Association less than twelve years ago. For all we know this meeting may be as important in coordinating the thinking and efforts of agricultural economists throughout the world as was that meeting of the American Farm Economics Association in unifying the thinking of our national group.

RESPONSES TO ADDRESSES OF WELCOME

L. K. ELMHIRST

DARTINGTON HALL, TOTNES, DEVON, ENGLAND

I AM HAPPY to be able, with you, to be the guest of Cornell University here today, in fact to be home again, and from this platform to pay my respects to Dean Mann. Some nine years ago I arrived here as a student, with fifty dollars in pocket, borrowed, and it was Dean Mann who gave me my first introduction to the study of economics by assisting me to find my first job on the campus. The interest that the staff of the Agricultural College showed in an unknown foreign student that day has pursued and supported me ever since and it was through this personal connection, established then, that Dr. Ladd, on Dean Mann's advice, accepted an invitation in 1928 to come and spend part of his sabbatic year on our estate in South Devon instead of taking up an attractive offer from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Through his coming to England and at his suggestion, warmly supported by Mr. Orwin of Oxford and Dr. Warren, our International Conference was held last year at Dartington Hall. Why?

Because fundamentally, agriculture is a business as well as a life, and when a business is as depressed universally as agriculture is depressed today it is only by the thorough study of figures and facts by specialists in all countries that the cure is going to be found.

But agriculture is a world business. Like any other industry it can be rationalized, and it is subject to improvement by cooperative action and cooperative understanding, but being international in character, permanent improvement and real stability can only come through enlarging our field of consciousness internationally, by stepping over our national boundaries, by the constant exchange of facts and figures, and by sharing our difficulties, our failures, and our successes.

It seems to me to be one of the first duties of the agricultural economist to see that the farmer is assured a reasonable standard of living with stability. Only thus can the farmer achieve the end to which we all aspire, a high standard of life, a standard that can be measured in terms of quality and in terms of the rich use of an ample leisure, as well as in terms of "labour income" or "interest on capital".

In the same way, in considering the business of this Conference, may I suggest that we measure its progress not by what we may call "lecture income", but by the quality of relationships we establish through coming to know one another, by the friendships and understandings we build with those in other lands, faced with much the same depression in agriculture and industry as we are.

So, if the papers begin to impede our discussion or to interfere with our chances of getting to know one another, let us call on Mr. Dallas to ring his cow-bell, or on Dr. Pearson to call us out to the game at which he became so proficient last year—the game of cricket.

A. W. ASHBY

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF WALES, ABERYSTWYTH, WALES, CHAIRMAN OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

IT IS A great privilege to respond to the addresses of welcome which we have received from Dean Mann and Professor Case. The privilege is mine, but it is not personal. It is given to me as chairman of committee of the Agricultural Economics Society of Great Britain, and I respond on behalf of all the British members of this conference, most or all of whom are members of our society. But I must warn you that I may not be a representative agricultural economist of Great Britain. My colleagues sometimes describe me as a humanist, sometimes as an idealist; and when they want to indicate the depths of degradation, they call me a rural sociologist. I can only think myself fortunate that they do not describe me as a sentimentalist. However, in our science there are reasons for approaches from many different angles.

Your welcome has been cordial and it has also given evidence of appreciation of the work to be done. It promises for the conference both usefulness and pleasure.

In this conference there will be people of many types. There are certainly optimists and possibly pessimists amongst us. There will be those who obviously aim at constructive work in things large or small. Almost certainly there will be those who appear to be merely destructive critics or cold intellectuals. But if you watch this conference as I have watched some others, I think you will find that individuals change their positions in this list from time to time. All of us want to criticise something; all of us want

to state our positive ideas, and out of criticism, comparison, and definite statement, knowledge begins to appear or avenues to knowledge are shown.

The subjects for this conference cover a very wide field. In the briefest classification there are the subjects of farm management, marketing, prices, state policies, and there may be a little of social philosophy. There is descriptive work and analytical. There are statements on work in progress and statements of more or less dogmatic conclusions. The eighty papers, or thereabouts, which are listed show not only the scope of the work being done, but also the great activity of the workers.

If I might for a moment try to state my views of the great need in a conference such as this, it is that it might sooner or later arrive at the consideration of the great fundamental problems in the economic organization of agriculture. Amongst these I would put in the first place the problems of "subsistence farming". By this I mean the problems created for the agricultural group and for society by that large mass of farmers who are satisfied if their farms yield them subsistence according to the standards to which they have become accustomed. Looking around the world we cannot doubt that a large mass of farmers come under this category. With the commercial organization of agriculture, and the great movements in its products, these farmers constitute a great danger to those others, perhaps a minority, who think of agriculture as the basis of the good life. Those of us who know our history say that the basis of the good life is found only with industrial efficiency, and only with the production of relatively large quantities of the material requirements of civilization. There are many farmers who are satisfied with very low quantities of the material requirements of civilization, and with these we are in competition.

Another problem would be that of the apparent surplus of food products. Whether the surplus is due to under-consumption, lack of effective demand, or to real over-production, I am not prepared to say at this moment. I can best illustrate the situation by quoting the statement made to me a few days ago by a Canadian farmer. "The world has too much food, but we farmers want clothes, china, and furniture."

But I think we need to keep steadily in view the real object of our work, namely, the economical provision of the material

requirements of the good life for agriculturists and for society at large. Agricultural economics is one of the sciences—one of the applied sciences—which should give us the basis of knowledge which will make possible the building of a sound and healthy rural society. The provision of that knowledge is our aim. But we do not forget that rural society is a part of a larger whole with which we are ultimately concerned.

Dean Mann and Professor Case: I thank you again, and I say that I and my British colleagues look forward to a useful and happy time on the campus of Cornell University. It has been mentioned that there will be picnics and games. I may not play cricket and I certainly shall not play baseball, but there will be need at times to get away from these eighty papers. The campus of this University provides nearby opportunities. If I personally find a strain from the conference itself, I may find my way down to the creek and listen to the drop and murmur of the falls for there in times previous I have found rest.

MAX SERING

DEUTSCHES FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT FÜR AGRAR- UND SIEDLUNGSWESEN,
BERLIN, GERMANY

IN 1883, I was sent to America by my Government and traveled across the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, studying the development of agriculture and transportation, especially in the West. I saw the building of the Canadian Pacific and the Northern Pacific railways.

Ten years later, I again visited the United States and Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, analyzing agriculture, industry, and transportation. On both occasions, I was deeply impressed by the rapid economic, social and political growth of the country and by the way German, English and Scandinavian immigrants were moulded together to build up this great nation of which we are now the guests.

I consider it a very great privilege to return to this country and study the same questions. In these 47 years, I am amazed at the phenomenal changes that have taken place in the life of the American people. To speak only of one of the most important events: during my early visits, agricultural economics was a comparatively uncultivated field. Little research had been carried on;

Boss, Taylor, and Warren had not yet appeared in the picture. I have followed with great satisfaction, the rapid development of agricultural economics started by these men, and successfully taken up by an ever increasing number of younger scientists.

Since my first visit, I have been convinced that the problems of agricultural economics can find a satisfactory solution only by comparing similar work in different countries and thereby making possible international studies of these problems.

In this country, the true scientific spirit exists which is indispensable for the fruitful discussion of the serious world-wide agricultural depression. It would be impossible to choose a more favorable place for an International Conference of Agricultural Economists, than Cornell University, an indispensable center to all economists working in this field.

The Germans, like all others, have the desire to contribute all we can to make this conference a success, but we are convinced that we will take away more than we contribute.

J. E. LATTIMER

MACDONALD COLLEGE, STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUEBEC, CANADA
PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS

IT is indeed a pleasure to express appreciation of the opportunity to attend this International Conference. I am sure that all those from Canada share the opinion that we have many reasons for this gratitude. Economists of Canada are by no means reticent in regard to the place occupied by that country in international trade. Those economists working with the problems of agriculture are especially interested in international affairs as at present the export of farm products plays the leading rôle in that trade.

Another reason why we are grateful for the opportunity this particular conference affords is that the small, though increasing, number of economists working in this field in Canada have received a portion of their training in this country, many at this institution. It is a pleasure to renew acquaintance with those from whom we have received guidance and inspiration. And in response to the hearty welcome of Dean Mann and Professor Case, we must say that it is a great privilege to attend and participate in a conference which reflects so much credit on those who conceived the idea and have brought it to the present stage of fruition.

K. T. JUTILA

HELSINKI UNIVERSITY, HELSINKI, FINLAND

FOUR years ago, when Dean Mann was traveling in Europe in the interests of the International Education Board, he visited Finland and arranged a number of fellowships for Finnish agricultural scientists. Four of us came to the United States where we had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the scientific work in agriculture being carried on at American universities and experiment stations. My own work was done at Cornell University under the guidance of Dr. Warren.

An indirect result of my stay at Cornell was an invitation to participate in the first International Conference of Agricultural Economists, held last summer in "glorious" Devon at glorious Dartington Hall, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard K. Elmhirst.

Before coming to Cornell for the present conference, about twenty of us had the privilege of making a three-weeks trip through the Middle West under the guidance of Professor Case. The trip was most interesting and instructive and we are grateful to Professor Case and to the persons and organizations who co-operated with him to make the trip the undoubted success which it was.

I have the great honor of bringing the greetings of all the Scandinavian countries, and especially Finland, to the second International Conference of Agricultural Economists. I am glad that the Conference is meeting here at Cornell. A visit to Cornell University permits of becoming acquainted with thorough and successful work in all of the agricultural sciences. More than that, it means making the acquaintance of the most cordial and hospitable of people.

On behalf of the Scandinavian countries, I wish to thank you for your kind invitation to attend this international gathering at Cornell.