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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NINTH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS



TEEKKARIKYLA, OTANIEMI, FINLAND

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NINTH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

HELD AT
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THE IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNICAL
CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE

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PREFACE

THE Ninth International Conference of Agricultural Economists, held at Helsinki in August 1955, will be memorable for many reasons: the quality of the hospitality rendered by our hosts under the leadership of Professor Nils Westermarck, the extension of membership representation to include some new countries together with a number which had not been represented for some time, and the degree of informality achieved in spite of the large numbers attending.

Another and no less important reason was the opportunity for making extensive bus tours before and after the Conference. These were as popular as ever. The sustained enthusiasm for this kind of trip is a reflection of the accumulated experience of our members in the past, whether as organizers or beneficiaries. Despite the long distances to be covered and the shortness of time, it is surprising how much pleasure and interest can be packed into these tours. Our members thoroughly appreciated the visits to typical farms and farming organizations in the countries visited, afforded under the expert guidance of skilled agricultural officers, and leading farmers. We enjoyed even more the kindly leadership of our own members in the countries visited.

As many members have to travel long distances to attend the meetings and the number of days available is necessarily limited, there is a natural tendency to pack the programme with too many papers and thus affect the time for full and free discussion on the one hand, or for the making of friendly contacts on the other. The executive are fully conscious of this tendency, and with their growing experience can undoubtedly improve the Conference layout and programme as time goes on. In this instance they resisted a great deal of pressure to have the programme even more crowded than it was.

Once again, thanks to early visits and discussion in Helsinki with our sympathetic and far-sighted Finnish hosts, we found ideal quarters for the holding of such a meeting. Whilst thoroughly rural in its setting, and in easy contact with woods and water, we were still within a fifteen-minute bus-ride of Helsinki.

Never before have we benefited from a platform arrangement that was so 'easy on the eye', owing to the care and experience in its design carried out by the leading architect in Finland, Mr. Aalto.

No member who has had experience of conferences could help but notice the smooth operation of all the lodging and feeding arrange-

ments and the care with which every detail of individual need had been thought over beforehand. From our welcome by the Government of Finland right through to our farewell party arranged by the Mayor of Helsinki in the Town Hall, we were looked after by our Finnish hosts most efficiently, not only by the charming students, women and men, but by many professors and their wives. Always cheery and courteous, even when under heavy pressure of long hours and impatient demands, their willing service contributed greatly to our comfort and delight. Of special value was the opportunity given to us by many of our Finnish friends to meet them in their homes or at family gatherings where old friendships were renewed and new ones begun.

A conference makes heavy demands upon its secretarial staff, its translators, and its officers. In every case these were met with efficiency and good cheer.

The tours were organized beforehand by the honorary secretary, who had the able backing of many of our members of long standing in the countries visited. This, a major task, is not made any easier when, after months of notice, members at the last minute either make sudden demands for accommodation or cancel their bookings. Frequently such changes are inevitable, and in any case the desire to meet members' requirements has always been a marked feature of our policy with regard to the tours as with other arrangements. This time every attempt was made to avoid giving trouble to our hosts or anxiety to late comers.

For the first time in our history a tour was made partly by air. To get from Helsinki to beyond the Arctic Circle a plane was used, so that a bus tour, which otherwise would have been quite impossible, could be arranged in these northern parts. Those of us who had the good fortune to participate in this experience will not readily forget the vivid picture of northern Norway and Finland and of the Lapp Country, as well as of the present endeavours at resettlement with the carving out of new farms from the virgin forest.

Our editor, Mr. Roger Dixey, with his willing staff—Miss Hooke, Mr. de Lozada, Miss Williams and Miss Crump, supported by Miss Sandilands, Miss Kalanti, Mr. Lounamaa and Mr. J. Owen Jones—carried out the difficult task of recording the discussions with the view to their publication in the *Proceedings*.

For the Conference this was a notable year in that we were able to welcome our first salaried secretary, Professor H. C. M. Case. Mr. J. R. Currie, who now hands over his duties as honorary secretary and treasurer, has been the mainstay of all Conference organization and

membership for the last twenty-five years. We should like to record here our appreciation of his signal services, his absolute devotion, his miles of travel on our behalf, and his efficient treasurership.

Our special thanks are due to the Kellogg Foundation for making possible the appointment of a salaried officer and also for the financial assistance given towards travelling fellowships for many Americans—North, Central, and South.

Thanks are also due to the Whitney, Rockefeller, and Far East Foundations for their much valued support towards the cost of travelling fellowships.

On such occasions it is difficult to give adequate thanks to all who have contributed so much in so many ways to the success of the Conference, but I trust that all those whom I cannot mention by name will accept our best thanks. There are certain names however which I am sure our members will like to have placed permanently on record—Professor Westermarck, Chairman of the Finnish Committee, his Vice-Chairman, Mr. Mantere, and Professors Pihkala, Mäki, and Jutila. They not only made themselves responsible for financial provisions as our hosts, but organized the local tours and saw to every detail of the planning on the spot. To the ladies, especially their Chairman, Mrs. Westermarck, and Mesdames Mäki, Pihkala, Mantere, Jutila, Palsenen, Jarvi, and Heurlin, we extend our warmest thanks.

This year the tours before and after the Conference crossed more frontiers than ever before, and I should particularly like to mention the names of Professors Baptist, Minderhoud, Rolfes, Skovgaard, Stensgard, Eskeland, and Westermarck who, with their colleagues in their respective countries, made such excellent arrangements, even to keeping costs at a low level. From reports I have had from all sides, a special word of gratitude is due to Mr. George Bisset for his leadership of the tours and his unfailing good humour even under the most trying circumstances.

L. K. ELMHIRST

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