

ORGANIZATION IN THE WEST.

Review of Work Accomplished in Dr. Robertson's Visit.

Dr. James W. Robertson, Chairman of the Central Advisory Council, has returned from a visit to the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. On his outward journey he had conferences with the Provincial Food Resources Committees at Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. These conferences led to a better understanding of the duties belonging to the Provincial Committees and the work to be undertaken by them.

Dr. Robertson explained to them that the Food Controller seeks to discharge the functions of his office in the main by two methods of procedure. On the one hand, after full inquiry, investigation and consideration of particular questions and the conditions under which different classes of foods are produced, prepared and distributed, he issues regulations having the force of law. These are to be obeyed because they are law, and if not observed are to be enforced by the usual course of procedure in respect to other laws. An example of that is the regulation which governs the consumption of beef, bacon and flour bread in public eating places. On the other hand, the Food Controller appeals to all housekeepers to go at least as far in their own homes in the conservation of those foods as is required by law in public eating places. Compulsory regulations and voluntary co-operation are both necessary. Other forms of voluntary co-operation in the production and conservation of food are also necessary and practicable. Voluntary co-operation is what has really saved the food situation up to the present time in Great Britain.

The duties and work of the Provincial Food Resources Committee have to do with voluntary organization and co-operation. They are not charged with any responsibility for enforcing regulations or conducting investigations. Of course, any information, suggestions or recommendations submitted by them to the Food Controller are welcomed and duly considered; but the particular kind of service expected from the Provincial Food Resources Committees is that they will secure the co-operation of all the organizations and all the persons in the provinces in preventing waste of food, in shifting consumption from wheat flour, beef and bacon, and in increasing production.

Arrangements were either completed or advanced in each of the four Western Provinces for the appointment of one or more persons to act as Provincial Organizers. The plan is for the Provincial Government to release or designate some competent person or persons who will visit the various centres, explain the gravity of the situation from the shortage of food, and organize a local Food Economy Committee. The salaries are paid by the Provincial Government, and travelling and other incidental expenses are paid by the Food Controller's Office. These committees will, in turn, seek to secure the co-operation of all the organizations and every housekeeper in the locality in carrying out the recommendations of the Food Controller and in adopting plans and methods for conservation, substitution and production which will doubtless occur to their own members.

On his return journey, Dr. Robertson addressed many public meetings to inaugurate or assist the work of the local Food Economy Committees.

As a first step, the women of the local Food Economy Committee undertake personally to distribute the Food Service Pledge Cards and to explain to some one in every home the need for co-operation. The local Food Economy Committee will arrange for the carrying on of a campaign of explanation and education for the more intelligent and economical use of foods to be substituted for flour, beef and bacon, in order that the people may be well nourished, that no food may be wasted, and that the food of the family may be obtained at the most reasonable cost that is practicable under war conditions. That will be done by means of demonstrations, lectures and the distribution of leaflets or bulletins. The local Food Economy Committee will also occupy itself in some centres in seeing to what extent the cost of distribution, particularly in the matter of delivery at homes, can be reduced and thus prevent unnecessary charges for foods as delivered. The local Food Economy Committee will co-operate with whatever local body has charge of the work of increasing the production of food by the cultivation of vacant lots and gardens.

Dr. Robertson upon his return to Ottawa expressed his warm appreciation of the valuable assistance he received from the Women's Canadian Clubs, Local Councils