

HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION

The demand for university-trained home economists continues to exceed the supply in Canada, despite the fact that increasing numbers of young women are making home economics their career according to Dr. Helen Abell of the Department of Agriculture.

In 1957, more than 1,100 women were enrolled in university courses in home economics. Most graduates become teachers or dietitians, but more and more of them are entering other fields of employment through which home economics is being applied to the improvement of home and family living.

Many graduates, though by no means all, become members of either the Canadian Home Economics Association or the Canadian Dietetics Association, which serve the professional interests of women in these fields. Of the approximately 900 members of the C.H.E.A. in 1958-57, some 55 per cent were teaching; 11 per cent were homemakers; 10 per cent were in business occupations, including journalism; and another 15 per cent were nutritionists or in food service. Of the approximately 1,000 members of the C.D.A., on the other hand, about 55 per cent were employed in hospitals; 15 per cent in business; 13 per cent by government; and 13 per cent by universities and schools.

Education in home economics dates back many years in Canada. A school established in 1882 by the Ursuline Sisters at Roberval, Que., is thought to have been the first in Canada to offer a course in household science. Courses in needlework and other household subjects were made optional in the public school curriculum in Ontario for the first time in 1894 but progress was slow because of the lack of trained teachers.

The efforts of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, founder of the Canadian Women's Institute, led to the establishment of centres for the teaching of home economics, the first of which was the Ontario Normal School of Domestic Science and Art opened in 1900 in Hamilton. In 1902 the University of Toronto established the first course in Canada leading to a bachelor's degree in Household Science, and in 1903 a division of home economics was set up at the Ontario Agricultural College. By 1957, some 17 Canadian institutions were offering courses leading to a bachelor's degree in home economics.

In the early days of home economics, when Canada was still primarily an agricultural country and women were mainly employed as homemakers, the emphasis in teaching was on household skills. Since then the widespread economic and social changes that have occurred have pointed up the necessity for a change from the "skill-centred" to the "family-centred" teaching of home economics.

The consensus now is that home economics should be taught within the framework of

family relationships rather than concentrated on a few household skills. In the past few years, the Family Life Committee of the C.H.E.A. has been studying the teaching of home economics in Canada with a view to promoting "family-centred" teaching throughout the country. This method is currently being practised in Nova Scotia.

The need to expand facilities for post-graduate training and research in this country is also being recognized. A current report of the Education Committee of the C.H.E.A. recommends that "a concentrated effort be made to obtain awards at the post-graduate level that would stimulate interest in research and further professional studies and thus increase the supply of teachers at both the university and highschool levels".

Quite apart from formal instruction, Canadians nowadays are kept informed of advances in home economics through the various mass media. Interest in better nutrition and better homemaking became keen during the war under the stress of wartime restrictions. Since then, this interest has been kept alive by voluntary women's organizations such as the National Council of Women and the Canadian Association of Consumers, the Women's Institutes, Homemaking clubs and Parent-Teacher associations.

ONTARIO INDUSTRIES

Ontario's manufacturing industries reported \$10,655,099,000 as the selling value of factory shipments in 1956, an increase of close to 11 per cent over the preceding year's \$9,617,643,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. This is the first time that shipments passed the ten-billion dollar mark and accordingly are the highest on record.

Accompanying the increase in the value of shipments were increases of 4.5 per cent in the number of employees to 641,190 from 613,872 and 10.6 per cent in salaries and wages to \$2,310,634,000 from \$2,088,906,000. Cost at plant of materials and supplies used rose to \$5,683,753,000 from \$5,015,225,000, and the value added by manufacture, which is the calculated value of production, less the cost of materials used, including the cost of fuel and electricity, advanced to \$4,868,570,000 from \$4,426,655,000.

Ontario, which is now recognized as one of the world's major industrial areas, accounts for approximately half of Canada's manufacturing production, and it has the greatest diversification of any province. Certain industries, such as the manufacture of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts, heavy electrical machinery, agricultural implements, machine tools, starch and glucose, bicycles and the processing of raw tobacco are carried on practically in this province alone.