

Notes on Director's Meeting in Albany, California
April 25, 1946*

The Home Economics Specialists on April 25, 1946, reported back to the Directors regarding their activities of the two previous days and made recommendations of the sort indicated below.

Dr. A. R. Kemmerer of Arizona reported concerning the future plans of the workers and stated that they desired to maintain the work for the future, as in the past, along the fundamental lines of research. He made specific recommendations as to the several crops that should be dropped from the study.

The committee of workers rearranged their program and assigned different crops to the different leaders. In the new plans, additional factors are to be considered in the studies regarding the various commodities to be studied in the revised plans. (These specific factors should be obtained from Dr. Kemmerer). These five new factors are to be investigated in addition to the vitamin factor, included in the present study.

Dr. Kemmerer's report was followed by one from Dr. Morgan in which she outlined the specific types of work to be done by the various States. She indicated the crops for each State and the kind of analysis each would make. (Specific details of these plans should be obtained from Dr. Morgan). Dr. Hutchison moved that this report of the Commodity Committee be approved. The motion carried.

The problem of the nutritional status of communities was brought to the attention of the Directors. It seems that it is not uncommon for different communities throughout the nation to suffer from peculiar types of nutritional disorder such as poor teeth. The Committee believed that these problems should be investigated when funds and facilities became available. It was indicated that Oregon has already made a start in this field. It appears that the U. S. Public Health Service is sufficiently interested in this field to place four teams of workers in different parts of the country to study the problem. Dr. Morgan believed that efforts should be made to establish cooperation in this program. After some discussion it was agreed that this sort of work would be within the scope and function of Federal-Grant funds for experiment stations. Director McKee indicated that Farm Foundation has assisted some States in making similar studies and that assistance might be obtained for this work. A motion was made by Dean Hutchison and passed to the effect that Committee continue to investigate the possibilities of obtaining assistance from some source in order that a research program regarding this problem might be conducted.

Dr. Fevold reported for the Committee regarding the Handbook of Methods. He discussed the organization of the material and the plan for the contents of the Handbook. He explained that different committees were to prepare information on different subjects and submit it to him for final compilation and that the final Handbook will be ready for submission to the Directors at their meeting next year. A motion by Director Hutchinson, seconded by Director Burgess, that the report be accepted, was passed.

The matter of publication of the results of the present Cooperative Project on Nutritive Value of Foods was discussed. The Committee felt that a new Journal was needed for this purpose and that it should be sponsored by Federal funds and the Experiment stations. Dr. Stiebeling stated that the Committee on Organization and Policy has been studying this problem. She reported on the procedure of establishing and developing the Journal of Agricultural Research and implied that possibly a new journal could be obtained through the Bureau of the Budget if sufficient pressure was brought to bear but that such a journal should be sponsored by some specific Bureau. She also suggested the possibility of utilizing monographs as a means of disposing of the present backlog of unpublished material. Director Walker suggested the idea that a journal sponsored by a professional group; organized into a professional body, might present better opportunities for presentation of and control of type of material to be published than would be the case if a Federal journal was created for this specific purpose. Director Hill moved that this report of this Committee be received and that it be referred to the Committee on Organization and Policy. Motion passed.

Dr. Morgan then stated that the commodity chairman will proceed with the preparation of their material for publication. This completed the work of the project leaders at this meeting. (Minutes of the conference of State Leaders of the National Cooperative Project on Nutritive Values of foods were kept by Dr. Jessie E. Richardson of Montana and copies will be forwarded to each station.--McKee)

Letters were read by Director McKee in reference to proposed activities on farm housing, building layout, etc. Agricultural Engineers proposed that a regional committee on farm buildings, construction, plans, etc., composed of various agencies be developed. The subject was discussed and Director Hill moved that a Regional Committee would not be desirable in the Western Regional area because of the varied conditions. Motion carried.

Adjourned for lunch. Reconvened at 1:30 P.M.

The report by the special Committee on Irrigation and Drainage Research was considered. Recommendations 1 and 2 were approved on motion by Director Hutchison. Recommendation 3 regarding the need for an irrigation and drainage laboratory was discussed at length. Dr. Cardon stated several conferences were held regarding the irrigation and drainage research program in an effort to determine proper means of living up to the programs of the various agencies and to streamline the thinking if possible. He brought out the point that some irrigation research should be conducted on a pilot basis to a greater extent than at present.

Recommendation 2 was approved on motion by Director Hutchison. Messrs. Veihmeyer, Israelson, Schwalen, Baker and Singleton were selected as a committee to carry out recommendation 2. The Committee is to be called together by Mr. Veihmeyer and will select its own chairman.

The Committee to carry out recommendation 3 is to consist of Directors McKee, Walker, and Burgess, with Director McKee as chairman on motion by Director Hungerford. Motion passed.

Dr. Parker brought up the matter of irrigated and dry land agriculture research on Federal field stations. He brought out the point that a very large proportion of the effort and funds of this division of the Bureau is spent in the 17 Western States and explained that the reorganization which has taken place in the last four or five years was done to obtain a better integration of effort. He cited examples of funds available for research and explained their disposition and how they are used in cooperation with stations. He stated that water, soil and plant relationships, and fertilizers are in charge of Dr. Kelly. Since the Salinity Laboratory has been placed in his Division, the laboratory personnel is spending more time in the field in an advisory capacity and they are making studies in certain areas.

The irrigated and dry land stations--24 in all in seventeen western states--are under Dr. Shaw. He stated that all are in bad financial condition because of increased cost of labor, material and salaries. A careful evaluation of the condition has been made and he indicated that changes of some sort must be made to meet the situation. He explained that originally stations were set up to cover work on soils, livestock and crops. The present program because of lack of funds has narrowed to soil management. He thinks stations should cover original intent but with lack of funds this cannot be done. To explain this a distribution of funds sheet was exhibited. He explained that funds for operation and labor are almost nonexistent and if work is to continue as at present from \$125,000 to \$150,000 more must be obtained. (Drs. Cardon and Parker feel that field stations are important; that they should be properly operated; that they should be superintended by the experiment stations and that the Bureau should cooperate through furnishing personnel and other support.) Discussion indicated there is a definite feeling that Federal agencies should not operate field stations but they should be operated by the states and the Government should cooperate by furnishing personnel and funds. Dr. Cardon indicated that he will be glad to assist in bringing about the necessary transfers so that these stations can become official substations of the main stations. Nebraska is planning to take over the present stations, convert them into true substations and permit the Bureau to enlarge and intensify their soil management investigations.

Dr. Parker suggested the advisability of a Director's Committee to assist in the planning of a soil management program. A motion by Director Schoenfeld was passed that a committee be appointed. Committee is to be appointed by Director McKee. Dr. Parker stated that such a committee should recommend procedures they can support. These recommendations are to be based on a report by Dr. Parker explaining the conditions and problems to be considered.

Dr. Cardon presented an informal report on a cotton bill on the basis of a letter from Director Dorman. It seems the bill is considered as a special

one for a special area, and that it supported a contract type of research. Many conferences have been held regarding it. At present it appears to be shelved.

The Guterman Committee at present is working on a bill to increase the Bankhead-Jones allotment to obtain additional funds for the stations. This amendment is to replace the National Agricultural Research Bill. Director Durgess suggested that Directors could not express their reaction to the Bankhead-Jones amendment without knowing the amounts of money involved and that Director Dorman should be notified to this effect.

Dr. Parker in discussing the phosphate fertilizer situation stated the Department of Interior wants an analysis of the phosphate industry in the West to show the need and kind of fertilizer to be produced. A Mr. Bell was appointed to make this study and already has made some field contacts. A final report will be made this summer at an Agronomy or Soil Science meeting.

The matter of the consolidation of the Federal-Grant funds was discussed but no action was taken.

Letters regarding studies on morbidity of farm animals were discussed. It was decided this matter should be referred by the Director's to their respective veterinarians with authority for them to act as they see fit.

Director McKee resigned as Coordinator of the Regional Nutrition Project and Chairman of the Western Directors. A unanimous ballot was cast in favor of Director Burgess as Chairman of the Eleven Western Directors. Director Walker was elected unanimously as Coordinator of the Western Region for the National Cooperative Project on the Nutritive Value of Foods.

To reimburse Director McKee for expenses involved in connection with his duties as Coordinator and Chairman, he was instructed to bill the different States as in the past in the amount of \$28.00 each.

Dr. Jardine stated that his authority to request additional funds for Bankhead-Jones Research had been questioned in hearings because he lacked specific requests for them. He indicated that Directors might be requested to submit a statement of needs.

It was agreed that Director Burgess should request Mr. Eisenhower of the Executive Committee to file with the Secretary of Agriculture a request for him to include in his budget estimates the authorized increments of the Bankhead-Jones fund.

*Thanks are due to A. S. Curry of New Mexico for his help in acting as secretary to take the minutes on the conference held on April 25, 1946.