



Victor Gray, Chairman of the Essex Branch, National Farmers' Union, meets Kenya farmer Alan Knight at Caux

photo Mallefer

HUNGER

versus

PRODUCTION

HUNDRED FARMERS MEET

'We are able to feed ten times the present world population', said Professor Michel Cepede, Head of the French 'Freedom from Hunger' campaign at a session of the MRA Assembly in Caux, Switzerland last week. He was speaking to a large group of Farmers and Agricultural experts from Britain, France, Switzerland and other countries. He said that this figure had been worked out by Fritz Bader, a professor at Kiel University, Germany, and was one with which he was in full agreement.

WHAT WILL EUROPE DO?

VICTOR GRAY, Essex County Chairman of the National Farmers' Union of Britain said last week that the priority of European farmers was to deal with the shortages of food in the developing nations of Asia.

Speaking to an Agricultural Conference at the MRA Centre in Caux, Switzerland, he said, 'We talk a lot about surpluses in Europe. To dispose of these to the developing countries is only of short term value. Our priority is to deal with the shortages in those countries. This cannot be done over thousands of miles. We have got to help them to help themselves. To get the initial incentive is where MRA comes in. It will kindle the spirit which motivates people to grow the food, possible for them to produce.'

Louis Jeanrenaud, Representative of the Swiss Farmers at the GATT conferences, said that in dealing with the problems facing European agriculture 'specialists guided by God are needed.'

At the conference were over 100 farmers, agricultural experts and farm workers from 12 countries.

Ove Jensen, a leading Swedish dairy farmer, told the conference 'If we really decide to end hunger in the world we shall do it. In Sweden we think of raising production by four per cent each year and not worrying about anything else. The task of the farmers is to feed humanity.'

With this in mind he decided to run his 2,500 acre farm differently. Sweden, although capable of producing her own dairy products, was importing them more cheaply from Denmark. Jensen, despite the trend away from dairy farming in Sweden, increased his herd of cows and doubled the turnover on his farm. His purpose was not immediate financial returns but to help release Danish dairy products for the world market where there was a greater demand.

Africa and India

He discussed this new spirit with other farmers at conferences held on his farm and at a neighbouring farm. He has been to Africa and now plans to go to India for four months. He

believes that a new spirit and new motives in men is the fastest way to produce more food. For this reason he was one of those responsible for raising £10,000 in Scandinavia to go to the new MRA Training Centre and farm in Panchgani.

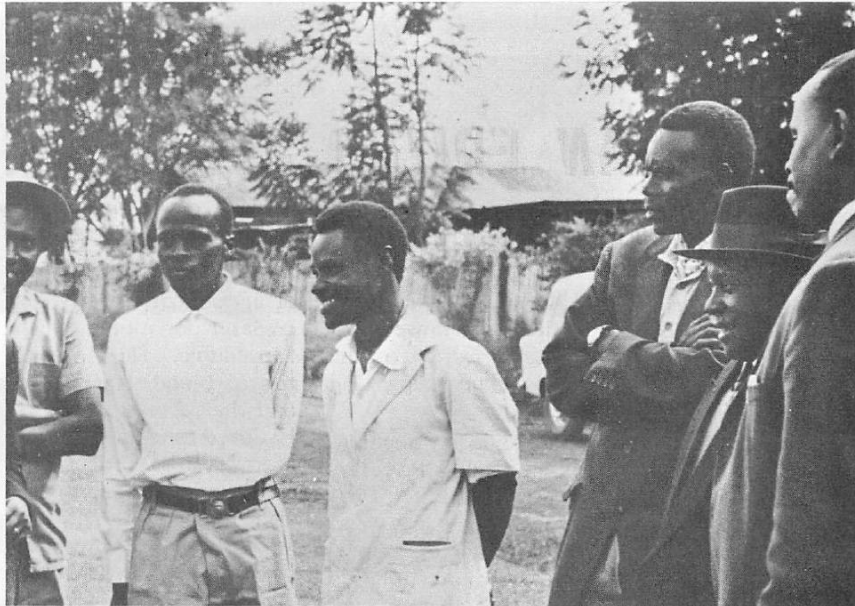
A Danish fruit farmer said, 'My horizons used to be limited to the hedges around my farm. Because of this attitude children are dying around the world.' Gunnar Uhrenholdt, who is on the national committee for Horticultural Exports in Denmark, said that he now plans to go to India to help Rajmohan Gandhi in his programme to give a new incentive to Indian agriculture.

During the conference Joseph Leu, President of the Farmers' Union of Central Switzerland, arranged appointments with the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs, Willy Spuhler, and the Minister of Technical Aid, Sigismund Marcuard, for Alan Knight, a director of the Narosurra Scheme for training African farmers.

DAVID PORTEOUS

Pilot scheme for African farmers

Alan Knight, a director of the Narosurra Farm Mechanisation Training Scheme, spoke to the MRA Agricultural Conference in Caux this week about the kind of experts needed in Africa:



Kenya farmers at the Narosurra Training Scheme *photo: James*

EVERY African country feels deeply about experts and development aid.

The world is full of experts. For sixty years we white settlers in Kenya depended on them. Our veterinary services were possibly the best in Africa. Our agricultural services were first class and yet we had a bitter and bloody revolution in Kenya.

A lot of us sit back and look at the African independent countries having their troubles and making their mistakes. Some of us secretly gloat over it saying, 'I told you so'. We dish out a little expertise and money, possibly to salve our consciences, hoping this may do something for them. Well it won't. The experts needed in Africa are the men equipped not only technically but in the art of uniting men of every tribe and background.

Michael Low and I decided to set up the Narosurra Farm Mechanisation Scheme to do just that. Two other white farmers joined us and two of our first trainees are now on the staff. We have three courses of three months each year.

Land revolution

One of the most important revolutions in Africa has taken place on the land of Kenya. A million acres had been cultivated and were almost entirely owned by European farmers. The Government since Independence has both paid a fair price for this land and placed something like 30,000 families on it.

Land in Africa is life itself and men have died to get it. Now we have the position where many men have land with no tractor, no implements and little money or knowledge with which to work. So the new farmer and his

wife start to dig. They work desperately hard but grow just enough for themselves. And so they feel disillusioned. They blame the authorities. They may move back to the towns and an explosive situation can develop.

In the Narosurra Farm Training Scheme we have taken on the task of training men how to operate and maintain agricultural machinery. Some have these machines already, many have not. There is the heart-rending situation sometimes of a man selling up his small business in town, borrowing money from wherever he can, then buying a tractor. And, in a few months, the tractor is finished because he did not know how to change the oil filter. We train him in these vital and basic skills.

Real issues

But that may not be what weighs on his mind most heavily. It may be a tribal issue that fills him with foreboding or revenge. Black men who have hated white men may now hate other black men. Years of technical training and aid can disappear overnight in the violence that follows unresolved hates.

Have you ever sat down to answer the bitterness in a man who is desperately hungry? I have, and it made me decide to do something so that he was no longer hungry. But if you answer his hunger alone, you still have not answered the basic problem of the nation.

A young English farmer offered to come out to join us at Narosurra. He was the leader of the Young Farmers in his district and had been offered a good job in a Farm Institute. When he said, 'Can I help you at Narosurra?'

we said, 'Yes, but we can't pay you.' He said, 'I'll come' and he sold his car to pay his fare out to Kenya. He is a practical farmer, which Europe may take for granted, but we have few in Africa yet. He is also skilled in the art of changing men.

Tractor and trailer

We have constructed a small obstacle course to practise reversing a tractor and trailer—more difficult than non-farmers can imagine. The average man takes four minutes to negotiate the course. This young English instructor does it in thirty seconds. That gives him a status that is unassailable! So, when he sits around the fire at night with the 35 men of the course and tells them how he and his father learned to get on together on their farm and how they decided to farm not just for profit, they are convinced. Rifts are healed, corruption is seen for what it is, and tribalism is answered. One man for instance decided that he was no longer going to agitate for his District Commissioner to be moved because he came from a different tribe.

A young Norwegian engineer has been on our staff for a year. The trainees are impressed with the quality of life of a European who has left the comfort of home in order to pass on, without salary, his knowledge.

We teach men how to set a plough, how to drive a tractor and maintain it, but also how to live in a way that is incorruptible, how to grow food for their family and for their nation. Experts with this kind of training will quickly make Europe's aid effective in feeding the hungry millions of the world.

INDIAN EDITOR ATTACKS BAMBOOZLERS OF BRITAIN

BRITAIN HAS A ROLE in the world which neither of the super powers can fulfil said R M Lala, Editor of the Indian news weekly *Himmat*, speaking in London this week.

Britain had unique links through the Commonwealth with India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Australasia, Canada and the nations of East and West Africa. These links were an opportunity, not an embarrassment, said Lala.

'I am fed up with people who bamboozle us by saying that no nation has a role in the world but the super powers. Britain's material assets in terms

of investment, exports, her armed forces and her atomic weapons are still formidable. Her invisible assets are ties of blood, language and literature and the representative institutions she has tried to plant throughout the Commonwealth. Westminster remains the Mother of Parliaments. These are the richest assets any nation on earth possesses. Her greatest asset may be the spirit of her own people today who, given the chance, want to be useful in the world, want to serve for a purpose way beyond "having it good".'

Lala, appealing to an international but predominantly British audience at

an MRA assembly in the Westminster Theatre, urged that Britain in the next five years 'put the best of her men and resources to answer India's staggering problems and make her a pattern nation.'

Already men and women in Moral Re-Armament from Britain and the Commonwealth nations of New Zealand and Australia were doing this. They came as engineers, teachers and doctors, often at considerable sacrifice, and without salary.

The Indian editor said if Britain led the way in this she would awaken the European nations 'to move with her in this common task'.

'What happens to India in the coming years may be a test for the whole free world', he said. Britain's men and women could play a decisive part in affecting events in India.

New Zealand— what needs to be said

WAKE UP MATILDA! the Australian musical, had its premiere in Auckland last week at a time of much re-thinking about New Zealand's future. Last week the nation was warned by the Minister of Labour to 'prepare for the worst' and the prospect of a 25% fall in overseas income. In the light of this, New Zealanders have welcomed the suggestion of *Wake up Matilda!* that the destiny of New Zealand could be to take 'food and faith to a hungry world.'

The Australian Minister for External Affairs, the Rt Hon Paul Hasluck, on seeing the show before it left Australia, had picked out the same point as 'the truest word on Australia's and New Zealand's role. We have got something to do in the Pacific we have got to do it together.'

'The show says what needs to be said, without sentimentality,' said a senior naval officer at the opening night.

The crisis in New Zealand agriculture, the country's staple export industry, has not been helped by the competition of subsidised Australian products. This has been a source of bitterness in New Zealand for many years.

After the performance of *Wake up Matilda!* New Zealand farmer Keith Hanning said, 'I believe that it is in taking on the needs of Asia that we shall find close common bonds

IN MORE THAN 1,000 SCHOOLS this week in eighteen areas of the country, members of the National Union of Teachers are refusing to do 'dinner duty'. The teachers in this large professional association of nearly 260,000 have never gone on strike before. Technically this is not a strike. The union is imposing sanctions. However, as teachers are withdrawing their labour in a highly organised manner it is understandable that the public are confused.

Many people have been surprised that teachers support this action. It is due to bitterness on two counts.

The first is the Government's attitude to teachers' salaries. Sir Ronald Gould, General Secretary to the NUT, wrote in a recent letter to the Local Education Authorities, 'I cannot over-stress the feeling of bitterness among my members over the arrogant way in which the teachers' representatives were treated in recent salary negotiations.'

The second is on compulsory school meals supervision by teachers. In a with Australia and our economic crisis will be solved.' He announced the opening of a fund to help build the MRA Training Centre at Panchgani in India, 160 miles from Bombay.

WHY TEACHERS STRIKE

NEW OUTLOOK NEEDED FOR LASTING SETTLEMENT—a teacher writes

large school as many as 36 teachers are on duty in two shifts during the dinner break every day. This started during the war as part of their war effort. The war ended 22 years ago and teachers are still doing dinner duty. No Government, Conservative or Labour, has cared enough to put this right.

The majority of teachers in Britain would never strike over salaries, yet many are now demonstrating on the issue of meals' supervision as part of a campaign for higher salaries. If this bitterness is not answered there will be more strikes, bigger strikes and perhaps a national strike.

A group of London teachers with teaching experience up to 15 years met to discuss what might be done. They considered what action could be taken that would bring the new outlook needed for a lasting settlement.

They discussed what could be done outside the current negotiations on salaries. Bitterness could be answered and a new spirit brought through MRA, they believed.

A spokesman for the group said they had set themselves to create a new image of the teacher. Teachers must stop thinking of themselves as badly paid, doing a difficult job without ap-

continued page 4

preciation or support. The public should shelve the theory that teachers were unproductive, had long holidays and worked short hours and therefore should have low salaries.

Public appreciation of the work done by teachers would be a help in halting the current bitterness in the profession. The spokesman pointed out 'pioneer work was being done in schools to make a multi-racial society work and schools were often the last bastion of authority in a community.' Schools had taken on tasks that the homes and churches have largely abandoned.

A new idea of Education needs to be formulated and worked out in practice. Teachers could develop young men and women who have a will to work and a love and a pride in it; a spirit of service and responsibility to humanity; standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love as a reality in everyday life; and with a preparation to meet the challenges and demands of a technological society.

Without such a purpose in education a rise in teachers' salaries would not cure dissatisfaction in the profession. In fact, teachers would probably start campaigning for the next rise. With such an idea education would set the pace in shaping the thinking and living of the men and women of tomorrow. British education could shape the fundamental aims and values for education throughout the world.

JEAN ROBERTSON

NEW 32 page MAGAZINE INDIA ARISE

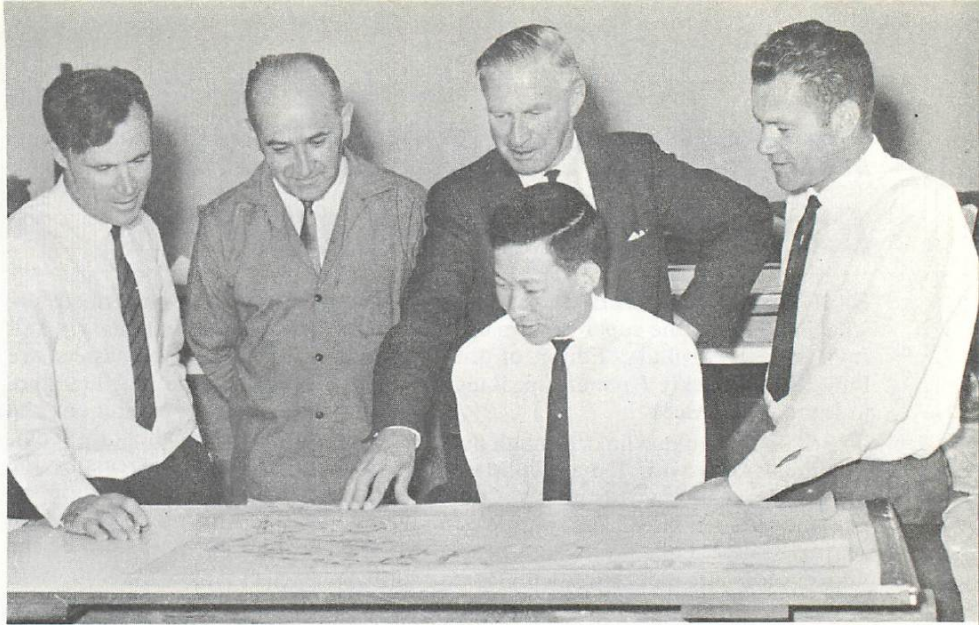
presents in text and pictures the colour, humanity and reality that is India, with the evidence of men and women who have found an experience of change deep enough to affect their fellow men.

Many photographs have been taken in the towns and villages of the personalities interviewed.

Price: 2/6d. Ten copies: £1

Postage extra

Published by MRA in India. Copies available from 4 Hays Mews, W1



Australian architect Gordon Brown (third from left standing) describes plans for MRA centre in India. With him are draughtsmen from Cambodia, Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia now living in Australia and working with his firm

DESIGN FOR MODERN MANAGEMENT

AUSTRALIAN GORDON BROWN is unusual both as an architect and an employer. He did his architectural studies by the light of a kerosene lantern on the orchard property in South Australia where he was in charge at the age of 19 from the death of his father. He is now a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and senior director of an architectural firm which has designed in the last 23 years, among other projects, forty hospitals, and homes for 1,500 old people.

His interest is not just in designing a building, but in answering a human need. Brown provides for the hospitals he designs a complete service of advice and help from the first committee to the details of staffing and function. He believes that the human relations within a hospital are essential factors to the design, and for this reason he has served on the committees of many hospitals so as to be personally in touch with their daily workings. Similarly in the designs for the MRA training Centre at Panchgani, Western India, for which Brown and his associate directors are giving £7,200 worth of services free, he has planned for a maximum use of local materials and labour, while encouraging modern methods to the workers. A vital step in answering Indian's housing problems, he believes, is to 'build on what

is already there, in materials, skills and man-power.'

As an employer, and President of the Practising Architects of South Australia, Brown has taken an unprecedented step in persuading other members of his profession to accept the formation of a draughtsmen's union. Australian draughtsmen until then were without union protection, and had to compete for jobs in slack periods by offering to work for lower wages. Since the formation of their union their wages and conditions have been determined by the industrial arbitration courts and in co-operation with the Trades Union movement. As a result of this successful development in his own State, similar unions are being formed throughout Australia, eliminating a possible source of industrial strife.

Brown, with fellow architects, has also arranged a scheme whereby draughtsmen may, instead of being laid off during slack periods, temporarily transfer their services to a firm which has extra work, without losing any of their provident fund, sick leave or long-service benefits.

He believes that this practical application of MRA to industrial life should be the normal modern role of management who feel as responsible for the welfare of their employees as for the satisfaction of their clients.

RICHARD THWAITES