

Talks On New World Sugar Pact?

LONDON. A world conference for the discussion and conclusion of a new International Sugar Agreement is almost certain to be called next spring.

Such a conference has been recommended by a meeting of the special committee of the International Sugar Council, in London. Now the formality remains of passing a resolution to this effect at the full meeting of the Council at the end of November. The Council will request the United Nations to convene the conference.

Delegates to the special committee meeting said that since no further progress could be made toward reaching common ground on an agreement, it was felt that in the larger field of a world conference would it be possible to thrash out the differences of view.

Mr. J. M. Campbell, chairman of the West India Committee, was the official representative of the West Indies at the committee meeting.

The existing International Sugar Agreement was first drafted in 1937, but post-war conditions have made it largely inoperative and only that part of it which set up the International Sugar Council is still functioning. Meanwhile, the Council has been struggling to combine the widely different points of view of the world's leading sugar producing and consuming nations into a new and workable agreement.

End Of Prices

The post-war sugar trade has been thrown out of equilibrium by the steady fall of high wartime prices, over-production in some countries resulting from the encouragement to growers of the immediate post-war price tariff barriers, and by many consuming nations' unbalanced trade, currency restrictions caused by the division of the world into hard and soft currency areas, and the almost complete collapse of Indonesia's large pre-war export trade in sugar.

The special committee has been wrestling with the whole problem for the past four years and has finally decided that the major problems could be adequately discussed only in the broader atmosphere of a world conference. The International Sugar Council issued the following announcement when the meeting closed:

"The special committee set up in 1948 by the International Sugar Council to report when the time was ripe for negotiating a new International Sugar Agreement has informed the Council that in its opinion, an international conference should be called to negotiate such an Agreement. The Council adopted the report and at its next meeting at the end of November there will be a resolution proposing that the United Nations should call an International Sugar Conference in the spring of 1953."

Cuba, suffering from a big surplus of sugar this year, led the argument in favour of calling the conference. After the meeting, Dr. Amadeo Lopez Castro, chairman of the Cuban delegation, said: "We believe we have accomplished at this stage the maximum that was possible after all the efforts of Cuba since 1947, with the co-operation of the other associates in the agreement to have a new International Sugar Agreement."

"The sugar policy adopted by Cuba has received a full ratification by the international co-operation of all the interested countries and such co-operation has been greatly appreciated by Cuba."

Cuba's Needs

Appearing before the committee, Dr. Lopez Castro stressed the Cuban economic needs for a quota sufficiently large to maintain the island's economic stability.



THE DISCOVERY PAGE

where achievement catches up with endeavour Edited by CHAPMAN PINCHER

You may have called it 'gastric flu'...but—

ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T RAKE THE FIRE OR STROKE THE CAT WHILE PREPARING A MEAL?

THOUSANDS of British housewives are poisoning their families through carelessness, Dr. William Clunie Harvey, a medical officer of health, warns today. He carried out an inquiry in 300 middle-class homes in Southgate, Middlesex, and found that in ninety of them at least one member of the family had shown symptoms of food poisoning during the previous month.

He believes that many of those digestive upsets we put down to the weather or attacks of "gastric flu" are really caused by food which has become infected in the kitchen.

"The average housewife neglects even the most elementary precautions necessary to safeguard family health," he charges in his new book, "Food Hygiene."

"How often does one see the housewife leave her work of preparing a meal to stroke the cat, replenish the fire, or wash a few odds and ends in the sink?"

"If she washed her hands thoroughly after each operation no harm would be done, but all too frequently she fails to realize the importance of this simple detail."

Dr. Clunie Harvey believes that much food poisoning is caused by faulty washing up. He urges housewives to get rid of their drying cloths and let the dishes dry themselves after a thorough washing and rinsing in really hot water.

"It is unfortunate that housewives cannot all be shown the organisms grown by culture rises from kitchen cloths—they might then appreciate the dangers involved," he writes.

Moth tests

WHILE housewives are busy awaiting the arrival of a new coat, a scientist has a full-time job rearing 4,000 of them every day.

Working in a humid underground laboratory near Manchester, Mr. Arthur Roberts brings up his moth-bred moths on a diet of soft flannel impregnated with yeast. He uses them to test new moth-proofing chemicals.

Samples of woollen fabric treated with anti-moth agents are weighed and placed in small bottles. Then the moth man puts in a few hungry hand-reared grubs to do their worst. The damage is measured by weighing the fabric to see whether the moths find it appetising or indigestible. Roberts claims striking success.

"Food Hygiene," by W. C. Harvey and H. Hill (Lancet 35).

DOMESTIC WHEEZE OF THE WEEK

Hot and sweet

EVEN ironing, the dulllest of chores, has now come into the range of glamour ideas.

With the model pictured here, the housewife scents her laundry as she irons.

There is a water tank in the iron. You simply add eight drops of a special perfume—and your linen and clothes are given the scent of pine or lavender to order.



Finished ironing? Then use four drops of perfume set the iron back on its end—and you have what 1952 calls a "household deodoriser."

The scented steam from the iron (it is claimed by the American makers) clears the air in smoky rooms, overcomes cooking odours.

Saved by speed

OUT OF EVERY 100 soldiers wounded in Korea and sent to Allied hospitals only two die an official U.S. report claims today.

Rapid removal from the battlefield by helicopter has brought about much of the reduction in the "Died from wounds" casualty lists.

Better teeth

TOOTH decay among the children of Newburgh, U.S., has been almost halved since the health authorities began to put traces of the gas fluorine in the town drinking water eight years ago.

In nearby Kingston, which has not yet adopted this preventive measure, there has been no improvement in the condition of the children's teeth.

More than 7,500,000 Americans are now drinking water treated with fluorine.

London Express Service

School First For Coronation Guides

A course for London Coronation guides is being run by the British Travel and Holidays Association this year. Inquiries are already arriving from candidates.

Up to the present the association have been responsible only for the examination and registration of guides before they are accepted for the official panel. London has 246 registered guides, the highest-ever figure, including 48 women.

"For the Coronation we have decided that we must establish our own training course for new guides to be taught by those already experienced," an official of the association said.

Candidates will appear before a selection committee before taking the course which will include practical tests and reading work.—L.E.S.

Antarctic Job Awaits A Tough Man

A tough scientist is wanted by the Crown Agencies for the Colonies—to spend 18 months in the Antarctic finding out how tough Huskies are.

His base will be a 10-man station on the Trinity Peninsula, at the tip of Graham Land, where women are not allowed.

His job will be to find out all he can about the 100 Huskies employed in the Antarctic by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.

The present strain of dogs came from Labrador in 1947. Northern Huskies are frequently inter-bred with wolves, to toughen them.—L.E.S.

BOXING:

Trinidad Boy New Boxing Sensation

(From Our Own Correspondent)

LONDON, Oct. 30.

Britain's newest boxing sensation is Trinidad welter-weight champion Hector Constance. Hector has had one fight only in this country—at Empress Hall, London on Tuesday—and yet he is already in line for a tilt at the British and Empire title. His opponent on Tuesday was Wally Thom of Birkenhead former British and Empire welter champion.

The referee stopped the fight in the sixth round because Thom had a cut eye. But even before then Constance had built up a points lead.

As early as the first round, southpaw Thom was cut under the right eye and although the first three rounds were reasonably even after that Thom began to walk

with blood pouring so violently from his right eyebrow that the referee had no option but to call it a night.

A Challenge

Following this impressive debut his manager Jack Burns has issued a challenge on behalf of Constance to the new champion Cliff Curtis of Swansea.

"I feel Constance must be considered for the Empire title," Burns told me this morning. "He has improved considerably since arriving here from Trinidad and there is nobody else in this country up to his standard."

For his next fight which will probably be at Harringay on November 18, Constance is likely to be opposed by a top ranking American.

Also on this date Yolande Pompee will be matched with the American Jimmy Slade. Says manager Burns, "I am hoping to get this fight recognised as an eliminator for the light-heavyweight championship of the world."

Baba Adams, a third Trinidad fighter, is also likely to appear in a heavyweight contest.—L.E.S.

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