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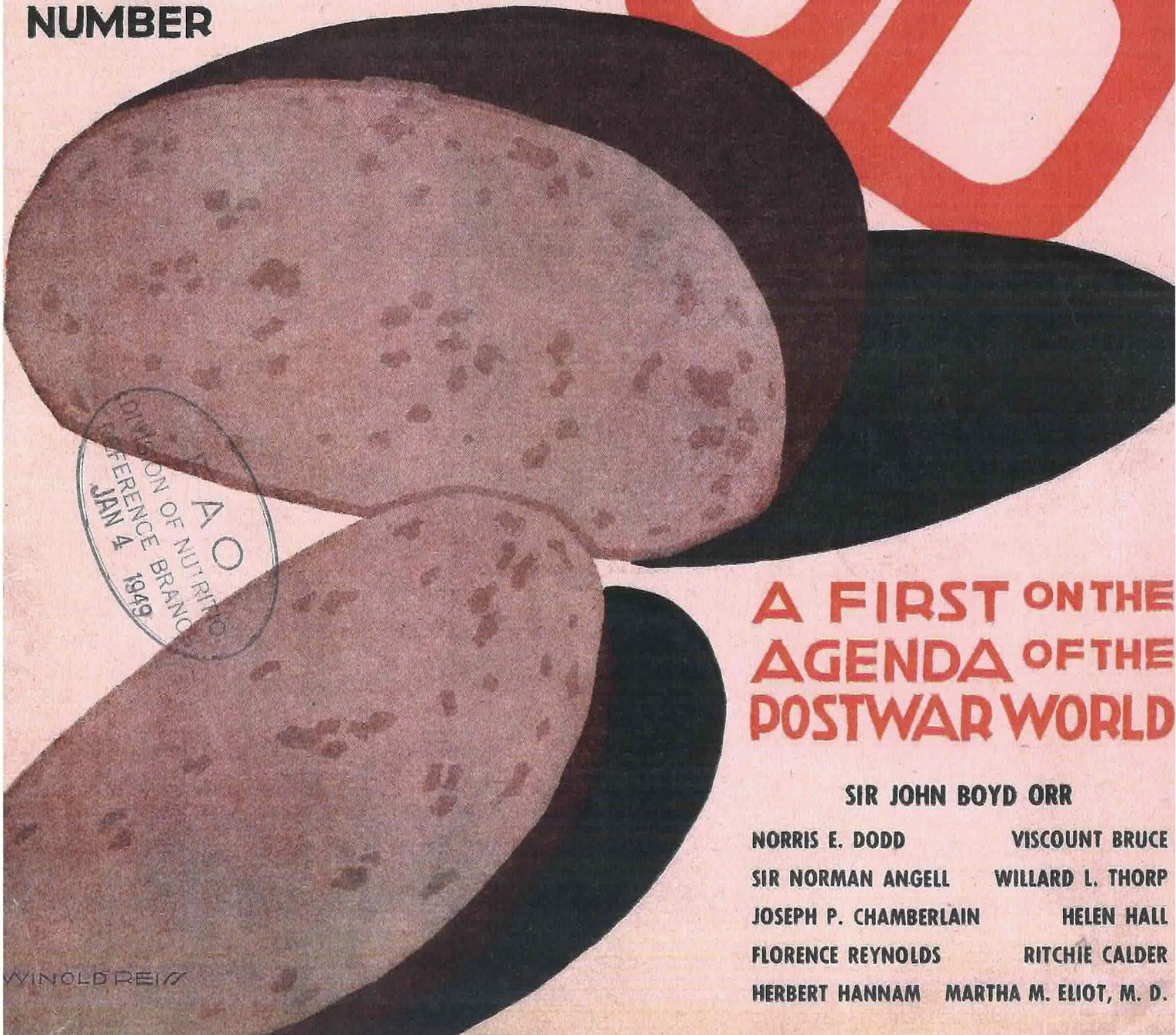
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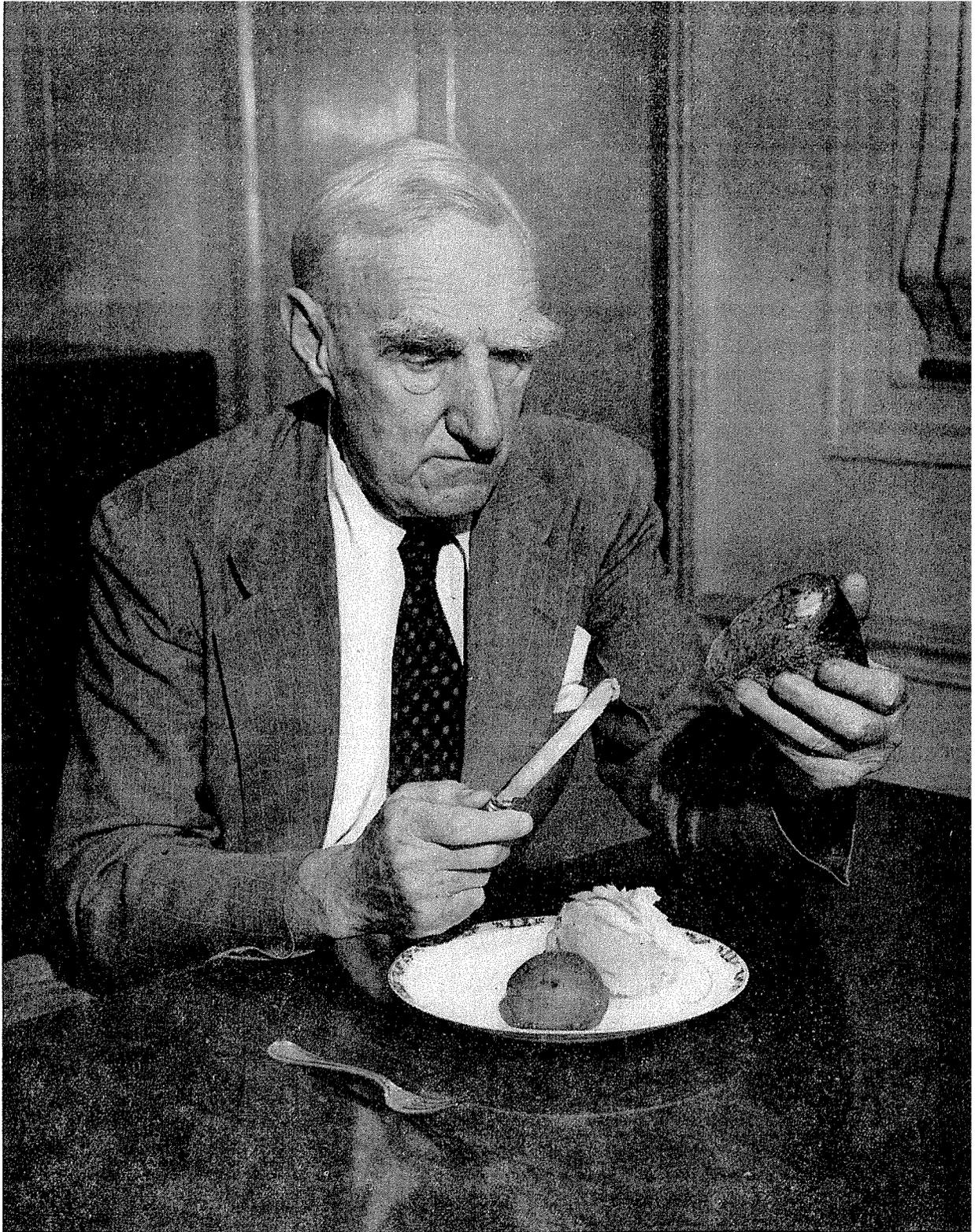


DIVISION OF NUTRITION
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FAO

**A FIRST ON THE
AGENDA OF THE
POSTWAR WORLD**

SIR JOHN BOYD ORR

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Science Service

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL LOOKS AT THE RATION

Sir John Boyd Orr, whose task as chief executive of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is to meet the world's need for food, faces a typical European meal. Here before him are bread, a bit of margarine, cabbage, and a potato, 600 calories out of a day's allowance of 1800—nothing to smile at, nothing to build health and strength.



Can Mankind Make Good?

The answer depends on our supplying the world's paramount food need, says the Director General of UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

SIR JOHN BOYD ORR

A CIVILIZATION WHICH CANNOT provide the primary necessities of life for its people is one which cannot endure.

The most urgent material need of the world today is food. Prolonged hunger causes social and political unrest, and hinders cooperation, not only between nations, but even within nations.

Already the fear of another war casts its shadow on mankind. Statesmen are finding difficulties in laying the foundations of permanent world peace. This is probably due to the fact that so much attention is being given to the fixing of boundaries and other matters that favor an atmosphere of distrust and disillusionment and tend to divide nations. But man and his governments have their eyes on the wrong goal. Hunger is at the heart of the world's troubles. Unless people are fed, the best treaties and agreements can come to nothing. Hungry people cannot be satisfied by anything but food.

Not more than 20 to 25 percent of the population of the world enjoy food, shelter, and clothing on a health standard and have the environment needed to promote intellectual and cultural development. Today the masses who have never enjoyed the environmental conditions necessary for a full life are realizing more and more that the poverty, which has

cramped their existence is no longer necessary; it was not ordained by God that they should be born to poverty and be content with poverty as their lot in life. In Europe, men will no longer tolerate seeing land going out of cultivation while their children lack food, or factories idle while their families live huddled together in disease-ridden slums.

But it is in the underdeveloped countries that the greatest adjustment must and will take place. Nations which for long have been apathetic and resigned to their sufferings are becoming as dynamic as the Europeans. There is an upsurge of a new vitality among peoples who have long

been forced into an inferior status. These peoples, who account for more than half of the population of the world, will no longer meekly endure their poverty and misery.

Even in the best fed countries, between 20 to 30 percent of the population lack food on a health standard, and in the underdeveloped countries much of the population, even before the war, suffered from lack of food and at times from actual starvation. If sufficient food is to be produced to feed all mankind on a health standard, there must be a great expansion of agriculture in all countries. Even in the United States and the United Kingdom, the two best fed countries among the great nations, the production of the more expensive foods—animal products, fruits, and vegetables—will need to be increased from 15 percent in the case of some to as much as 75 percent in the case of others. Taking the world as a whole, the production of the more expensive foods would need to be nearly doubled.

We would need to increase production of even the cheapest foods. When the economists and politicians of the world were wrestling with the desperate problem of a glut of wheat, there were a hundred million people in India who were hungry. To increase food production to feed the people of the world on a health

Honors from Holland

The Senate of the Lanbouwhoogeschool, Wageningen, the Netherlands, has nominated Sir John Boyd Orr for the honorary degree of Doctor of Agricultural Sciences—the first foreigner to receive such recognition. To quote:

"We honor in you not only the successful research-scientist, but also the crusader who has convinced the world that the food necessary to feed mankind has never been produced before, and that no rise in the economic and social level of the world is possible before this food is produced."

Food Comes First

standard would bring prosperity to an expanding agriculture and prevent a slump such as occurred after the first world war.

This would affect other industries. The necessary food could not be produced without an enormous quantity of industrial products—not only agricultural implements and fertilizers, but also, for example, capital equipment for irrigation and flood control and for improved means of transporting and storing food. Then the food will not be produced unless the man on the land has a standard of living comparable to that of workers engaged in other industries. The price offered must be sufficient to provide such a standard. This will offer an expanding market for consumer goods needed by that half of the world's population engaged in primary production, which in turn will help the highly industrialized countries to maintain that full employment which is so essential for economic and social stability.

A WORLD FOOD PLAN BASED ON HUMAN needs will help solve the problem of social unrest and antagonism to the existing economic system. Men will know that their desire to be lifted out of poverty and misery is being fulfilled—that they can look forward to a future in which their children will be able to enjoy the full life which in the past has been limited to a relatively small minority. They will feel that they have an opportunity to use all their creative faculties and are an essential part of a great community helping to build a new world of peace and plenty.

International cooperation to this end will help also to allay the enmity and bitterness of the people of the undeveloped countries who feel that they have been exploited for the benefit of the so-called "master races." If the wealthy, highly industrialized countries and the poorer, undeveloped countries work together on a world food plan, the latter will feel that they are partners on an equal basis in creating the new wealth needed for the promotion of the welfare of all nations.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was established to enable nations to work together in carrying out a world food

plan. FAO was intended by the people who created it to be the spearhead of a really broad international movement which would begin with increasing food production and consumption, thus initiating the general drive for an expanding economy at the point where it can best be initiated—with the basic necessities of life.

These are the lines along which human society must evolve for its own safety. In the second world war, President Roosevelt enunciated the doctrine of the four freedoms for all men as the main objective of international policy and as the only foundation for world peace. Mr. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill later elaborated these principles in the Atlantic Charter. Then President Roosevelt proposed that the first action for peace by the United Nations should be a world cooperative movement for the abolition of want, beginning with want of food.

The specialized agencies of the United Nations were established to enable nations to cooperate in applying science to the development of the natural resources of the earth for the benefit of the people of all countries. The future of our civilization depends upon the success of these organizations in developing action programs and in getting the nations to cooperate to carry them through.

THE TWO WORLD WARS MARKED THE convulsive end of an era. The atomic bomb which fell in Hiroshima was both the death knell of a passing age and the herald of the birth of a new age. This crisis in our civilization is due to modern science, which has advanced more in the last forty years than in the previous two thousand years. The great forces which science has let loose are pushing man into the new age for which he is ill prepared, morally and intellectually.

The issue which he must now face is whether he will use science to de-

stroy human society, or realize that the only hope of survival is the acceptance of the futility of war, and effective cooperation among nations to build a new civilization in which man can attain a level of physical and spiritual well-being beyond the dreams of the Utopians.

The United Nations Assembly and its organizations marks the beginning of cooperation. Some are beginning to despair because the high hopes for the success of this "Parliament of Man" are not being fulfilled. But we must remember that selfish national interests and ambitions and racial hatreds still persist. It will be a long time before these are eradicated from human society and replaced by a more enlightened outlook which will make for better understanding and friendship between governments. But the assembly still meets and functions, however imperfectly. Its violent debates are what might be expected when mankind is in the throes of the birth of a new era.

While the assembly is holding governments together at the top level, the specialized agencies can begin to build a new world from the bottom upward. The world food plan put forward by FAO affords an opportunity for cooperation at a level where political and ideological differences are not so acute. Here is the beginning of international cooperation which can gradually come to embrace all nations. Such collaboration on concrete measures of benefit to all can lay the foundation on which there will rise some form of world government to regulate international affairs.

HOWEVER GOVERNMENTS MAY disagree at present, the people of all countries, when not poisoned by political propaganda, demand the cooperation of governments in building the world of peace and prosperity which science has made possible. The magnificent effort of the people of the United States and others elsewhere in proportion to their resources in relieving the misery of their fellow men in other countries is an indication of the inherent good will of the people of all countries. It is that inherent decency in human nature which makes it certain that man will make good and that his children will inherit the New Earth.



