

The last two Trustees' meetings have been largely devoted to the necessary decisions and authorizations for the opening of school. From the Greek Embassy in Washington we have received the following request:

"The Greek Government informed us by cable, today, that they are anxious to see the resumption of the Salonica Agricultural Institute's activities, and they expressed the hope that Mr. and Mrs. Charles House will be able to return to Greece to assume their duties..... They reiterated their full appreciation for the remarkable activities of the American Farm School."

Mr. and Mrs. House have applied for their passports and passage, taken their necessary inoculations, and are now spending a few weeks with their mothers before returning to Greece. During the past weeks many boxes of shoes and clothing for the Farm School staff have been sent from friends. The staff, who up to now have not benefited from distributions of relief clothing, are in need. In addition to these gifts, two surprise "showers" have also been given for Mr. and Mrs. House to help them replace the household equipment in their own home which Mrs. Loch says has been destroyed or removed during the occupation. This is also true of the dormitory and dining room equipment, which will have to be completely replaced from this country, as there are no such supplies available in Greece except at prohibitive prices.* For the very generous gifts they have received, Mr. and Mrs. House wish here to express their thanks personally and on behalf of the School staff.

The British Military Forces, which have been living at the Farm since the departure of the Germans, described in our last News Letter, have now withdrawn, and the process of cleaning up and making such repairs as can be achieved are under way.

While these preparations are going on, the Farm School has started activities to cope with a serious problem, which Mrs. Loch describes in these vivid words: "Children of Greece today have grown up seeing and hearing terrible things. Quite young boys have carried and used weapons. The child problem here, as in all Europe, is the most baffling and urgent one, and never before has it been more necessary to get hold of the children. But underneath they are just the same as they always were. They will soon forget their bombs and the everlasting talk of killing that they hear today. And they will forget much more quickly in a school like the Farm School, which gathers them in away from their villages and fills their lives with change and interest and plenty of practical work and study.

"With all these problems in mind," continues Mrs. Loch, "two distinct projects have been worked out and are already underway, to be carried on throughout the summer. The first plan is a training camp for scout leaders, taking 200 for 15 day periods. Theodore Litsas of our School staff has always been an ardent Boy Scout leader, and he has enlisted the cooperation of the Army, UNRRA, and others in establishing this camp in barracks left on the school grounds by the Germans." Of this camp Carl Compton, Regional Director for UNRRA, writes, "We inspected a Scout Training Camp in the grove just below Mr. House's home. The Germans had built a casino there with stage, etc. With the Scout leaders a training program is being planned for older scouts to prepare them to take charge of recreation, patrolling, sanitation, etc. About 200 scouts were busy as a bee hive and singing as they worked." Mrs. Loch tells us that at night the staff turns out and greatly enjoys the camp fires.

The second project is to build up 180 undernourished children, and for this more barracks left by the Germans are being used. Mrs. Loch tells how this plan was accomplished: "The Society of Friends, The Swiss Red Cross, the International Red Cross,

* Anyone who would like to provide a blanket, sheet, or pillow case, new or second hand, to meet our need of 600 single blankets, 500 single sheets, and 300 pillow cases, may send his or her gift to the shipping company, and also please notify us here at the School office.

Packing Company' Address

American Farm School
% Johnsen & Ryerson
4018 Third Avenue
Brooklyn, N. Y.

School Office Address

American Farm School
17 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

And UNRRA have all done so much for us, for we just went ahead on faith to begin with. The Scouts have a patrol in the camp looking after the children and are really doing it beautifully." These two camps, running side by side, are contributing to the moral and spiritual readjustment of boys and girls whose lives have been warped by their experiences during the war. "These activities", says Mr. Zannas, one of the School's Greek Trustees, "actually pricks right into the fester."

As well as the two camps, we have news of other events and work at the Farm School. Mr. Loch writes that one day a British general visited the farm and was shown around the place. He was told that our best draft animals had been taken away by the Germans. Later, through the initiative of this general, two perfectly matched mares arrived at the School to replace our loss. Demeter Hadjis, the head of our farming department, thinks we should breed from them, as they would make a most valuable contribution to Greece. (All of Demeter Hadjis' friends in this country will be interested to hear that he has a fine young son, now about 9 months old). We have also been given an army truck and an abandoned donkey, found in a dump heap, to take Marika's place. Marika was given to us by a British unit after the last war.

The Society of Friends in England has helped us in meeting the cost of feeding more than 2000 chicks which have been distributed in the villages where all poultry had been killed. Mrs. Loch writes, "The chicks are going like hot cakes and have gone to many distant places now. We send them out at 3 months old. The first lot sold went to a burned out village, where most of the fowls had been destroyed, and the women just fell on the crates and seized the birds and ran off with them. The poor man who took them had no time to register names or even faces, and he sat mopping his brow, wondering what to do, as the women were being charged a small amount, when back ran all the women, chattering and waving the money at him.

"Villagers come miles to get a Farm School pig. They prefer them to gold coins, and buying is much brisker than the mother pigs can cope with. I watched one old farmer choosing his pig the other day, going over them all so tenderly. And one man, whose pig broke its leg, wept. The School gardens have produced much food, and in a cow crisis, when transport was nil and money less, we suddenly thought of spinach for the cows; they had only had straw to eat and had begun to bear dead calves. And army vet. helped us a good deal in this crisis, but it's the spinach that saved the day. All animals, including the pigs, now get an armful.

"You will want to hear about the graduates. Some of the old Farm School boys have lived through most dreadful times, and those we have seen show signs of the strain they have been through. All, when their homes are visited, come out with the old friendliness. So many have come to visit the School, and now that motor transport is difficult, they arrive by any means they can find. One boy brought his wife and baby right across Chalkidiki in a horsedrawn wagon to visit us; it must have taken him two days. The fact that these boys make such an effort to return here in spite of difficulties and in spite, in many cases, of danger on the roads shows what a part the School has played in their lives. They love the place, and in spite of its present obvious scars they go over every inch of it smiling happily."

Now we can hope and believe that this will be the last News Letter to come to you during the period when war interrupted the normal activities at the Farm. The many problems and difficulties that follow in the wake of war will have to be faced and overcome, but everything points to the fact that these very obstacles and difficulties are the doors to wider opportunity for the School to spread its influence for a more productive Greece and a wider life for the Greek farmer.

Ethel H. Bliss
Executive Secretary