

## THE WOMEN IN THE CASE

By MADGE MACBETH



MRS. MARTIN BURRELL

Wife of the new Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion.

THE feminine complement of Premier Borden's cabinet is scarcely a whit less interesting than the Ministers themselves. This is the Age for Women—Women's Rights, Women's Suffrage, *Women's Husbands!*

"Mr. Who? Minister of What? Oh! Is he married? What is his wife like?" These are the common questions asked all over the Dominion to-day.

In the following brief sketches only simple pen pictures are given of the Ministers' wives. They are a group of charming, responsive women, each one seemingly alive to her share of responsibility in her husband's affairs, and finding pleasure in combining the purely social with the social-political.

This particularly applies to Mrs. Crothers. Born in St. Thomas, and living all her life in St. Thomas, Mrs. Crothers gathered about her a number of friends—people whom she knew more or less intimately and who had time for friendship. The busy days in the Capital are crowded with functions where one says, "How do you do? Yes, tea, please, and good bye," quite a different sort of entertainment from the quiet tea-drinking where one sat for an afternoon and talked! But even these unsatisfactory tabloid conversations will not prove too homeopathic for Mrs. Crothers; she cannot help making friends!

"I stand in an unique position," she said. "There has never been one of me, before, our ex-Minister being a bachelor. I have no precedent to follow."

Nor does she need one. Mrs. Crothers has a strong and magnetic personality of which you are convinced when she takes your hand. She clasps it, grips it a mite harder looking straight into your eyes, gives a slight shake and lets go.

Presto, you are her friend!

She was Miss Mary Burns, and attended Alma College, St. Thomas. College spirit it strong in her and she is an enthusiastic member of Alma Daughters, a society formed by graduates, with a view of promoting and preserving college spirit. She is also Regent of the St. Thomas Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire, which has a large membership culled from all ranks in life. Mrs. Crothers endorses this feature and attributes the success of the Chapter to its practical demonstration. A passion for flowers, for gardening, especially for roses, has the wife of the Minister of Labour. Perhaps that explains some of her fineness, her charm. One cannot grow roses, cannot live so near to Nature without receiving some of her choicest gifts.

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Mrs. Martin Burrell is an English woman, born in Faringdon, Berkshire. She is to-day an exquisitely pretty womanly woman, with fresh pink cheeks, bright blue eyes, and lovely white hair. She came to Canada in 1886, and lived 14 years in the Niagara district. Then she and Mr. Burrell moved to Grand Forks, in British Columbia, where their farm was two miles from the nearest neighbour—that is from Mr. Burrell's gate to the neighbour's gate. From the gate to the house in each case was an extra three-quarters of a mile. Mrs. Burrell is a reader—which does not mean merely light reading. She likes to take a winter to a subject and spend plenty of time digesting it. She is fond of flowers and sunshine seems to radiate from her;



MRS. T. W. CROTHERS

Wife of the Minister of Labour.

one feels healthy, morally and spiritually as well as physically, by mere contact with her.

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One is sure of a welcome at the home of Col. Sam. Hughes. If for some dark reason, Mrs. Hughes should be inclined to treat the visitor frostily, her coolness would be more than counterbalanced by the friendliness of her little fox terrier. If one goes to the Minister's home during the morning, for instance, and has to wait until some member of the household comes in, the affable little pup sits in front of you and sneezes until he is assured that you appreciate his efforts at entertaining.

But cordiality is in the atmosphere, here. Mrs.



MRS. SAM HUGHES

Wife of the Minister of Militia.



MRS. GEORGE E. FOSTER

Wife of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Hughes is the happy combination of the rarely domestic and unspoiled society woman. She confesses that during the past years she has not wanted to leave her delightful home in Lindsay, but now that she is here she enjoys the life of the Capital. Mrs. Hughes was Miss Mary Emily Burke. She has great sympathy for the higher education of women and holds a teacher's certificate from the Normal school in Toronto, although circumstances have never compelled her to use it. Her father educated his children with a view to independence. Mrs. Hughes' son was the Gold Medalist at Kingston, so evidently a fondness for study is hereditary.

Brought up in a Liberal house, and marrying into a Conservative one, where the convictions were just as strong on the opposite side, Mrs. Hughes has had opportunity to view Canadian politics from both angles. She confesses that the change was gradual, but that it is firmly effected, and has been for many years. She is an ardent, earnest Conservative, who knows the reason why!

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Mrs. George Foster has one of the most attractive personalities in the Capital. To begin with, she is an optimist, and optimists are at a premium nowadays. She accomplishes a tremendous amount of work without giving one the impression of being in a fevered rush—so quietly does she go about it. Mrs. Foster is President of the Victorian Order of Nurses, an organization too well known to need further comment, and she is closely connected with many other charitable institutions. In her, Canada has lost a literary light, for although she has decided talent for writing and a strong inclination for it, her days are too full of other duties to allow her indulgence in this pleasure. The gift, however, has not been lost, for Mrs. Foster's son, Mr. Arthur W. Chisholm, is eminently successful as a writer of fiction. Amongst Mrs. Foster's other accomplishments is a thorough knowledge of German—her great-grandfather being of that nation, and bequeathing a strong love for the Vaterland to Mrs. Foster.

## Winnipeg's Club Activities.

THE first meeting of the Winnipeg Women's Musical Club was most enjoyable, and included works of representative modern composers. Miss Carrie Anderson, one of the younger members, gave a pleasing rendering of Schult's "Valse Caprice," and Miss May Scarth played Moszkowski's Valse in E Major, Opus 34. Others assisting were Mrs. Willocks, Mrs. T. H. Verner, Miss Emily Cuthbert, Miss Mary L. Robertson, Mrs. Coyne, Mrs. Jones-Brewer, Miss P. Bryce, Mr. Rignal and Mr. Miles.

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THE Women's Foreign Mission Society of Westminster Church, at its annual meeting on January 8th, elected the following ladies as officers for the coming year: Honorary Presidents, Mrs. C. B. Pitblado and Mrs. D. Christie; President, Mrs. T. D. Patton; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. W. J. Mundell, Mrs. Munroe, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. A. D. Adams, and Mrs. J. Saunders; Secretary, Mrs. S. Wheatley; Treasurer, Miss Harstone.