

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

THE EMANCIPATION OF THE WOMEN OF THE EAST

When Miss Una Saunders, secretary of the Y.W.C.A., spoke before the Women's Canadian Club of this city on "The Emancipation of the Women of the East" she brought it home to her listeners that the unrest among women about which so much is being written nowadays is world-wide.

She told about the absolute slavery of the women of India, China and Japan before the missionary arrived and brought education to those lands and awakened the intelligence of women.

In India, as you probably know, the women live a very secluded life, many of them to this day making it a rule never to appear unveiled in public and being given in marriage before they are twelve years of age. When Miss Saunders was teaching there she said it was no uncommon sight to see a native stalk out of a railway station followed by his wife or his mother carrying his trunk on her back. Recently it has been remarked that men have been seen to step back and allow women to precede them. While this is only a very trifling circumstance, Miss Saunders cites it as being very significant of a radical change in woman's position. The whole country is in a transition stage, some women adhering very tenaciously to the old customs, others embracing the new with great eagerness. She told of a lecture given to some Hindu women by a man at which some of the women sat out in the open as do our Canadian women and others sat behind a screen.

She says that many girls in India are now refusing to marry until they have had an education and husbands are sending their young wives to school. Native women are being trained up who are well able to lead their sisters in the struggle for education and independence.

In China where at first girls had to be paid to go to school they now come and camp on the doorsteps of educational institutions and demand admission. In the new democracy of China it has been planned to give the vote to women over twenty-five years of age who have the property qualifications.

In Japan where the education of women started latest it has made the greatest strides. Its great progress during the last few years is partly due to the spread of education and partly to the position taken in the industrial world by Japanese women. There are thousands of them now in the factories and in the telephone exchanges of the cities.

In conclusion Miss Saunders pointed out that as part of the older, or should we say the newer, civilization we should look well to our ways in order that we may not set a bad example before these Eastern people who are so ready to copy our customs.

She pointed out that thirty or forty per cent. of the children working in the jute factories of Calcutta are under nine years of age. We can hardly remonstrate with the Hindu on this point since we, in our supposedly civilized countries, allow child labor to an appalling extent.

She also dwelt somewhat on the dangers to the people of the East in the sudden acquisition of this freedom, pointing out that what is liberty with us may easily degenerate into license with them. They will probably go to very great excesses through trying in a few generations to digest the civilization it has taken our own nation centuries to evolve.

As she spoke I could not help questioning the wisdom of missionary work and wondering if it would not be better for each race to work out its own civilization step by step instead of having a half-made civilization thrust upon it prematurely.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

WIVES CHEAPER THAN HOUSE-KEEPERS

Dear Miss Beynon:—May I chime in and say a few words? This is my first letter so I feel rather nervous, there are so many skilful pens writing you each week. I am glad you approve of girls homesteading. I think the only drawback would be loneliness. I cannot see why a woman that understands farm life

and has to earn a living for herself, and often the home ones as well, should not be allowed to earn that living and receive wages for her labor as well as a man.

I for one will herald the day when woman will have her rights, be on equal footing with man and instead of being his slave be his helper, his partner and co-laborer. Nowadays most men marry because they can get a wife cheaper than a housekeeper, usually bounded on all sides by home duties and children.

I feel sorry for a "North West Woman." Someone was saying we should not air our troubles. What are we here for if it is not to better ourselves and how can we do so unless we help others. I think if there was more sympathy and love and help given the ones who are in trouble, instead of so much criticism, this world would be a heaven compared to what it is. If we make a mistake usually we are laughed at, or "serves us right, we should have known better," is the judgment poured upon us by an unsympathizing public. I really think most girls are to blame a great deal for their troubles. They will rush in where angels fear to tread and marry in haste and repent at their leisure. If mothers could only realize the great responsibility that rests on their shoulders in bringing up their girls, we would have nobler womanhood and less sorrow.

I am not married, but only twenty-two so think there is lots of time. I always admired a great big push-the-world-aside sort of a man, but shouldn't like him to push me aside. I think "My Husband's Wife" should be happy, she has an ideal husband. I think if all the girls made a resolution not to marry till they were thirty it would be better

for most of them perhaps. Then if they got a good man he would be worth waiting for; if a bad one they would have long enough then to live with him. I am keeping house for my bachelor brother this summer and should like the recipe of brown bread "Mother of Six" said she would send.

I think I must close as I should not like Miss Beynon laughing at me for filling the W.P.B. Wishing the Country Homemakers every success.

MYRTAL.

WANTS POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL EQUALITY

Dear Miss Beynon,—I have been reading your page from week to week, and I take a great interest in it. I am a stranger in one way, for this is my first letter to your page, but I hope it will be printed as I would like a discussion through the page on woman's rights.

My husband is a great man to study his Bible and his idea is that man is ruler over all, woman included. We don't agree as I say "no," he is wrong, as a woman is his equal in everything but one, and that is she lacks as much strength. I would like others to discuss this in the page.

I read one letter on married people being partners. Do you think this is partnership? We live on a farm. My husband is a prominent man in town, and has to attend different meetings off and on, all the year around. I am left alone to mind the babies and no one to speak to, as neighbors are far apart. The busy time comes on, he has to have hired help, I have them extra to cook

for and look after. Then threshing time there is a gang of men around. Help can't be got, I have it all to do alone. Then, when we get the returns of maybe 3 or 4 cars of grain, my husband will say, "Get your Eaton order ready." I write it out, he pays for it. I never see one cent the whole year around. He does all the shopping himself, and then keeps an account of every five cents that is spent. Eggs and butter that I send up to town in summer go for groceries, I never see it. If I do happen to get to the town once in a while, I get what I want in the store, my husband comes in after me and pays the bill and asks for the receipt for goods got.

Well, I believe if I go on with my grievances there will be no room for others, so I must quit. If you think I have taken too much space for a newcomer, will you cut it off short where you think best. I would like it published. I believe you are doing a great work in the Homemakers' page. I must wish you Godspeed in this work. My penname I will sign as "Discontented," as I see you already have a "Contented" in the page, and this suits me better.

DISCONTENTED.

Don't you think you could persuade your husband to turn over a new leaf and let you handle the household money?—F.M.B.

WHY DOES LIZZIE FARMER NOT GET OUT AND WORK?

Dear Madam:—Commenting on letter of "Lizzie Farmer," it seems extraordinary to me that she should have to put up with hard work to an injurious extent. There are scores of farmers in this part of the country who would be glad of a hired girl, who would only have to help milk and in the house and she would get pay besides. The girls are in quite an independent position around here, firstly from the number of bachelors wanting their help, and secondly because they can get a job which makes them independent, so that they are as a rule not looking to help out bachelor farmers, but for some well-to-do man who can keep them. Why does not "L. F." light out and hire out somewhere.

Yours truly,

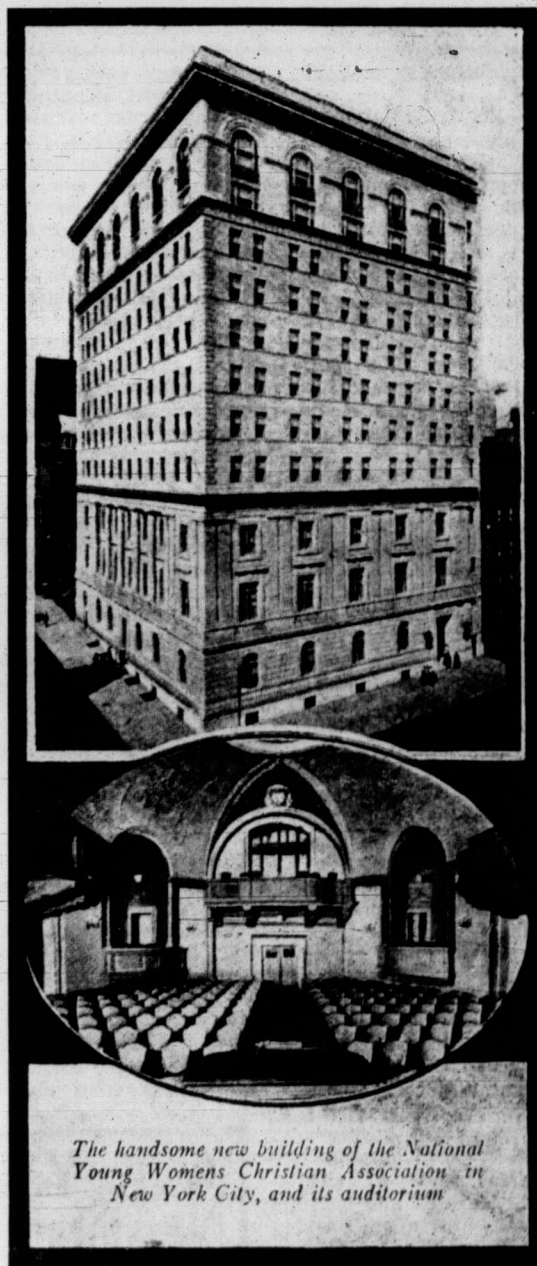
E. J. N.

P.S.—In the towns they are crying out for housemaids.

NEW WAYS TO COOK EGGS

Omelet a la Soyer.—Break four eggs into a bowl, add half a teaspoonful of salt and a quarter of a teaspoonful of pepper, and beat them up well with a fork. Put one ounce and one-half of butter, lard or oil in the frying-pan, place it on the fire and when hot pour in the eggs, and keep on mixing them quickly with a spoon till they are delicately set. Then let them slip to the edge of the pan, laying hold by the handle and raising it slantwise, which will give an elongated form to the omelet. Fold in the edges, let it rest a moment to set; turn it over on a dish and serve. It ought to be of a rich yellow color and as light and delicate as possible. Two tablespoonfuls of milk and one ounce of bread-crumbs may be added.

Omelet with Apples.—Peel and core one quart of tart apples and cut them lengthwise one-quarter of an inch thick; put them into a saucepan with two tablespoonfuls of good butter, four tablespoonfuls of sugar and three tablespoonfuls of water. Cover the saucepan and cook slowly for fifteen minutes. Stir the apples, but do not break them, and cook for ten minutes more. Remove the nicest pieces to place around the omelet. Break six fresh eggs in a bowl, add two tablespoonfuls of granulated sugar and two tablespoonfuls of hot water. Beat for one minute. Put in a frying-pan one tablespoonful of butter, and when the butter is hot pour in the eggs. Let them cook for half a minute and turn with a fork until the omelet is set. Pour in the hot apples. Fold the omelet carefully so as to hold its shape and slip on a platter.



The handsome new building of the National Young Women's Christian Association in New York City, and its auditorium

It is interesting to learn that the Young Women's Christian Association is now taking some definite steps towards welcoming young women who are coming to Canada to make their homes