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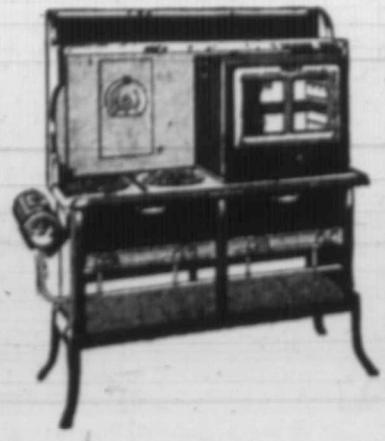

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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

Women's Problems

Telling how some women solve problems that other women may meet

ARRANGING FLOWER GARDEN

I am writing to fulfil a promise I made some time ago, to give my experience with perennial flowers for the farm garden. The seed catalogs are to hand and although winter still holds his grip the catalogs set people planning about their gardens, especially the flowers. One of the best kinds of perennial flowers for this part of the west, which is south-western Saskatchewan, soil rather heavy loamy clay, is the sweet rocket. These handsome, fragrant flowers, white and lilac purple, come into bloom about the first of June and continue for six weeks and more. They are entirely hardy, but to insure against alternate freezing and thawing in late fall and early spring, it is best to cover with about six inches of strawy manure. I have also successfully raised Iceland poppies. They are nice, and so early coming into bloom—about May 20. All these flowers can be raised from seed. I have also raised Sweet William, larkspurs, delphinium, formosum, one of the best varieties makes a handsome plant quite hardy, as also does blue butterfly. They give blue flowers, and blue flowering plants are rather uncommon. I have also raised gaillardia, the James Kelway variety is fine, and white yarrow, "achillea" it is called in the catalog. All these are entirely hardy and it is easy to get them to grow from seed, all but the yarrow, and I got a root of it.

My experience leads me to think flowers are hardier than vegetables, but of course I love flowers and I find it a pleasant hobby to care for them all summer. People say when they see my flower garden, "How do you get your flowers to grow so well?" I have annuals also, but I tell them they are very little trouble, and really they are not. Candytuft, bachelors' buttons, godetias, California poppies, mignonette and shirley poppies reseed themselves year after year. The sweet pea is the only annual I sow every spring, and I sow them late in April in small boxes in the house. One has to do that to get much bloom and also to get seed.

Now in conclusion I would like to urge every family to fence, if only one-half acre of ground, and plant trees and flowers. You will be well rewarded for the time and expense, which is only small. If it can't be all done in one year it can in two years or more. Some people will say they don't intend to build permanently where they have the present buildings. This part of the country is newly settled, and when I tell them it would be nice to make a garden with trees and a few hardy flowers they don't seem to regard the proposition very favorably, thinking it foolish or a waste of time, but to my way of thinking it would be fine to have a little bit of park on every farm, where young or old could go on a summer evening for a stroll and especially on Sunday. And what a place of delight for little children. In conclusion, I say let us wives and mothers all pray that this terrible war will soon be over and that peace and prosperity will soon come to this great country.—Yours truly, M.E.B.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Before anyone can suggest any remedy for bringing the church and the people closer, one must find what is separating them. First find the cause of the evil and then apply the remedy. The following statement taken from a report sent out from London, England, by the Mission Board of the English Church I believe puts the whole trouble in a sentence and implies the remedy too. A missionary of the English church writing of his work in a Mission Field in Alberta, Canada, after giving the details of his work, ends with these words, "Canada's great danger is materialism, and Canada's great need is the Bible."

This sentence gives us a glimpse of ourselves in a light, which we shall not approve, but I wonder if it is true. If so, need we look any further for the reason of the failure of the churches to hold the people.

One of the greatest drawbacks to the welfare of the rural church has been denominationalism. A district with several smaller churches to keep up is burdened unnecessarily and in spite of every effort that can be made, a spirit of rivalry will exist between denominations. The people of some districts say, we are united in all things but the churches. They still divide us. The people of other districts say the Grain Growers' Association is doing more to unite the people of the community than the churches. Therefore in the face of these facts, a common interest in religion and a common meeting place are essential to the people of a district. The Union Church meets this need most completely and reports of union shows that they are exceedingly successful. One report says that the church attendance is fifty per cent. better after union than that of both churches before.

The white man came to this country and risked his life among the Indians and braved the dangers of the trackless prairies and the rigors of a severe climate, all for material things and he got them. The railroad corporations and trading companies got possession of vast areas of land, lawfully perhaps, but not justly, and then induced the pioneers to come up here and get property, and by doing so increase values all around and for years now the one idea of the people of this great west has been to get, get, get, and speculation has run riot with everyone. Buy more land, to grow more wheat, to get more money, to buy more land has been the cycle in which many a life has been spent and the church has had to stay in the background of their thoughts. They have been so busy they have not felt the need of the church. And now that prosperity has come in a fair measure and with the advent of the motor car, Sunday is being turned into a day for recreation and pleasure. Let us express our subject in different words and see the results.

How are we to link the community more closely to Christianity? The people seem to be drifting from Christianity and in some districts Christianity is not meeting the needs of the people. What is to be done? After all, does not the church represent Christianity, and if it is failing, the only conclusion to draw is that the members are not, in the true sense of the word, Christians. There is a deplorable lack of respect for religion among the people of the present generation, and why? Let us look at the world at the present time. Everywhere we see a struggle for wealth, pleasure and power. Nation is struggling against nation for commerce and supremacy on land and sea; the rich are grinding down humanity that they may grow richer. Those who labor are struggling against those who do not labor, and why? Everywhere is to be seen the struggle for material things and the community is only a part of the world as the individual is a part of the community.

Only when every individual realizes that he must, to a great extent, forget the material things and seek first the Kingdom of God; in other words, put first things first; then and only then will the church be what it is intended to be, viz., a place for refreshing one's soul by the wayside of life's journey.

Christianity will not separate people nor fail them in their hour of need.

I truly think that the whole trouble can be summed up on the church's side by these words: "They have the form, but lack the power;" and on the people's side by: "And He tore down his barns and builded them greater."

S. L. RICHARDSON

Beaver, Man.

JEALOUSLY

The first lesson in jealously is very often given in the home. Jealously is a blighting affliction to carry with one through life. When traced back to their primary source, so many of the sins and crimes committed find their origin in this fault—evil speaking of people;