

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

CONSCRIPTION

There are four objections to the government's announced intention of forcing conscription upon the people of Canada, the first and greatest being that the people have not been consulted about it, the second that it should include married as well as single men; third, that it should be accompanied by conscription of all wealth and all moneys invested in the war loans, and fourth, that the government of Great Britain no longer ago than last week closed out a motion saying that they were not fighting for imperialistic conquest or aggrandisement.

Before men are arbitrarily taken from their homes and put through the military machine, they and their mothers and fathers have a right to say that they are willing it should be done. More particularly is this the case since the killing or physical maiming of them is among the lesser evils that have befallen many of the Canadian boys who have gone to serve in the army. It was admitted in the British House of Commons the other day that in one Canadian camp alone there were seven thousand men suffering from venereal disease, and medical reports in Great Britain show that ten per cent. of the forces are affected.

Of these thousands of men who have been ruined there are numbers who would not in any case have led a blameless life, but there are also thousands of clean-minded innocent young boys who would otherwise have been decent upright citizens who will now be nothing but a scourge to their country when they return and whose lives have been completely ruined. Their chances of marrying and having a happy home and healthy children have been taken away from them. Before any mother sees her son forcibly exposed to these temptations she has a right to say whether or not she is willing to have it so. When Everywoman's World took a vote of its women readers on the question of conscription recently it was defeated six to one. If this is any indication of public opinion, it is certainly a minority decision the government has arrived at. If you feel at all strongly on this question, bombard Premier Borden with letters demanding a referendum, and write at once.

Although the government doubtless intends to follow the example of Great Britain of taking first the single men and then extending the principle to apply to the married men, as the demand increases, it seems fairer to make it apply to both from the outset. If the good of the individual is to be set aside at the demands of the country, then the rights of the individual ought to be completely disregarded, and those men, married or single, left at home who are most useful to the country. There is nothing to be gained by deceiving ourselves, it means conscription for married men also, sooner or later, if the war goes on, as it seems likely to do, indefinitely. The Canadian government has followed, so far, exactly the system that was followed in England at the beginning of the war, and it is likely that they will continue to follow it in every particular.

Then as regards the conscription of wealth. It has been said over and over again that this war will be won by the silver bullet, but instead of the government getting this silver bullet through war loans at five per cent. and forever exempt from income tax, let them conscript the city houses and the bank accounts and the railways and the munition plants and the farms, and let all the citizens pay rent to the government. Then with this income pay a generous separation allowance to the wives of married men, and a liberal pension to their widows, and above all an especially generous pension to returned soldiers who are partially or completely disabled, so that these men who have faced death for their country may not need to be the subjects of charity from people who have gotten rich out of war profits. Moreover it is obviously unjust to conscript the life of the poor working man, which is all that stands between his family and destitution, while another man can go to the front knowing that in the event of his complete disablement, neither he nor his family will have to eke out a miserable existence for years and years to come.

Finally, before men are compelled to go against their will to serve in the army they have a right to know what they are fighting for, whether it is indeed the principle of democracy, which they were assured at the beginning of the war it was, or whether it is for territory, the acquisition of which will lead to the shedding of the blood of hundreds of thousands of other men at a later date, as territory snatching almost invariably does.

Over and over again members of the British House of Lords and House of Commons, Lord Loreburn, Lord Courtney, Philip Snowden, Mr. Smith and others who suspected that this war was being continued in order to enable the allies to acquire territory have endeavored to make the government state explicitly what it would consider a satisfactory settlement, but without success. Finally the matter was attacked in another way. Philip Snowden brought in a resolution welcoming the repudiation by the Russian government of all proposals for imperial conquest and aggrandisement and calling on the British government to issue a similar declaration on behalf of the British democracy, and the resolution was voted down. Also the new

Russian minister, M. Tereshtenko said the other day, "It is indeed ridiculous to speak at the present time of the annexationist plans of the allies as a real menace to just peace when Russia, Belgium, France and Serbia are themselves either entirely or partially occupied by the enemy." This man, speaking with authority, from the inside, takes the annexationist plans of the allies for granted.

Now as has been pointed out in this column over and over again there is no territory in the world that is worth the slaughter of human beings, and, moreover, this snatching of territory is a positively bad and wicked thing, sowing the seeds of other wars for other men to be slaughtered in. It is utterly opposed to the principle of democracy for which the British Empire is supposed to stand and for which men believe they are dying in this war. No group of people have a right to be transferred from one government to another without their own consent, in a fair referendum, and they ought so to be transferred at any time, whether in war time or peace. Therefore before conscription comes into force in Canada the British government



HIS VERY OWN

should be compelled to repudiate any desire for territorial aggrandisement. Men have no right to be forcibly killed and maimed to acquire a few acres of land.

—FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

NEED CLEAN THINKING

Dear Miss Beynon:—I also received catalogs from several leading mail order houses this season, and in looking them over thought the fornic of the young women who acted as models in some cases quite beautiful. My husband and brothers looked over these catalogs, but a "naughty remark" I never heard from one of them. "Naughty remarks" are the result of nasty thoughts, and we are the makers of our own thoughts. If we look for evil we can find it in anything.

Apparently our Creator did not think it necessary to dress us before we were born. We are told when Adam and Eve "sinned" they became ashamed and tried to cover themselves. When we look at a natural horse, cow or pig, does it cause us to become ashamed or pass "naughty remarks"? No, we are accustomed to it and therefore never think about it. We have just as much need to cover our animals for "shame's sake" to protect the morals of the people as we have to cover ourselves. We should cover ourselves for protection and warmth, not for shame. There is nothing more beautiful than a well formed human body, male or female, one is as beautiful as the other. When Jesus' disciples asked him, "When wilt thou be manifest unto us," he answered, "When ye shall be stripped and not be ashamed." "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." Which was as much as to say, When you have become pure in mind then only will you be able to understand and see me as I really am.

It is not the picture of the "half-naked womanly form" that are immoral and in need of correction, but the thoughts that are "manufactured" in the minds of those who see evil in what in reality is only natural. How dare we see anything "immoral" or "unclean" in anything our Creator made. Man sinned against his Creator, and himself mostly, when he began first believing that it was a shame to be naked, and out of

this sin have grown all the other sins, white slavery included. The Bible says, "God made man perfect, but man has sought out many inventions," and this sin of belief of shame in the naked body is one of man's inventions.

If the morals of the people of our country are in such a shaky condition that we cannot look upon illustrated catalogs without our minds becoming filled with evil imaginings, it is time we would set about to reform the minds of the people, and this is a matter which might well be taken up by women's clubs everywhere. A "filthy mind" capable of seeing evil, "into things" is as dangerous as a filthy backyard—it breeds diseased thoughts and passes them onto other people.

"Cursed be the social wants that sin against the strength of youth, cursed be the social lies that warp us from the living truth."—Tennyson, Locksley Hall. The purer anyone can keep his mind in every way, the more his judgment on anything can be relied upon. We cannot judge or understand anybody or anything exactly right with a spoiled mind, any more than we can do good work with a spoiled tool. "Tis the mind that makes the body rich."—Shakespeare. "It is the mind that maketh good or ill."—Spencer. I do not believe that many young men or women have been led to a wrong life who did not first start with a mind full of evil imaginings and "naughty jokes." Because some people have allowed their minds to be spoiled to such an extent that they cannot look upon a natural picture without their minds becoming filled with evil thoughts, and passing uncivilized remarks is no reason why the rest of us should allow ourselves to be contaminated. The pictures in the catalogs are necessary, and the more humanlike and natural, the more proof of progress and reform in catalog making. If we should read of some heathen race covering their animals to prevent moral disaster among the people, we should not be surprised, but Western Canadians are far past anything like that. I hope.

Suppressing such advertising will never in any way help to down white slavery, rather the reverse. Such an action would be nothing short of the purer minded people having to step down a notch to be level with the impure minded on this particular matter. It would be compelling them to recognize evil where there is none, instead of teaching the impure minded to look for good in everything, pictures or whatsoever. It is the mind that sees beauty and the best in everything which is the furthest away from white slavery, etc. I do not believe Westerners are aesthetically lacking.

I feel sure "A Reformer" has the best of intentions, but she is just as wrong as wrong can be—trying to put down the effect instead of the cause. Here's to you "Amused," "Common Sense" and "Petunia." I should like to know you.

A WESTERNER

KEEPING POLISH ON STOVE

Dear Miss Beynon:—We have taken The Guide for several years. I am an interested reader of your page. I am having trouble with keeping my stove clean. The stove polish will not stay on it, only two or three days at a time. It burns right off. So if you could give me any help in regard to this matter I would be very much pleased. What can I do with it to make the blacking stay on from one week to the next?

MISS MILDRED SORSDAHL.

Sask.

Will some kind reader who knows tell us what to do about this stove? F. M. B.

A PATCH UNDER PAINT

Dear Miss Beynon:—In a recent issue of The Guide I saw that you wish information in regard to painting linoleum. I have painted a floor covered with it this spring and it is very satisfactory. My linoleum was badly worn and I patched it before painting. The patch hardly shows at all. I found that it takes longer to dry than wood. I just used the ordinary floor paint. I hope this will be of some use to someone, as I have received much valuable help through your paper.

(MRS.) A. HALL.

Sask.

A NEW USE FOR SMALL POTATOES

Pick over the potatoes and sort the smallest ones into separate baskets. Wash them thoroughly with a vegetable brush. Then grate the potatoes without removing the skins, or else run them through a meat grinder. Pour clear water over the gratings and let them stand for a few hours. Remove the peelings and other foreign substances from the top. Then add more clear water and allow it to stand overnight, so the starch granules will settle to the bottom. The next morning scrape off the dark part of the starch again, strain it through a cheesecloth bag and allow the water to evaporate from it. This starch is useful in making cornstarch puddings, for the thickening of salad dressing, in milk dishes such as custards and ice creams, and also in pudding sauces. It is not much trouble to make the starch, and the small potatoes—for on a farm there are always several bushels when they are sorted—do not go to waste. A bushel of potatoes makes a quart and a half of starch and there is no expense to the preparation.—From The Ladies' Home Journal.