

When homesteading was new the trial seemed too great. During temporary fits of depression, when temporarily overcome by the rigors of a climate long since lessened by the cultivation of more land in the north, the husband appealed to her for the courage, friendship and guidance, that revived the determined effort. To whom could she, in turn, appeal for earthly guidance? If she was lonesome she hid her feelings.

To-day the land is almost cleared. Stock is grazing in the partly-cleared bush. Hay, cereal, and root crops are growing in abundance, and the family will soon be living in a better and more up-to-date home. The husband boasts of his independence, of the improved condition of his bank account since moving up from Norfolk county, but if he would tell a family secret he would tell you that the credit really belongs to his wife.

Hundreds of such true stories can be discovered in this new country. The best in womanhood is heroically serving its day and generation just as much as is the nurse in the hospital and elsewhere, perhaps more so. Greater Ontario is the richer for the labor and pain bestowed upon it by Canadian womanhood.

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This is a poor man's country, where agricultural wealth lies in abundance. No man will want or suffer privations while women pioneer. The writer was taking lunch in a primitive hotel in the district, when an injured Austrian wandered in at the back door. He had been released from an internment camp because he had promised to obey the law and comply with the King's regulations, and had been injured while at work. Discharged from hospital, he was on his way back to work, but hunger drove him in. Was he turned away? No! Son of an enemy soil he may be, but northern womanhood would not let him suffer unnecessary hardships. "This is a 'white man's' land," said the mistress, who manages that hostel. "Our doors are open to all who may come, rich or poor; we never turn a hungry man away."

Some day, not so very far off, these women of Greater Ontario, too, will enjoy the peace and comfort of rich and fully-developed farming communities, and help rule the destinies of the land that they have done so much to improve.