

HOME JOURNAL

A Department for the Family

People and Things the World Over

Japan, that marvellous little country, semi-barbarian but a generation ago, to-day one of the foremost in civilization, to be reckoned with as an educational, commercial and naval power, has now 445 technical schools, with over 4,500 preparatory technical schools. Of the 445, 204 are agricultural schools, 90 apprentice schools, 38 industrial, 15 marine products, 10 maritime, and there are 28 others. The Japanese have evidently realized, what might be more frequently realized in other countries, that, whatever be the life-work, foundation counts immeasurably; that life is too short to waste time in learning by experience what can be grasped in much less time by early instruction and practice, and that, upon industrial development rests the real progress of any nation.

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The Jews are at last in hopes that a preliminary step towards their final occupation of the Holy Land is in sight. A short time ago an invitation was given to the Jews, by Ahmed Riza Bey, President of the Turkish Chamber of Deputies, under the new government, to create a Jewish state in Mesopotamia. A movement is now afoot, under the leadership of Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, a wealthy banker, and Mr. Israel Zangwill, to carry out the project, and a geographical survey commission has been sent out by the Ica Society, to which the late Baron de Hirsch left \$45,000,000 for colonization purposes, to investigate conditions. The preliminary reports show that the land is fertile, only needing irrigation and thorough tillage to make it very prolific.

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A five-foot shelf of books very frequently does represent a wide and lofty culture—for the friends of the owner of the shelf. To be the owner of only five feet of books means only too often that the other 15 or 20 feet are in the parceled possession of people who wanted a particular volume merely for a day or two, or for a tedious railway trip, or only to read to a sick friend. Lists have been drawn up of the hundred best books and the hundred worst books. But neither Sir John Lubbock nor Lord Acton nor Doctor Eliot has really met the point. The hundred best books are the books our friends lug away or send back with finger marks on the margin. The hundred worst books are the books they leave us. We say this with all due consciousness of the fact that humanity shows itself at its very lowest in the man who locks his bookcase and makes it a principle not to lend. Some golden mean must be found between being miserly and being ruined. Might not some enterprising publisher put on the market a library of a hundred selected books intended exclusively for being given away?

The Congress of Women

"What use is this big gathering of women, anyway? Are they doing anything but talk? Is any real good being accomplished by it?" These are some of the questions asked by Mere Man when the Quinquennial Congress of the International Council of Women just closed in Toronto is being discussed. The questions are reasonable enough and may be asked with just as much relevance about men's conferences. The answers do not seem difficult when you have gone through a few sessions of the Council program. To begin with, if you know nothing whatever about a given subject you cannot be interested in it and if you are not interested you will never accomplish any thing along that particular line. Ignorance is the greatest enemy of our twentieth

century civilization. Our only hope for getting rid of evil and establishing good is in increasing our knowledge of the horrors of the one and the attractiveness of the other. The one way to cultivate that saving knowledge and to make it grow till it covers the earth as the waters cover the sea is to talk—or to write which is only another way of talking. The person who knows a little of one side of the great problem of humanity can meet and talk with the person who knows a little about another phase; both have increased their respective stories and are better prepared to talk again with people who know less or nothing about the matter.

The Congress of the Council of Women is not their work at all; it is merely their talk about their work. A congress meets only once in five years, and two weeks of talking, reporting progress, interchanging methods, building plans, does not seem to be too large a proportion out of five years of real activity. It is the stock-taking time, when the womanhood of the civilized nations of the world measures itself, each nationality with the others as a standard.

The International Council is a federation of the heads of all the great associations whose object in organizing was for the benefit of women and children along some line or other. There are represented there organizations whose aim is the care of defectives and feeble-minded, the enfranchisement of women, careers and professions for women, art, literature, philanthropy, the banishment of tuberculosis, temperance, social purity—all of the phases of human life in which women are directly or indirectly concerned—and there are not many in which they are not so concerned. All of the Council delegates are not interested in all of these topics, and for five years most of them have been working along some one of these lines—working faithfully and well, but with no thought of the other branches and of the workers on them. During those conversational two weeks each worker is bound to hear much of her own favorite course and also an immense amount regarding the others to which she had so far given little heed, not knowing before that all these were a part of hers and hers was bound up in them so that nothing could ever extricate them. She goes home better balanced and broader minded after that view. She has met women who knew more than she, and learned about nations who have exceeded her nation in dealing with disease, poverty, crime, and the other ills to which nations have so long been heir, and which, if women have their way, will soon be things of a dark past.

There is no doubt, too, that not only are the interest, knowledge and sympathy of the delegates broadened, but through the medium of the press the deliberations are carried to thoughtful men and women all over the world and they are going to know more and therefore do more because of this "talking time."

It was a hopeless task to try to hear all the discussions of all the topics on the program of the Quinquennial Congress of the International Council of Women which Canada had the honor of entertaining in Toronto during the last half of June. For five days the congress was divided into nine separate sections, each section holding two sessions a day with from one to six speakers taking part in each session.

The best one could do was to choose a section in which something that might prove of interest to FARMER'S ADVOCATE readers was being discussed and settle down there for a season, though no matter where the choice fell one had the uneasy feeling that good things were being missed somewhere else.

THE WOMEN OF THE CONGRESS

Canada can feel honored in being chosen as the meeting place of this great body of women. Five years ago they met in Berlin, and it has been decided that five years from now they will convene in Rome, but in spite of the great historical

attractions of these Old World cities there will be many pleasant memories of the June they spent in Canada among the women who have gathered from the ends of the earth. There are delegates from Great Britain and Ireland, United States, Sweden, Hungary, France, Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, Australasia, Italy, Austria, Norway, Belgium. The opening meeting and reception to delegates gave an excellent opportunity to see them all together. By far the majority of delegates were Anglo-Saxons, but it speaks for the general use of the English language when every delegate replied in the English tongue, sometimes a little halting over some of our puzzling constructions but always in well chosen words whose quaintness of accent was only an added charm. I wondered at the time how many of the English-speaking delegates could have borne themselves so well in Paris or Vienna if the languages of those countries had been used.

The foremost figure of course was Lady Aberdeen, wife of the Viceroy of Ireland, and herself president for two terms of the International Council of Women. Her chief interests lie along the widely differing lines of the fight against tuberculosis and the reviving of Irish industries. Canadians learned to know and feel a sense of ownership in her ever since Lord Aberdeen represented royalty at Rideau Hall from 1893 to 1898. During that time she was prime mover in the organization of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, and of the Aberdeen Association for providing literature to settlers in sparsely settled districts.

Miss Jane Addams is another woman whose work is familiar to us in Canada, though Chicago is the scene of her most energetic labors. Everybody has heard of Miss Addams and her settlement work at Hull House in one of the most crowded industrial sections of Chicago. A talk on her work was one of the most enjoyable features of the congress and the sweetness of her face, the richness yet simplicity of her voice and language were delightful attributes of the importance of her message, of which more will be written later.

The representatives from other than English speaking countries were all clever looking, charming and well dressed. Their English was delightful, so well chosen and with a surprisingly large vocabulary, and just enough foreign accent to make you pay attention so as not to miss a word. Chief of these, perhaps, in brains and heart and good looks stood Frau Marie Stritt of Germany whose English was almost perfect. She won every heart by her gracious unaffected manner, gay when gayety was in order and with a sober dignity when deep things were in question. She is the founder of the first Legal Aid Society for women in Germany. Fraulein Marie Herz is the baby of the congress delegates and is a board-school teacher in Dresden. Froken Elizabeth Gad of Denmark has kept that little but precious country well in the eyes of the delegates, for she is interested in everything to the extent of asking questions about what she did not understand. Her own special work is of sad importance in every country being the suppression of the White Slave Traffic—the universal blight. There are hundreds more of them, all worth telling about if only there were space. A very large proportion of them are trained workers and so know something of the needs and rights of working women. There are a score of teachers among them and a dozen practising physicians. There are as many editors as doctors, two ordained preachers, four agriculturists and a full-fledged lawyer. Nearly everyone of them has written a book and, strange or not, the special line of work undertaken by any one woman has led her slowly but surely to take her stand on the side of woman suffrage. It apparently is the result of going into the world's work to help other people fight their battles.

HOPE'S

WHAT WILL YOU
"What will you have
God." Pay for it and

This morning I re-
from one of our reader
chat on the subject of
1, 5: "Delight thyself
LORD; and He shall
desires of thine heart.
way unto the LORD
Him; and He shall bring
Thanking the writer of
her kind words—as I t
friends who help on the
by their sympathy; I
shall do my best to c
wishes.

It is a great thing to
urance that God's pl
us the desires of our
course, we all want to
have set our hearts
are conditions, you
covenant with condi
Those who "de
the Lord and t
selves and all that t
His hand, can safely e
their desires granted; fo
sires he wants to satis
possible to delight in C
in Him, without settin
on personal holiness a
and opportunity of ser
our beloved is beauti
beauty of shining holi
to be holy too. Bec
God, we must love our
love is always eager to
What will you have? I
desire is only to attain
pleasure—a pleasure th
you grasp it—why, you
begin all over again, as
attained, and perhaps y
been wasted with nothi
them. If your heart's d
come very rich, then y
the whole of life in pl
and go out through the
into the mysterious life
a starved soul, "nake
rags." What profit w
to a man to have "gai
world," if his gloriou
the soul—be shrivel
mean and stunted and
your heart's desire is
praise and admiration
lows, in country or city
that also will seem a v
bition when you look
journey from the door
really makes less differ
are apt to imagine who
praised or blamed—ex
it affects our daily l
If praise is an encourag
spiration to climb high
ter, then it is a gain.
make us rest on our o
a serious loss. If bla
cism crush out effort,
ness or cool enthusias
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if it should open our
faults and warn us to
ourselves and more in
will be a great advanta
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so may blame—or anyt
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all possess the Midas-
can convert what we t
ing gold—the gold of st
tiful character. As \n
minds us:

"All the bars at which
That seem to prison
Are but the doors of
Ajar before the soul."

But if you delight in t
if your heart's desir
nearer to Him in unsta
heart, while reaching
hand to struggling co
you, then the promise c
all your own. God will
ly give you your heart's
by little, as you are ab
but it must continue