

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY MARY P. McCALLUM

There is food enough in flesh and vegetables wasted in Canada every year to feed every hungry mouth if conserved and saved. Authorities in Britain state that the majority of people should save 10 per cent. more than usual and the more wealthy 20 to 25 per cent. Are we doing it?—Monetary Times.

THE MILLS OF THE GODS

"The mills of the Gods grind slowly, but they grind exceeding fine." There can be no unwarranted haste. Each stage of the process must come about in its own way and in its own good time. There is no use of frail humanity trying and fretting to make the mill turn faster. It can't be done without spoiling things.

Civilization is the grist. Evolution is the milling process. For a few thousand centuries evolution has been working at full capacity. It is impossible to work the mill any harder or any faster. To attempt to do so spells "disaster" for the mill and the grist. But everywhere we see ambitious and impatient people tampering with the mill machinery. They want to do big things and be famous just a little while before they are ground fine enough for the undertaking. We have seen men recklessly playing with the monkey-wrench all our lives and history tells us they were at it centuries before we were born, and all about us is the mess they have made of civilization.

There is an innate desire in every one of us to "monkey with the monkey-wrench." We want to see what will happen. We want to make things as they are not. The little boy takes his new train to pieces to see why it won't go straight instead of in a circle. The little girl takes her doll to pieces with the hope that she can make over the crooked arms.

The desire to tamper with the machinery of evolution has already seized some women. Women have come to the stage in evolution where they have been turned out of the mill as full-fledged citizens. The vast majority of us are citizens without experience. Some have much experience. The experienced citizens are a little finer ground than the others. The only difference is that the inexperienced must wait a little time until life has taught them more.

They must not attempt things for which they are not capable. And here is where we inexperienced citizens must procrastinate, must "hide our time."

I don't want my readers to think I am inconsistent, but I find that what I said two weeks ago needs qualifying. Then I agitated that women should be on every public school board and on every municipal council. Today I agitate it just as forcibly and as strongly as ever, but events have transpired which demonstrate that we are not all capable as yet of occupying such positions. There are those who are inexperienced in citizenship, those of us who are not fine enough ground, and it would in a degree be disastrous to civilization to let us tamper with the machinery of the mill. But I want to make this point plain, that it could be no more disastrous to let incapable women tamper with affairs than to let incapable men. There is this distinction, however, it would be ruinous to women's future place in public life to let the incapables establish a precedent of failure and disaster. The women who are today placed in public offices are surely blazing the trail for all and every woman who is to come after. It is imperative then that the first women in public office must demonstrate that they are not only as capable as men, but just a little more so. The eyes of the whole world, and especially of the male persuasion, are on these pioneer women in public places, and if they fail to make good there will be so great a chorus of "I told you so" that women's cause will be set back decades. Ambition and pride and fame must be placed to one side until we have reached the point where failure is impossible. The issues dependent are too great to take any chances.

However, I am glad that there are such women

in nearly every school district and in nearly every municipality who cannot fail, who are ground to the right consistency to warrant success attendant to their efforts. We must do all in our power to place in public offices those who are eminently capable and to dissuade the entrance in of the inexperienced.

I have followed with interest and hope the career of a woman who is seeking public office. I regret to say that I am afraid she is not of the consistency to make safe and popular women's advent into public life. As I said before, women must be more than ordinarily precautions about the platforms they adopt and about the statements that they make. It is discouraging to note failure for women in public life before they have entered it, but they will ultimately not fail if those who are not yet ready for the step will be content and patient in remembering that even if "the mills of the Gods grind slowly, they grind exceeding fine." There are scores of women all over the west of the finer ground material, and they must be the pioneers.

NEW YORK FOR SUFFRAGE

On November 6 was won for woman suffrage the greatest victory it has ever had or this continent. For more than 50 years the women of New York state have worked for the franchise, but only the other day were their efforts crowned with success. The victory was too dearly bought there to countenance any trifling with the sacred right. The issue of the Woman's Century of November 10 is so filled with hushed, wonderful rejoicing that I must clip these paragraphs to let you know how New York women are taking their great success. I should just like to say here for the women of all the Canadian west, that we join with the women of New York who have for more than a



Mrs. G. V. Wright of Kader, First Vice-President of the N.Y. W.S.A., doing her bit. Mrs. Wright, with the three daughters of the house, did service of national import all through the harvest.

half century worked so valiantly and patiently for their full rights as citizens, in rejoicing and happiness that their long struggle is ended. We know that New York state and the whole world must be not a little better for their perseverance against almost overwhelming odds, and at last their entrance into full citizenship in this the hour of their nation's supreme effort to make, as President Wilson said, "the world safe for democracy." We are glad with them that the world will be even safer for democracy for their having a share in making it so.

The Citizen says: "The mighty chorus fairly burst the walls of the historic house at 3 East 38th Street on the night of November 6; it went carolling out into the side streets and up and down the avenues; it reached crescendo at 303 Fifth Avenue; it was caught and hummed and whistled by the homeward bound on street cars and in buses; on subway and on elevated; Buffalo began to sing it; Syracuse and Schenectady and Cohoes caught the tune; by midnight all the 'up-state' world had aroused and was a thrill to the glory of it."

"New York state had been won to woman suffrage and New York women were measuring up to their new stature of responsibility and dignity with a fervid gladness in their hearts and a song of thanksgiving on their lips."

"It was about 10 o'clock on Tuesday night when the streets began to realize that a new thing in election thrills had happened. Horns and bells and small boys were shrilling for Hyman and Tammany Hall, when high above the din the newswires' verbiage began a new cry, never heard before on election night in New York City—'Suffragettes win'—'Wimmen's votes ahead.'"

"Soldiers in khaki with girls on their arms; wild gangs of election nighters almost stood still in their tracks. Incredulity, interest, but on the whole good fellowship, filled the streets. Women who had watched at the polls since daybreak were breathlessly viewing the telautograph at Times Square. Too awed even to cheer, they waited, hushed. More than one said: 'It seems so solemn—too solemn for rejoicing.' Then everyone, to the humblest, straightened herself, as if declaring: 'We must use this vote we have just won for the good of the city and of the state.'"

THE STAR'S POINTS

"I think all mothers make images to themselves of what they wish their child to be," writes Mrs. Bates, in Social Life. "I think always of my boy as a five-pointed star which I wish to grow into radiance."

"And thus, the first point of that star is Christian manliness, faith in and respect for God and his laws. And the second point of that star is fearlessness in telling the truth that he may always be honored for his word. And the third point of the star is that he shall have true physical courage, respect for the weak, equality with the strong, defiance for the cowardly. And the fourth point of the star is that he shall honestly love me and through this love have honor all his life for all womanhood."

"Thus I come to the last point of this star of which I have dreamed and that is that he shall always have moral courage, ability to resist a temptation, ability to manfully correct an error, ability to stand for the right under all circumstances, no matter what the cost."

SHE HELPS THE WOUNDED

War brings to light unexpected gifts and powers. An American woman in France has invented so many new and successful surgical devices that the government has made her Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Three years ago she had scarcely seen the inside of a hospital. Today she is looked upon as one of the world's greatest authorities in the invention and use of surgical appliances.

Miss Grace Gassette is a Chicago artist. She was in Paris when the war broke out and she offered her services in the surgical dressing room of the American Ambulance at Neuilly. For 26 months she superintended that department. The Modern Hospital for August says:

"It was soon discovered that the ordinary orthopedic appliances would not serve for the extraordinary fractures of battle, and then it was that Miss Gassette began to invent simple devices to aid the surgeons. These devices held the limbs in position so that the wounds could be drained and amputation avoided. The appliances were so successful that other surgeons and other hospitals wanted them. The demand became so insistent that a special committee was organized to carry on this work."

Miss Gassette has invented more than 60 new appliances. In a letter written last March, with no thought of publication, she said:

"I did not realize that I was doing anything extraordinary until doctor after doctor told me, and the French doctors begged me to help them. They gave me their cases with a free hand, and so far the results have been beyond the expectations of everyone. An American surgeon who is here for our government told me today, after he had spent his morning in my clinic, 'You will pass the rest of your life as an orthopedic consultant.' Every one tells me that my methods are entirely new. Besides the clinical work, we make and supply free all kinds of appliances, which I have worked out for hospital use. Since we started in the fall we have supplied 80 hospitals, two in Roumania run by French, and yesterday they came for a big hospital in Saloniki. We have given out over 6,000 pieces of appliances and have about 5,000 on hand."

"The best testimonials come from the men who are helped. It would do your heart good could you see their happy faces when they find their helpless arms and legs restored. One poor fellow with two broken vertebrae had been helpless for months, most of the time in a plaster cast so heavy that he could not walk. For him I made an aluminum corset well padded inside."—A.S.B. in Woman Citizen.