

Saskatchewan Homemakers' Convention

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restors and descendants, the ancestors being the famous pipes of Pau and the descendants the concert flute, which moved in quite aristocratic company.

Medical Aid

Mrs. Cartridge, of Grand Coulee, filled the position of chairman at the Wednesday afternoon session with a tact and ability that was the envy of all her sister Homemakers. The first of her pleasant duties was to introduce Mrs. John McNaughtan, president of the Women's Section of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, who had come to address the convention on the subject of medical aid in rural districts.

Mrs. McNaughtan came before her audience armed with facts and figures which told their own tale of the cost of maternity in rural districts. The infant mortality rate was, she said, 74.81, and one woman in every three in the province of Saskatchewan was materially injured in childbirth. Thru the influence of the Homemakers' clubs a grant of \$25 for needy mothers had been secured from the government, with the stipulation that at least \$15 of this sum should be spent to defray the expense of a doctor's attendance. This was a step in the right direction, but it did not go far enough. The speaker went on to advocate inter-municipal hospitals, municipal nurses and asked the convention to think over the matter of establishing some system of midwifery such as existed in the old country.

First Ruthenian Club

The need of neighborliness on the part of the new neighbor, in this instance the Ruthenian settlers, was set forth with a quaint charm by Mrs. Kirstuke, of Theodore. To broaden the audience's understanding of her people Mrs. Kirstuk began with a little sketch of the history of the Ruthenian or, more correct, the Ukrainian race. After a glimpse at their early freedom and happiness, she touched briefly, but feelingly, upon the misery which followed their betrayal by Russia and their bondage to that country, when to speak or write their own tongue was an offence against the law, when the men were sold into a partial slavery and the women were often made to be worse than slaves to their Russian masters. Whipped and scourged and beaten, education had died out among the peasant class, but their remained a quite large class of educated Ukrainians. The majority of those who had come to Canada belonged to the unschooled, many of them so ignorant that they scarcely knew themselves the race to which they belong, calling themselves Buckowinians, Austrians, or Galicians after the province or country from which they came.

The Homemakers' club that had been organized among her people in the district near Theodore had been largely due to the interest shown in her people by Dr. and Mrs. Atkins, of Theodore. At first they had merely hoped to interest some of the younger women in the district, but they had found some of the older women equally as enthusiastic. They had discussed at their meetings care of the sick, management of the children, health and gardening. Frequently they had read an article from an English magazine which had been translated into their own language. Mrs. Kirstuke summed up the advantages of the club in the statement that to make people better socially, morally and physically is to make them better citizens.

What Manitoba is Doing

Mrs. Dayton, of Virden, Man., brought news of the things that are being accomplished by the Home Economics Society in the sister province. From their own branch of the organization the movement for medical inspection of schools had spread to other towns and over the province until Manitoba had been divided into five districts with a nurse in charge of each. Rest rooms were being very generally established and were proving not only pleasurable to the country women but profitable to the town. Unofficially,

too, there existed among the prominent women of this society a sort of a helping hand organization for girls who had made the great mistake in life.

That books were indeed "a finer world within the world" was made so tangible and clear to the convention by Dr. Wilson, of Saskatchewan University, in an address on "Reading in the Home," that it will be surprising if bookshelves don't immediately begin to grow in numbers in the homes of those who listened to his inspiring lecture. The greater and more spiritual world to which books open the door was made very real, the speaker finding in this richer and fuller life the interpretation of such scriptural passages as, "I came that they might not only have life but have it more abundantly." A list of books of great cultural value has been prepared and will be printed in The Guide of a later date.

The Slavic Mother

The question contained in the title of the address delivered by Mr. Anderson, inspector of schools, from Yorkton, "What has Saskatchewan done for her Slavic mothers?" was answered with the statement that she has done very little, tho in his own inspectorial district of Yorkton some small beginnings had been made. The town of Yorkton had appointed one of the ablest teachers from the regular staff to teach the newcomers to our country in night school. This effort had met with the utmost sympathy from those whom it was designed to help, numbering among its attendants people of all ages. During its operation three hundred students had received a working knowledge of English. Field days are being held in connection with a number of the foreign schools, and the improvement in the use of the English language and the dress of the children is very remarkable from year to year. Mr. Anderson rated severely the neglect of the ordinary country school, where the scrubbing is done once or at most twice a year, where there is dirt around the door knobs and dust around the baseboards. The Ruthenian districts are much better in this respect, scrubbing and cleaning their schools twice a month. A new thought was introduced by the speaker in the suggestion that it was the English districts which should have the foreign teachers and the foreign districts should have the English teachers, in order that we might exchange our point of view. Nor was this as impracticable as one might think, since a great many foreign students were making a splendid record in scholarships and were doing excellent work as teachers. The inter-marriage of these races was another eventuality which had to be faced. As a means to the better understanding of these Slavic people he strongly recommended the reading of a book called "Our Slavic Fellow-Citizens," by Emily Balch.

Relation of Politics to Life

Politics, the supposedly evil and malign side of human life, was boldly introduced into the deliberations of the convention by Mrs. A. V. Thomas, who argued that politics touched every side of our lives, and that the sordidness of them was not a necessary attribute of politics, even of the party type, but a reproach to our own sense of honor and our ideals of citizenship. She pictured the woman of the past as resembling the child who runs out to the stable and asks daddy to take it for a ride, and who is set upon the horse and allowed to go around the yard with daddy's hand on the rein. But the woman of today, having accomplished her political emancipation, has struck the hand from the bridle and set forth upon the high road. The new power combined with organization will enable women to accomplish almost anything they undertake, and the striving for things will develop and bring out all the latent powers in them. The three things which the speaker hoped those present would do something very definite about were the teaching of sex hygiene to children, medical aid for rural districts and the study of international relations.

In a paper entitled "Our home beautiful," Mrs. Arthur, of Bradwell, pictured the ideal home as one of plain, soft toned walls, unobtrusive woodwork, and furniture that is at once good

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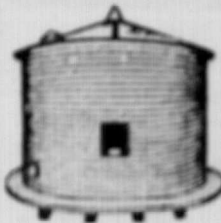
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