

# The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYRON

## MIS-FITS

Are there any really good-for-nothing people or are there only mis-fits? Business is beginning to find that in the army of humanity it used to turn away every year as so much industrial waste, there are recruits for all sorts of occupations. Business is also finding that it is much more economical to fit the job to the man than to discharge him.

Until very recently the regular procedure in any big institution was to engage a man for a particular work, and if he failed to accomplish it successfully, to discharge him. Now the more up-to-date establishments have recognized the enormous waste involved in this method.

A great saving is effected by trying the person who fails at one job with different kinds of work until something is found which he is capable of doing successfully. Some have to be tried in three or four different departments before they make good. Then they find something which comes to them quite easily and naturally and instead of being mis-fits they become valued employees. Many interesting examples of this fitting of the job to the person are given by Burton J. Hendrick, writing in Harper's Magazine.

A girl with all the technical details of her profession at her finger ends failed repeatedly until she was given some work which involved considerable responsibility and supervision of others, when she blossomed out into the greatest efficiency. A man who was so nervous running a machine that he became run down in health, was given executive work in the business and rose to a very high position in the company. A young man whose family had coerced him into the legal profession, and who had been driven by his distaste for it to seek diversion that came near ruining him, went onto a fruit farm and made a success of it that exceeded the highest anticipations of his family.

The writer demonstrated by very convincing facts and figures that the people who cannot be adapted to some kind of useful work are very few indeed. That so many of what are generally considered life's failures are just people who are doing work for which they are not fitted ought to give pause to those parents who already, while the baby is in the cradle, have his future occupation settled.

The pity of it is that, even without any undue influence being brought to bear upon them, many people choose work which is not especially congenial and as a result their usefulness to society is greatly reduced.

## THE NEW WOMAN SENATOR

The election of Miss Jeannette Rankin to the National House of Representatives at Washington is a great victory for the woman movement in that she ran on the Republican ticket and was the only candidate of importance on that ticket to be elected in the state of Montana. Montana elected a Democratic governor, the other representative to congress is a Democrat and the state voted for the Democratic candidate for president.

As she is also the first woman to hold such a position in the nation, the suffragists all over the country are greatly elated by her victory.

Miss Rankin is a graduate of the State University of Montana and has taken special training in social work of various kinds. In the interests of her work as a propagandist she deliberately set out to make herself into a successful orator and studied diligently under a teacher of public speaking in New York. As a result she is probably one of the most acceptable women speakers in the United States, where women of marked ability on the platform are not by any means the exception.

Miss Rankin is reputed to be about thirty-four years of age, five feet four inches tall, slender and brown haired. She makes her own dresses and hats and is famous for a specially good lemon pie she has learned to concoct. The salary connected with her new office is seven thousand five hundred dollars a year.

## APPLIED CHRISTIANITY

The outstanding personality of the Social Welfare Congress, held in Winnipeg the first of December, was Raymond Robins, with his plain practical application of the teachings of Christ to every day life. A Christian who has so much of the broad, kindly, tolerant sympathy of Christ is very rare indeed, particularly in these days, when, as Bernard Shaw says the church of the Prince of Peace, has been turned into a recruiting station.

Raymond Robins does not, like so many of Christ's professed followers, believe that He preached a religion which has no practical relation to the problems of today, that He was an impossible dreamer. He apparently believes that every one of His theories of life is really workable.

He finds that Christ taught a doctrine of social responsibility and he said in one of his addresses, "the man who prays, 'Give us—not just me and my family, but all of us—this day our daily bread,' and does not do everything in his power to see that every one has a chance to earn that daily bread, is a liar and a hypocrite."

This question of the daily bread has come very near to Mr. Robins, who has lived for sixteen years in one of the poorest wards in Chicago. He has spent that time, not in doling out charity to the people in his immediate vicinity, but he has used his great fortune to fight the battles of the poor, in the support of trade unions, in the interests of land values taxation, suffrage and the control of organized vice. He is an evangelist, but very different from some of the old school, who used to teach the poor that it was the will of God that they should be obliged to raise their children amidst poverty, sin and disease.

## STILL WORKING

The suffrage was defeated in West Virginia and again in South Dakota, the women just paused long enough to take breath and are up and at it once more. It is a little discouraging that South Dakota did not do better after the excellent example set her by Western Canada, but the workers to the south are all the more determined that the next time she will come into line.

## ONTARIO PETITION

A petition in the interest of woman suffrage is being circulated in Ontario and it is hoped it will have enough



A SMART TURN-OUT

signatures to convince the legislature that it might as well enact this inevitable reform now as later.

It is natural that their political disabilities should seem particularly irksome to the women of Ontario since their sisters in the four provinces to the west have become citizens, and particularly since those in Manitoba and British Columbia have the Dominion franchise.

## RE-MAKING LAWS

The Legislative Committee of the Political Educational League of Manitoba is looking into the matter of reforming the laws relating to dower, inheritance and guardianship of children, and as soon as the proposed laws have been drafted they will be sent out to the women's organizations for their approval.

## PROFIT IN GEESE

While I have made good sales of butter, berries and eggs, I have found the most profit for the labor in raising geese. For about ten years I have kept two or three geese and a gander, but I intend to keep more breeders as we have recently bought some Bayed Plymouth Rock hens for "setters."

I always let the hens have the first clutches of goose eggs "breaking up" the goose as soon as she wants to brood. The second clutch of eggs, which is smaller, I give to the goose as soon as she lines her nest with down.

I put about six eggs under a hen and eleven under a goose, according to size of bird and eggs.

As soon as the goslings are dry, I dust them thoroughly with insect powder. The mothers are dusted both before and after hatching. For the first two weeks I keep the goslings in pens on grass if the weather is warm; by the kitchen stove or in the wood-shed if it is cold. Their first food is bread crumbs—dry, not hard—tepid water three times daily and grass. At the end of two weeks I feed twice daily and soon just feed at night sufficient to keep them contented. Their quarters are clean and dry and they are never left out at night until their feathers start. I never put over ten in a pen as they do not stand being crowded.

I used to pick the geese at moulting time; the old ones yield about three-quarters of a pound and the

young, one-half pound of feathers. They bring from sixty-five to eighty-five cents a pound.

In the fall they are fattened with corn and sold before Christmas. Last year we did not have corn so disposed of them off the pasture. I raised twenty-nine, gave two away dressed and dressed two for ourselves. I sold four ganders at one dollar and fifty cents each and twenty alive, averaging thirteen pounds each, at ten cents a pound. We kept one for breeding. Those we dressed paid the board bill as they ate very little grain. Thus I cleared thirty-two dollars for about one month's caring for them while small.

This year I plan to dress the birds for customers. I shall then have the feathers and ought to clear at least two dollars a goose. I have a few orders for pillows and these will increase profits.—Daisy C. Fickes, Illinois, in The Farmer's Wife.

## THE GIVING OF GIFTS

What are you going to give for Christmas? By the time you read these words the answer to that question will be urging itself upon you, because, unfortunately, custom has made that day a day of exchanging "presents"—gifts that all too frequently represent an unwise outlay on the part of the givers and no utility for the recipients. It is that that is destroying the sanctity of this otherwise happy festival. With the giving of gifts we are in entire accord, but let them be useful, not too rich for your purse and purchased with a thought for the personality of the ones who will open them on Christmas day.

In all the stores preparations have gone forward for the mobs of visitors who will crowd them until late on the very eve of Christmas. Miles of counters display millions of dollars' worth of merchandise made just for this purpose. Much of it is gaudy, glittering, cheap, in imitation of the honest goods that are most in demand throughout the year. Along these counters pass thousands of eager shoppers—all the world, it seems, goes thru the stores in December—most of them not knowing what they want, few of them buying and going about their business. Up and down and in and out they go, until in desperation they decide upon a plausible something for somebody on their list. And a million times a day goes up the prayer-like thought, "I'll be glad when Christmas is over."

Back of the counters are those most to be pitied. To them this orgy of buying means the straining of nerves and muscles to meet the demands of employers, an unreasonableness forced upon the latter by the thoughtlessness of the Christmas shoppers. With the whole community to be served within a few days it is impossible for the clerks not to be overworked—and so grows the army of those who dread the coming of the birthday of the Lord.

What can you do? Two things, join the increasing number of those who give books and magazines, and do your shopping early—in the month and in the day. The objection is made that the late buyers are given a wider choice and cheaper prices. If these considerations count with you, you are not a true giver. "The gift without the giver is bare." Choose what you want to give, and if you have in your heart the serenity of the wise giver, you will not care if all the prices in Christendom are lowered. Best of all, thinking of both the recipient and the seller, choose some useful thing, go and get it and go home.

"The time draws near the birth of Christ." If you believe in Him, let a little of His spirit guide your preparations for the day. If His teachings have not impressed you, if you follow after other gods or none, then let that fellow-feeling which is the essence of the brotherhood of man guide you into such an observance of the holy day that no one because of you will have occasion to regret its coming.—Good House-keeping Magazine.

## EASY WAY TO WASH WINDOWS

Instead of using cleaning powders to wash the windowpanes, take a chamois skin, which can be obtained for twenty-five cents at any drug store, and using clear, warm water, wash the glass clean with this. Wring out dry and wipe window, which will be perfectly clear, as there is no lint to adhere to it. Windows are in this way perfectly cleaned in less than half the time it usually takes.—J.M.F.

## HIGH FINANCE

"Another new hat? You should really save your money, with the price of everything going up."

"But why? The longer I save it, the less I can buy with it."

Mrs. B. saw her little three-year-old daughter come from the back door of the house next door eating a cookie, and when the little lady came into the house her mother turned to her and said:

"Why, Elsie, you must not ask Mrs. K. for cookies."

"I didn't ask her, mother," said Elsie; "I know where she keeps them."

—From the Delineator.