

CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL

An Illustrated Monthly Publication Devoted to the Interests of Canadian Women and Canadian Homes.

Official Organ of the Women's Canadian Historical Society and the Woman's Art Association of Canada.

EDITED BY

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EDITOR'S CORNER.

New Century Welcome. THE inspiration that comes with every new year comes with increased force as we write 1901, remembering that we have not alone entered a new year, but what is not the privilege of everyone, a new century also. The days that have gone by will be measured by the individual from many different standpoints. Each one has had his and her own troubles—each some measure of success. The century gone has been one so marked by events as to make it something for each of us to say that we have lived in such a century. The younger ones who will be spared to advance some reasonable distance into the new century can tell the story of the past with interest to their children and their grandchildren. It is true now, as at all times, that the mill cannot grind with the water that is past, and the events of the old century will only serve their most useful purpose by proving a stimulus to greater effort in the new century, and the new century will not have fully served its purpose unless it proves an inspiration to higher and better ideals—a more complete and perfect life in the years that will be spared to each one in the twentieth century.

100 Years Ago. A VOLUME might easily be written of the changes that have taken place within the century that has gone by. Some interesting talks have already appeared, taking a retrospect of these hundred years. It comes to only some to have been participants in the greater number of the hundred years that have gone by. One of these has sent us an interesting contribution for the present number of the CANADIAN

HOME JOURNAL. The article, "Now and Then," by the Hon. Freeman Talbot, who has lived through nearly all of the century, and now at ninety years of age has written with his own hand an article reviewing some of the changes of the century, will be read with interest by a large number of our readers. They only can appreciate what is meant who have lived within the closing twenty-five years of the old century—benefits not to be contrasted with the rude methods of the first twenty-five years, and even the first fifty years. The article is suggestive of the work that has been done in the ranks of life by those who have been the pioneers. We sometimes forget how much we owe to those valiant sappers and miners of early days who carved out the forest for us and made it possible that we should live as we do in these days, with all the advantages that have come with them.

The Gift of Talking. THIS is sometimes spoken of as a talking age when, with the number of democratic institutions in this country, everyone aspires to being a talker. In a sense this is true. There is a good deal of public talking—some think too much—and a recent writer in one of our magazines has indicated that there is a good deal of talking, like some of the firing in battle, where there is little ammunition in the gun. But whether this statement, regarding the evidence of talking in public is true or not, there would seem to be reason to believe that the old and happy art of social conversation is dying out. We have no conversationalists—or few of them—like those of the days of old. Thoughts and information are communicated to us through the public platform and from the pulpit and through the press, and to very little extent in that most charming of all ways as a result of social and family conversation. A correspondent urges as a movement for the new century a return of the old days of social conversation, and yearns for the growth of the individual conversationalist, who shall charm all who come within the range of his or her voice.

Home Reading Union. ANY movement that will help in the development of the intellectual faculties and the improvement of the taste within another century may well be welcomed. Such is an objective point with the National Home Reading Union, a Canadian organization that is aiming to spread its branches throughout all parts of the Dominion. The primary purpose is the promotion of reading, and not only of reading but of systematic reading of good books. In his recently published letters Matthew Arnold, in a letter of advice to a busy lady, strongly advised her to keep up her reading, even if she had only a very little time to give to it, and he continued to say: "Desultory reading is mere anodyne; regular reading is restoring and edifying." That sentiment might serve as a motto of the N. H. R. U., for it well expresses the result of carrying out this course of reading. A great many people read inferior and trashy books, not so much because they prefer them as because they lie more to their hands, are so much more easily got, and so much cheaper. They would be just as much interested in good books if they could get them as easily and cheaply, and many are prevented from reading better books from a lack of know-

ledge as to what is good and bad more than from actual bad taste. The saying, "Show me a man's friends and I will tell you what kind of a man he is," might be changed with equal truth to "Show me the books a man reads and I will tell you his character." The Home Reading Union aims to establish circles of reading, though when this is not convenient there may be the individual reader. The Union was started in Canada under the auspices of the National Council of Women, but it by no means excludes men, a course of reading being drawn up with just as much regard for the subjects likely to interest men as for those which are of interest to women; and in England, where the movement has made a good deal of headway, the names of a large number of men and boys are on the roll. The CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL welcomes the movement, and has no doubt that Mrs. McKim, whose address is 37 Macgregor Street, Montreal, will gladly give more detailed information on receipt of application from any of our readers.

A Guess at the Canadian Census.

\$10,000 in Cash to be Given Away.

WE ask the attention of the readers of the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL to the full-page advertisement of the publishers on the last page of cover. Arrangements have been made with the Press Publishing Association, making it possible for our readers to be participants in the \$10,000 to be distributed in 1,000 cash prizes among those making the nearest guess or estimate of the population of the Dominion of Canada as shown by the official census of 1901, which will be taken April 1.

The proposition is one that will commend itself to the best class of readers. There need not be any hesitancy as regards financial guarantee. The statement of the president of the Central Savings Bank is evidence of the safety on this point. It is worth while everyone reading the announcement carefully, and when that is done we feel sure that there will be a large response.

For the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL.

New Year's Wish.

MAY this new year be glad and bright,
As when the day succeeds the night,
When sunshine chases clouds away,
And brightly beams the new-born day!
So may new mercies crown thy life,
And keep thy bosom free from strife;
And may thy path with brighter rays,
Shine more and more to perfect day.
And when this year is growing old
And autumn tints the leaves with gold,
May you look back upon its days
With grateful thanks and tuneful praise
To Him who gave you life and love,
And every blessing from above.
And when on earth your years shall cease,
May your life close in perfect peace;
And when your work on earth is o'er,
And you have reached that shining shore,
You'll hear the Father's "Welcome home,"
And hear your Saviour's glad "Well done."

J. A. P.

THERE will be no opportunity in that happy realm to learn or show the spirit of patience, forbearance, and long-suffering. If you are ever to learn these things you must learn them now.—Matthew Simpson.

Few men can keep good resolutions and a diary at the same time.