

# The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

## A PRAYER

The day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man; help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces; let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day, bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonored and grant us in the end the gift of sleep.—R.L.S.

## THE WOMAN'S PAGE OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

It was only yesterday that women's pages used to be filled with prescriptions for making furniture out of boxes, beauty hints and instructions for the young girl as to the words in which she should bid adieu to her gentleman caller.

Within the last few years we have advanced a revolution or two. Now, we are not concerned so much about making our necks full and swan-like as we are in building up sound, healthy bodies generally. Our domestic relations occupy a large share of the attention of women's magazines—how to get along most happily with brother, husband, sister. The editors are trying to teach the women in the home through reading what business is teaching those out of it by hard knocks—that there is a law of give and take; that the way to be happy in this world is to live and let live.

Housekeeping has been discovered to be a science and the proper sanitary care of our homes and children, the intelligent up-bringing of the growing generation, the woman's right to take up land and to have a voice in the affairs of the nation have crept into the woman's page and crowded the beauty notes nearly out of existence. That is the woman's page of today.

The woman's page of tomorrow will be filled, I hope, with broader questions including those which have no special relation to sex. The time is coming, I am convinced, when the interest of women will have broadened out from the narrow confines of their own family life to include the life of that larger family—the nation. We can't shut our children up inside of our own four walls and keep them from the contamination of the life outside. They will be obliged to face it sooner or later and the only way to protect them is to clean up the civic and national life by which they are surrounded.

Women are beginning to realize this and there is a great stirring and restlessness among them—and the end is not yet. I can see magnificent possibilities in the woman's page of to-morrow—or will it melt away out of existence as men's and women's interests become more identical? I wonder.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

## NOT A TIGHT WAD'S WIFE

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have read with interest, and sometimes amusement, the letters in The Country Homemakers page of The Guide, but never was moved to write till I read the letter in November 13 issue, by a "Northwest Woman." I feel obliged to say a few words in defence of the average man. Are there many wives treated as she describes? Let us hope not. Like F.M.B., I am of the opinion that it is, to a certain extent, a woman's own fault if she allows herself to be imposed upon in this fashion. Of course, there are men and men, but, surely, the tight wads are the exception, not the rule.

People's ideas of "duty" differ, no doubt, but, it seems to me, "A Northwest Woman" is only educating her boys—and I presume from her letter she has boys—up to their father's standard. When they marry, will they not be likely to show their wives the same consideration and respect (or rather the lack of it) that is being shown their mother? Surely, unless they are fortunate enough to marry girls who will hold their own.

Also, it seems to me a duty as much as a privilege for a farmer's wife to take time to go and do the necessary shopping,

especially when there is butter and eggs to market; and if he would trust her to buy supplies for the house and pay for them without a murmur, surely it would not be very hard to add a few luxuries for herself and let him pay for them. His regrets afterwards would not hurt any one. A woman's first duty is to herself.

Perhaps I am not sympathetic enough as I have had no experience with such men. My husband is a man who prefers his own fireside to any place in the world, and my company to that of any of the "boys," hence his livery and other expenses while he is loafing in town do not take much out of our year's income. Our family is small and, I suppose, I have not had to work as hard as some of the women who tell such harrowing tales; nevertheless, we have known what hard times meant. But we have always pulled together and that is the main thing. Every transaction from buying a pair of boots to selling a cow is of equal interest to both and the result is a "partnership" that is quite satisfactory.

No doubt many women have a hard time, especially when the family is numerous and, no doubt, they have cause to feel discouraged, especially if the husband does not seem to feel any responsibility with regard to the children. I know men who would rather mind the baby any day than go to the store and trade. Others are quite at home buying prints and gingham, but they do not often buy to the best advantage.

If women would give the men to understand when the first baby arrives that it is "theirs" not "hers" and that

Most men vote for party and let principle go hang. Most married women would vote as their husbands do, unless on the temperance question, but many others, including intelligent, reasoning, unmarried women, would, I am sure, show more sense in casting their votes than lots of men. I think they should have a try at it anyway. If this is too long, cut out what you consider not worth printing (perhaps all of it). I will sign myself

CONTENTED.

I have changed your pen name a little as we already have one Content in our club.

## A GREAT READER

Dear Miss Beynon:—This is my first letter to your Homemakers' page, of which I have been an interested reader for some time. I am sure it is a great help to us homesteaders. I often thank God for such lives as yours—writers who can help by their pen to make other lives on the lonely farms brighter. Life out here, 45 miles from town, certainly would be most lonesome and dreary, in winter especially, if we had not the papers we have. Besides The Guide we take the Farmer's Advocate, Northwest Farmer, Western Home Monthly, Farm and Ranch Review, Canadian Home Journal, Family Herald and Bulletin, Physical Culture and other magazines.

I enclose stamps for your books, "How to Teach the Truth to Children" and "The Most Beautiful Story in the World." I have a little girl ten years old. She goes to school two miles

page, and if you'll give me room I'll give my opinion of the subject. Then some one else may take courage and give their views also.

Many think women are not capable of farming and fulfilling the duties of a homesteader, as they lack physical strength, business ability, etc., but that is a big mistake. I know personally young women who have made a success of homesteading in the United States and why cannot Canadian women do the same? Then widows are permitted to take a farm of 160 acres and are they any better fitted than an unmarried woman? As to business ability most women are an example to men of their ability to save and manage farm affairs and make things go.

I think it would be better to let our girls own the land than to give it to undesirable foreigners and outcasts of other countries who do nothing to improve the West and are a drag on the wheels of progress. Surely a Canadian girl is as good as an outsider.

Speculators are buying land on every side and do not bring anyone in to settle on it, so they are retarding the settlement of the country and making it bad for the few homesteaders near their land, for it is impossible to get schools where families are few and far between. Now, if girls could secure land as well as the boys this would attract actual settlers, as most parents will do a great deal to keep the family together, and under the present condition of affairs the city offers greater chances for the girls and boys to find work close to home, where all can keep together.

If young women were allowed to hold a homestead fewer would go to the city to make a living, and hired girls would be easier to get in the country. Then, if the girls stayed on the farm fewer would go astray in the lonely, friendless city.

And don't you think if the girls remained in the country the young men would also, for youth naturally finds pleasure in the company of the opposite sex.

Now, men and women with girls of your own, come on, discuss the question carefully and see if something can't be done to give the girls as fair a chance as the boys, and be quick or the homesteads will all be gone and we'll be sorry when it is too late. I remain,

Yours truly,

WIFE OF NORWEGIAN.

I agree with everything you say, and hope that the time will soon come when men and women are financially equal.—F.M.B.

## WHERE ARE THOSE ANTIS?

In the excitement over the new suffrage States, an interesting feature of the election in California has been overlooked.

When California adopted equal suffrage last year, it also adopted the Initiative and Referendum. The anti-suffragists at once began to circulate an initiative petition for the repeal of woman suffrage. They declared that 80 per cent. of California women were opposed to having the ballot "thrust upon them," and that at this year's election the women would triumphantly disfranchise themselves. They could have done it, of course, if they had wished.

These boasts, loudly made at first in anti-suffrage circles, have grown fainter as time passed on, and of late nothing has been heard about that initiative petition. Apparently it never got signatures enough even to be officially filed. California women have voted during the past year at many local elections, and no doubt the more they vote the better they like it.

We are often told that whenever the majority of women want the ballot they will get it. Let us not forget that whenever the majority of women in any enfranchised state want to get rid of the ballot they can get rid of it. The "burden" can be laid down at will. But they never do it.—A.S.B.



Jellies tastefully prepared as gifts. Home-made Candy could be similarly treated

he must help to raise it, and if the men would only realize this, there would be fewer unhappy homes. In some cases the wife becomes so engrossed with caring for the children and other household cares that she almost ignores her husband's existence. If a man had any inclination before marriage to keep bad company it is quite natural for him to drift back into it if he finds his wife has no time for him any more.

I am afraid I am making this too long, much longer than I had intended, but as a politician would say "It is a broad question" and there are so many standpoints to view it from. Mine is that of a woman who has never regretted the marriage vows or found the ties irksome, and perhaps my views are narrow. There are men and women wherever we go who were never meant for each other. If they had remained single they would have been useful members of society, but as to going in double harness they are failures. It must be a sad thing, an almost unendurable thing, when a feeling of antagonism exists between husband and wife.

Just a word or two about votes for women which one woman denounces. If the majority of women cannot vote as intelligently as the majority of men, they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

away, and I find from what she tells me some of the boys and girls are not too clean-minded. I have tried to tell her in my own way what I think she ought to know at her age, also I bought her the book by Isabelle Thompson Smart, D.D., "What a Mother Should Tell Her Little Girl," and thought I would like to have your books, too. I am very sorry for those farmers' wives in your paper of November 13, "A Tight Wad's Wife" and "A Man Who Is a Disgrace to the Name." I am very thankful I have not such a husband. It's hard enough to make things go out here sometimes, without having a husband who does not know when you have done enough, and does not appreciate what you do. I must close or my letter will be too long, and find its way into the waste paper basket.

Yours sincerely,

MOTHER OF SIX.

You certainly keep well supplied with reading matter. I am glad of that, for it helps to pass the time pleasantly, doesn't it?—F.M.B.

## HOMESTEADS FOR GIRLS

Dear Friends and Miss Beynon:—I have long wished to see the question of homesteads for girls discussed on this