

THE UNITED FARM WOMEN OF ALBERTA

By Leona Roper Bartlett

In a book I was reading lately entitled "The Country-Life Movement," I came across the statement "Considered in its total results, educationally and politically, as well as socially and economically, the country-life movement in North America is probably more advanced than in any other part of the world." The first organized expression of this movement was the appointment of the commission on country life by President Roosevelt in 1908. This commission suggested among other things that in order to bring the social conditions of the country some where near the level of their possibilities, there should be first a survey of the situation, education, economic, social; then organized extension work; and lastly, a nationalized campaign for rural progress where the interests of education, organization, and religion may be united into one forward movement for the up-building of country life.

Now I could not but wonder if the Western Provinces of Canada are not the most advanced part of North America in regard to this movement. Recently the Bureau of Social Research appointed by the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta has begun to investigate matters, but a campaign in the rural communities themselves preceded such inquiry.

Prohibition, which closes the bars of Manitoba and Alberta this year, was a movement from the people and had been unanimously endorsed by the United Farmers of Alberta for several years previously. As far back as 1913 I find this resolution was brought before the U.F.A. Convention and carried. "We believe that if the franchise were extended to women, it would place Canada amongst the most progressive countries in the world and would be a great benefit to the people at large. Resolved that this convention of the United Farmers of Alberta demand that the Dominion and provincial parliaments extend the franchise to women on the same basis as to men." The first intimation we had that the franchise was to be given us was in Premier Sifton's reply to a letter sent by the president of the United Farmers concerning the matter. Thus the two great movements, Prohibition and Woman's Franchise, came from the people, and were not the result of a national campaign undertaken from without. Similarly the U.F.A.—I am speaking of Alberta for I know it best—have endorsed consolidated schools, have asked for aid for village and municipal libraries, are urging an amendment to the Direct Legislation Act now in operation in Alberta but not as effective as it might be. Dis-

counted with the ever-increasing corruption of public life in Canada they consider that the scandal might be lessened somewhat by a "reasonable and workable initiative, referendum and recall," and by amending the election act so as to abolish the deposit now necessary for a candidate. They have pledged themselves in convention to support the Patriotic Fund, Belgian Relief and Red Cross, and the amounts raised in some sparsely settled districts is amazing. They are resolved to see their silver bullets win through if their silver bullets will help any, and are raising a "Legion of Frontiersmen" for home defence. Every man who is able to ride and shoot is asked to join and receive training. Nevertheless, to show the stand they take, I should like to quote in full the directors' resolution on international peace unanimously carried at the 1915 convention: "We, the representatives of the United Farmers of Alberta, assembled in convention, in view of the awful destruction of life and property and the infinite misery resulting from the present war, desire to express our deep conviction that when the terms of peace are settled at the end of the war, the chief aim must be to make future wars impossible so that this war shall be the end of all wars between civilized nations, and to effect this, the peace should be arranged, not on lines of conquest and national humiliation, leaving a ranking soreness and bitterness and planting the seeds of future wars, but on lines aiming at satisfying all legitimate national aspirations, destroying militarism in all countries, bringing about general disarmament and abolishing all manufacturing of arms and munitions of war in private factories, so that no man can derive profit from the slaughter of his fellow-men. "To this expressed conviction I believe millions of men and women are ready to say amen."

Little more than a year ago a women's section of the U.F.A. was formed with provincial officers. This movement is meeting with much success. Among the subjects which are receiving attention in the women's clubs and which will be brought before the Legislature are a pure foods law, medical aid and district nursing and amendment of provincial laws relating to women and children. Other aims of this organization, known as the United Farm Women of Alberta, are the beautifying of home and school surroundings, establishment of social centers, co-operation with the department of Education in its efforts to raise the efficiency of the rural schools, furthering the work of the schools of agriculture in awakening an interest in scientific farming and home economics through boys' and girls' clubs, training the girls for social service and endeavoring to bring the best teaching in all that pertains to home life to the knowledge of our farm women. When I tell you that Alberta farm women are studying such subjects as the tariff and what it means to the home, you can see that we are travelling fast.

Now social survey to which I have referred is not yet complete nor shall it be for months, but see how we have progressed without government leadership or even church leadership, for the churches have woefully failed to co-operate in community work. We shall have to show the church what she must do in order to be a force in the betterment of our community life, and if she again disappoint us, perhaps the high school principal at our nearest center will come to our aid. The problems of a new country with an immigrant population are not those of an older country, and will have to be solved by those who are trying sympathetically to study them. We earnestly wish—and it is too much to ask—that those to whom we look for assistance, lawyers, doctors, teachers, clergymen and politicians, may lay aside the desire for personal gain in dollars and cents and enter heartily within our campaign for rural betterment.

If the leaders only measure up to the standard, what may we not hope for Alberta when the forces which will be set in operation from without are brought to bear upon the already vital forces within.



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WHATDYME MEAN, UNIVERSE? To form some idea of the largeness of the earth one may look upon the landscape from the top of an ordinary church steeple, and then bear in mind that one must view 900,000 similar landscapes to get an approximately correct idea of the size of the earth. Place 500 earths like ours side by side, yet Saturn's outermost ring could easily enclose them. Three hundred thousand earth globes could be stored inside the sun, if hollow.

If a human eye every hour were capable of looking upon a fresh measure

of world material 5,400 square miles large, that eye would need 55,000 years to overlook the surface of the sun.

To reach the nearest fixed star one must travel 20,500,000,000 miles, and if the velocity were equal to that of a cannon ball it would require 5,000,000 years to travel that distance. Besides single stars, we know of systems of stars moving round one another. Still, we are but a short way into space as yet. Outside our limits of vision and imagination there are, no doubt, still larger spaces. The Milky Way holds at least 20,191,000 stars, and, as each is a sun, we presume it is encircled by at least thirty planets.

Counting up these figures, we arrive at the magnitude of 1,000,955,000 stars—a thousand million stars! Who can comprehend it?

Yet this is only a part of the universe. The modern telescopes have discovered more and similar Milky Ways still farther away. We know of some 3,000 nebulae which represent Milky Ways like ours.

Let us count 2,000 of them as being of the size of our Milky Way; then 2,000 by 20,191,000 equals 40,382,000,000 suns, or 2,019,100,000,000 heavenly bodies.

With Sir Rider Haggard, author of "Allan Quatermain" and of the antipodes, the original of Allan Quatermain has departed for Africa to bear arms for King George against the Germans remaining on the Dark Continent.

It was when he was plain Rider Haggard that "Allan Quatermain" was fed to a rapacious horde, eager for anything from the pen of the creator of "She." You remember the story, perhaps, of the mighty hunter of elephants and his wondrous adventures in Africa—his part in a native war, his experience with slavers and others of the stirring incidents which made the book one not to be laid down until finished.

But perhaps you did not know that an original Allan Quatermain lived, and still lives. Rider Haggard's book was inspired by Frederick Courtenay Selous, most famous of the big game hunters and veterans of several little wars before this big mixup. He is now in British East Africa with a detachment of the Legion of Frontiersmen, and a photograph sent to a friend at Worpleston, where he lives when in England shows him stepping out at the head of the column as briskly as if his years numbered a score instead of close on 65. He is as readily as ever with a rifle.

Hunter, author, traveller and soldier, F. C. Selous is one of the most picturesque figures of this age. Ever since he was 20 years old he has been hunting big game, chiefly in Africa, but also in the Rockies and the Yukon, in Asia, Minor and Anatolia—in fact wherever there was hazardous sport to be had.

Over one hundred elephants, probably a record, have fallen to his rifle, and he must have had as many close calls as any man living. On his first expedition, when he was not yet 21, he was lost for several days and nights in the depth of a South African winter. He was shot by a charging lion within six feet of him and at other times he has been tossed, together with his horse, by an enraged buffalo, been all but crushed by a wounded elephant that actually knelt on him, and been alone in the jungle with a broken collarbone which he had to set himself.

Lobengula, the fearsome Zulu chief, set a price on the head of the original of "Allan Quatermain" and a hippopotamus once all but got him after he had sunk the canoe in which he was paddling down the Zambesi.

Theodore Roosevelt, who called him "the heart of the mighty hunters," is one of the keenest admirers of Selous and of the latter's books, which now number five, his "Hunting Trips in North America" being one of the best. It was Selous who planned out Roosevelt's own hunting trip in South Africa, though he was not able to accompany the American leader, as had been his intention.

In appearance he is almost fragile until the close observer notes the hard-as-nails look that thanks to long seasoning in the wild places, with every muscle braced and every sense alert he manages to preserve even when home.

To get down to details: He stands five feet nine inches in his stockings, and the last time he was weighed, after four months of strenuous elephant hunting in East Africa, he registered exactly 132 pounds.

It was in 1871 that he went to Africa to begin the hunting career that was to



cover forty years and make him world famous. He then had a rifle and \$2,000, his entire world capital. He went to Lobengula, who was afterward to offer a reward for him, dead or alive, and asked him for permission to shoot elephants.

"You shoot elephants!" said the Matabele king, derisively. "You're only a boy; you had better hunt antelopes." But the "boy" got the required permission and soon proved his quality.

For a long time he made his living by hunting "tuskers" and collecting natural history specimens. Thus he became qualified to act as guide to the pioneer expedition to Mashonaland. This expedition, travelling by ox wag-

on, tolled over the hills and across the river valleys of the lofty Mazona Plateau and eventually built Fort Salisbury, now the largest settlement in the country.

In the first Matabele war Selous and his elephant gun played as gallant a part as ever Haggard ascribed to Allan Quatermain, and later, when the insurrection broke out in Matabeleland, he hurried out from England and was of immense use in his quiet way.

EASY TO FIND
Sandy, strolling up the banks of the river, came upon an English visitor fishing in the stream.

"Man," said Sandy, "ye winna catch any fish there. Ye'll hae tae gang a bit further up till ye come tae a guid spot."

"Ah," said the visitor, "but how will I know when I come to a good spot?" "Hoot, man," said Sandy, "ye can say tell a guid spot by the number o' empty bottles lying about."

Every man has just as much vanity as he wants understanding.—Pope.

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"Don't roll or pound the moment the snow and ice appeared because it is soft a get level. It only plasters wet, sodden soil, which dry the sun and wind, prevents soil from drying or setting in consequence delays the the grass."

"Don't destroy the effect kept piece of lawn even a er bed or shrubs in the o the things should always be boundary lines to be as a picture."

"Don't plant tall or strob shrubs in a small area or much. I know the nurse want to sell them to you his advice, but you must next three or four years' s "Don't prune flowering a spring or you will be waste beauty by cutting away branches which will produce flowers."

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