

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

WOMAN'S CONVENTION IS A CERTAINTY

You remember that I told you last week that the Saskatchewan Association was trying to plan for a woman's convention to be held in Saskatoon in connection with the Grain Growers' convention there on February 11, 12, 13 and 14.

I am more than glad to be able to announce that we have just received word from Mr. Green that arrangements are complete. The meetings are to be held in the Assembly Hall of the University Buildings and are promised the enthusiastic support of Dean Rutherford.

So you can begin to make your plans to attend—all of you who can possibly get away from home. Never mind whether you have ever taken any part in club life or work, you will enjoy the addresses and the getting away from home for a wee holiday.

Next week we hope to be able to print the program, if not in full at least enough of it for you to get an idea what to expect.

But we can promise here without having it fully made out, that every topic discussed will be one that is vitally interesting to women.

So now I leave it to the sisterhood to support this work by their presence and enthusiasm and feel confident that we won't be disappointed.

MORTLACH WOMEN AND SUFFRAGE

Within the last week I have had three letters from women at Mortlach, Sask., asking if I could supply them with suffrage literature. They want to open a petition to the government asking for votes and to begin with a rousing debate on the question. I wish I had an unlimited supply of literature to send out, but unfortunately our League has just sent away for some for our own distribution, and as I told you a week ago we are rather short of funds.

But I can supply you one and all with the address of the National Women's Suffrage Association, 505 Fifth Avenue, New York, where you can send for samples of literature. Two or three dollars will get quite a quantity for distribution.

Personally, I think the Mortlach women would do well to follow the example of the Winnipeg suffragists and form an organization from which they would send out speakers to the adjacent towns.

If all the districts where the suffrage sentiment is strong, or where there are two or three women sincerely interested in it, would do this and never let a picnic or a banquet be held without being ready to send a suffrage speaker it would not be long before Mr. Scott would know whether or not the women of Saskatchewan want the vote.

I would suggest—mind you this is only a suggestion—that your speakers try to be as moderate as possible and be careful not to promise the millennium as soon as women get the vote, because it is too big an order for us to live up to. Also, there is nothing to be gained by railing at men. They are the product of conditions just as we are and if they were not a thousand times better than the laws they have made our lives would be a veritable perdition. But they are, in the main, mighty decent people and if they are approached reasonably and the subject presented to them sanely are amazingly easy of conversion.

So God speed to you, sisters, and may your cause prosper.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

A SPLENDIDLY PRACTICAL LETTER ON SUFFRAGE

When the extending of the franchise to women on equal terms with men was discussed in the Saskatchewan legislature recently practically every member of the legislature approved of the principle, but they decided that it would not be wise to grant the franchise until the women themselves expressed a desire to have the franchise.

From this we judge that the women can secure the ballot in Saskatchewan if they want it.

I believe the majority of the women

want it. When the subject was brought before the legislature Hon. W. R. Motherwell is reported to have said that he did not think the time was ripe for such a movement in Saskatchewan, where the rights of women are well protected.

Are the rights of women well protected in Saskatchewan? I wish the women would discuss this question in their letters to The Guide.

On August 17, 1912, the following answers were given by the deputy attorney general in reply to some questions asked in regard to the dower law of Saskatchewan:

1. If an intestate dies leaving a widow and a child or children, one-third of his real and personal property shall go to



JANE ADDAMS, OF HULL HOUSE

A noted social worker who found all her philanthropies leading straight to the ballot box.

his widow and the remaining two-thirds shall go to his child, or if more than one, to his children in equal shares.

2. It is provided that property held in trust for an infant may be sold by leave of a judge and the proceeds thereof applied for maintenance and education of such infant.

3. It is provided that if an intestate dies leaving a widow and no issue, his whole estate, real and personal, shall go to his widow.

4. It is provided that the widow of a man who dies leaving a will by the terms of which his said widow would, in the opinion of the judge before whom the application is made, receive less than if he had died intestate leaving a widow and children, may apply to the supreme court for relief and if the appeal is a just demand by section 11g of the said act the court may make such allowance to the applicant out of the estate of her husband disposed of by will, as shall, in the opinion of the judge, be equal to what would have gone to such widow under the act had her deceased husband died intestate leaving a widow and children.

But these laws in regard to property rights cover only a small part of women's rights. There are some objections by anti-suffragists which have the effect of causing the woman who has not studied the subject carefully to doubt the advisability of the women of Saskatchewan asking the government for the right to vote.

First, these anti-suffragists claim that the women are already so burdened with the duties of their sex that the additional burden of suffrage ought not to be laid upon them.

The act of voting would not be any greater burden for women than it is for men, who, hurried with business, are yet able, without injury to themselves or their work, to walk to the polls and vote. Then there are a great number of women who are neither wives nor mothers and whose relation to society is as entirely industrial as that of any male wage-earner. No one can say that these persons, whose vote might regulate or protect their own industries, would find the ballot a tax merely because they are women. As voting does not necessitate holding office, women, like men, need only

be eligible for office, when office did not interfere with their home or business duties.

Second, it is sometimes urged that women do not need the ballot, because they can get what they want by influencing men. But this method is open to the objection that influencing somebody else is a very indirect method of bringing about reforms, besides it is an undignified method. To do her duty by the home now, woman ought to do her part in making laws which regulate the industries on which the home depends.

If she would bear her share in solving the great social problems it seems necessary for her to uphold moral standards within political life itself.

Men have come to see the injustice of shutting off intelligent women from taking their part in creating the government under which they must live.

As the day, when we shall vote, is so close at hand let us prepare ourselves by learning just what the ballot means and what it can or cannot accomplish.

To begin with, we should have some knowledge as to the methods of legislation, the powers of the provincial assembly, in fact, a knowledge of the mechanism of government.

Miss Beynon is always so willing to help us that I feel like asking her if she will give us some of this information which we desire through the Country Homemakers' page. It is a subject which might be discussed at the meetings of a club.

CONTENT.

I have been too busy this week to take up this problem, but I will be glad to investigate it later and make a full report of my findings in this page.

F. M. B.

DOES NOT WONDER AT MILITANCY

Dear Miss Beynon:—May I come again? It's good to have a paper such as The Guide take up the cudgels for "votes for women." A newspaper called "The St. Thomas Times" of January 2 strayed into our mail accidentally a few days ago. In looking it over my attention was attracted by a letter from an Englishman to a relative on the staff. From it I culled the following gem, and am quoting exact words: "As for those suffragettes, all I say about them is, I would have them dealt with as another lad and I did with a lot of rats. We put a puckle corn and a little water into a bait pot or boiler, held up the lid a bit with a stick, to which we tied a string, and when a lot of rats had entered the pot, attracted by the corn, we pulled the string. Then when they were safe inside the boiler we lighted the fire, and like two young fiends, danced around the pot." Oh, man born of woman, think of that! Burning at the stake is not in it with this proposed up-to-date method of getting rid of those from whose opinions he differed. And this man, mark you, is not ignorant or uneducated, the rest of his letter shows considerable knowledge of affairs of the world generally. Imagine Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Pankhurst, Christabel Pankhurst, Lady Constance Lytton, the daughter of the former viceroy of India, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Wylie, and a host more of educated refined women, boiling in an immense pot, with men, all of whom have the franchise, dancing around "like fiends" enjoying their sufferings. If such is the attitude of Englishmen in general no wonder those who want the vote on "the other side of the water" have been forced to adopt extreme measures. They have gone on year after year with petitions and appeals, all useless, all treated with indifference or brutal insult (and how brutal they would be if they dared we can easily see from the quotation I began with) and now they have begun to act. We in Canada have not the same conditions to fight against, we have never asked for the vote, so we must not judge and blame them. Listen to what Chambers' Encyclopedia says with regard to women voting: "Anomalous and inconsistent that we should refuse them a vote to protect their property from inordinate taxation. Other persons allowed to hold property, but excluded from the suffrage, are

minors, idiots, lunatics and criminals."

Now, what do you say to that, you "clinging vines," you who express horror at the idea and say, "Oh, I would not think of interfering with men's work." Do you want to stay classed with minors, idiots, lunatics and criminals? Who made it man's work? The weapon of power, the right to decide what shall be done, is what the ballot box gives to the people. Is a woman a person, a human being? The most advanced nations today are not those where the power is concentrated in a single despot, but where it is shared among the people. And the best government is found where the largest number of the people perform their political duties, not where they leave public affairs to be managed by a small class of "professional politicians."

I am very much pleased, dear Miss Beynon, at your remarks from time to time in regard to this reform. I think if the women of the West were better educated on this subject very few would be against voting. I am glad you have given us something practical to do to help along the cause, and will avail myself of the opportunity to contribute to the Equality League.

I am sorry to read so many letters from women who have mean husbands. My husband and I are still lovers, and have one common purse. He never buys or sells anything without first consulting me. We talk it over and always agree. I hope there are not many men who are like "Tight-Wads" husband, there are none about this part of the West. My husband is also strongly in favor of woman's suffrage. I think the best men of the land, the good, just and unselfish, have always been the supporters of this cause, don't you? I am sending you a piece of poetry for the "Bachelors of our West."

With best wishes for success in the work you are doing.

I am,

Yours,

"NORMA."

HOW SOME WOMEN EARN MONEY

Initials for Towels

A friend chochets strips of square mesh about one and one-fourth inches wide, and in the centre of each strip crochets in the initials of the purchaser. She inserts them in guest towels and gets \$1 apiece for them. They are original and the towel only costs 28 cents. Patterns for initials can be picked out by anyone from a crochet book or from a cross-stitch alphabet.

Recipe for Doughnuts

One friend made delicious doughnuts and sold them to groceries. She received 12 cents a dozen and could make several hundred each day. This is her recipe:

One egg, pinch of salt, one cup sugar, two cups sweet milk, two tablespoons melted lard, two heaping teaspoons baking powder, enough flour to make dough stiff enough to roll. Fry in hot lard and roll in powdered sugar.

The following is a seasonable recipe and can be made and sold with considerable profit:

One quart cabbage chopped fine, one quart boiled beets chopped fine, two cups sugar, one tablespoon salt, one teaspoon black pepper, one-quarter teaspoon red pepper, one teacup grated horseradish. Cover with boiled vinegar and keep from air.

Put salt on cabbage and let drain. Then mix all ingredients thoroughly. Fill glass bottles and cork. Have made quantities and sold dozens of bottles.

Washing Fine Woollens

So many housewives dread the washing of fine woollens, as it requires much carefulness in washing and wringing. A woman can make a neat sum by advertising for such work, having first learned and applied the best methods of handling woollens, so that the work will be easily done. The prices charged for such work are \$1 a pair for fine blankets, 50 cents for woollen shawls and heavy undergarments, and 25 cents for small pieces. The work is heavy, but the remuneration is good.