

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon

THE NEW SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE IN THE U.S.

The United States, it seems, has taken unto itself a new Secretary of Agriculture, by name, David Franklin Houston. This new official appears to be one of those disagreeable personages who are commonly described as "plain spoken." He has started right in to live up to his reputation by telling the farmers that what is the matter with agriculture in the United States is chiefly the inefficiency of the farmer and the primitive conditions of rural life. He declares that while there are 935,000,000 acres of arable land in the United States, only 400,000,000 acres are under cultivation and of this only forty per cent. is reasonably well cultivated. He points out that the American Republic is rapidly ceasing to be an exporter of food stuffs and is becoming dependent upon outsiders for many of the necessities of life.

He expresses unlimited surprise that the teachers in rural schools continue to teach, considering the very inadequate salaries they are drawing and in the next breath voices equal astonishment that the communities continue to employ such incompetent instructors for their children. He evidently has the idea that Mr. Robertson expressed so strongly last winter, that a country should make its greatest appropriation for education and pay teachers such generous salaries that the most highly cultured men and women will be induced to make it a life profession, instead of a stepping stone to other things.

What he has in mind to do for the country folk who earn their living by the sweat of the brow, under the protection of the star-spangled banner, is to provide them with good schools, both in the buildings and in the quality of instruction offered to the children who attend them. He recalls the country schools he used to teach in where the pupils froze in winter and sizzled in summer. (One might almost think he had taught in Manitoba.) So he is determined to see that they have good schools, good teachers, competent doctors, systems of sanitation and rural credits. He has dreams also of his department taking a hand in pure food supplies, meat inspection, animal and plant quarantine, marketing methods and co-operation in producing.

Whatever one may think of the opinions of this very out-and-out gentleman, one must admit that President Wilson had some excellent excuses for appointing him to the office which he fills. First of all, he has lived on a farm and done all sorts of farm work. Later he was the president of the agricultural college of Texas, the University of Texas, and the Washington University of St. Louis. He has degrees from Harvard, Tulane and the University of Wisconsin. In the face of all these educational appendages, it is not to be wondered at that President Wilson picked upon him to fill the office of Secretary of Agriculture. It is possible that the president was unaware of his tendency to plain speaking, or, if aware of it, that he thought that some of the hard criticism that business people have to encounter constantly might not be detrimental to the farmer. At any rate there he is, riding rough-shod over the farmer's tender point—his efficiency—defying congressmen and upsetting traditions generally, but all the while working like a horse to better the conditions of rural life.

It will be interesting to see whether the American people will take genially to such strong medicine or whether they will prefer to have less assistance from the government and more balm for their wounds in the form of the honeyed words which we have come to expect from government officials.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

THE INSIDE OF THE CUP

Dear Miss Beynon: Many thanks for sending me the book. I have enjoyed reading it very much and expect you have also read it. "The Inside of the Cup" and was wondering what your impressions were from this brilliant magnetic book. Don't you think the author must have a divine gift to con-

struct and plan out all this twentieth century book?

I do not mean to intimate that he received a Heavenly vision, as the book is too earthly, but the author must be endowed with the real essence of that grey matter called brains. I think that among the many sentences that stand out distinct is one where Allison Parr says, "If we could only get rid of this senseless system of government that puts a premium on the acquisition of wealth, and even the good Mr. Bently does is only a drop in the bucket, to the good that might be done thru legislation," and where she concludes by saying, "If all discoveries of science were given to benefit humanity, instead of those gifts to humanity being used to increase wealth."

Miss Beynon, don't you think that real benefits to humanity can be accomplished thru good legislation?

The church in Canada is a huge machine with little real authority, for instance. In Saskatchewan the "Banish the Bar" movement has recently been launched. How many church people will defend and support the movement? Time will tell, but I fear "Far too few for half the task," and if the church in Saskatchewan does not soon get her members in line, the temperance people are playing a losing game.

Woman suffrage in Saskatchewan is a similar reform. I have no hostile sentiment towards our government because they did not enact this into law at the

patriotism burst and the wine will be spilt. Then will we learn to put new wine into new bottles—the new wine of the spirit of Democracy.

H. M. JACKLIN.

Beaufield, Sask.

NOT A SQUARE DEALER

Dear Miss Beynon: The truth, it seems, has to be buried a mile deep in sugar before some people will have much to do with it.

With the unfairness underlying many of the suffragette ways of thinking and acting, you only published such parts of my letter as you saw fit. A square dealer would have either ignored it all or published it all.

If the vote in women's hands is so potent for the well-being of society, I am sure the millennium should have been brought about in Colorado in all the years they have voted out there. To me, the situation out there only goes to prove, "As it was in the beginning," etc. You know the rest, or ought to.

H. BATE.

The editor of this page reserves the right, unless otherwise definitely specified, to abbreviate letters to make them fit into the space allotted; nevertheless, as it happens your letter had gone down to the printers intact when another urgent one arrived and they had both to be abbreviated. It is a singular co-incidence, and perhaps only a co-incidence, that while space limitations have made it necessary for me to suppress many

still appears, give a teaspoonful of castor oil with two drops of laudanum. After that give the following, you can get it made up at the drug store for about sixty cents:

Half oz. tincture of opium, half oz. essence of capsicum, half oz. essence of peppermint, half oz. tincture of rhubarb, half oz. spirits of camphor. Dose—Fifteen to twenty drops in two tablespoons water. Repeat every half-hour if required. This recipe has been in our family for 100 years and has been tested and found a sure cure for cholera and dysentery.

MRS. B. REAVILLE.

I wonder if the laudanum and opium in these remedies are not injurious to the child? F.M.B.

USEFUL SUGGESTIONS

Having been a silent reader of the Sunshine Club, I wondered if my few cures and recipes would help any of the many readers.

To cure or take away warts on human or animals, apply the water you pour off beans after boiled soft.

To prevent the growing of the horns on calves, when they are several weeks old, or as soon as you can feel where they are growing, scrape and wet the places and apply lye such as you buy to make soap. Be sure and keep them from getting wet or two cold.

Here are some recipes which we think are fine, and hope whoever tries them will be successful:

Salmon Cakes.—To one can salmon take one cup cracker crumbs, one egg, one-half cup sweet milk, salt and pepper to taste, make in cakes and fry. Serve hot.

Doughnuts.—Two medium sized potatoes boiled and mashed, one cup granulated sugar, two eggs, three-quarters of a cup of sweet milk, three teaspoons baking powder, flour to make a soft dough. These are excellent.

Cookies.—Two eggs, two cups sugar, one cup shortening (I use lard), one cup sweet milk, one teaspoon soda and two teaspoons cream tartar.

Dark Cake.—Two cups dark brown sugar (other brown sugar will do), half cup butter, half cup sour milk, half cup boiling water, three cups flour, two eggs, one-eighth cake chocolate, 2 teaspoons soda dissolved in the boiling water the last thing. It will give it a red appearance.

Is there anyone who could use lessons for the organ? I have fifty which I have no use for, also other music sheets. Would exchange for something of equal value. Write first what you have.

WIDOW'S LONELY DAUGHTER.

OUT OF A PICKLE JAR

Beet Relish

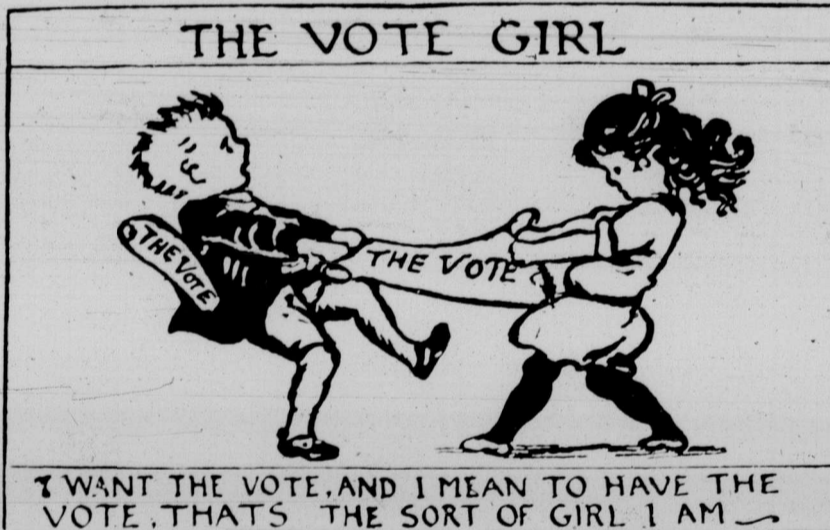
Chop fine one quart of cooked beets and one quart of uncooked cabbage. Add one cupful of fresh grated horse-radish, two cupfuls of sugar, one tablespoonful of salt, one saltspoonful of cayenne pepper, and one saltspoonful of black pepper. Mix all well together and cover with good cider vinegar. It is then ready for use.

Pickled Cucumbers

Wash small cucumbers, pack in salt one hour, then drain and wipe. Dry them and pack in half-gallon jars. Cover with scalding vinegar, in which has been dissolved one-fourth teaspoonful of cayenne pepper and a little black pepper. Place on top of the pickles a piece of horse-radish about the size of a spoon. Add one tablespoonful of mustard-seed to one half-gallon of pickles, with few white onions, and a little white sugar. Very delicious.

Carrot Pickles

Cut carrots in thick slices and boil in salted water until tender. For two quarts of carrots, take one-half cupful of sugar, one cupful of vinegar, one cupful of water, six cloves, a little cinnamon. Boil all together, then add the carrots and cook again, set them back on the stove and cook slowly before bottling.



last session of the legislature. It's a case of "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you," and "He who asketh receiveth, he who seeketh findeth, and to him who knocks it shall be opened." And altho I believe woman-suffrage is a much needed reform in Saskatchewan, yet, to be truthful, it is a reform that is in advance of the majority of women themselves.

The Grain Growers have done noble work along this line in Saskatchewan. The government in our province is very generous to the Grain Growers' Association and I am sure will, in the future, add universal suffrage to the statute books. At any rate the government has taken out a good insurance policy against militancy. (Something Sir Rodmond Roblin failed to do.) The women in Saskatchewan who want the vote would have thought it discourteous and a poor stroke of diplomacy had Premier Scott used the same arguments against us that Sir Rodmond Roblin did towards the Manitoba women's deputation.

Mr. Atkinson's article in The Guide of June 10 impressed me very much, especially where he said "Democracy is a spirit, not an institution; that to seek it first and all other things shall be added; that it is truly a fertile field."

I think a great educational campaign is going on now thru The Guide, and its far-reaching effects are unlimited, and as the new wine of Democracy has been and is being added to the old bottles, the time is sure coming when you will see in Canada the old bottles of diseased

splendid letters advocating suffrage and to shorten dozens of others, not one of the writers has ever protested, while I have had not a little personal abuse heaped on my head for the same reasons by those opposed to the cause.

F.M.B.

HOW SHOULD SHE FEED BABY?

Dear Miss Beynon: I am writing to ask if some of the mothers of the page could give me a little advice on what to feed my baby girl. She is five months old and does not grow as I would like her to do. I nursed her myself until three months old. Then I gave her the same food I gave to the other children, twins three and a half years old, and boy one and a half. I gave them milk and water (half each). This did not seem to suit her, so I am giving her one-third cream, one-third milk, one-third water. This suits a little better, but she is still terribly constipated. I have to give her Castoria and an injection almost every day. If someone could give me a little advice I would be grateful.

Now I'll give a little advice. The warm weather is coming now and lots of children have an attack of summer complaint. I have noticed that it is nearly always children who are allowed to drink all the fresh milk (that is warm from the cow) they can, who develop this complaint. I don't think it is necessary to drink milk to get it, but it surely helps the tendency to summer complaint. I find it best to cut out all milk except when sterilized or else have it cooled very quickly. Then if summer complaint