

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The United States has just passed thru one of the most exciting presidential elections in its history. After wavering in doubt over a period of several days, the pendulum has finally swung in Wilson's favor, unless a re-count changes the result.

The uncertainty itself denotes much confusion in the public mind, resulting from the great number of conflicting issues that were at stake.

Of paramount importance was the attitude of President Wilson towards the war. Great capital was made of that phrase, "Too proud to fight," yet among the numbers of Columbia students from all over the country interrogated on the question only one said he wanted his country to be taking part in the war. For the most part it was a political catch phrase. At the same time President Wilson's obvious sympathy for the cause of the Allies made him many enemies among that portion of the population which is of German extraction.

Scarcely less importance attached to the Mexican issue. History will make an entry on the credit side of President Wilson's character that he prevented a war with Mexico. Where many a man would have allowed himself to be railroaded into war by the group of capitalists who, having invested money in Mexico, wanted it to come under the American flag in order to increase the value of their investments, the President stood firm. Assuredly his stand in this matter won for him a black mark in Wall Street—all the centres of the big interests went for Hughes.

Yet President Wilson was not the head of a pacifist administration—far from it. The government of which he was the leader committed the country to a military expenditure for the year beginning July 1, 1917, of \$661,418,000, the biggest military appropriation ever made by a country not at war, and the first bugle note of the next great "Day." So far President Wilson yielded to those moneyed interests which were determined to make an outlet for their output of munitions when the present war was over, but Wall Street voted for Hughes because he was prepared to go still farther.

Generally the welfare of a nation is safer in the keeping of the man who is backed by the laborer and small farmer than in that of the candidate who has the support of the great financial interests of the country, so the United States is to be congratulated on its choice of a president.

YOUR HOME AND THE VOTE

Very shortly the women of Saskatchewan will be an illustration of the good or bad influences of voting upon the home life. It will become patent in December whether the slipping of a ballot paper into a box suddenly snaps the bond of affection between husband and wife or mother and child. It will be known beyond peradventure whether the exercise of the franchise is incompatible with baking good bread.

Tell us about it. We should like to have letters from the women on how it feels to vote, and from the men upon how their voting affects their homes and their husbands. Prizes of three and two dollars each will be given for letters from the men and from the women on this subject.

Address your letters to Editor, Homemakers Page, in care of The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

David Lloyd George says of the moving picture, "The Battle of the Somme": "If the exhibition of this picture does not make another war impossible, God help civilization." Then say we, God help civilization, for the exhibition of this picture will not make another war impossible.

It would do so undoubtedly if we had war because the butcher and the baker, the machinist and the farmer organized wars for the pleasure of killing each other. They would see that it is a very nasty business and they would desist. But among the hundreds of men who passed before the camera and among the thousands who are yet going to fight, there are only a handful who have ever desired to kill their fellow men. About ninety-nine per cent. of them are quiet peace-loving citizens who hate war, the men in the trenches particularly, how they do hate it. So they do not need a moving picture to make them not want to kill their fellow men. They never did want to.

A much better cure for war than an exhibition of this picture would be to make it impossible for private individuals to make profit out of the slaughter of their fellow beings; to prevent capitalists investing money in foreign countries and then stirring up war so as to bring that foreign country under their own government and make their investment more profitable; to stop governments carrying on secret diplomacy and then suddenly springing a war upon the people without their knowledge or consent; to take all power out of the hands of kings, in countries where kings still have power, and invest it in the people.

If Lloyd George and the leaders of government in the other belligerent countries are sincere in their protestations that they want this to be the last war, let them look to these things, for in them, not in any

picture of war, however terrible, lies the hope of permanent peace.

—FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

NEED BETTER AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have intended writing you for some time, but threshing and harvest kept me busy. Mr. Langley wrote the women of Saskatchewan an open letter in reference to the liquor vote on December 11.

I think some of us women would like a member of the legislature to let us know what the government intends doing in reference to the teaching of English in the schools. I am hoping that we will not follow the men and vote for the separate parties, because the men have so long blindly followed them, and I know that what the Liberal party's intention is towards the teaching of English in the Saskatchewan schools will have a lot to do as regarding the vote in this district. In our district we have one of those Austrian leaders who is working hard to start an Austrian colony, with schools, etc., taught in Ruthenian, and if the government does as it has in the past, just study their votes, and give them what they ask, it's a certain thing that very little English will be taught in the schools in this district.

Another thing we should do is to insist on the third



Miss BESSIE MCKENNA.

of St. Thomas, Ontario, a graduate of Toronto University who specialized in social work, has been appointed supervisor of Women Workers in Canada by the Minister of Labor. She completed her "course" by taking a "course" in a machine factory.

grade teachers being better trained and more capable of taking schools than they are now when they leave the Normal.

Arithmetic! There is not more than one in ten can teach properly and we have the mortification of knowing our children are only half educated and that if they leave the prairie and enter college, it will take them years to be on the same level as children taught in city schools.

Another thing we should unite on is compulsory education, even on the farms. It's a crying shame the way children are worked on these Western prairies, herding cattle all weathers, dising, plowing, even stocking, children not twelve years old. What does it matter if we do have a few dollars extra in the bank at the end of the summer? Isn't our children's future welfare worth more than money?

I am one that hopes agriculture will never be taught in our public schools on the prairie. The poor kiddies get enough farming, especially now that men are so scarce, altho I know many men who have boys from twelve to fourteen who are seen gossiping in town and their boys doing all the work. Poor lads, from sunrise to sunset, and doing the chores on Sunday for their parents to visit.

—DONOVAN.

SPIRITUAL HOUSECLEANING DEMANDED

Dear Miss Beynon:—I am very much interested in your articles in our paper. In your article about Christmas I would heartily endorse your views and also say let us look for the star of the Christ to shine in our hearts and follow in His footsteps. He has shown so plainly by casting off the old man—self, malice, hate and the lusts of the flesh—and letting the new born child appear even as He has commanded to let that mind be in us even as it was in Christ Jesus. He showed us plainly what thoughts should replace the old ones—thoughts of love, kindness, unselfishness, humility to bring peace on earth. As you said in a former issue, "Plans for peace." It is time to awake. We may dwell on the visible war and its effects, but how many are awake to the mental war that is going on in our consciences; how many realize our duty to fight the evil in our thoughts? Can there be peace until our hearts are cleansed? No. Only when our hearts are at peace with God will there be real peace on earth.

The old thought said, "In times of peace prepare for war," but it has been a false peace, hiding a host of evils. Blind to our own faults we have looked for faults in others, nailing afresh on the cross the good Christ came to bring; and now who is awake to the call in a seeming midnight of war? Have we oil in our lamps? Have we spiritual consecration to pierce the dark shadows of thinking and living? Let us shatter every idol, put down every unclean thought and let us not forget that this must be done in each one's own mentality—the fight or work is with one's own self, so to speak.

Man means all mankind, male and female, and one has as much right to the name as the other and both should stand on equal ground and have one voice in all matters. Until we recognize this great necessity of overcoming self and giving to the female the same right to the name man as the male we cannot have united action, and we need it right now. Can we not read the handwriting on the wall? We are weighed in the balance and found wanting. What a real Christmas it would be to have that peace on earth, good will to men the angel announced that Christ would bring. And that time is coming, for He has promised to be with us always. Shall we not rise in newness of spirit to meet Him and hasten that time?

The question remains—What are we striving with? Is it with others or have we anything to set in order in our own lives? Are we wasting our time looking for our neighbor's shortcomings thru our own unclean windows. Perhaps if we had a good clean-up we should also find the same spirit in our neighbor and order be restored everywhere. A good man is a good citizen and good citizens make a good country which the Lord's hand would not be against.

—PROGRESSIVE.

MONEY IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Mrs. Gertrude Kasebier, one of the first women to make photography her profession, was asked how she began. Her answer was:

"After my babies came I determined to learn to use the brush. I wanted to hold their lovely little faces in some way that should be also my expression, so I went to an art school—two or three of them, in fact. But art is long and childhood is fleeting, I soon discovered, and the children were losing their baby faces before I learned to paint portraits, so I chose a quicker medium.

"My first outfit cost me about thirty dollars, and with that camera I did work that I love to think about; finding my way, as I did, into that wonderful complexity of light and shade. Then I thought I ought to have a larger camera. So I bought one—and couldn't do a thing with it! I had to learn all over again. Indeed, it is always study—study and experiment—until one succeeds in putting forth individual work. Nothing else counts. And you can't make good photographs without imagination. That is something which must go on every plate that's made."

Think of being able to pick up a camera and to travel forth with it in search of adventure, with the certainty of finding it! That is what Miss Frances Benjamin Johnston and Mrs. Hattie Edwards Hewitt are doing. Together they took pictures of the New Theatre. Miss Johnston, like Mrs. Kasebier, was early in the field. She was the only woman juror on the Board of Photographic Awards at the St. Louis Exposition, and has received from the French Government the decoration of Palmes Academiques.

Miss Johnston, in telling her story, said that when she returned to her home in Washington, D.C., after studying painting in the studios of Paris, she did not find much enthusiasm for American art. So, thru a journalistic friend, she began making illustrations for a newspaper, turning afterwards to photography as the more accurate medium.

So interested did she become that she began to experiment with the camera, trying to do things that people said could never be done with it. She succeeded in taking prints in all sorts of light and almost without any light at all. Among other interesting experiences were those she had when she was sent to find Admiral Dewey on his return from Manila Bay.

—From The Delineator.