

A Tour through Manitoba

For the Purpose of Establishing Household Science Associations for Women.

By Annie B. Juniper, Professor of Household Science, Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg.

Last February, at the annual convention of the Agricultural Societies of Manitoba, when the matter of household science instruction for girls was discussed, those responsible stated that they hoped also to do something for the women of the province from that department of the Agricultural College.

This autumn Principal Black took

the matter up, and was instrumental in obtaining the support and kindly interest of the agricultural societies throughout Manitoba; whilst Mr. W. W. Thompson arranged the details for a six-weeks lecturing tour, to be given under the auspices of the agricultural societies at twenty-three towns widely scattered over the province.

As a result of the tour, Household Science Associations were formed at Emerson, Russel, Birtle, Minnedosa, Deloraine, Manitou, Morden, Miami, Carman, Virden, Headingly, Stonewall, Swan Lake and Hamiota, whilst Morris and Valley River, where societies similar in aim already existed, both decided to amalgamate with them, as Gretna has since done, making a total of seventeen.

It may help matters to explain what a Household Science Association is and stands for. It is a organized society of women who meet together at stated intervals (usually once a month), and by means of papers and discussions on topics pertaining to the home, and social intercourse, seek to endeavour to increase their own efficiency as homemakers, mothers, and members of a

community. Surely this is a grand aim and object to have in view, and worthy of every true woman's consideration.

It was unfortunate that it was not definitely stated in the preliminary announcement sent out that the formation of societies for the study of home duties was to be one of the chief objects of the tour. Instead, various subjects of interest to women were billed for the addresses to be given. But we learn from mistakes. Had the ladies of the towns visited known in advance what such associations were, and the benefits to be derived, the total number formed would probably have been greater. For it is somewhat of an undertaking to talk up a new society and organize one the same evening, without any preparation in the minds of one's hearers.

The meetings were usually held in a public hall, and were well attended. Numbers varied from 20 to 200, many men often being present. The speakers from the household science department of the Agricultural College spoke on such topics as "Conveniences for Lessening Housework," "Clothing," with a plea for the introduction of sewing to be taught in all schools of Manitoba; and at each meeting the aims and advantages of a Household Science Association were outlined.

The idea that there is need for definite and systematic study of the various branches connected with home-making had evidently already presented itself to women in parts of Manitoba, for at Morris and Valley River, as has before been stated, societies for that purpose already existed. Nowhere did we have more encouraging and happy meetings—and we had many—than at those two towns. It was our good fortune to start with a meeting at Morris, where we found from 50 to 60 enthusiastic members of their Women's Institute, formed on the plan of those in Ontario, and on which the Home Science Associations are patterned. Here we received much kindness by both private and public entertainment, and the encouragement received there spurred us on for future work. When, several weeks later, we reached Valley River, we needed a fresh supply, and it was forthcoming in abundance; for, though in a rather more out-of-the-way part of Manitoba, the people there are intensely alive, and eager for advance in all directions. Indeed, it is not in the large mansions of a big city only that one finds advanced thinkers and interesting people. The impression left on the mind after such a tour is that the strength of Manitoba lies in the homes of the country and small towns.

It was a great help to anyone responsible for planning a course to help the future makers of homes to visit the homes already existing, to meet the parents of possible future students, and to gain to a certain extent their viewpoint of life; this, and the great kindness received in many places relieved the tediousness of continually speaking on the same themes.

We were anxious to have some vital connecting link between the homes and the household science department at the College, just as the agricultural department and farmers have through their agricultural societies. For if the daughters are to advance and study for their future work from a scientific standpoint, the mothers also will want to keep pace with them in reading and thinking along similar lines.

In February next, during Farmers' Convention week, two days' meetings have been arranged, to which it is expected representatives of all associations formed will come. Principal Black is to give an address of welcome, reports from the different towns are to be read by delegates, such matters as a permanent constitution, a suitable name for the societies, the amount and kind of outside assistance in the way of lectures or demonstrations desired, and the nature and financing of such, are all topics to be discussed. Papers bearing on matters of interest to women are to be read by Mrs. McClung, Dr. Mary Crawford, Mrs. Collins and Professor Lee. There are also to be two demonstrations—one on "Cookery," the other on "The Development of a Hat." It is



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