

public library was placed the fee of one cent was levied for anyone wishing a membership card.

"All reading should not only entertain, but be ennobling and uplifting, and higher things. Our greatest care should be that our taste be not perverted. We may learn to love the poems of Longfellow, Tennyson, Milton; to see with Dickens the whimsical side of common life and feel with him the pathos of want and suffering; to love to be in touch with the greatest souls that have lived to partake of their best—to be in their company and at one with them. Think of it, Browning and Emerson for a friend; Irving or Dickens or George Eliot to make us laugh or cry or grow tender. A family's rank in thought and taste can be gauged by the papers and books in the home.

"In our farm homes we want good newspapers that tell us events of world-wide interest; some Canadian journal, a journal for the young, and some of the best magazines.

"So I say let us have good books—

the best books and plenty of them, and with Eugene Field, wish for "Books, books, books give me ever more books, for they are the caskets wherein we find the immortal expressions of humanity—words—the only things that live forever."

Extracts on institute work were read by different members, showing how the motto, "Improvement for home and country," was being practically carried out. The meeting closed with election of officers for 1911 as follows: President, Mrs. Murray; vice-president, Mrs. Robt. Mahenderson; secretary-treasurer, Miss Nadie Campbell; directors, Mrs. Aiken, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. McGormick, Mrs. Roblin, Mrs. Macoun, Mrs. August.

SO THEY WERE MARRIED

Said the bachelor to the widow,
"I'll prove my love by deeds;
I'll gladly give up my cigars
If you'll give up your weeds."

She—"I'm living on brown bread and water to improve my complexion."
He—"How long can you keep it up?"
She—"Oh, indefinitely, I guess."
He—"Then let's get married."

THE WEDDING GIFT

"How are you getting along with the arrangements for your daughter's wedding?"

"Splendidly. We've just completed the list of people who will probably send presents if invited."

SHEWED DIAGNOSIS

Misery—So that woman doctor charged you two dollars a visit. Well, what did she say?

His Wife—Said I stayed indoors too much. Here's her prescription.
Misery (reading it)—For external use only. One nice walking dress. One new hat. One pair gloves to match. Apply every afternoon between three and five.

DOMESTIC BOOKKEEPING

(By Mrs. Motherwell)

Domestic bookkeeping! Why introduce such an unpopular subject at a gathering of this nature? What has bookkeeping to do with the female department of the home? We thought this convention was to lead itself entirely to considering helps to the women in the home. We readily understand why such subjects as "Social Life in Country Homes," "The Model Kitchen," "Growing Fruits," and "House Plants," "Raising Poultry," etc., etc., should be introduced—but bookkeeping—and domestic at that! The inference is that it too is one of the legitimate housewifely occupations.

I understand very well the horror with which most women look upon bookkeeping, and this is quite natural when one considers the limited opportunities afforded many women, especially in rural districts, to study this phase of home life, and to expect them to keep books in the ordinary sense of the term is quite impracticable. Therefore it is not my purpose, formidable as the title of this paper may appear, to recommend any particular style of bookkeeping for you to follow, but rather to draw your attention to the advantage of having some plan devised by yourself and understandable to yourself whereby you can tell just how much money you have spent each month, and should there be an unnecessary leakage anywhere you are in a position to discover it and apply a remedy.

But again you become aroused at the mention of the word "money." You feel strongly tempted to ask the question: "Where am I to get the money? My husband takes charge of that. He is the treasurer; he is the one who pays the bills; my part is to buy as savingly as possible. I have no money to handle, excepting an occasional five or ten dollar bill that much coaxing had procured for me, or the cash proceeds I may secure for my butter, eggs and poultry." I know that, too, and that is where one of our real difficulties arises. I think this difficulty is experienced more by the women in the country than those in the city. It is not an unusual thing for the latter to be given an allowance by their husbands on which to finance the household; but to my knowledge

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not many of the rural women enjoy the advantages of a personal bank account. Our first efforts, then, toward domestic bookkeeping must be applied along the lines of opening the eyes of the "darkened understandings" of our husbands and persuade them to make us true partners of the firm; giving into our keeping a share of the proceeds and allowing us to meet what is generally termed the inside expenses. We are all more or less familiar with the masculine answer when approached on this subject. He dons a grievous and injured air and says quite magnanimously: "My dear, all I have is yours, what is your complaint? Am I not feeding you and clothing you as well or even better than your neighbors? When you need anything all you have to do is to ask me for it, and if I can afford it, it is yours. Surely you should be satisfied." The fact remains we are not satisfied. We try to be, but we are not. There are so many channels today open to woman whereby she can make an independent living for herself (and many have tasted the joys of self-support before entering their husbands' homes), that it makes it doubly hard to be thus dependent, and when anything is required, instead of going to a purse of her own as formerly, she has to humiliate herself by asking her husband for it and undergo the mortification of being refused if she fails in getting him to appreciate the need as she does. One need not be a suffragette to arrive at the conclusion that there are rights and privileges denied the women in the home that, if enjoyed, would not only make them happier, but their husbands also. It would be a mutual benefit, and I have faith in man's fairness and his respect for individual rights—even those of his wife—to believe that if the thought has been presented to him in a fair business-like way he will recognize the reasonableness of it and set about providing a way whereby his wife may handle the money of the home that is rightfully and naturally hers, and here I would add that for a man to know that his wife is keeping an intelligent account of her expenditures and is quite as business-like about her finances as he is about his, is a strong incentive for him to give her a free hand and scope for her energies.

I find it convenient to do my bookkeeping under four headings—food, clothing, miscellaneous and hired help. I get monthly statements from the merchants, check them off with the bills received, enter all items into a small dated diary, and then transfer to my cash book under the above headings. After totalling each separately I find the aggregate expenditure for the month.

It is very interesting to compare one month's expenses with another, and any given month with the correspond-

ing one for the previous year. By doing so one often makes discoveries that are quite startling. For instance, supposing for a certain time the farm supplied the meats used on the table, and then for a corresponding period the meats had to be bought, the food accounts for these two periods would immediately show a decided increase. Our attention is arrested and we at once investigate to discover the cause. We find that it is due to the failure of the farm to produce its own meats, and so with many other things that might be home-grown. If we have been carrying out the principle of arousing and maintaining our husband's interest in our bookkeeping he will not only acknowledge where the leakage came in, but will immediately set about correcting it. The garden, the dairy, the hens, the pork, the beef, are tremendous assets to a farmer's table, and often cash is paid out for these things that if kept account of and faced in cold figures a remedy would be provided.

The farmer is differently situated to the salaried man. Generally speaking, he does not have much cash to handle until after his grain is threshed; but after he begins to market his grain why not deposit in the bank to his wife's credit as many hundred dollars as he expects it is going to cost to



Synopsis of Canadian Northwest Land Regulations

ANY person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub Agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties—Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price \$3.00 per acre.

Duties—Must reside six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent and cultivate fifty acres extra).

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$3.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth \$300.00.

W. W. COBY,

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.
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