

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

IT WORKED

"It did work, Miss Beynon, after all," said a pleasant faced woman, as she came up to shake hands with me at the Alberta Convention. "You remember you didn't think my plan for dyeing my rag carpet would work, but I tried it and it did, splendidly."

Which only goes to show that we should not be too much afraid to tackle a thing because it has not been tried before. The lady's plan, as she outlined it to me in her letter was to lay her carpet flat on the floor and apply the dye to it with a brush, as the carpet was too big and unwieldy to put into any vessel she possessed. I told her I was afraid the color would run thru the carpet and stain the floor, but she put a good layer of newspapers over the floor and so preserved it from harm, and she said her carpet took a beautiful color this way.

She put the dye on the stove in a tomato can and boiled it for hours, as a lengthy boiling, she claims, gives it a richer and softer color. Well, as a result of her courage and enterprise, she has a pretty rug in rich soft shades of brown to put into the room which she has just done over in a dull buff shade, instead of a very much faded hit-and-miss carpet. Another proof, this, that it isn't money that makes homes beautiful, but hard work and brains.

It is my firm conviction that every ugly, inharmonious house in this country could be at least reduced to harmony, if not made positively beautiful if the owners were prepared to make a lavish expenditure of energy and a small expenditure of money.

Being one's own house decorator is not easy, and I always take pains to warn those who write to me for suggestions that it involves downright hard work, but I find that the average country person is not very much alarmed at the thought of a stiff bit of physical exertion, and the end so splendidly justifies the trouble involved.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

THE HOUSEHOLD NUMBER

And don't forget, please, about the Household Number. Prizes of three and two dollars each will be given for the best and second best articles on the following topics:—

Household Efficiency

No. 1. Re-arranging the present equipment in order to make the doing of the work easier. Simple alterations are included, such as building in shelves and simple cupboards. Drawings should be made of the kitchen and pantry in their original state and after the equipment has been altered.

No. 2. Equipping the house with modern labor-saving machinery, a list of which, with the approximate price is given at the conclusion of this article. Drawings should be made showing where each article of furniture would be placed in the model kitchen and laundry. Since it costs never a cent to fit out houses on paper we especially ask that the women who write on this topic give their fancy free rein and make their homes as efficient as possible.

Mothers' Problems

No. 1. Care of the Very Young Child.

No. 2. Training the Child's Character.

There will be eight prizes in all, two for each of these topics, and I hope that out of loyalty to the Homemakers' department many women to whom such small prizes are no special inducement will be willing to give us the benefit of their experience.

All articles must reach The Guide not later than February 22. And they must be written on only one side of the paper and in pen and ink, and addressed to Francis Marion Beynon, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.

Household Appliances

Building of a small engine room and laundry and equipping for heating in winter, \$250.

A 7 1/2 h.p. gasoline engine, \$490.

Power washing machine, \$75 to \$115.

A 32 inch power run ironing machine for gas or gasoline heat, \$63.50.

Stationary tubs, \$32 each.

Installing an electric lighting plant, \$250.

Installing hot air furnace, \$250. Hot water furnace, \$350.

Installing vacuum cleaning plant, \$250.

Installing water system in house, \$125.

Carpet sweepers, \$2.00 to \$4.00.

Cabinets for kitchens, \$30 to \$60.

Long handled brushes, \$1.75.

MEN HIDING BEHIND SKIRTS

Dear Miss Beynon:—You are deserving of credit for saying a word on behalf of our boys who have not yet enlisted. Most of our valiant shouters would like to convey the impression that the young

man who doesn't rush off to war to save the shouter's neck from the German noose is a demon of iniquity, not at all fit to live, but the young boy of eighteen or twenty has a better right to be allowed to live a little longer than the older shirker has to dodge behind the protection of his wife's skirts. I wonder if the boy is not as dear to his mother as the hubby is to his dear wife.

If we had a surplus of men in Canada conscription would be the proper thing, but as it is there will be thousands of acres of land not cropped next year, because of lack of help. I am a farmer, and right now need help badly; so do my neighbors.

J. BURNS.

NOT OUR BUSINESS

Dear Miss Beynon:—Re your article "Penalizing Bachelors" in The Guide of Jan. 12, I would like to offer you my humble opinion. First of all I don't think it's our concern what policy Great Britain adopts concerning married or unmarried recruits, but at the same time ninety per cent. of



A Gull Rabbling a Plover's Nest

people would surely place the duty on unmarried men first. You say, "Why, it seems fair to ask, should the single man go to fight for the married man's wife and children?" But hasn't the single man anything to fight for? What of his little brothers and sisters and his dear mother—what of his home and country; are these not precious to the single man? If you have a father and a single brother, besides younger sisters and a mother, would you send your father to fight in preference to your brother? One is young, strong and hardy with no financial obligations, the other is the support of your home, and is fast passing the time of life where he could stand the hardships that the younger man could. Then, again, you say, it's the state that should stand all the financial responsibility. Quite so; but why would you have the state bear the financial responsibility of supporting the wife and family of the married man when they could send two younger men for the same money, and if the single man meets death the government's responsibility would not be anything like supporting the family and wife of the married man?

You say that owing to the single men being taken there will be an army of single women who would have married and had comfortable homes that will now have to live on a wage just above the bread line. Would it not be best to let these single women continue to live as they have been used to living, rather than have an army of widows and children supported by the state just above the bread line, being relegated there from their comfortable homes, furs, servants, limousines and luxury, as you describe the married woman, though it seems bad grace to admit that such is the different circumstances between having a husband and not?

Then, again, you say it's because married men are in government positions and are protecting themselves, but the British war lord is a bachelor, and even so, do you think that the sons of the British ministers want to go home and govern the country and send their fathers to fight?

Hoping you will see fit to publish this answer to your article in the Homemakers page, believe me to be

BERT SANTER

RECIPES FOR TANNING

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have a couple of recipes for tanning skins with wool or hair on. I had a sheep's pelt but did not have the ingredients for

tanning it at hand when it was fresh, so I salted it down until I could get the materials that were required. I then followed the first recipe and had very good success. They can be worked more conveniently in warm weather.

No. 1. First soak the skin in soft water thoroughly. Then with an old knife or sword-shaped stick remove all flesh and fat and trim off skirts or rough edges. Then make a mixture of pulverized alum, 1 lb. with salt 1/2 lb. and wheat bran two double handfuls formed into a paste with a little water and spread over each skin. This makes enough for one skin only. Then roll it up, let it lie in the shade for three or four days; then shake off, rub and pull the skin as it begins to get a little dry, until it is soft and pliable. A little neatsfoot oil on the flesh side, well rubbed in, and rubbed occasionally as it is finishing drying, and the great job of tanning is done. This is from a practical tanner.

No. 2. Stretch and nail a fresh skin tightly to a board, flesh side out. Then, with a blunt knife, remove all fat and flesh from the skin. Rub in fine chalk until the chalk begins to powder and rub off. Then loosen the skin from the board and fill it with finely ground alum; wrap it closely; lay it by in a dry place for three or four days, after which shake out the alum and work well with the hands, and the thing is complete.

I colored the one I tanned with a package of black Diamond dye. I dissolved it as directed for coloring and rubbed it in the wool with a rice root scrubbing brush when it was sealding hot. One package made one pelt a grey color.

FROM AUNT BETTY.

LAUNDRY HINTS

(From Good Housekeeping)

Washing Colored Fabrics

"How can colored fabrics be washed without the loss of their color?" is asked by Mrs. O. E. V. Colored clothes should not be soaked or boiled. The washing should be done quickly with warm water and a mild white soap in solution. If the color is delicate—like lavender in dimities—the soap should be replaced by soap-bark, bran water, rice water, or cooked

starch water: Soap-bark—One cupful of soap-bark in two quarts of water. Cook for twenty minutes.

Bran water—One cupful of bran water in one quart of water. Cook for twenty minutes.

Used strained solutions in clear, warm wash water. Wash rapidly one piece at a time. Do not use blueing with pinks, lavenders, greens, or yellows. Turn the wrong side out for starching and hang to dry with the wrong side out in a shady place.

To Set Colors

Mrs. G. H. R. asks: "How can I set colors?" Use salt, vinegar, sugar of lead, alum, in the following proportions: To one gallon of water, one-half of a cupful of vinegar, or two cupfuls of salt, or one tablespoonful of alum, or one tablespoonful of sugar of lead (poison). Salt is usually best for blues, browns and reds; vinegar for pinks; sugar of lead for lavenders. To test for the best setting solution: Let a sample soak overnight in a setting solution,—then wash when it is dry. Drying after setting a color prevents it from fading. The effect of brine and vinegar is not lasting.

TOLD THE TRUTH

"Did you notice any suspicious characters about the neighborhood?" the judge inquired.

"Sure, yer honor," replied the new policeman, "I saw but one man, and I asked him what he was doing there at that time o' night. Sez he:

"I have no business here just now, but I expect to open a jewelry store in the vicinity later on." At that I sez:

"I wish you success, sor."

"Yes," said the magistrate, in a disgusted tone, "and he did open a jewelry store in the vicinity later on and stole seventeen watches."

"Begorra, yer honor," answered the policeman after a pause, "the man may have been a thafe, but he was no liar."

NOT THE STOCK YARDS

"Any letters for Mike Howe?" inquired the farmer of the postmaster.

"No, not for your cow or anybody else's cow," responded the postmaster in a rage.

HE KNEW

Teacher—"What is velocity, Johnny?"

Johnny—"Velocity is what a fellow lets go of a wasp with."