

every day, or nearly every day, sometimes long distances, and performing at night. There will be a good deal of concerted work and everything has to be memorized. This should not, however, present any difficulty to an artist of average ability. In some of the concert parties, half of the program is devoted to excerpts from the operas, so that this class of work is good training and desirable in other ways, all the performers being people of refinement with some pretensions to culture. The places visited are Y.M.C.A.'s and good concert halls. If one is strong enough to stand the strain, a concert party is both interesting and attractive. Lyceum work, as it is called, is a strong feature in the States. There are, however, several managers who undertake Canadian tours. For grand opera and musical comedy there is (so far as I know) no opening in Canada; and as regards the last, I would not recommend any girl to go into an American company. Their singing can hardly be classed as music, nor their performances as art; and there are other grave objections. A good English musical comedy company is a different proposition, and offers a fair field for the ambitious, many well known artistes having risen from the ranks. A small part would command £3 to £5 a week. The chorus get a salary of £2 (\$10) a week, with extra for matinees and for understudying. That sounds little, but in reality it is quite enough to live on comfortably, living being so much cheaper in England. Voice trials are held constantly, and anybody can obtain a hearing by applying. The stars of the company get very large salaries indeed. I mention this, as the singer is not tied to one continent, which is one of the charms of the profession, and will quite likely find herself in England at some time or other.

It is difficult to get into grand opera without a personal introduction, and few have voices sufficiently powerful to do well in it. There is always the possibility of being noticed by some influential magnate of the musical world, while on tour, and of getting an opportunity in this way. As regards the concert platform proper the demand for singers is small and getting smaller, and it is very difficult for the beginner to get a chance, artistes of established reputation being nearly always chosen in order to draw the

crowd. The novice will be well advised to get known, either by means of singing in a church, or by some other method before trying this branch of art. In any case few succeed in getting enough engagements to keep them. Some work up a teaching connection, but it is uphill business.

There is practically no demand for oratorio in Canada, and this being so young a country, while one can make a living here as a singer, for fame and fortune one must go to New York, or to Boston, or to the old world. But once a singer gets fairly started she will find the way open out as she goes along and other things being equal, she will reach the level justified by her ability, in time.

Singing is one of the most health-giving of pursuits. It is the exception to find a singer suffering with dyspepsia and kindred complaints which burden the life of the clerk and those engaged in sedentary occupations. The fine physique of the singer is a matter of ordinary comment; so much so, that it is popularly supposed only the exceptionally developed are endowed with voices, whereas more often than not, the physique is the result of the constant practice of the voice. The writer has seen some miserable specimens of humanity turned into splendid looking women by a course of careful training in voice production. One never sees a vocalist looking as if life were a dreary blank. In spite of the hard times that come sometimes, singers are always bright, happy, gay, and smiling. They enjoy their work and possess good digestions. The favored few who attain eminence are able to spend the evening of their days in the full enjoyment of the fruits of their labors.

The writer is personally acquainted with a singer who for twenty years plodded along, making no more than a decent living. At last her chance came. She was engaged to play a part in grand opera in an important production. She attracted favorable notice—the twenty years hard work told now. Within three years she had amassed a respectable fortune and was recognized as one of the first singers of the day. I may mention that this lady had to earn the money for her training. What one has done another may do. In what other profession can a result such as this be accomplished?

IF I WERE PREMIER

(Continued from page 7)

would properly include other food stuffs. Nor need the working out of the scheme be confined to the West, and to extending the acreage of cultivation. I have spoken of wheat and extended cultivation because that points the moral most vividly, but Ontario and the East would without doubt furnish as good opportunities and the results desired obtained as much by intensive cultivation as by extending the present acreage. There would, however, be obvious difficulties in using any but Crown land for this Government work.

There need be no fear that so substantial an increase in wheat would lower the price too much, for in the first place, the price of wheat is steadily rising and yet this rise in price does not mean a benefit to the farmers but merely privation for those who would benefit by an increased food supply.

The problem of the unemployed alone cannot be left to the gradual adjustment of social forces. The lack of work, the pinch of hunger, the certainty of starvation, are too keen to allow us to toss the matter aside merely as a newspaper article. We must be keenly alive to our responsibilities. We are our brothers' keepers. We must not only be awake to our responsibility, but we should be able to comprehend it not only as responsibility, but as a privilege. The problem of the unemployed is so serious that experts, social workers and economists consider Government action will be necessary to meet it. This method which I advocate would settle this question for the time being, and help to settle it permanently, as a continuation of this scheme would provide for the gradual settling on their own land of the men who had, in taking part in this, learned how to farm. It would, doubtless, according to the advice of social workers, be necessary in many instances to use the influence of the law to deal with those men who are unemployed because they do not want to work.

We have spent \$1,000,000 a year to get immigrants. More than one-third of the present population came as immigrants; this isn't taking into account that their children have since that time formed part of the total population. We cannot get this increase for some time. Yet so necessary has it been for Canada to have people—labor, farmers—that the immigration policy has always been an important function of government. We cannot now have this immigration; let us make use of that floating population that drifts from city to city, and, being an increasing class, threatens to upset the social and economic life not only of Canada, but also of the United States.

We cannot increase the labor of the country, we cannot get the settlers we need; then let us do with what we have, use the labor that now is idle, train labor that is beneath even the class called unskilled, and expect useful citizens of men who have not learned that it is worth while to become citizens of any country.

Both political parties and all citizens should approve a government measure to carry into effect the policy here outlined for at the present time our national well-being is endangered, our advance hindered; the falling off in trade, in commerce, in expansion, in production, is causing serious depression and set-back. In these circumstances, we must take new courage; we must not lag and fail, but, considering the situation, we must deal with it as a business matter, so efficiently that the present unemployment, the present falling off in immigration, the stopping of settlement and the lack of wheat, shall be seen only as factors that shall have made for our greater advance.

But consider the farther reaching result—we shall have established a precedent for the world, and increased enormously the prestige of our country. There are not lacking those who consider that we in Canada—our governments and ourselves—are somewhat lacking in that initiative which makes for greatness. If we do this—a big thing, in a big way, if we back up our army of soldiers with an army of production, we have set a mark at the beginning of our national life and "Canada" becomes a name that stands for an idea efficiently carried out—food produced for the world and an example given to the nations. In the reorganization that will follow this war, the influence of such decisive action will be far-reaching. It will directly encourage the principle that the foundation of our national life is production of food by agriculture; it will develop the natural resources of our country; it will encourage future immigration from those countries to which the story of the achievement will spread; it will mark a definite step in the advance of social economy and art of government, in the attainment of successful and permanent civilization on earth.

If I were Premier, this is what I would do: In view of the certain shortage in wheat and in food, considering the great need of the Empire and of the world, knowing that we have the land, the seed, the organizers, the machinery and the labor, I would put an army of 50,000 men on the western plains to produce wheat in 1915.

If I were Premier— I have written as a woman, it is for men—for the Premier to carry out the idea.



A Lifetime of Comfort

When you buy an OSTERMOOR, hand-filled, felt MATTRESS, you buy a lifetime of solid comfort. Your days will be brighter and happier, because your nights will be spent in sound, refreshing sleep.

The allotted span of life is three score years and ten. One-third of this time, or 23 1-3 years, should be passed in bed. Why not make yourself more comfortable at night, and happier and healthier in the daytime?

THE FAMOUS
OSTERMOOR
\$15 MATTRESS \$15

is the most comfortable and most serviceable mattress in the world. The advent of the OSTERMOOR in 1853, marked the passing of the old-fashioned, unsanitary hair mattress.

Sixty years ago the OSTERMOOR Mattress was a new and untried article. To-day, we have letters to prove that OSTERMOOR Mattresses, which have been in constant use in Canada for 50 years, are as soft and comfortable as when bought. The remarkable popularity of the OSTERMOOR, has, naturally, given rise to many

imitations. These imitations resemble the OSTERMOOR in outward appearance only; the superiority of the OSTERMOOR is inside.

Write for free booklet "The Test of Time." Insist upon the GENUINE OSTERMOOR when buying a mattress. Sold by the best stores in every town and city in Canada.

MADE IN CANADA

The Alaska Feather & Down Co., Limited, Montreal
The Alaska Bedding Co., Limited, Winnipeg
The Alaska B.C. Bedding Co., Limited, Vancouver



The Sign of The Triangle

THE E D S triangle is known far and wide. Look at it again and study it. Note its peculiarities—its three divisions with the letters E-D-S in the divisions. This mark has significance. It means that every tin, and glass, and wood, and stone package on which it may be found, contains an absolutely pure product of the highest possible excellence. Few marks on fruit and vegetable packages mean as much as the E D S triangle.

The fruit and vegetables contained in one form or another in an E D S container, are grown on our Garden of 1000 acres and adjacent farms. They are gathered when exactly ripe—in their most perfect condition. They are converted the same day or within 24 hours. Every ounce of fruit is hand sorted. Every blemished, bruised or inferior fruit or vegetable is rejected. Only pure cane granulated sugar is used. Where spices have to be added, as in the case of E D S Tomato Catsup, the highest possible grades are used.



A good wife and mother should be careful in the matter of what food products she buys. It is not economy at all to buy inferior grades. Disorders and worse lurk in poor foods. It pays to be particular. Therefore, when you buy jams, jellies, preserves, marmalade, catsup, grape juice, raspberry vinegar, and canned fruits and vegetables, ask to be served the lines marked with the E D S Triangle.

Good grocers everywhere in Canada sell E D S lines. Your part is to ask for the E D S Brand.

E. D. Smith & Son, Ltd.
Winona, Ontario.