

Blind Rosa.

BY HENDRICK CONSCIENCE

(CONTINUED.)

The entrance of the stranger surprised the broom maker and his wife very little, they greeted him politely and put themselves at his service, thinking that he wished to inquire the way; and the husband, indeed, had already sprung from his seat to accompany him to the door, and point it out. When he, however, said with manifest agitation and impatience, "Does Rosa Meulincz dwell here?" the husband and wife exchanged a strange look, and were so taken by surprise, that they scarcely knew what to reply.

"Yes, sir," replied the man at last, "Rosa dwells here; but she is gone on her begging rounds. Do you wish to speak with her?"

"O God! where is she? Can she not be got at once?"

"It would be difficult, sir; she is gone on her weekly rounds with our Trieny; but she will be home in an hour for certain."

"May I wait here, then?" asked the traveller.

Scarcely had he uttered these words, when the man hastened into a side-room and brought out a chair, which, though roughly and coarsely made, was yet considerably better than the lame old chairs which stood in the room. Not content with that, the woman drew a white cloth out of a chest, and spreading it over the chair, requested the stranger to be seated. He was delighted with this simple and honest kindness, and returning the cloth with many thanks, he sat down.

The woman pointed to an image of the Virgin on the table, all blackened by smoke, and said: "Every Sunday evening a candle is lighted there for the return, or—the soul of John Slaets!"

The stranger raised his eyes devoutly to heaven, and fervently exclaimed: "O God! blessed be Thy name, that Thou hast made love mightier than hate! My enemy has cherished my name in his heart, recalling it daily only to curse it; but while my friend has lived in my memory, and breathed the love I felt for her on everything around me, she, too, has here preserved the memory of me, and made other hearts love me—while I was eight thousand miles away. I thank Thee, O God! Thou art kind indeed!"

To be continued.

God himself who inspired your child's soul?"

"Oh! I knew you at once," said Peerken. "When I lead Rosa about, as she goes her begging rounds, she always talks of you; and she says that you are, oh so big! and that you have black eyes that sparkle and that you would come home one day, and bring us all such beautiful things. And I was not afraid of you, sir, for Rosa told me that I was to be sure to love you, and that you would bring me a great bow and arrow."

The traveller listened earnestly to the sweet and simple revelations of the boy. Suddenly he took him in his arms, kissed him warmly, and then said in a cheerful tone: "Father, another, this child is from this time wealthy. I will train him, educate him, and endow him richly. His recognising me shall be the making of his fortune on earth."

The parents were quite overwhelmed with wonder and joy; the broom-maker was scarcely able to stammer as reply:

"Ah! it is far too good of you. We knew you at once, but we could not be quite sure. Rosa has told us that you are a rich gentleman."

"And you, too, good people! you know me!" cried the traveller. "I am among friends here; I find a family and a relationship, where hitherto I have been met by nothing but death and forgetfulness."

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Fifteen Years Ago

From No. 27 of St. Peters Bote

Beginning with Oct. 1st there will be a daily mail-car on the Prince Albert line. It is owing to the endeavors of Walter Scott, M.P., Regina, that this improvement was effected.—The following took up thirteen good homesteads in St. Peter's Colony for themselves and members of their families: John Spilmann, Henry Lucking and August Jansen.—Peter Weiland who has land at Dead Moose Lake was in town recently and reports that the crops in the Colony are in excellent condition.—Peter Rositch, who spent four months in the Colony, left for Minnesota to get a carload of cattle. His parents intend to come up next spring. He reports that oats are five feet high at Dead Moose Lake, he never saw any that looked better.—Mat. Pollreis of St. Peter was in town to get store goods for Nenzel & Lindberg and for G. Schaeffer.—Peter Schrankl, after inspecting the land in the Colony, reports that he is well pleased with the Colony, and will so inform his friends in Germany.—Martin Doerfler of Minnesota who has his land at St. Benedict reports that the crops at the latter place are in fine condition. He found last winter quite enjoyable.—Joseph Hufnagel informs the colonists that he has opened up a General Store near Vossen P. O. on S. 16, T. 37, R. 18.

The new steamer "Saskatchewan" of the H. B. Co. has made its first trip from Prince Albert to Cumberland House.

A schedule of minimum wages for each classification was drafted by the board, the qualifying period from one grade to another in each classification being six months. While the minimum for female beginners in store remains at \$9.50, the effect of lengthening the qualifying period is to reduce salaries paid to inexperienced help from 3 months until the completion of apprenticeship. The minimum for beginners in laundries and factories is to be the same as for stores, \$9.50, while for mail order houses it will be \$8 per week.

The board decided to adopt a maximum week of 48 hours for women employees in mail order houses and stores, but provision is to be made for increasing the number of hours of employment in factories under special circumstances where a permit is secured from T.M. Molloy, commissioner of labor for Saskatchewan. The provisions of the Factory Act providing for a maximum week of 50 hours, will be made applicable to female help in laundries and factories.

The following is a schedule of the minimum wages to be applied to female workers in each classification:

	Laundries and Factories	Stores or Shops	Mail Order Houses
1st 6 months	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.50	\$ 8.00
2nd 6 months	11.00	11.00	10.00
3rd 6 months	12.50	13.00	12.00
After 18 months	14.00	15.00	14.00

The board also dealt with conditions of labor which are to be enforced not only in factories and laundries but also in stores and mail order houses. The following are the conditions of labor drafted by the board:

Cleanliness.—Every room and the floors, walls, ceilings, windows and every other part thereof and all fixtures therein shall at all time be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Drinking Water.—A sufficient quantity of safe, fresh drinking water within reasonable access of all workers, and on the same floor as any regular working room, shall be provided with military appliances for drinking. A common drinking cup shall not be used. When the water is iced the ice shall not be in the same container as the water.

Lighting.—Artificial illumination in every work room shall be installed, arranged and used, so that the light furnished will at all times be sufficient for the work carried on therein and prevent unnecessary strain to the vision or glare to the eyes of the workers.

Ventilation.—There shall be 300 cubic feet of air space for each employee in each workroom. A sufficient supply of ventilating windows and sashes shall open freely. Air shafts shall be open to the outside air at top and bottom. In any workroom which cannot be ventilated by these means mechanical appliance shall be installed.

Toilet Rooms.—There shall be provided suitable and convenient toilets separate from those used by the opposite sex, and the number

Minimum Wage for Female Help in Saskatchewan.

The minimum wage for experienced female help in all labor classifications, with the exception of mercantile stores, shall be \$14 a week, it was decided by the minimum wage board at a session held in Regina, July 31st.

The minimum wage for experienced female help in stores will remain at \$15, as decided by the board a week ago, but the period of apprenticeship for women and girls in stores was revised and lengthened out from one year to 18 months and this also is to be the period of apprenticeship for women in the other classifications, factories, laundries and mail order houses.

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Toilet Rooms.—There shall be provided suitable and convenient toilets separate from those used by the opposite sex, and the number

of such toilets shall not be less than one to every twenty-five females employed at one time, or fraction thereof. Such toilets must be thoroughly ventilated and open to the outside air, and must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Wash Basins, etc.—Wash basins shall be provided in at least the proportion of one to twenty-five female persons employed at one time or fraction thereof and shall be separate from those used by the opposite sex. Individual towels, either cloth or paper, shall be furnished to the workers.

Temperature.—There shall be a thermometer in each workroom and the temperature during working hours shall be over 60 degrees.

Those regulations respecting wages, hours of employment and conditions of labor in all classifications will go into effect October 1.

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