

cure the generous support of many of the leaders of commerce. America has over 1900 associations, and the total membership is 456,000. In Greater Britain the associations are numerous and flourishing, and Canada has 35,000 members. There are many active associations in Switzerland, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands and indeed the Y. M. C. A. is now well known all over the world. Even in Japan, China and Korea there are 150 branches with a membership of nearly 12,000. The value of the association buildings all over the world is £11,940,00 (America £8,900,000; Greater Britain, £1,912,00; United Kingdom, £1,128,000).—(Enc. Brit.)

A great expansion took place in the development of the Y. M. C. A. during the War and doubtless the above figures might be greatly enlarged upon at the present date.

In 1855 its sister institution, the Young Women's Christian Association, was started in England by two ladies almost simultaneously. In the south of England Miss Robarts organized a prayer union "with a purely spiritual aim," at the same time that Lady Kinnaird was beginning "the practical work of opening homes and institutions for young women in business" in London. These two branches were united in 1877 under the name of the Young Women's Christian Association, whose object runs parallel to that of the Young Men's Christian Association, viz: the all-round welfare—spiritual, moral and physical—of its members and its guests, and the provision of such comforts as will benefit the young womanhood of our great cities. Its total membership is well over half a million.

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Fruit Picking in B. C.

From a Picker's Point of View.

It was my fourth season at fruit picking and on my first morning as I looked over at my nearest "bunk" companion, I wondered how we would "mix" this year. As I had worked before for the same farmer I knew fairly well how things had to be done, so that I had not to contend with the fear of the unknown.

While I adjusted my overalls I knew that I was saying "goodbye" to their spotless beauty. We started work at 7 a.m., so we had to be up about 6 a.m. to make breakfasts and tidy up. The raspberries were beginning to ripen fast, but just at first most of us did not pick more than a crate a day. In the height of the season we picked much quicker. We had a "carrier" tied round our waists, in which was a basket. When the basket was full it was put into a tray with a handle. After we had filled two trays we took them to the packing shed, where we got our cards "punched" for the amount picked. The dinner hour was at noon, and, as there was not much time for cooking, the meal was generally simple.

The hours always seemed hottest and longest in the afternoon but we were very fortunate as we had tea taken out to us about 4 p.m. We all gathered then in the packing shed and when the mosquitoes were at their worst the scene was quite funny. As of course we had to remove our mosquito veils for tea drinking, we learned to be quite expert in the matter. There was generally a "smudge" lit, but it did not seem to affect the mosquitoes as much as the humans.

As there was quite a variety of fruit on the farm we often had a change in our work. Raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, loganberries, cherries, plums, etc., claimed our attention. There was a well near our shack, grateful thoughts of which linger in remembrance for it was the coldest of water on the hottest of days, and the path leading to it under the trees was edged with ferns, some of which were "maiden-hair."

The prettiest thing that I saw while in the country was a humming bird's nest. It was hidden in a blackberry row. There were two little birds in it and it was most wonderfully made. One very hot Sunday, our employer kindly hired a car and we went for a ride. We were taken round by an island which had suffered from the Fraser river being in flood, and a good many of the roads were under water. The cattle were mostly standing around "smudges" burned for their benefit.

Our work day generally ended at 6 p.m., though when the fruit was very plentiful we worked later. As the season was short I was only there about six weeks. My working days were about five weeks and I cleared \$50 in that time. But I am also richer for the friendships made, and for happy memories that remain.—"Picker."