

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

OH, THE COMFORT

—The inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thought nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.—Dinah Muloch.

THE NEW MAN

Side by side with the new woman there has been growing up the new man, as different from the tyrannical licentious man of ancient days as the modern woman is from the weeping incompetent wife of David Copperfield.

This new man wants a wife not to be a drudge or a slave but a comrade. If something unexpected turns up in business he schemes to get her alone so that he can talk it over with her. Together they plan how this spring they will get a new rug for the parlor and next fall perhaps they will be able to afford an organ or a piano. There is no "boss" in this household. It is a partnership where each one does his share of the work and the profits are shared equally whether large or small.

Many of these "new" men are more anxious for the enfranchisement of women than the women themselves and would willingly open to them the gate leading into every field of employment.

I fancy I hear someone protesting that this splendid type is the exception that proves the rule of man's utter selfishness, but I don't agree with them. I am convinced that in our own country at least there are thousands of these advanced men and there are thousands more ready to join their ranks as soon as the matter is brought fairly and impartially to their attention.

So in this series of articles on the Woman Question I have tried not to allow it to degenerate into a tirade against even the most conservative men, for they are merely products of their environment and training and are hardly to be blamed for their prejudice.

Suppose you had a great big sunny south bedroom with two clothes closets and a deep window seat. And suppose that after a time your brother and his wife and baby came to live with you and that the only room left for them was a small one on the north side of the house which had just one wee closet. Your sense of justice would probably tell you that it would be only fair to change rooms but it would be more than human to like it.

The men have had the south rooms all these years. Laws have been made by them and for them and we can hardly blame them for hating to give up their advantage. Until very recently women have amiably been doing the work that few men want to do—washing dishes, scrubbing and mending—and leaving severely alone the work that men enjoy doing, and naturally the arrangement appealed to them as an ideal one.

In the face of this fact it seems to me very praiseworthy of so many of them to be willing to give up their special privilege in the interests of a square deal.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

CHILDREN SHOULD NOT TALK

Dear Miss Beynon:—I enjoy reading the Sunshine corner and the Homemaker's page. I think you are doing a deal of good by the correspondence and high ideals you write about.

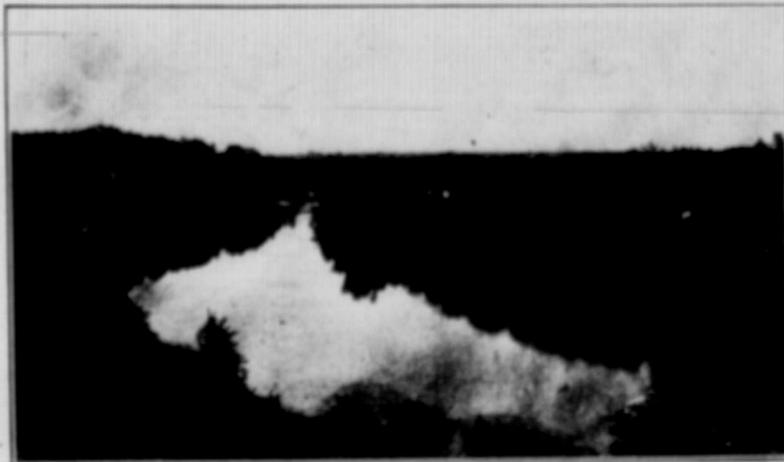
I have a bright boy of almost eight and a little girl past six. I try to teach them not to talk about things they see which are best not discussed by children.

A child should be taught not to tell everything it sees or knows to other children. I think if this could be impressed on their minds less badness would be communicated to them by older ones.

I am enclosing five cents, for which please send me booklet entitled "How to teach the Truth to Children." Wishing you every success in your page.

MOTHER.

I agree with you that conversation about nature's truths should not be



Who says the Prairie Provinces have no Beauty Spots?

encouraged among children, but I do think they would be much less inclined to discuss those questions if their curiosity were satisfied at home.

F. M. B.

TOO MUCH CHICKEN RAISING AND BUTTER MAKING

Dear Miss Beynon:—In answer to your letter enclosing rules for club, we have had two meetings since, both well attended. I submitted your suggestion but we think that the subject for discussion should be of a broader nature, as butter-making, chicken raising, etc., enters so much into our daily life that we are glad to get away from same. The touch of sarcasm in your appeal of July 24 is most appropriate. I haven't a word to say against a "dish washer" in itself, but it seems the fate of all great questions to be eclipsed by some such triviality.

With regard to the proposed clubs it seems to me that it should be our aim to keep the big issues in the limelight, and when we can solve these all smaller matters will automatically adjust themselves. Take poultry as an illustration. Successful poultry keeping necessitates cheap lumber, utensils, etc., with cheap transportation or proximity to market. Give us these and we can easily make poultry pay. The most important subject to women at present is the franchise which we shall no doubt secure in time, and we should endeavor to educate ourselves in such a way that we shall know how to use it to the best advantage.

Many people say "What does a woman know about politics?" and I must admit that to me they appear to consist largely of paradoxes. For instance, our leading men often enlarge on the grand privilege of motherhood and I can see that the woman who does most for the world in general and her own country in particular is she who becomes a wife and mother, and raises good citizens. But let us see how a grateful country compensates her. A single woman out West can earn from \$30 to \$75 per month, her taxes are comparatively small, she can enjoy all the comforts and pleasures of town life and can put money in the bank, but the married woman who is more patriotic, in the majority of cases, will have to exist in a log hut, live on coarser food and dispense almost entirely with social life, as there is so much land held out of use, that social life is almost impossible. Her children, although living in a rigorous climate must be dressed in "shoddy" for which she must pay the best price. In short, the more she does her duty and the more citizens she tries to raise, the more she is taxed, fined, and generally discouraged.

We may not know much about party politics but we do know that at least 25% of our earnings yield us no return, that a country woman could enjoy an occasional holiday, that educational facilities could be improved, that a chair is more comfortable than a soap box, etc. In fact there is no lack of problems to be solved and if the women of Canada will unite in trying to solve them they can become a great power in hastening the time when farm life in this country

will be something to be desired instead of shunned.—Yours faithfully

MRS. EVA SULMAN.

Yours is a delightful letter and I heartily approve of your ambition to take up the wider issues, but you and I must admit that there are many splendid women in the West who are not interested in or even in favor of these movements. However, I say "all hail" to the progressive women of Blackfoot and may their kind increase.

F. M. B.

SIX LADS AND LASSIES TO ANSWER

Miss F. M. Beynon:—I saw your offer of a booklet, "How to teach the Children the Truth." Now wife and I have six wee lads and lassies to instruct in the mystery of life, and it seems like an answer to prayer, as we both have felt keenly the need of help in this matter. The Guide has been coming to our home since its first appearance, and as long as it travels in an onward and upward line it shall keep coming.—Yours with best wishes.

EMERETTIE.

I can't tell you how pleased I am to have the fathers as well as the mothers interested in our page. You see our ambition is to make it live up to its name and be really a Home page.

F. M. B.

INTERESTED IN LETTERS

Dear Editor:—I have been an interested reader of your paper for some time and I noticed your invitation to join the Pin Money Club and thought I would write for particulars concerning it. Like most of our sisters, I am a farmer's wife and like to hear from you all through your letters in this paper. Hoping I may receive particulars,

BELLE.

WHO SHALL TELL YOUR CHILDREN?

Shall it be some little girl or boy who, having been sent out of the room when grown folk were talking, did not go any farther than the other side of the key-hole? Often this child, excited by a few isolated sentences only half heard and partly understood sets all the children in a school to wondering and questioning about the origin of life. They go at the matter ungladly, these small folk, and pry and peep and investigate—and why shouldn't they? All in a minute they have stumbled upon a whole new world of knowledge which concerns them intimately.

But do you want them to come into their knowledge in this way? Or would you rather take them up in your own arms and tell them gently and reverently that life is the fruit of love and gradually prepare their minds for a conception of the most beautiful relationship that can exist between a man and a woman—fatherhood and motherhood?

We have a little booklet entitled, "How to teach the Truth to Children" which shows how nature can be used in presenting this delicate subject and for which we make the nominal charge of five cents. If, in sending for it, any of you care to express your opinion on this or any other matter of interest to our readers I will be glad to give your letters

space on the Country Homemakers page, and so I will ask you in future to address you letters to me personally.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

SOME SPLENDID RECIPES

Spiced Currants

Wash and trim the fruit from stems and leaves. For six pounds of trimmed currants take four and one-half pounds of granulated sugar, two tablespoonfuls of ground cloves, one teaspoonful of ground cinnamon, two tablespoonfuls of ground allspice, one-half of a teaspoonful of salt, and one-half of a pint of strong vinegar. Heat the currants in a preserving kettle and add the sugar, vinegar and spices. Boil for one hour and a half, stirring frequently to keep it from burning. Then put it into jelly tumblers that have been standing in hot water. Let it stand for two days. Cover the tops of the glasses with paraffin.

Currant Jelly

Wash the currants until they are clean. Put them into the preserving kettle, mash them and boil them until they are thoroughly cooked, (about thirty minutes). Spread a piece of cheesecloth over a puree-sieve, dip up the hot currants and place in the sieve—and then press out as much juice as possible. Pour the strained currant juice into a jelly bag and let the mixture drip. Then measure the juice, allowing a pint of granulated sugar for each pint of juice. Put the juice into a preserving kettle and let it boil for twenty minutes, skimming frequently. Add the sugar, but be sure to stir while pouring it in. Boil this for two minutes and skim it. Pour the mixture into the jelly tumblers that have been standing in hot water and let it stand for two days, after which cover with paraffin.

WHY NOT?

Blowing bubbles made of soap
In a pipe that's made of clay!
Blowing bubbles,
Blowing bubbles,
Blowing bubbles all the day!
Blowing bubbles,
Let your troubles
Like the bubbles melt away.

—Alice Corbin.



7454—Norfolk Coat, 34 to 40 bust. For the medium size will be required 5 yards of material 36 inches wide.

7429—Blouse or Shirt Waist, 34 to 44 bust, with Box Plait, Stock Collar and Long Sleeves with Rolled-Over or Straight Cuffs, or Opened Neck, Hemmed Edges and Elbow Sleeves. For the medium size will be required 2 1/2 yards of material 36 inches wide.

6632—Sailor Suit, for Misses and Small Women, 14, 16 and 18 years, with or without Applied Yoke on Blouse with Long or Three-Quarter Sleeves. For the 16 year size will be required 11 1/2 yards of material 27 inches wide, 1/2 yard 27 inches wide for shield, 2 1/4 yards of wide, 4 1/2 yards of narrow banding.

7462—Three-Piece Skirt with Tunic Effect, 22 to 30 Waist, with High or Natural Waistline. For the medium size will be required 5 1/2 yards of material 36 inches wide, with 3/4 yard 27 for the lower portion.

7445—Three-Piece Skirt in Tunic Style, 22 to 32 Waist, with High or Natural Waistline. For the medium size will be required 2 1/2 yards of material 36 inches wide for the upper portion, 3/4 yard 36 inches wide for the lower portion.