

# At the Sign of the Maple

A DEPARTMENT MAINLY FOR WOMEN



Mrs. Douglas Young (Left) and Miss Nora Blake, Two Graceful Riders at the Horse Show.

## Homesteads for Women

THE "bricks and mortar" period of development in this country and the part which women must play at this stage has been, in a word, the subject of a series of addresses delivered during the past few months by Miss Georgina Binnie-Clark, of Fort Qu'Appelle, in England. Her audiences in London and in sundry provincial parts have been uniformly distinguished and representative—the last but one, for instance, the Suffrage Club of London, and the last, the Royal Colonial Institute.

At the last-named meeting Sir Charles Lucas presided, introducing the speaker in a three-fold connection: as authoress of "A Summer on the Canadian Prairie," as special commissioner of "The Canadian Gazette" and contributor of articles to that journal, and as working settler and practical woman farmer in Canada.

## A Fair-Put Claim

THE speaker dismissed preliminaries, according to her custom, and presented in words "straight-flung and few"—as few, that is, as the size of the subject and the fervour of the conviction that prompted permitted, the unfairness of present homestead laws toward women.

Woman had heroically pioneered, said the speaker, and why, now, when pioneering was listed among the by-gones, when the age of bricks and mortar had superseded the age of camps, did deprivation continue woman's portion regarding the land? What objection, she asked, could be raised to the plea for an equal right to the homestead land grant?

"Women of the West"—the Archbishop of Rupertsland was quoted—"have proved themselves, for qualities of courage and stick-to-it-iveness, the best men of all the pioneers." The case of Mrs. Jack May was cited by the speaker, and that of her partner, Miss May Whittrick, on their ready-made farm, in the Sedgwick Colony, in the year 1911. She forebore to mention her own conspicuous triumphs in Alberta, having worked 320 acres for some years with success.

## Answering One Objection

"ONE minister of the interior," says the *Canadian Gazette*. "decided that the ruling need of Canada was population. To grant homesteads to women would make them more independent of marriage than ever. Therefore it would not be in the national interest to grant homestead rights to women." Replying to which, thus Miss Binnie-Clark: "The woman of to-day scorns the thought of the commercial marriage or marriage of convenience." Can it be the millennium is dawning? "She has arrived at a place where, if she cannot have marriage as an inspiration in her life, she refuses it as a mere resource; and to refuse dependence is half-way to independence."

## The Opportunity Now

WOMAN'S time and opportunity, save for the handicap of the land law, have arrived in the West, as the trenchant lecturer pointed out with the facts. The bricks and mortar period has brought in woman's day. The centralization of population is marked by the building of cities. Communities and food supplies are inseparably one subject. And in the production of food commodities, meats, poultry, milk, eggs, butter, bacon, cheese, potatoes, vegetables and fruit, in addition to bread, woman is ready to act as a potent agent.



Two of the Horse Show Equestriennes at Toronto—Miss Marjorie MacDonald (Left) and Miss Elizabeth Coulthard.



## MARRIAGE OF MISS PELLY.

Canadians Will be Interested in This Picture of a Wedding Which Took Place at the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London, on April 19, When Miss Evelyn Pelly, Lady-in-waiting to H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, Was United in Marriage to Captain T. H. Rivers-Bulkeley.



Mrs. James A. McSloy, of St. Catharines, Mounted on "Confidante," Was a Winner in the Class for Saddle Horses Exhibited as a Pair.

The need of a home agency is powerfully evinced in figures which show the tremendous importation into the West of foods from New Zealand, Eastern Canada and other sources. The West can begin to supply its own want when woman's value is noted in economics.

Life on the land in Canada is not easy, the speaker admitted, but she set forth the opportunity it presents to the British woman who is keen to establish her way to an independence—"the kind of independence of which the possession of \$25,000, at the age of forty-five, after twenty years of profitable work on the land in the West, would be the solid symbol."

## Prominent Men Were Impressed

AMONG the hearers were many men of the administrative classes, a large percentage of whom engaged in an animated discussion of the speaker's talk. Of these some readily-recognized figures were: Mr. Richard Reid, newly-appointed Ontario Government agent in Great Britain; Mr. Ellis Powell, whose writings are wont to link English people with Canadian opportunities; Mr. Obed Smith; Mr. Bull, K.C., of Toronto; Sir W. Grey Wilson, ex-Governor of the Bahamas; Mr. Stewart Gray, advocate of the "simple life"; Major Maguire, the Irishman, and others.

Miss Turnor spoke of women's success at the Arlesley Training College, every one of whose women students who had gone to Canada had done well, and would not consider returning.

Discussion inclined on the whole to the favour of women on the land, an economic while independent agent.

M. J. T.

## Autumn in the Islands

(By M. L. C. Pickthall, in the *Atlantic Monthly*.)

After the wind in the wood,  
Peace and the night;  
After the bond and the brood,  
Flight.  
After the height and the hush  
Where the wild hawk swings,  
Heart of the earth-loving thrush  
Shaken with wings.

After the bloom and the leaf,  
Rain on the nest;  
After the splendour and grief,  
Rest.  
After the hills, and the far  
Glories and gleams,  
Cloud, and the dawn of a star,  
And dreams.

## Recent Events

TO condemn the means by which her personal wealth has been derived is the brave act of a sensitive woman, Mrs. Russell Sage. Through the Russell Sage foundation, established in memory of her husband, the New York public is seeing picture-films at the present time which expose the shark-like nature of money-lenders. Russell Sage is known to have been the possible greatest lender in the world.

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His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and Mrs. Cameron were guests last week in Toronto, attending the Horse Show.