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A Chat With Our Readers.

The first ambition of the Western Home Monthly is to bring pleasure and profit to its many readers. It is therefore necessary to find out what is pleasurable and what is deemed profitable. The Western Home Monthly wishes this information and is willing to pay for it. Therefore it calls attention to the following fact: and begs to make an offer that it is hoped will meet with a generous and hearty response.

From time to time the Western Home Monthly has altered its make-up and its table of contents in order to meet the wishes of its great family of readers. Every change has been the result of careful deliberation and long communication with interested friends.

It is now in a position to make a wider solicitation, and hopes to be able to secure the opinions of its readers far and near. The opinion asked for will be contained in an answer to two simple questions, and prizes will be offered to those giving the greatest help.

In order to appreciate the questions and reply to them intelligently, it is necessary for the readers of the Western Home Monthly to take note of the Departments now in operation. These are as follows:

- Editorial**—This department was opened but lately. Formerly it was carried on under the title "Current Comment," but it was felt that the time had come for the Western Home Monthly to express itself more definitely on some of the great issues that affect life in Western Canada. The articles on the grain question in the last two numbers give an indication of what may be expected. Some of the problems to be discussed in later issues are: "The Liquor Problem in the West," "The Rural School Problem," "The Character of our Immigration."
- Story Department**—This department has been edited with great care and an effort has been made to meet the varied tastes of our readers.
- Answers to Correspondents**—This column has grown up like little Topsy. The Western Home Monthly simply had to answer the questions sent in. The "Problem in Behaviour" seems to be exceedingly popular, judging by the number of replies.
- Correspondence**—Any one who has a chance to see the mail of the Western Home Monthly has some idea of the popularity of this column. Not one letter in fifty can be printed.
- Temperance Talk**—There has been constant demand for a continuance of this column. Inasmuch as temperance and National prosperity go together, the Western Home Monthly has had no hesitation in giving prominence to such ideals as find expression here.
- Sunday Reading**—This page has been added lately, and seems to be much appreciated.
- Women's Quiet Hour**—This is edited by one of our ablest lady writers and many kind things are said about it.
- Music**—The idea of printing a page of simple music is a venture. There is room for difference of opinion here.
- General Information**—There has been a demand for articles of general interest—bearing on history, geography, government, invention and discovery. It is possible there is room for expansion in this department.
- The Philosopher**—Here is a running commentary from the pen of a ready writer—one of the most gifted sons of the West.
- The Young Man and His Problem**—The popular preacher of the Central Church has won many friends through this column.
- What the World is Saying**—This sets forth the great sayings of the month in attractive form.
- What to Wear and How to wear it**—A page to be read by every woman, and to be studied by every man who wishes to please his wife and daughters.
- Original Plans**—A simple and inexpensive guide to hundreds in the West.
- Fashions and Patterns**—Another page for the ladies.
- Work for Busy Fingers**—This also is for ladies—young and old.
- Woman's Realm**—Here is a page for mothers, edited by "one who knows."
- About the Farm**—This is short but comprehensive. In its season it touches upon farming proper, gardening, poultry-raising, stock-raising, etc.
- The Home Doctor**—Many have expressed their appreciation of this column.
- Household Suggestions**—This is for the cook. There are continual questions bearing on the substance of this column.
- Round the Evening Lamp**—What would a paper be without a puzzle corner?
- The Young People**—This department has only recently received the prominence to which it is justly entitled. The young people have some rights in a family journal.
- The Children**—Here is another department that has been forced upon the Monthly by demands from outside. It is in charge of one of the highest authorities on child culture in the West.
- The Home Beautiful**—Running now for six months, and conducted by a specialist in this line.
- In Lighter Vein**—Who does not read the jokes?
- Illustrations**—Have they been appreciated? Should there be more?

Perhaps you never dreamed that the Western Home Monthly contained so much and represented such a wide range of interests. Yet the editors will not be satisfied until they have met not only the demands of the 35,000 subscribers and the 150,000 readers. Therefore they purpose the following questions.

I.—As to the General Contents of the Journal.

In what way can the Western Home Monthly be improved by the addition of new departments or the omission of present departments? What are the strong points at present and what are the weak points?

For the most helpful answer to the above, expressed in less than four hundred words, a prize of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) will be given, and for the next most helpful answer a prize of Five Dollars (\$5.00) will be given.

II.—As to the Special Departments.

Selecting any department that you please, state its strongest feature and indicate how the department may still be improved.

For the most helpful suggestion for each or any department a prize of Two Dollars (\$2.00) will be given. The answer must contain not more than three hundred words.

Note—All answers to be addressed to "Competition Editor, Western Home Monthly." No answers will be accepted after December 15. If possible winners will be announced in the January number.

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