

# The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

## THE PICNIC

It used to begin about the 24th May in our family, the dark threats concerning the Sunday school picnic and our probable absence therefrom unless we walked the straight and narrow path.

Did we think it rather a hardship to go for the cows? Very well, but, of course, if we couldn't do a little thing like that we could hardly expect to go to the Sunday school picnic.

Was it a long distance around and across the kitchen floor with a scrubbing brush and pail? Our kitchen was sixteen feet square. Dear me, one would think that a girl who wanted to go to the Sunday school picnic wouldn't grumble about a trifle like that.

Did little brother protest about feeding the pigs out of his turn? What about that spending money he wanted for the Sunday school picnic?

Thus all our great events were used as penalties for any and every offense until the keen edge of our happy anticipation was dulled. Of course they meant all the time to take us to the picnic, but the dark insinuation, being of so sinister a nature, never lost its efficacy. Then the weather man nearly always complicated matters by sending a morning which might turn into any sort of a day and the adults invariably passed to pessimism, while the juvenile heart ached with uncertainty and an almost vindictive hatred of the adult point of view.

Looking back today upon those picnics I am sorry for the little girl, who was myself, and for the little brother and sister who shared her awful dread, that the picnic would be forfeited by some trifling misconduct.

## THRIFT

In taking to heart the advice of the Dominion Government to practice thrift women are apt to translate the word in their own minds as "saving." No few women have enough money to disburse at any one time to really practice intelligent economy, that whenever they want to get a little ahead they think of doing it in only one way, by spending less, rather than more wisely.

It would be a great pity if this advice of the government should lead women to go without things which they really require in their homes or to buy necessarily the cheapest article of food and clothing on the market rather than the article which promises the best returns for the money.

No successful business man ever mistakes penuriousness for economy. The men who have built up big industries, while very careful about waste, have never hesitated to spend money quite lavishly upon occasion. They know what a great many housewives need to learn, that there is an economy that is the worst kind of waste.

So often, women, when buying a piece of linen or dress goods, will rush in and snatch up material at a bargain price that is full of weak threads and filling; linen that is half cotton and heavily starched to conceal its tawdriness, dress goods with a cotton warp or silk that is "loaded" so that it cuts to pieces in a few weeks. Every such investment is a sinful waste of the family budget, to say nothing of the housewife's time and energy in making these things up, and when this unreasoning economy is extended to food it becomes a positive menace to the welfare of the family.

This is not advocating reckless extravagance or saying that there is not room for the greatest improvement in the management of many homes. It is simply a warning against being penny wise and pound foolish.

There are bargains to be had from time to time in both food and clothing, but not everything that is offered at a reduced price is a real bargain. Some merchants put special price tickets on articles selling at regular prices, because there are people who will never buy anything, no matter how good the value, unless they think they are getting a bargain, but more often the special price is the result of some defect in the article itself which made it "hang on" at the regular marking. It is only occasionally that a very acceptable, reasonable and altogether excellent article is conspicuously reduced.

But by buying in quantities, a case of corn, instead of two cans at a time, and a barrel of sugar instead of a dollar's worth, by stopping just at the point where quality ends and style and novelty begins when buying materials and by co-operative purchases a real and valuable economy can be effected. Most of our homes have too little, rather than too much money spent upon them, but it is often very

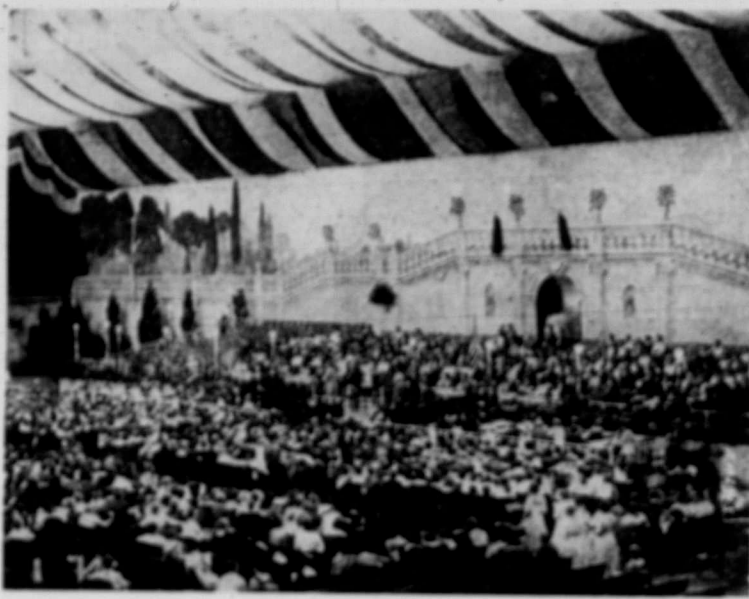
unwisely distributed. We need more business-like methods in the administration of the family budget.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

## HOUSE FURNISHING PROBLEM

Dear Miss Bynon:—Am writing for some suggestions for the varnish, paint, furniture and general decoration of our new house to be built during this summer. First, the parlor on the south-east corner has an oriel window under verandah on south and ordinary window on west side. Would walnut or dark oak varnish be best? What would be suitable in the way of paint for the walls; also nice furnishings and pictures? Would like if you would suggest good pictures, even if they cost a little more. Can just get a few at a time. Also the dining room on the north west corner, with double window to the west and single on north side. I have dark oak dining table and sewing machine. Would a combination buffet and china cabinet be suitable for this, or, if not, are there other pieces of furniture more up-to-date?

Then for the upstairs, we are having hardwood



Great reception of Federation of Women's Clubs in 7th Regiment Armory, New York. This is an event of national importance, as there are over 20,000 clubwomen from all parts of the United States attending this monster convention.

floors and would like to leave them the natural color for a time anyway. What is used on them to polish them? Also would woodwork and walls look well done all in white? Forgot to mention that we intend having burlap on dining room. Would like you to mention kind and color, also paint for walls, and what color of burlap would be suitable for kitchen which is in the south-east end. Two windows and door open into it, both windows on the east. What is the best color of paint for kitchen walls, and is dull finish better for all than bright finish, and does it clean off as well?

I might say we live on a farm and have been reading The Guide and see by it you answer such questions as some of these. Will send a stamped-addressed envelope for answer to be sent direct. Another question is: Would you advise linoleum for dining room and parlor, as these two open into each other by means of a double sliding door? Would like them to harmonize. Any suggestions will be very gratefully received by us.

Yours very truly,

T. J. S.

## Answer

If you care to make me a drawing of your house, indicating location, size and direction of rooms upstairs and down and enclosing ten cents in stamps, I shall be glad to send you samples of wall and wood finishes suitable for the different rooms. It would help me to know more about the furniture you have for the bedrooms.

In the meantime there are several of your questions that can be answered immediately. Concerning the best color for the woodwork, either walnut or dark oak would be good, provided you use the dull varnish.

It isn't possible for me to say what particular pictures you should get, but would recommend some good colored prints of famous paintings, very simply framed. They range in price from about seven to twenty-five dollars, and upwards. As you say, one or two really fine pictures are so much more worth while than a lot of poor common looking ones.

I don't think I should like a combination china cabinet and buffet very much. I would prefer the buffet alone or else a built-in old-fashioned corner cupboard, stained to match the woodwork.

As a rule white walls are rather staring, but I once saw a charming room with white walls and woodwork, grey blue rug, dotted muslin curtains, and white, black and mahogany furniture. It would never have done at all if the furniture had been golden oak. Still, I shouldn't recommend leaving a whole upstairs pure white.

Is the burlap on the dining room to protect the walls or for appearance sake? If the walls are to be painted I should prefer to use the sand-finished plaster and leave off the burlap, of which the colors, unless it is painted, are not very attractive.

The kitchen walls would be much better covered all over with casings, which is really an oil cloth. It makes the most serviceable kitchen wall I know of, except varnished tiles, which are very costly.

A reader recently reproved me for saying that I did not like linoleum for dining and living room floors, as it did save so much trouble. That must be admitted, without argument, but that does not alter my opinion that there is nothing as attractive as a stained and polished floor, with large or small rugs. Some times the amount of work involved makes it necessary to substitute linoleum, but it is much less decorative.

F. M. B.

## WASHING A SWEATER

Henrietta Kolshorn, Wyoming state demonstrator in home economics, in the following article tells how she washes a sweater: "I have soft water only occasionally. Before I wash my sweater, I take it out and beat it or shake it until all the dust is out of it. Then I make a soap paste by taking a quart of boiling water and shaving into that one bar of good soap; then I add six tablespoonfuls of borax, and beat the mixture until the soap is dissolved. I take a bowl or clean dishpan, and fill it three-fourths full of lukewarm water, and put in half a cup of the soap solution. If the water is very hard, I add a teaspoonful of borax for each gallon of water. Then I soak the sweater in that, and place the pan where the temperature of the water will remain the same. I leave this for several hours. After that I wash the sweater by pulling it up and down, or else I work it with a kneading movement, but I never rub it on the board, nor do I rub with my hands or rub soap on it, for that would shrink it. If it has spots that need special attention, I take a small brush and scrub the spots and the collar and cuffs.

"I change the water frequently, always making the same solution, and giving much care to keeping the temperature even. I do not let the sweater cool. I work rapidly, and rinse it in water that is again the same temperature. Into the rinse water I put only two tablespoonfuls of soap solution. If woollen goods are rinsed in clear water they will be stiff, but a little soap will keep them soft and fluffy. I press all the water out by passing the sweater thru the wringer, then I wrap it in a towel and press it with my hands until the water has been soaked out. I draw the sweater into shape by pulling the shoulders and sleeves to the width I desire, then I draw the front, back and collar into shape, and haste the sweater on a sheet, and dry it in a room that is the same temperature as was the water. Many a sweater is ruined by cold or hot water, or by hanging it out in the cold. Keep the temperature even from the time you soak the sweater until it is dry. Then shake it or beat it until the air has passed thru the wool, and it is fluffy and loose again.

"Woollen dresses, underwear, and other articles made of wool can be treated in the same way without shrinking. Of course, the careful housewife is anxious to have her articles all wool and of a color that can be satisfactorily washed. Plain grey, red, black and blue sweaters will give far better results than will striped sweaters. Almost all deep colors will fade a little, but if the work is well done it will not seriously affect the looks of the garment if the color is even, but if the white stripes are dulled by water that is stained, it is impossible to get them clear again."

They were eating their first meal in a summer boarding-house when Helen, aged three, suddenly asked, "Mother, why doesn't father ask a blessing here?"

"Helen," sternly replied her six-year-old sister, "we pay for this food."—From the Delineator.

## Dates

Thurs  
Fleche.  
Limerie  
June 20  
Readly  
Mollran  
Tuesday  
at 8 p.m.  
28, at  
Harpre  
Viceroy  
June 30  
p.m., P  
4 p.m.  
Monday  
at 8 p.m.  
G. Has  
8 G.G.A.  
ector for

Da  
Monda  
at 8 p.m.  
at 2.30  
Rocavill  
p.m., Le  
8 p.m., I  
p.m., Bal  
3 p.m., D