

Nellie L. McClung

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storey, one on a corner of two streets, in the residential part of Edmonton, the front of the house facing the west, excellent light entering from windows on the south and west. A good sized verandah runs the full width of the building, the main entrance to which is towards the north side. Entering the door one is in a square space fitted out with chairs, sofa, and so on. From the north side of this room a stairway winds up to the second storey. To one corner, underneath the winding stairway, is the telephone on a table, rather more than chair-high, with a seat nearby for the convenience of the one conversing. At the back of this square room is a doorway leading to the back part of the residence. To the right of the reception room is a long living room, there being no parlor, in the old-time acceptance of the term. The living room is two-thirds the width of the building.

This room gives one the impression, at once, of "home," there being none of the restrictions found in many of the society realms—in fact, the place has no semblance of "society" at all. There is an air of homefulness that makes one feel at ease immediately. The room has bright hardwood finished floor, on which are a number of mats or rugs, in careless yet becoming manner. There are several settees or sofas, each carrying a number of cushions, not in what may be looked upon as orthodox fashion, but lying about loosely as though having just been used. To one side of the spacious fireplace is a cabinet carrying the Encyclopedia Britannica, ready for use the moment a question arises, thus "fixing" many a matter right on the spot should there be doubt in the minds of those discussing a point. The fireplace is in the centre of the back of the long front room and is of red finished brick. The day visit was made there was material in the grate, as though thrown there to be out of the way, and still ready to do duty for the next fire. The screen in front of the fireplace was a little awry—the whole giving the idea that there should be no fixed arrangement, as use would be made very shortly of the fireplace. Though really not all finished as to being in position, there was no disorder, all appearing as for use and not ornament. To one corner of the room was the piano, and on it music, that exposed to view being "Tell Me" and "Dumbell Rag, Biff, Bing, Bang"—the latest in the soldier line—all appearing on the instrument as though having been just used. A little off from the piano was a cabinet, carrying library volumes. At the far end of the settee from the piano was a phonograph with records close at hand. Hanging from the mantelpiece, and at different points throughout the room, were hanging plants, while on tables here and there were other plants. The whole pretty homelike scene was enhanced by the singing of a canary off in another room. The place is lighted by electricity through lamps with subdued individual glasses, there being no chandeliers carrying large clusters of lamps and so on, all being of a plain though appropriate nature. On the settee and chairs, the latter being largely of the easy or rocker style, were books and magazines, as though just left by the individuals as call was made to some duty. There is nothing in the room to give one the impression of "You must not," all being bright and cheery, as though in evenings when the family is gathered a real enjoyable time was experienced.

On the occasion of the call, to one side of the cozy living room sat Mrs. McClung, senior, displaying some work and conversing with a lady friend in for the evening, both being on easy chairs out in the room. At the other end, on a sofa, was Mr. and Mrs. McClung conversing with the visitor who was on a comfortable chair in front of them. Though the conversation of the gentleman and wife was more directly with the visitor, it was not altogether so, as there was some with the ladies and also with the youngest son, who was on the floor going through a magazine. The lad noticed something about which he wished information. Putting the question to his mother, he was given answer in a quiet

manner. "Wes" and "Nell" is the way the couple addressed each other during the evening, the conversation being quite free with all in the room. Once a second son came in the front door and entered the room, not knowing any stranger was present. Excuse was made and the boy passed on. Such was the life at the McClung home the night an unarranged call was made.

The authoress is known as "Nellie L." McClung, emphasis being placed on the "L," so that there be distinction from the sister-in-law, Mrs. Anderson, whose name is also Nellie.—H.C.S.

Reclamation of Land

The Provincial Governments are taking a great deal of interest in the reclamation of lands that heretofore have seemed of little value. A great deal of land in Manitoba which was previously too wet for pasture, recently has been turned into valuable farming districts.

The largest undertaking of this kind in Manitoba, was the reclamation of a large area, comprising the bench lands on the east side of the Riding Mountain. Before this work was undertaken, the streams and freshets coming down from the mountain lost themselves and spread out over the land, making it very swampy, and the natural vegetation from the land having been decaying for centuries produced a very rich soil.

By a large system of deep ditches, carefully made and joined together, forming a complete system of drains with a natural outlet, this district has been well drained. While this work was only recently finished, to-day there are many prosperous farmers already in the district who have been able to work this land up into grain and stock farms. We are informed, farmers who have been in the district for only a few years increased their holdings in 1919 to the extent of about 10,000 acres. This would seem to prove that the undertaking by the government to reclaim these lands was of considerable value to the province as well as to the farmers especially affected.

There are several instances throughout Manitoba where similar reclamation work has been done and to-day the land in these same districts is being sold at prices equal to what was previously the high land.

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The new gasoline saver manufactured by the Simplex Gas Saver Company, is meeting with enthusiastic endorsement of car owners, and according to the company's report, sales throughout the west are daily increasing.

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One company in the city which has 18 commercial cars or trucks, after thoroughly testing the "Simplex," has ordered it for the 18 cars. Each car uses on an average 5 gallons per day of gasoline, and the 18 cars use 90 gallons per day. In a month of 26 days these 18 cars use 2,340 gallons, costing, at 40 cents a gallon, \$936. With a saving of only 25 per cent, there is a saving of \$234 per month, which is claimed by the company by the use of "Simplex."

A Misplaced Comma

A comma is a little thing, but so is a cinder in your eye. In the wrong place, little things can cause a great deal of trouble.

A certain poor woman whose husband was going to sea, handed through the clerk to the minister this notice, which she desired him to read in church. "A man going to sea, his wife desires the prayers of the congregation."

The minister punctuating it in his own way, read it thus—to the obvious amusement of his flock; "A man going to see his wife, desires the prayers of the congregation."

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