

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

GOOD-BYE

Every once and a while in life one comes to a parting of the ways. I have come to that today. It is with deep feelings of regret that I have to announce that in a few weeks I will have severed my connection with The Guide and with the many pleasant associations it has brought me, and gone to that Mecca of all writers on this continent, the city of New York. My relations with the editor, staff and readers of the paper have been so exceedingly pleasant that it is a real wrench to break off and enter upon what may or may not prove to be a wider field of usefulness. One can only hope that what appears to be "The Glean" may not prove to be a will-o-the-wisp.

Through five years full of interesting experiences we have gone along together and I think one may say we have grown together into a wider and more tolerant outlook upon life. I am sure that we, the readers and the editor of this page, have both tried to deal justly with each other and wherein we have failed it was due to a very human inability to see four square where our emotions were too deeply touched.

I had thought of trying to say a special good-bye to those of you who had gone out of your way to show appreciation of the things I have tried to do through this department, but as I thought of you, one by one, out in the windy prairie districts of the middle west, in the quiet mountain valleys of B.C., all the way down to the far east of Canada, and south to sunny Florida, I abandoned that intention. There are too many of you. And besides, it would leave out all the quiet, shy diffident people who felt just as kindly but who didn't think their opinion mattered one way or another. Many of these letters were quaintly, and often very beautifully expressed by those who, coming from foreign lands, had learned the English language late in life, but the spirit of kindness and appreciation is the same whether expressed fluently in a familiar tongue or haltingly in a foreign one.

I should like, however, to say a special word of farewell to the officers of the farmers' organizations, both men and women, and to express the very peculiar regret I feel that we shall no longer have the pleasure of working together.

And that is all. Words are so inadequate to express my gratitude for your friendly sympathy and co-operation, which I hope you will give in equally full measure to my successor. In the meantime will you remember to address all letters intended for the Country Homemakers' Department to that department, and that only letters intended for me personally should be sent to my new address, 484 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

TAKE THE OTHER FELLOW'S LIFE BUT I'LL KEEP MY MONEY

Dear Miss Beynon:—You were good enough to let me air my views on your article on the British conscription and now I come again in answer to your article on Canadian conscription.

First of all I think that in turning down what steps the government think are necessary to win the war is the surest way of sacrificing the life of our soldiers, by prolonging the war and also defeating the cause of democracy.

We are opposed to a nation that stops at nothing to win the war, even to driving conquered nations into slavery, practically against their own people. Let us look at the war from the true facts. First of all there were a few things that happened before the war that have a bearing on it, such as the Zabern incident, the Agadir incident, the seizing of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexing of Alsace Lorraine. There was also Lord Haldane's trips to Germany, the naval holiday proposed by Mr. Churchill and Earl Grey's efforts for peace just previous to the outbreak of war, all turned down by Germany, for she was ready and had her plans on the table. Then since the war started there was first of all the ultimatum, all too short, to Serbia, the burning and slaughter of innocent Belgians, the murder of Nurse Cavell and Captain Fryatt, the Zeppelin raids in the dark on innocent women and children, the ruthless submarine war in which Germany stands at nothing, the slavery and starving of Belgium and that most foul deed for which Germany received a public holiday and a medal to commemorate the deed was struck, the sinking of the Lusitania with its thousand victims, women and children, British, Americans and Canadians. These are the things we are fighting for

and not a few acres of land as you see fit to describe it.

I utterly fail to see your point of view, re annexation. Why do you propose that those parts of South Africa should be returned to Germany? Has not South Africa more right to them than Germany? Why should Australia give back those islands to the north of her for a future menace to herself? Why should Germany receive back Tsing Tau, from which to menace both China and Japan and why give up the Armenians for future massacres by the Turks. No one ever thought of annexing one foot of Germany proper, but for the sake of democracy we cannot leave Germany jumping off places all over the world.

Now as to conscription proper, you seem to dwell on the idea that when a man marries he has no affection for the parents, nor the parents for him and that they cease to think of each other's welfare. I venture to think that rather the opposite is the case, that the married man thinks more of the welfare of his parents than does the single man and also that the parents would sooner give their single son than see the married one torn from his wife and little children as well as from themselves. I think that most single men would prefer to go rather than see their married brother taken from his wife and children.

Conscription of Wealth

Then as to the conscription of wealth. The man who, through his toil, business ability, and thrift, has built up a good business or farm and has money invested, is to have his property conscripted and his investments seized and the man who has never



There are many meetings, even in conscription, when the family enjoy a hearty blast in the dining hall.

been any good to his country, who owns nothing through the lack of his toil, ability and thrift, or who spends it as fast as he makes it, gets off scot free. Is this what we are to understand is democracy?

The fairest way is to tax incomes, say all over \$800 for the single man, \$1200 for the married man and \$100 for each additional child, should pay an income tax getting higher in percentage as the income increased. The last thing we should do is to take away the inducement of men to produce wealth by conscripting it.

Then again why would you pay our part for the war that has been forced upon the democratic world by Germany, by annexing the property and land of the thrifty Canadian. Why make the man who has shown business ability pay an indemnity. If you don't believe in annexing a few acres, surely this would be all the Germans could do if they are the victors.

Dealing lastly with your first point I think your article will lead lots of people to misjudge England and to place the blame wholly upon Britain.

But no Canadian who has brought on himself venereal disease can be called innocent and pure minded. Where are the Canadian officers, not to be looking after the welfare of the men. Surely they are a lot to blame. The British authorities are far away in London and have their hands full. It is up to the Canadian officers to see that it was brought to their notice and see that the temptation was removed.

The fact of there being thousands of men of all kinds of morals together is what causes the condition and how many times has the downfall been on the other side! These conditions were prevalent before our men left these shores to a greater or less extent. We could very well start cleaning houses

right in our own cities, but wherever it is it should be vigorously looked into.

So let us resolve to help the government to win the war. Sacrifice is needed so let sacrifice be made and until the people of Germany denounce and dethrone the Kaiser we will not show them mercy. They set out to crush us, let us crush them until they say enough.

BERT SAUTER.

Answer

I have asked over and over again how this war is going to promote the cause of democracy either in this country or in Germany and have never yet received an intelligent answer. Do the allies contemplate ruling Germany after this war is over, and if not how are they going to be able to keep any particular form of government in force in that country. If the German monarchy is forcibly overthrown by their enemies the moment the armies are disbanded it will be restored. Nothing could be more advantageous to Kaiserism than to have the form of government changed from the outside rather than from within. As one German editorial writer said: "We know our system of government is wrong, but no Englishman would permit an outsider to come in and change his government for him, and neither will we."

And so far as democracy in this country is concerned the war threatens to wipe out many distinctions that formerly existed between it and Prussia, personal liberty, the right of free speech, and the freedom of the press are being decidedly curbed. War as a promoter of democracy is just as incongruous as war as a promoter of world peace.

Then as to the causes of the war, A. G. Gardiner, the brilliant English writer, who is one of the best informed men in Europe on international affairs, said recently in one of the London papers, I think the Daily News, that the men on the battlefields of Europe were "dying for a tale of ancient wrong," referring partly to the unjust Treaty of Berlin for which the British statesman, Disraeli was at least partially responsible, Gardiner says chiefly.

In regard to the annexation of territory you ask why Germany should be allowed to have back her possessions that have been taken from her during this war, and use them to endanger the peace of the world. Our own country has done its full share at endangering the peace of the world by grabbing territory and starting wars for financial reasons, and yet I presume you do not see in that any reason why England should have Canada, Australia and New Zealand taken away from her. But the real point is regard to the annexation of territory at the conclusion of a war is that it is criminal to allow a desire for revenge or retaliation to enter into the settlement. It is very human to want to get even but we must keep remembering that we will pass away, and that people yet unborn will reap the results of our acts. The only settlement which is justified is the one which will leave the least bitterness in the minds of all of the warring nations. Only by that means can we protect the boy babies of today and their unborn brothers from lying under other groups of little wooden crosses somewhere in Europe. And finally, it is utterly undemocratic to transfer people from one government to another without taking a referendum to see whether or not they are willing to have it so.

I feel quite sure that you did not give sufficient thought to the question before you expressed your willingness to forcibly take your neighbor's life and at the same time your unwillingness to give up your own property. That is to say that you set a higher value upon your farm and stock than you do upon the life and limbs of your neighbor. When one comes down to primitive facts our life is our dearest possession, more valuable to us than wealth, position or anything else in the world, and yet you would cast your vote to rob another man of that before you were willing to make the much smaller sacrifice of your possessions.

That is why I feel very strongly that a referendum ought to be taken on this question and I would like to see it made so that every man and woman signed their names and addresses to their ballots and that every one who voted for the conscription of other people's lives would thereby vote away every dollar's worth of property they possessed. Nobody has a right to dedicate other people's lives to the service of their country until they are willing to make a sacrifice, which although much

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