

Conducted by "ISOBEL"

Unearned Increments and Woman's Dower

When the struggle began last year in the British parliament between the House of Lords and the House of Commons the cause of the battle was "to get control of finance." David Lloyd-George, in a powerful speech in the Commons, vehemently pressed for a bill to curtail the sovereignty or voting power of the lords for, he urged, "He who has control of finance has everything." Lloyd-George holds that the "unearned increment" or increase of land values due to increased population, to the establishment of various great industries and such like, should be shared partially at least by the general population. That is to say by the state, because such increase is brought about, not by the land owner's labor or expenditures, but by the labor and expenditures of those contiguous to him who do not benefit from his increased land value.

Lloyd-George believes that a man cannot very greatly increase the value of his own land. Hence if his land does increase in value, it is due to outside influence and, therefore, outside influence should reap some of the profit. To be less abstract, a man might secure a piece of land in a desert and by costly irrigation reclaim it to some extent and bring it to a reasonable state of production. It would then, at best, be worth only a proportionate value of its productiveness. He alone could never make it worth more than that. The same land, however, surrounded in time by a city would become very valuable through conditions entirely brought about outside of and independent of, the owner's efforts and expenditures. The owner would call this "luck." Lloyd-George would call it "unearned increment" and proceed promptly to tax it pro rata, and spread the tax among the real earners of the increase.

Woman's Dower

Without extending this idea further at this point, it will seem a far cry from British land values, unearned increments, and Lloyd George's declaration that "he who controls finance has everything," to woman's dower on the Western Canadian plains. Yet is it, for has not the West got land values too, and unearned increments? Who earns the "increments" here?

In no country under the sun has woman been more directly responsible for increased land values, than in Western Canada. Foremost among the farming settlements were the women taking the gravest bodily risks, exposure, neglect, over work and under feeding. Here the earliest agriculturist spent no lonely weary years of single handed strain and stress preparing "a home" for wife and family by "hewing it out of a wilderness." His family was piled upon the first goods load that went to the settlement (the "clearing" was there already) and unloaded on the prairie. They lived under a wagon-box, or a tent, or in a sod shack, or anywhere and anyhow. But there they were and there they worked at whatever came to hand, and economized from the very beginning. They are working yet, but they do not earn anything at home. Their work is valueless as a money getter, so it is said.

A woman can prepare 1,995 meals in her presumptive home and the work is worth nothing at all. The same woman may (fortunately) go to her neighbors and prepare 1,995 similar meals and, strange to say, her work will have a value there. Not much, 'tis true, but still a cash value—a value appraised by a man who does not understand her work nor know its wear and tear upon her system.

Would it be a good idea for women to shift locations and work only where their labor receives a cash value? Why should women work for nothing? Men do not. If money and property are good for a man why not good for woman?

A man will engage a "hand" to feed his cattle and pay him liberally. He thinks it is a higher and better service to feed cattle than to feed humans. He pays accordingly. The woman is the victim of the man's prejudice favoring cattle. Shall she remain so? It may be that a son feeds the cattle. It is conceded then that he is a wage earner. A daughter feeds the household. She is not a wage earner.

The Son's Estate

We are told that a son "earns or helps to earn the land," therefore, the land is sacredly reserved for him. The daughter can't earn anything at home, so there's nothing saved for her. She is compelled to stay there, however, and work from year's end to year's end, but—there's no money in her work. It would be sheer folly to dower a daughter when the law does not compel him and he makes the law himself. It's all quite easy. If one had never a son, one could hire a "hand" for a couple of hundred dollars or so a year. The "hand" would work every day in the year but the sparse legal holidays. He'd never spend anything but his own earnings. He would not be invested with a good turn out and its keep to ruffle round the neighborhood with. He would not have to be educated or clothed, nor his way paid out of scrapes. In short all the hired man would cost would be just his wage and his board. He'd work longer and harder than the pet. He'd always get the hardest places and crusts. From the age of 18 to 25, seven years, (that is the age at which a son, if well grown, can begin to take a hired man's place up till the age he generally marries or goes on his own place) a son, substituting him for a hired man, could earn only \$1,750 (seven years at \$250 a year). From this his clothing, his team, harness, rig and their maintenance, and his annual personal expenses or pocket money, also his education, if he gets any, must be deducted. What is left is what the son really earns. In the majority of cases the hired man is by far the cheapest bargain. Yet in the face of this incontrovertible evidence we are required to accept the proposition, that "the boys earn the land and it should be given to them," and so "we grow more corn to feed more pigs to buy more land to grow more corn to feed more pigs to buy more land, etc., ad infinitum, all for our sons, whom in our short-sightedness we place upon pedestals with our own work-hardened hands, then stand back and admiringly exclaim, "behold

Continued on page 28

THE GUIDE PATTERN SERVICE.

In order to give our lady readers the advantages of those who live in cities and towns we have secured an up-to-date pattern service which will be published monthly. Any of these patterns will be mailed to any address for ten cents. If there are patterns you would like that are not published let us know and we will publish them. Always order the patterns by number and size and be sure to write your name and address very plainly. It will require from six to ten days to send you the patterns asked for.



8437

No. 8437—A dainty Lingerie Blouse. Cut in size 34 to 42 inches bust measure. Size 38 will require 4 1/4 yards of 36 inch material. Embroidered flouncing was used with charming results in the carrying out of this design. It would also be pretty made of lawn, chiffon, taffeta and pongee. Tucks at the shoulders throw a graceful fulness across the front and the use of the vest gives scope for individuality in the way of trimming. The sleeve may be full length or shorter.



8242

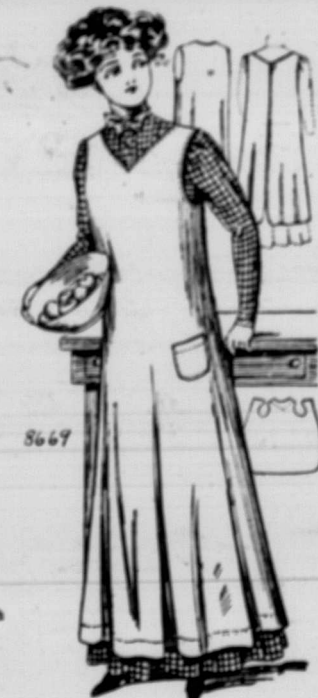
No. 8242—A Dainty Neglige. Ladies Dressing Sacque. Cut in size small, medium, large. The medium size will require 3 1/4 yards of 36 inch material. This pretty design for a dressing sacque will make-up daintily in dimity, lawn and the cotton crepes, as well as chaille and French flannel. It is the simplest of garments to make, as the front, back and sleeves are all in one piece. The sacque may be belted in or left to hang loose.



8483

No. 8483—Child's Rompers.

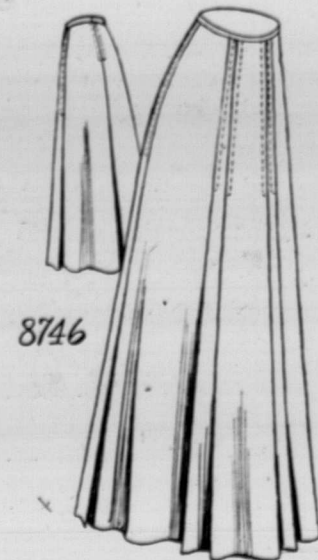
These useful little garments for children, are growing in popularity and no child should be without them. These rompers may be worn by either boy or girl. They completely cover the dress while at the same time give perfect freedom while at play. The neck may be cut square or high finished by a narrow band. A tape or elastic inserted at the lower edge holds the fulness in place at the knee. The pattern is cut in four sizes: 2, 4, 6, and 8 years. The 4 year size requires 2 1/4 yards of 36 inch material. This model will also serve as a pattern for a bathing suit if desired.



8669

No. 8669—A Good Housework Apron. Ladies One Piece Apron, with pocket arranged for High or V Neck Finish.

It is much easier to slip on an apron when busy at home than to take out spots on one's skirts and waists. A very practical easily made and comfortable to wear apron is here shown. It is closed at the centre back and seamed together at the shoulders. The work of sewing on this design does not require much skill or time and the result is pleasing and most satisfactory. The apron may be finished with high neck edge or low V opening as illustrated. The pattern is cut in three sizes, small, medium, large. Requires 3 1/4 yards of 36 inch material for the medium size.



8746

No. 8746—A Skirt in the latest Mode. Ladies Seven Gore Skirt.

One of the newest and most effective skirts of the season is here shown. It consists of seven gores, arranged in plaits at the seams which may be stitched in tuck effect. For practical ordinary wear with skirt and separate waists, this model will be found very desirable. The pattern is cut in 5 sizes: 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30 inch waist measure. It requires 6 1/4 yards of 36 inch material for the 24 inch size.