

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

A GREAT MOVEMENT UNDER WAY

"Watch us grow," which has long been a business slogan, might well be adopted by the women's section of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. The first convention brought about sixty farm women together. The next year eighty women gathered in to these meetings. This year two hundred women came. The women entered upon 1914 with five local associations, they are starting 1915 with sixty-two. Last year they were given a grant of five hundred dollars by the general convention to carry on their work for the ensuing year. At the convention which has just closed, this grant was increased to one thousand dollars.

Just the cold, bare facts are surprising enough in themselves, but to be present at that convention and see the force and energy and ability with which the work of that assembly was carried thru by the farm women themselves was to realize that there was a movement under way among the farm women of Saskatchewan which could not easily be stopped.

The features of this convention that impressed the observer most forcibly were the loyalty of the women to each other and their loyalty to the men, both in the big convention over the way and in their own locals at home.

The friendliness and cordiality of the women who had worked together on the board last year was hardly exceeded by the spirit of good comradeship which existed among the delegates and visitors.

Between the general convention and the women's section the relations were the pleasantest imaginable. A woman in Alberta asked me at the time of the convention there if it was not rather humiliating for the Saskatchewan women to have to ask the convention composed chiefly of men for a grant each year. I replied that the women did not feel that way about it on account of the splendid spirit in which the grant is made. The men pass this matter of a grant not as if it were a burden or a duty, but a great privilege to do so much to help the work of their women-folk along.

On the other hand, when the matter of the relation of the women's sections to the general association was up for discussion, and there was a clause which read that the women under certain circumstances were competent to form locals from which men were excluded, the women asked to have the clause "from which men are excluded" struck out as not being in keeping with the spirit of equality for which the association stands. Needless to say this met with the hearty approval of the men, and a resolution expressing their appreciation of the confidence expressed in them by the women was most enthusiastically passed.

It is a magnificent spirit which exists between the two sections of this association. Indeed, it seems to the on-looker that with such a general feeling of loyalty and friendliness towards each other there is nothing to hinder them from moving mountains, in the social sense.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

MAKING THE HOME BEAUTIFUL

Having noticed in The Guide, from time to time, some delightful suggestions on color schemes and having a new unfinished house which we are anxious to finish up prettily, as it is a real little gem—eight rooms, four rooms and hall downstairs and the same number upstairs—I am writing you for advice. We are intending to finish the double parlors and hall with beaver board, and some time in the near future mean to paint the walls or beaver board. Now, as we are far from any centre and seldom feast our eyes on the artistic, would you kindly advise me as to color and furnishings. Our house is twenty-four by thirty. The diningroom, or

kitchen, and livingroom, also the bedrooms are decorated over felt paper.

The double parlor has a very large window in the east, a small-paned, long, high window on the north, also a door opening into the hall on the opposite side. Then beyond the arch in the other room is a casement window, similar to a bay window, in the north, and another high window in the west, also a door opening into the livingroom on the south. The house is all beautifully light, but these rooms, being on the north side, require warm and sunny furnishings. What color or color scheme would you advise for the walls and what style of curtaining, carpets and drapes? I have plenty of good furniture, but the things mentioned I must still purchase. I love harmony, but as it is seven years since I have been in a city, I am largely a stranger to artistic surroundings, except as furnished thru the master artist, Nature. How I would like to have a picture, or rather a word picture, drawn of attractive furnishings for the two rooms and hall. I am enclosing a stamped envelope for reply. I am not in a hurry. Just make notes of this at leisure.

O.K.

I wish O.K. would make me a sketch of the floor plan of her house, showing where the windows and doors are placed and the directions they face, also giving the size of the rooms and describing the furniture and woodwork.

Without this information it is impossible to give a very satisfactory suggestion for a color scheme for her rooms, but with it I shall be glad to send her samples of wall colors suitable for her purpose, and if she will give me some idea of the amount of money she is prepared to spend on rugs and curtains I will find out what can be procured for her at those prices and send her samples of the latter.—F.M.B.

BED BUG AND FLY PESTS

Dear Miss Beynon:—We read the Country Homemakers page with interest and appreciation. This time I shall ask for help, as it will soon be house-cleaning season. Because of having so many different classes of hired help we have got bed bugs in our house, and as it is a good house I am very much dejected about it. The clothes closets are the worst, with the exception of one bedroom. We are also pestered with a large black fly in the upstairs, which stays from year to year, and when we think we have destroyed the last a warm day comes and then out comes a fresh swarm. Can anyone suggest methods of dealing with either pest? Would fumigating with formaldehyde be beneficial? If so, how is it done? Can anyone tell me if a plas-

tered wall which has been kalsomined can be successfully papered afterwards.

ANXIOUS TO KNOW.

The Gordon-Mitchell Drug Co., Winnipeg, sell a liquid preparation which goes by the plain unvarnished name of Bedbug Poison, which is one of the best things I know for destroying this miserable pest. It should be used generously on the bedstead, springs, mattress, sprayed into the cracks of the wall and all around the woodwork at intervals of about three weeks until they disappear.

When I was a little girl I used to destroy swarms of flies by shutting the doors and windows of a room and pulling down the blind, then spraying the window under the blind and the whole room with insect powder and leaving it shut up for several hours.

The kalsomine needs to be washed off before paper is applied in order to make a satisfactory job.

F. M. B.

PREVENT FLIES FROM HATCHING

As a result of experiments, the specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture have discovered that a small amount of ordinary borax sprinkled daily on manure will effectively prevent the breeding of the typhoid or house-fly. Similarly, the same substance applied to garbage, refuse, open toilets, damp floors and crevices in stables, cellars or markets, will prevent fly eggs from hatching. Borax will not kill the adult fly nor prevent it from laying eggs, but its thorough use will prevent hatching.

PRIZES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Instead of the Mothers' Number, which The Guide has been in the habit of printing each spring, it has been determined to issue a Household Number this year, the changed title leaving room to print articles appealing to a greatly widened circle of readers. The mother's problems will still be given a prominent place in this special issue, tho they will have to share the honors with three other topics: house planning, household management and money making.

As usual it is expected that the most attractive feature will be the contributions from the farm women themselves, who, having these problems to face in many localities and under a great variety of circumstances, will be able to supply suggestions which, taken collectively, will apply to the whole field of this paper's circulation.

As an inducement to the readers to contribute, some very attractive prizes are being offered in the form of books which have been carefully selected because of their useful and practical character. For convenience these books have been arranged in two groups. The

winner of the first prize in any one of the four contests is entitled to choose one book from the first group and two from the second; winners of the second prize in any of the four contests may choose one book from the first group and one from the second; winners of the third prize in any contest may choose one book from the first group or three from the second.

Group 1

Principles of Home Decoration.
Landscapes Beautiful.
Household Science.
Hurlbut's Stories of the Bible.
Homes for Home Builders.
Girls' Make-at-Home Things.
Boys' Make-at-Home Things.
Green's Vegetable Gardening.
Making Poultry Pay.
Home Waterworks.

Group 2

Egg Money and How to Increase It.
Poultry Houses, Coops and Equipment.
Country Kitchen Cook Book.
Laundry Work.
Care and Feeding of Children.
Home Nursing.

Contributors are requested to write on one of the topics given below and to label their letters according to the contest for which they are intended Mothers' Letters, Household Management, House Planning, Money Making.

To simplify the work of the editor and to guard against mistakes, it is necessary that the letters be written in pen and ink and on only one side of the paper. It will help also to number the pages with large clear figures.

Mothers' Letters

Under Mothers' Letters there are five topics, on some one of which nearly every mother of experience should be qualified to write and it should be pointed out that the woman who has valuable experience is more or less under a sisterly obligation to communicate it to others. The topics are:

Health of Children.
The Uses and Abuses of Discipline.
Relation of the Home to the School.
Rainy Day Play for the Little Ones.
Keeping the Growing Boy and Girl on the Farm.

Household Management

Household Management is really self-explanatory except that it is hoped that there will be a goodly number of letters on the economical expenditure of money, including information on the wise buying of clothes, household goods and eatables. The topics under household management are:

The Sanitary Home.
Planning the Meals.
The Economical Expenditure of Money.
Getting the Family Sewing Done.
Training the Children to be Useful.

House Planning

Readers are requested to send in actual plans of a farm house, drawn with ruler in pen and ink. In order to be sure that such a house is possible it is really necessary to sketch plans of both upstairs and downstairs. Otherwise, it may be found that the top of the stairs, for example, comes out in the middle of a bedroom.

Reasons for the arrangement of the rooms should be given and the ideal relations of sink, cupboards and stove in the kitchen should be indicated.

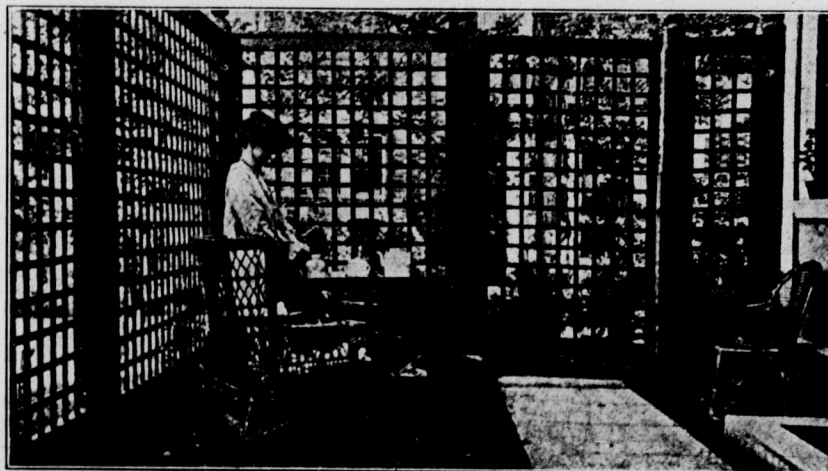
Whenever possible the reader is requested to indicate by a photograph or rough sketch the type of exterior preferred to house this plan.

Money Making

Money Making Thru Poultry Raising.
Gardening as a Means of Income.
Dairying for Profit.
Other Means of Making Money.

To those readers who would not be especially moved at the suggestion of prizes, an appeal is made to contribute their share to this contest anyway, out of loyalty to the paper and in order to make this Household Number one that will long be remembered in the households of our readers. Contributions for this special issue should be in The Guide office not later than March 15, as the paper will be published March 31. Address all letters to Francis Marion Beynon, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

It may sound foolishness to say so, but the world's darkness is indeed passing.—Rev. R. J. Campbell.



A PLEASING LATTICE FENCE

Here is a very pleasing way of making the back yard beautiful, which should apply as much to country as city houses. When placed around the farmhouse back yard it should be built so closely that the chickens cannot crawl thru it, and high enough to shut out the view of the stables. With vines growing all over it, it will make a restful outlook for the tired and busy housewife whose eyes are not refreshed by a chip and machinery strewn yard