

# The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

## B.C. PROVES HER SISTERHOOD

British Columbia has come forward and declared herself, in no uncertain manner, to be not only a neighbor but a full sister to the other Western Provinces of Canada.

The two to one victory for the woman suffrage referendum on Thursday, September 14, is exceedingly creditable to the suffragists of British Columbia, as they had a peculiarly hard task to perform in educating the people of that province.

The geographical nature of the country divides it up into little isolated communities which are very difficult to bring in touch with current opinion, and moreover, instead of our fairly permanent agricultural population, they have a large shifting population of fishermen, cannery employees, lumbermen and miners. The suffrage victory in the coast province is, therefore, very significant of the onward march of this reform.

Canada is now, more than ever before, sharply divided into the East and the West. It will be interesting to watch the effect upon the movement in the East, of the exercise of the franchise by the western women. The old argument that it unsexes women cannot any longer be used without insulting the women of the whole of Western Canada, and one can look for some modification of the opposition, particularly on the part of those who have political aspirations.

## BULBS

Again the florists' windows are full of the homely brown bulbs which promise so little in the way of beauty and which never fail to do so much.

Usually Nature exacts her full price in care and trouble for every lovely hue and breath of fragrance that is produced indoors, but to this rule bulbs, at least such hardy ones as paper-white narcissi and hyacinths, are happy exceptions. For the successful raising of them neither natural genius nor training are necessary. The most ignorant amateur may enter upon their culture with the utmost assurance if he but bears in mind a few simple rules. The first is that where bulbs are concerned, up to a certain point, good goods are done up in large parcels, so if you would have fine large full-flowered plants the first consideration is the purchase of large bulbs. Very enormous ones may be at the point of breaking up into two, but bulbs of this size are not often offered for sale. These big bulbs, in the case of hyacinths, are more expensive than little ones, but they are more than worth the difference in the price.

Plant them in rich soil, keep them in a cool, dark cellar, watering them at intervals, until the pot is so full of roots that it can be turned upside down and the contents come out a solid mass. This will take at least six weeks. Then begin to bring the pots upstairs at intervals of two weeks. They should not be placed immediately in the window, but kept some place where they will get a more subdued light for a while. This will help to bring the stalk up out of the leaves.

By following these instructions which the seedsmen gave me last autumn when I bought my bulbs, I had finer hyacinths than I saw in any of the florists' windows last spring.

I got some low, round pots, about three inches deep, and planted two hyacinths in each, and they provided the table with a beautiful centerpiece for weeks. It is important to remember that only one variety should be used in each pot, so that both bulbs will be in bloom at the same time.

The paper white narcissi, being small bulbs, should be planted close together in the pot, and if planted early will be in bloom by Christmas.

Tulips should be planted in the same way, that is a potful of one variety. I have not had the same success with them as with narcissi and hyacinths, since they make such demands in the way of moisture and sunlight that they are apt to come to grief as the result of thoughtlessness, in one direction, or the vagaries of the weather man in the other.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

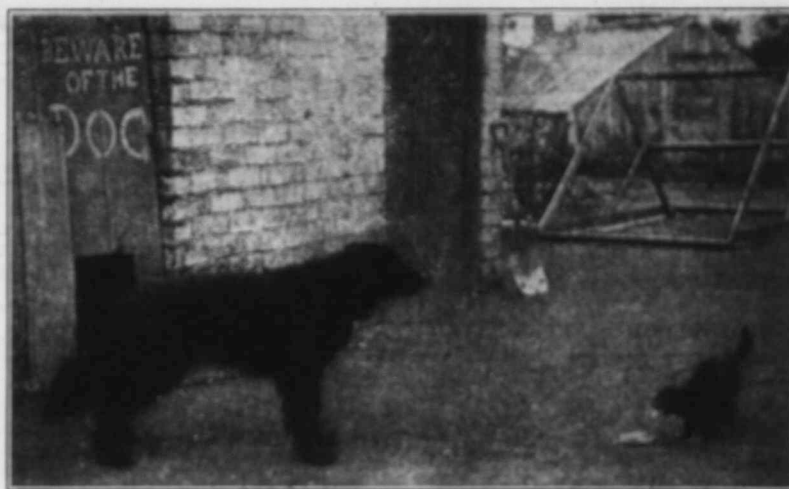
## SUCCESS IN MARRIAGE

Dear Miss Beynon:—In The Guide I saw your suggestion to the readers for some plain practical letters from people who have made a success of marriage. Now I don't know if you will consider mine a success or not. However, I am willing to contribute it if some poor unfortunate sister will profit by my mistake—and we all make them. As to regarding it as a matter of business I think it

a fairly good idea. However, business and love could go hand in hand successfully too, if you ask me. For love suffereth long and is kind, and could be no hindrance to business of any kind.

I have made many mistakes, and the greatest was being married too young, which was not altogether my fault, I being an adopted child, never knowing a mother's love and guidance. Thus I spent years of my youth caring for sickly children when I ought to have been enjoying the freedom of youth, and as my advice has been to my own daughters, so I give it here and now to the daughters of my sisters. Wait until you are twenty-three, or better still, twenty-five, and then you will know what you want, and know it when you see it. My next mistake was expecting too much of a mere man, he be ever so good, and expecting more than I could give in return. For this also I blame my childish ignorance.

I went from a good home to a much inferior one, and soon became dissatisfied and grieved and worried myself sick for fear I would have no better all my life. To tell the truth, I was too much afraid of my husband to confide in him my worries, and when I dared to suggest that things might be better, I was told I didn't know I was born, which



A Severance of Diplomatic Relations

in a measure was quite true, but not much of a comfort indeed. Thus I dragged in ten long and weary years, in which I experienced many severe trials in sickness and poverty. My husband had poor health, and with four children I was often sorely tried to find food and raiment sufficient.

And right here is where love and business joined hands, and since that time our married life has been what I call a success. We have been partners, equally interested, in pigs, cows, horses and land, and are today partners in a stocked farm. My husband is proud of our success and I am happy in his protection. We hold strictly to equal rights and equal responsibility.

To remedy this great problem of marital dissatisfaction I think we mothers ought to educate our daughters how to choose a suitable partner, and the boys too, for that matter. I tell you sisters, we mothers have the ruling of the land in our own hands thru the training of our sons, and I, for one, don't want it otherwise. Teach them that right doing only counts with God, and you will soon find them correcting you if you vary from the rule you laid down for them. Teach them that we all are God's children, and all have equal rights, whether rich or poor, and that the animals are God's, and for us to use and not abuse. Teach them to respect honorable womanhood everywhere, and it will pave the way to successful marriage as quickly as anything I know. I quite agree with you that married business partners have a willingness to work and a determination to win that one would not experience alone. This is my experience and hoping it may bring some poor sister like profit and happiness, so that she will be able to write in her diary, as I have done in mine, at thirty years of married life:

"Thirty years of shadow and shine,  
Thirty years of love divine,  
Thirty years of blessings true,  
Sent by a loving God to you."

A SISTER.

## EARNING MONEY

In a department dealing with ways and means The Delineator prints the following which may be of interest to farm women:

For a woman who has a certain amount of land at her disposal, and who will learn to do something thoroughly well, and make certain of having a mar-

ket at hand for her products, there are undoubtedly many opportunities. Training or experience, or both, are absolutely essential factors to success in any sort of operation that involves the raising of animals, plants or poultry.

Flowers pay well under certain conditions. Here, as almost everywhere, specialization is desirable. Raising flowers to sell at a summer hotel, while it may bring in a few straggling quarters, is not to be depended on for any important share of a living. On the other hand, a woman who is able to produce in quantities a dependable supply of bulbs or plants and who knows how to dispose of them, may find it very profitable.

For instance, one of the famous peony growers, whose blossoms were among the exhibits at a recent show of the American Peony Society, was a woman nearly ninety years of age. Her story was one of love for her work, and patience and persistence.

## Sense and Hard Work

She began, thirty years ago, with common stock, and by wise selection she has finally succeeded in producing a flower which has attracted great attention among peony growers. At the beginning she was satisfied to receive from one to two dollars apiece for her plants. The price has now advanced to twenty-five dollars each.

Another woman has made a wonderful success in dahlia growing. Not until she was past sixty did she find herself free to follow her own wishes in the choice of an occupation. Without special training other than that which the average woman secures in caring for her flower-pots and house plants, she "bought some lots and took up the cultivation of dahlias." After five years of hard work, she counts her customers in eighteen States and is making a decided financial success.

It is noticeable, that to both these successful women, patience and hard work appear necessary qualifications.

There is undoubtedly a good profit to be made from the raising and selling of dogs or cats, if it is properly done. Fashions in pet animals are as distinctive and changeable as fashions in hats, and altho one who has ever enjoyed the friendship of a fine dog would as soon think of changing one's husband because there was a later mode in husbands, still a dealer must keep up with the fads of the market-place.

It is a gift to be able to detect the first sign of the waning popularity of one breed and to replace it with the next favorite in time to get the cream of the orders. Further, success requires a thorough knowledge of one's animals, a genuine love for them and a genius for taking pains. A reputation for reliability and fair dealing is requisite.

A certain amount of capital is required for starting a business of this sort, as large profits are practically impossible without the best of breeding stock.

## OBSERVING BIRTHDAYS

(By Erma S. McMahon, in The Mothers' Magazine.)

I have four children, all boys, of four, seven, eleven and thirteen years, respectively, and each birthday (and that means thirty-five altogether) has always been observed by a birthday cake at supper, and some little gift.

The day before, the birthday celebrant chooses the menu for breakfast; and it usually contains something very much out of the ordinary for breakfast fare. Of course, the birthday cake, with its candles or the numeral outlined in candles, is the great event of the day. I can look back on certain birthdays that came when I was unusually busy or nearly ill, but I always managed to make the cakes and I shall continue to make them until the children no longer expect them.

One feature which they enjoy is to send a piece of cake to some "shut-in" or some lonely old person who has not many more birthdays in store.

We give to each child as many pennies as he is years old and they are of the year in which he was born, if possible. Sometimes the boys invite their little friends in to play with them, and even the four-year-old looks eagerly forward to the "birthdays; six years, when he can go to school; twelve years, when he can carry a watch; and fifty years, when he can be "a nice old man with white hair."

It has taken effort and time really needed for other things; but I do not regret the trouble, for the best part of old age is the memory of a happy childhood.