

ally the young mothers, whose sons will not be old enough to fight for years. They have been called upon many times to face that which requires as much moral and physical courage as of the man who goes into the trenches and are far more isolated from medical aid than those in the trenches. Mere greed for political power has so blinded the politicians' eyes to justice that they do not see the great asset to the country these boys and girls of these disfranchised mothers will be. After all, is it nothing to have lived for one's country?

MRS. D. E. KLINK,
District Director No. 2,
Pangman, Sask.

GIMLI HOME ECONOMICS SOCIETY

Our Home Economics Society was organized last March, and as we have only had six meetings we have as yet accomplished little. We have tried various ways to make money. We serve refreshments at meetings and take a silver collection. In July we had a sale of home cooking, the proceeds went to buy sewing and wool from the Red Cross Society. We had another sale of home cooking this month, also a rummage sale. We collected from the members and also the town people second-hand clothing, boots and shoes, hats, pictures, books, etc. This was the first sale of its kind to be held here and it proved a great success, as we cleared \$76. This money will be used to make up Christmas parcels for the boys that have left Gimli for the front.

Regarding women in farm men's places. A great deal of the work on the surrounding farms falls to the women, as in many cases the farmers cannot afford to pay for hired help. There is not such a shortage of labor here, as this is a very poor agricultural district and there is very little threshing to do. Every fall a number of our town boys leave to help harvest the crops elsewhere in Manitoba and the west. The foreign women, such as the Ruthenians and Galicians, are great workers. They have some of the finest gardens in the district. In many cases these women are left alone on the farms during the summer months, while the men seek work elsewhere. They very often cut their own cord wood and occasionally they haul it to town during the winter, where it is loaded on cars and shipped to the city.

The farm women of this district have very few, if any, labor-saving devices. There is no electricity, not even water works to make work easier. There are only three or four farmers around here who own cars.

We have not taken advantage of the offer made by the extension department of the agricultural college to establish a travelling library. We have brought the matter up at one of our meetings, but no decision has been made.

The boys' and girls' club here held its first fair Friday, September 28. Just one member from our society had an exhibit of mixed vegetables. Of course the fair was only for the boys and girls. Next spring the society will try to induce the other schools in the municipality to take part in the fairs and in that way work up enthusiasm and competition.

ANNA M. JONASSON,
Gimli, Man. Sec. Treas. H.E.S.

BIRTLE'S SPLENDID CLUB ROOM

Our Birtle Home Economic Society was organized in 1910, and in 1913 we decided to open a rest room, and of course funds we had to have. We wrote to over 100 farmers, asking them for donations. Twenty responded. We canvassed the town and in all raised nearly \$200. We found a suitable room on Main street—large, bright and central, with a good basement and a side hall. We partitioned the back part of this hall for a lavatory; built cupboards in the basement for dishes, etc.; furnished one room with tables, easy and plain chairs, two couches and some pictures. We also stencilled five pairs of curtains. The floor was exceptionally good. This we stained, oiled and varnished. On February 1 we opened our club room (that is what we call it).

How to finance this was our next problem. We asked three of our members to serve a 10 cent tea each Saturday—plain bread and butter and cake,

and this plan we have followed out ever since. Our society has a large membership, so it is not necessary for members to serve more than twice in one year. These teas pay all expenses of the room. We also purchased dishes, spoons, table cloths, kitchen utensils, etc.; in fact we have everything necessary for convenience in a place like this. We use a coal oil stove for heating the water.

We have a woman in charge and she takes as much interest in everything as if she owned it. She also exchanges the books for members every afternoon except Saturday. Then one of our members looks after the library. We have our book-case in our club room.

This room has become a social centre for both town and country women, and every Saturday you will find this the busiest place in town. All the women go there for their afternoon tea, knowing that they will meet so many there they would not meet elsewhere.

This room is lighted with gas and is used for fully half the small meetings in town, both by men and women. It is generally acknowledged by all to be one of the most necessary conveniences of the district. In 1915 we were the fortunate winners of a power washer, valued at \$75. This we won for second prize on our exhibit of home products at the convention held at the agricultural college. We sold this washer and decided to use the money to buy books for a library. However, in the meantime the department of agriculture decided to help the rural communities in establishing libraries. The plan is as follows: The government will give \$1.00 for every dollar raised by a society up to \$50. This gives the society \$100 to spend on books, the only stipulation being that a small percentage must be practical books, suitable for studying in our Home Economics Society. These books are to be used by the society for one year and then returned to the extension department and they will send another set of books and parcel. Our library then goes to another society. In this way each society gets a complete set of new books every year.

We decided to start a private library as well, using the balance of our money and raising our membership fee from 25 cents to 50 cents. We also allowed the men to join our library, the membership fee to be \$1.00 a year. The extra money we use for a library fund. Several people also donated large parcels of new books and we now have a library of nearly 400 books. People in the cities cannot realize just what these libraries mean in these rural districts. No books are to be had except those you buy or borrow, so you can imagine how this library scheme appealed to our people. It has lent a new interest to our society and to our work. We have a membership of 117 and this year for Red Cross, financing club-room, library and general expenses we raised nearly \$2,500.

MRS. J. M. WATT,
Birtle, Man. H.E.S. Pres.

STUDIES WORTH WHILE

I have not sent you a report of our club for some time, for although we have had a good attendance at all our meetings through the busy season we have not had anything special to tell you. Some time ago we went to the extension department, university of Alberta, for two books: Sixty Years of Protection, by Porritt, and The Initiative, Referendum and Recall, by Munro. At our October meeting two of our members gave splendid papers on them, one on each book. Then after our meeting our members filled packages with Christmas cake and candy for the boys who are at the front from this neighborhood. In all, 17 packages were sent. On October 26 we held a concert, supper and dance in aid of the Red Cross and we had Miss Pinkham of Calgary with us, who gave us a very interesting address on the work the Red Cross is doing. When all expenses are paid we expect to have about \$75 clear. We are planning now for a concert to raise money to send a delegate to the convention to be held in Calgary.

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