

The Country Homemakers

A Pull All Together

Conducted by Mary P. McCallum

THE Saskatchewan government with the help of Saskatchewan's women is making an effort to relieve, in a measure, the shortage of help in the farm kitchen. It has been pointed out on the Home-makers' page over and over again that unless something is done to relieve the very serious situation in which we find ourselves our farm women and the little children which they will bear will be permanently injured. The present condition of affairs is not less serious than that. Our farmers have largely to rely on the help of men from the city this year. These men, no matter how much they may desire to do their full share of the work, are unaccustomed to the hard physical labor of the farm. They cannot do as much as a seasoned farm laborer. Consequently a larger number of men will be required. This directly reacts on the farm women. Their work in many cases will be doubled. They have had far too much to do for the last half dozen years. How they are going to achieve the extra work of 1918 is more than we can say unless there is help for them.

The conference recently held in Regina, an account of which may be found elsewhere on this page, recommended that city women be used. Already a number of city women have volunteered for this work. It is plainly up to the city women who possibly can to come to the farms this year and save the farm women from utter collapse. And they will come. Mrs. Haight urged on the conference that the work in the farm kitchen must be placed on a patriotic basis. She is right. If we are to get women from the towns and cities it is only after those women have seen that the Allies will suffer unless our farm women are enabled to take care of the extra work which the season is putting upon the shoulders of the farm women. There are many classes of women who could be released from duties in town to work in farm kitchens. There is the married woman who has no family. It will be comparatively easy for her to close up house, send her husband to the hotel or boarding house, and take herself to the farm. There is the woman who has servants. She should be able to undertake the work of her own home and release her servants for work in farm homes for a few weeks at any rate. Then there is the large army of working women who might be induced to spend their vacations in the farm kitchens. There is the woman whose husband is in France. If she has no children perhaps she is the most easily used. If she has children there will still be places where she and her small family might give real service along the line of domestic work in farm kitchens.

All these classes of women will respond if the call is given in the right way. It must be presented to them as the highest type of national service which they may render, as indeed it is. Canadian women have not once failed when they were called upon to bear burdens for their country. Neither will they fail this time. But there must be exercised on the part of both employer and employee a great deal of leniency. Farm women are sometimes accused of expecting too much in wages for the money they pay out in work. This time the farm women will have to remember that she is making an opportunity for those other women to render national service, and will have to try to make that service easy to give. The city women will not in every case be able to comprehend the enormity and stupendousness of the farm women's work. But the farm woman will have

to bear with the hardening process. Not all the conveniences to which the city woman has been accustomed will be found in the farm home. She must learn to bear with the inconveniences. Results can only be achieved by a strong pull, and a long pull, and a pull all together. There is no reason to think that in these abnormal times when women and men of every shade of opinion and life are being drawn together as they never were before, that anything but good can come from the arrangement which is being worked out in Saskatchewan. May the other two provinces follow.

Conference on Labor

On June 14 there was held in the office of the bureau of labor in the department of agriculture in Regina a meeting of women to discuss the labor shortage and its bearing on the farm women. Those who attended the meeting were: Mrs. S. V. Haight, Keeler; Mrs. Platt, Tantalion; Mrs. Walter C. Murray; Mrs. E. R. Myers; Mrs. Mary Robertson, Saskatoon; Mrs. Tobin, and Mrs. Graham, Moose Jaw; Mrs. W. W. An



Amongst the Blossoms

drews, Mrs. Ormand, Mrs. C. Fraser, Regina. It was called by T. M. Molloy, of the bureau of labor, to see if a shifting of labor from town to country might be arranged to relieve the serious shortage.

Hon. W. R. Motherwell, minister of agriculture, addressed the gatherings and reviewed what his department had done in the way of organizing to secure a supply of male help for the farm, explaining that the more men secured the greater need of women to cope with the increased housework. He urged the women to form a bureau to deal with the question of domestic help for city and country and promised that Mr. Molloy of the department of labor would give assistance and that some financial aid would also be given as was found necessary. An analysis of a questionnaire sent out by Miss McCallum, of The Guide was submitted by Mrs. Haight which showed that there was a need in nearly all districts in the province for domestic help although the exact number was problematical. The wages offered ranged from \$25. to \$30. Mrs. Haight gave further evidence of the need. She stated that to get results and get a movement of women from the towns and cities to the country such work on farm homes must be placed on

a patriotic basis. It was at present impossible to offer inducements that would entice girls from domestic work in town to domestic work in the country. It was pointed out that accommodations and living arrangements were not always the most favorable on the farms of the West.

After a great deal of discussion on the question it was finally decided that the only available help was that to be secured from the towns and cities. The majority of those women who can leave town to help the farm women can do so only for a period of a couple of weeks. These are city women who have homes of their own who are willing to leave their families or give up their holidays to help out at this time. The farm women asked especially that married women or girls of mature age be sent to the farms as work at harvest and threshing would be rather hard for young girls who are not accustomed to long hours and hard work. Cards will be sent out to farm women needing help to be filled in. The cards will ask for information regarding wages, accommodation, hours of labor, kind of labor, etc. Cards will also be filled out by those volunteering to assist at this time, stating what they expect in wages, work, accommodation, etc. References will be required by both employer and employee.

Clothing Regulations

A news item from Washington concerning the conservation of materials used in clothing may foreshadow a similar action from our own government.

The War Industries board assumed the role of arbiter of fashions this week in making public regulations which shoemakers and manufacturers of men's clothing are expected to follow in planning for the offerings for next spring. The rules are established to conserve leather and the materials which go into clothes.

Conservation measures, as they affect women's clothing other than shoes, have been discussed and voluntary agreements sought. It is possible that drastic regulations to be followed in this trade also will be promulgated soon.

The high shoes which women affected when they shortened skirts are hit by orders sent out this week, and hereafter manufacturers of women's shoes must not build them more than eight inches high when laces are used, and buttoned shoes stop at six and a half inches from the ground. Overgarters are restricted to the eight and a half inch level.

Shoe manufacturers for the next six months also are forbidden to purchase or use new style lasts, and all shoes are to be restricted to four colors, black, white and two shades of brown. Leather linings are discouraged.

Ontario in Line

On Monday, June 17, there was formed in Ontario an organization to be known as the United Farm Women of Ontario. A representative meeting of farm women was called to Toronto by J. J. Morrison, of the United Farmers' of Ontario. The new organization is in conjunction with the U.F.O. The meeting was more or less provisional in character and will be followed by a general meeting in the fall. Mrs. John McNaughtan, of Saskatchewan, was present at the organization meeting and gave a very helpful address on the place women should take in the farmers'

movement. She told of what the women in the West have been able to achieve through the farm people's organizations.

Mrs. McNaughtan was in The Guide office the other day on her return from Toronto and expressed great faith and admiration for the women of Ontario who are already associating themselves with the movement. Some of the most brilliant women in Ontario have been elected to the first executive. The president is Mrs. George Brodie, of Newmarket; vice-president, Mrs. Foote, of Collingwood; and the secretary is Miss Emma Griesbach, of Collingwood. For the present the United Farm Women will endeavor to get women to take membership in the organization whether they form separate sections in every case or not. Ontario realizes as do the people of the West that the big thing before the farmers' organization for 1918 is to increase the membership. The organization will be used, Mrs. McNaughtan says, as a medium whereby the farm people of Ontario may discuss all public and economic questions. The immediate tasks the United Farm Women of Ontario have set themselves is the preparing and distributing of literature setting forth the benefits to be derived for farm people through thorough organization along the lines of the U.F.O. and the U.F.W.O. Plans are being laid for a big campaign to be put on in the fall. The farmers' organization in Ontario already numbers 20,000 and is growing rapidly. We look for great things from the U.F.W.O., and The Guide joins in wishing them much success in their new work.

Farm Girls in Conference

During the week of June 17, the second annual gathering of farm girls was held in the University of Saskatchewan. The girls who attend these conferences range in age from 14 to 20 years. The conference is really a short course with the additional advantage of excellent entertainment and recreation. The girls have a thoroughly good time and go home benefitted not only by the good things received at the conference but also by the contact with so many other girls from their province. Among the things which occupied the time of the girls was an address by Professor S. E. Greenway, on gardening. Professor Tisdale showed the girls the sheep on the University Farm and gave them a helpful address on sheep raising. Miss Edith Patrick gave them a demonstration on meat substitutes. There were many other lectures on dress-making and on millinery. Professor Bates, director of school agriculture gave them an address on school gardening. The four days, in a word, were filled with help and inspiration, and the girls went home much better for having had the holiday and the course of lectures.

Red Cross Response

At the time of writing, Manitoba has more than doubled her subscription to the Red Cross Fund. She was asked for \$600,000. Today the amount stands well over the million and a quarter mark. Too great a tribute cannot be paid to the women of the West who have for four years given unstintingly of time, money and energy to this most deserving of funds. Reports reaching us from Alberta and Saskatchewan indicate that those provinces too, have "gone over the top" with contributions more than doubling that for which they were asked. After four years of war the devotion to the cause has not dimmed and the ardour and the wholeheartedness with which our women have set themselves the task of supplying materials and comforts for the wounded soldiers is stronger today than ever before. Had it not been for the women of Canada the response to this latest appeal could not have been what it has. Surely undying tribute is due the women and men who have made this splendid response possible.

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