

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

OUT OF THE NORTH

Smooth snow-spume thru the thick pines drifting,
Why do men name thee symbol of death?
Rather rest of the heaven's own gifting,
Waft in the west wind, sleepily sifting,
Swirling in eddy of cloud, light-lifting,
Hither and thither, drifting and sifting,
Rest to the tired Earth, peace in thy breath!

Strong art thou, of the North strength-keeper,
Guarding all with thy shield of white;
Cloaking and covering, deeper and deeper,
Tendril of tenderest vine-root and creeper,
Softly and silently, deeper and deeper,
Till birds are silent and Earth is sleeping
Sure in the calm of thy careful keeping;
And wine-dark waves, all weary with weeping,
Sing the slumbering song of night.

Pure snow-plumes of the west wind's drifting,
Falling afresh from the gray cloud-rifting,
Rest is thy portion—peace is thy might!
By H. J. O'Brien, in *The Mother's Magazine*.

HUMANITY AND BUSINESS

It speaks eloquently of the new trend of the times that one of the leading life insurance companies had a booth at the recent social welfare congress from which it distributed beautifully printed and elaborately illustrated booklets telling how to prevent disease; in other words, how to keep well and live long. Obviously it is to the interest of this life insurance company that its policy holders should take care of their health and extend, as far as possible, their stay in this world, but it is in the interest of humanity also. The only person who stands to lose is the undertaker. Gradually, bit by bit, it is being recognized by business that whatever is good for humanity is good for it.

It was pointed out last week that business is finding that the adaptation of a man's work to his peculiar abilities is more economical than to discharge him from the employ of the company altogether, and engage a new person to take his place.

It has also been discovered recently that the uncertainty of being able to hold one's position, which used to be considered one of the greatest incentives to effective work, is a positive detriment to it. So definitely has this principle been accepted by some of the big employers of labor that they have an arrangement making it impossible for a man to be discharged except by one of the three highest executives in the company. They find that with anxiety as to the future removed the employees are able to settle down and give a loyal and disinterested service which was impossible when their minds were distracted by the fear of losing their positions.

Big business has been, of recent years, one of the greatest enemies of the liquor traffic by showing a rapidly growing preference for the services of total abstainers. In the matter of shorter hours business itself has often taken the initiative and always with profit to the employer. It was said some time ago that Henry Ford intended to introduce a minimum wage of six dollars a day (it is now five) and a six hour working day. Whether or not Henry Ford begins this practice, many of this generation will live to see a five or six hour working day the rule rather than the exception, and again with profit to the employer. Our technical schools have already demonstrated that those who pursue the usual subjects for half a day and work with their hands for half a day surpass in book scholarship those who spend the whole day upon the regular school subjects.

So it seems that temperance, freedom from fear of unemployment, short hours of labor and a living wage are all good business. To these will be added decade by decade all the things that make for the welfare and happiness of mankind.

CHARITIES AND TAXATION

The vexed question of a direct tax to cover all the necessary charities instead of the everlasting bazaar, jag day and silver tea came up for discussion inevitably at the social welfare congress and as usual met with opposition. But, sooner or later, this question will have to be faced in this country. By the time this war is over people will be so sick of giving that only cases of the greatest extremity will extract money from their pockets and then under protest.

Voluntary giving has always been attended by numerous evils, the greatest of all being its inefficiency. Help has been given to those who were not in need of assistance, while deserving cases have suffered without relief, because no kind-hearted person happened to take an interest in them. It is also a wasteful system. Much of the voluntary charity is badly managed, by

people without business experience. The time of thousands of women is spent, in the case of tag days, in producing something that is utterly useless. Anything involving such a waste of time and energy is economically unsound and will have to be relegated to the scrap heap of antiquated customs sooner or later. Why not sooner?

Paying for charity in a lump sum will bring home to people the cost of poverty, which ought to be prevented rather than poulticed, in any event.

A proper system of state managed relief should be run in conjunction with a comprehensive chain of employment bureaus with a registration of the unemployed and the reasons for their being out of work. An officer having what Kipling would describe as "Infinite resource and sagacity" ought to be appointed to seek out those families whose bread-winner is unavoidably, thru accident or illness, laid aside and help them by finding temporary work for some other member of the family or with a loan from the government. This would be reaching out a practical helping hand to that great army of proud silent sufferers who, under the present voluntary system, are left to struggle thru periods of the most abject misery unassisted.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

BRITISH WOMEN FARM WORKERS

Like many other farming establishments in Great Britain, work on the Royal Estate at Sandringham



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is being taken over by women in order to release men for the army. The King's cattle at Sandringham are now being well cared for by three London ladies, whose picture appears on this page and whose names are, reading from left to right, Miss Phyllis Holton, Miss Hilda Hobson and Miss Marjorie Maxfield. Anxious to perform some useful service for their country these ladies took up farming eight or ten months ago. Their work on the Royal farms is of an arduous nature. Commencing at 6 a.m. they do not finish until dark each day, Sundays included. The cattle and their housings are models of cleanliness and the King, during a recent visit to Sandringham, took the opportunity of personally congratulating the ladies on their services.

RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Dear Miss Bynon:—The enclosed resolutions were passed unanimously by the Crainville U.F.W.A. and will be considered at the convention in Edmonton next February; but we would like to have if possible the endorsement of all the farmers' organizations thruout the Dominion.

The resolution re homesteading rights for women is self explanatory; but it may be interesting to some of your readers to know the standard for Canadian eggs, adopted by the third annual convention of the Canadian Produce Association, which is as follows:—
Specials—Eggs of uniform size weighing over twenty-four ounces to the dozen; absolutely clean, strong, sound in shell; air cell small, not over three-sixteenths of an inch in depth; white of egg to be firm, clear, yolk dimly visible, and free from blood clots.

Extras—Eggs of good size, weighing at least twenty-four ounces to the dozen; clean, round in shell; air cell less than three-eighths of an inch in depth; white of egg firm and yolk slightly visible.

The other classes, namely, storage, cracked and dirties, need not be described here.

JEAN STEVENSON.

Crainville, Alta.

Whereas, since the outbreak of the European war, the export of poultry produce, especially eggs, from

Canada to the British market has so increased as to stimulate the industry in the Dominion. It is most desirable that this advantageous position in relation to the British market should be firmly maintained and improved following the conclusion of the war, and this is only possible by the improvement of the quality and the maintaining of regular and sufficient quantities to meet the demands of this market. It is the opinion of this meeting that this improvement in quality can only be assured by eggs and poultry being bought and sold on a quality basis, in conformity to set standards.

Be it resolved that the earnest attention of the Honorable, the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion of Canada be directed to this matter and that he be earnestly requested to secure the necessary legislation to enforce the buying and selling of eggs and poultry on the quality basis thruout the Dominion of Canada, and also the necessary machinery to enforce such legislation.

Inasmuch as the government annually spends vast sums of money fostering foreign immigration, eagerly conferring grants of the best farming land and the franchise upon the foreigners who come to Canada, while the Canadian woman, no matter how capable nor how loyal and patriotic she may be and who is taxed for the support of the government the same as the men, is not allowed either to vote or to homestead. Therefore be it resolved, that we ask the Dominion Parliament to first extend the franchise to women; second, that homesteading privileges be extended to women upon the same conditions as men.

THE BABY'S FURNITURE

Have a separate bureau or chest of drawers for the children's clothes. Do not have open shelves closed with a curtain. Sweeping days will make of this a dust-catcher.

Metal cribs or beds are more sanitary than wooden ones. Hair mattresses, rubber sheeting and washable blankets are necessities. A screen of washable scrim should protect the crib or bed from drafts.

An excellent modern nursery device is a cariole or coop on wheels—a bassinet, crib and carriage all in one, suitable for a baby of any age. It is a wooden frame on wheels, twenty-six inches wide, forty-two inches long and thirty inches deep, fitted with springs and a soft mattress. As it is screened on four sides, it is proof against flies, mosquitoes, insects and playful domestic animals. It can be moved from room to room or outdoors, and can be folded up.

Should you prefer a bassinet, be sure that it is unlined and undecorated. Dainty ribbons and ruffles collect dust. The bassinet can be of reed or wicker, with or without top and wheels. The Buster Brown basket is shaped rather like a market basket and is made of wicker.

A portable rubber bathtub with a faucet attached for water outlet is superior to a hard enamel tub, as it yields to the baby's body. Be sure to use the bath thermometer.

A baby basket is a necessary adjunct to have handy for the bath. Its contents should include a good-sized pin-cushion, with safety-pins of three sizes, a soap-box with Castile soap, baby's hair brush and fine comb, a pair of blunt-pointed scissors, fresh boric-acid solution, sterile gauze and cotton, wooden toothpicks, a tube of white vaseline, towels and an eider-down blanket.

A three-section clothes-dryer should be at hand for baby's dry, clean clothes.—From *The Delineator*.

LINCOLN AND THE MARBLES

A gentleman living in the city of Washington tells this story about Lincoln:—

"I was about ten years of age and given violently to the game of marbles. One cold March day my companions and I were playing on the sidewalk before my father's shop when I slipped on a piece of ice and fell, cutting my chin. The other boys seized as many of my marbles as they could and made off. Wild with anger I started after them, calling their names and threatening to annihilate them, and so on. Suddenly a hand on my collar stopped me, and a deep voice said:—

"We've got enough ill feeling going on in this country these days without you boys catching it." A big man swung me around and wiped my wounded chin, and then went on: 'I saw what they did, son. Have you any agates left? Good! I'll put up three chiny-alloys and we'll see who'll win.' He drew from his pocket three marbles. 'I got them from my boy Tad,' he explained, and then I knew who he was. There on the street I played marbles with the President for five minutes, and he let me win. Here are the marbles, a precious possession."