

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

MILITARY TRAINING

One of the warmest discussions which agitated the National Council of Women in convention was that upon military training in the public schools and it became quite evident that those who have been claiming that this war must be fought to a victorious conclusion in order to insure a permanent peace, have been deceiving us. They are not expecting a permanent peace.

Over and over again the war enthusiasts, to which class nearly all the delegates belonged, have urged the people to consent to the effacing of the right of free speech; and to conscription, because this was a war against war, and in that respect it was different from other wars. I never believed this myself and now it appears that they didn't either. While there was known to be in the gathering a very small minority opinion against war, present or future, the debate mostly took the form of a discussion as to whether physical training of school children or military training of them better fitted them to become soldiers in the army or navy. Only Mrs. Murray from Halifax, suggested the possibility of future peace, and protested against the militaristic ideal and the subservience to authority which went with military training of young boys.

Evidently the consensus of opinion was that this is just a plain war, like the hundreds of other wars that have left their scars upon humanity and that none of the peace "Guarantees," about which we hear so much, can insure us against future wars. The conclusion to be drawn from the actions, rather than from the words of these "Victory for the sake of future peace," advocates is obviously sensible. This war is not a war against war. Instead of making for future peace it will make for future wars, if, as seems likely, it is followed by general military training and increased armament.

Peace presupposes trust and goodwill between nations, whereas war stirs up hatred and suspicion. Until "men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles" it is useless to expect the fruits of war to be peace.

The fundamental things that might make future wars impossible are none of them being even contemplated. The first and most important is an agreement between all the governments and their people that in case of a future war all private property should immediately be taken over by the state. That would settle the war question forever and ever, amen, but it won't be done.

A five year newspaper, magazine and moving picture campaign for peace under the direction of a representative international committee would settle the war question and only cost a fraction of the millions that it is proposed to spend on armament, but there would not be any profit in that for the millionaire munition makers so it won't be done.

Allan Benson's plan of an agreement between the nations to take a referendum of their men on the question of peace and war and send to the front first, as private soldiers, all those old or young, who vote for war, coupled with a five years' imprisonment during peace time for any editor or magazine writer writing in favor of war, would be efficacious, but it won't be done.

None of these really sensible things will be done, because there is no profit in them for those who grow financially fat out of the slaughter of human beings.

PLEASE PAY THE WAITRESS

This notice, at the head of a restaurant order sheet, has a double meaning. The obvious one is to settle ones account with the waitress, the more obscure, to do ones share towards paying her salary with a tip, and thus relieve the owner of the establishment of the unpleasant obligation of paying his own employees.

One wouldn't so much mind being held up for a tip if the girl who, more or less willingly served one, profited thereby. But she does so very temporarily if at all. If one were to make a practice of going to a certain restaurant—this is going to require a great stretch of the imagination—and tipping the same girl a dollar a meal, almost in no time, the proprietor would come to hear of it and would reduce the girl's wages by that amount. All of which backs back to the theory, mentioned in this department recently that the employer has a right to all the profit of the girl's labor over and above a bare living for herself.

FREEDOM

We have been seriously questioning whether the liberty we believed we had in Canada was real or imaginary. There is no liberty at all in being allowed to express sentiments with which the great majority of people agree or to which they are indifferent. The real test of liberty is whether the

minority opinion is allowed to find expression when there is strong opposition to it.

When those in favor of conscription hold a public meeting, as happened in Winnipeg recently, and send out a warning that they will not be responsible for anything that may happen to any anti-conscriptionists that attend it, and at the same time announce that they are not going to permit any anti-conscriptionists meetings, it gives the lie to the theory that the Union Jack stands for personal liberty and freedom of speech, as opposed to the Prussian ideal of the subjection of the rights of the individual to those of the state.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

ONE OF THE INNOCENTS

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have been interested in the "Home Makers'" letters on disgraceful catalog illustrations and though not exactly a home maker, I am one of the young ones who may go wrong. It reminds me of a move our worthy women's society made in the mountains on the same subject. There soon was much talk of draping the table legs; and the would-be young innocents, myself included, immediately brought forth



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our catalogs to look for the evil we had never noticed.

There are people still who think the Physical Culture magazine unfit for young people. The story, "Damaged Goods," which has appeared in its pages and has had such a fight to appear on the screen, was supposed to be quite vile, and the criticism of it caused more of us to read it and see it played; so the mock-modest ones did us a good turn that time.

I understand that the standard of morality in Japan is high, where they use a common bathing-house and both sexes bathe together, unhindered by even a bathing suit, and paying less attention to one another than we do on the beach.

"MOUNTAIN GIRL."

FEATHER BEDS FOR CHICKS

Dear Miss Beynon:—I want to tell the ladies about some feather beds I made for my new chicks. I have always disliked taking them off in rag lined boxes. They get tangled up so in the old cloths. I had a lot of feathers this spring saved from prairie chickens and ducks. I just made some nice feather beds, one for the bottom of the basket and one to cover them. They are as snug and comfy as any little Belgians used to be in their beds. I put an old piece of cloth over the lower bed; let it come up over the top "tick" and I can either burn or wash this cloth and all is ready for the next hatch.

I want to say that I am another that is satisfied with the display of underclothes in the catalogs.

Surely it is straining at gnats to make a fuss about a necessity like that. There is a difference in the way a thing is done that makes harm. To illustrate, last winter when I was "down home" my niece went to the "movies" one night and the prevailing styles were shown. In telling about it the next day she said they were showing underclothing on the screen, girls dressed in "teddy bears" and at one end of the stage, in the picture, was a boy peeking through the curtain at them. She saw nothing wrong in the display of underclothes, but she did object to the peeking. That was suggestive and for that reason made harm of the picture.

I think we might each and every one use our influence for a bit better picture show. There is much room for improvement in that. Even when we go to see the best artists on the stage the play will treat of some dirty sex problem which makes us come away, as one of Harold Bell Wright's characters says, "with a bad taste in our mouths." But we'll grinch about it and go again the next chance, knowing it will be the same thing repeated.

Hurrah for Borden. Now let some of the men who have been advocating war show that they are ready to enlist as a private and do anything their country finds for them to do. And free wheat at last!

CONSTANT READER.

ANOTHER PROTEST AGAINST TOBACCO

Dear Miss Beynon:—In The Guide of May 2, I noticed a letter from "Mother of Soldier Boys," on "Too much tobacco for soldiers." I certainly agree with her. There are lots of boys who never smoked before they enlisted, my brother for one and I think the money could be well spent on something that would benefit them.

FARMER'S WIFE.

A JUNE BIRD'S PROBLEM

Dear Miss Beynon:—Here is another seeking your aid. It is in regard to furnishing a new home. The walls are white at present but later will be tinted. The living room faces south, 13 by 15 ft., with a large window in the south and piano window in the east. It has sliding doors opening off quite a large hall and the same to the dining room, which is directly behind the living room, with twin windows in the east and about the same size as living room. Give me your opinion as to color of curtains, material and kind of furniture. Also what color shall we stain the woodwork to harmonize, not the very expensive kind, but just the happy medium. Is it fashionable to have the plate rail in dining room and burlap so far up the wall? Upstairs there are three bedrooms of good size which I thought of doing in white enamel inside of rooms and the hall woodwork in light oak. I would be glad to have your ideas through the columns of The Guide. Wishing you every success in your work.

A JUNE BIRD.

ANSWER

You are very fortunate to be beginning with a clean sheet, having a new house and new carpets and curtains and furniture. To begin with the most important thing, it isn't enough to say that you will have the walls tinted later. If you are going to have a really beautiful home you must decide first of all on exactly the shade you are going to have on them, and then choose the other things to harmonize. I would suggest a rich deep tan for the living room, dining room and hall with dark brown woodwork stained and given a coat of dull varnish and a cream ceiling. Have the floor stained brown and waxed. I would like plain golden brown rugs in these rooms or a very tiny pattern in green and brown, or old blue and brown, with the same color combinations in the madras curtains at the windows. Make them with a valance across the top of the window and hanging just about two inches below the sill.

If you like solid, substantial furniture get leather seated chairs in early English finish for your living room, but if you prefer a more graceful effect, I would recommend brown willow, with a single chair in green willow, to give color contrast. Have cushions in green and brown or old blue and brown. For the dining room I would recommend either early English or fumed oak, as you prefer.

You will find it much more convenient to do both halls alike, and in any case I would strongly advise you against the use of yellow oak which I think is the most unpleasant finish there is.

Your idea of having the bedroom woodwork finished in white enamel is good and you can use with this quite inexpensive white enamel furniture and have the walls tinted in some dainty color. Rag carpet or rugs dyed to harmonize with the walls and white dotted muslin curtains would make these rooms very attractive.—F.M.B.