

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Mary P. McCallum

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP

We know that all club women read our farm women's club page. The stories of what our farm women's clubs are doing are so interesting that club women cannot help but read them. This editorial is for those farm women who do not belong to the farm women's organization. We know that there are about 200,000 of them in the three prairie provinces.

You women know that if it had not been for the farmers' organization you would have been accepting \$1.30 for your wheat instead of \$2.21. You know that the farmers' organization is really behind this latest move to take the duty off tractors and place them at cost at the farmers' disposal. These are only two instances of what the farmers' organization has been able to do for the farmers. Do you know that if it had not been for the organized farm women in Alberta and Saskatchewan there would have been no Municipal Hospitals Act, you would probably not have the provincial and municipal franchise, and the improving conditions of rural life would not be taking place? These are only a few of the advantages already obtained because of the farm peoples' organizations.

Yet a very small per cent. of the farm women of the West belong to the farmers' and farm women's associations. We take for granted that all farm people are interested in bettering the conditions of farm life and work. Then why not assist in bringing those improved conditions about by belonging to your own organization, formed for no other reason than to try, by united effort and co-operation, to improve conditions. As I have said before, loyalty demands that the members of a business or profession should belong to their own organization.

The Grain Growers' Associations of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the United Farmers' Association of Alberta, including in each province the Women's Section, are devoting 1918 to a greater membership campaign. When there are those who remain outside, the work of improving conditions for all farm people is made harder for the few who try to do so. There are 20,000 women at least in the three provinces who should belong to their own organization, and who today do not. The executives of the Women's Sections in all three provinces are making ready to receive that large number of women. Will you help them by letting them know immediately that your community is ready to organize? Five women are enough to form a section. Should there be another women's organization in your community, give your membership to the farmers' organization and let all farm people know that every man and woman on the prairie stands behind the farmers' organization in demanding a better farming life in the west. If you choose to work through the other organizations, well and good, but at least be a member of the farm peoples' organization in your province.

If there are five women in your community ready to form a Women's Section of the farmers' association, let your provincial secretary know. In Alberta, write to Mrs. R. W. Barritt, Central Office, Lougheed Building, Calgary. In Saskatchewan, write to Mrs. John McNaughtan, secretary W.S.G.A., Harris, Sask. If in Manitoba, write to Miss Amy J. Roe, Headquarters of Women's Sections, 290 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg. Drop them a line today.

UNIVERSAL FEDERAL FRANCHISE

The labor delegation recently conferring with the government at Ottawa was assured that there would be universal women's franchise for the women of the Dominion of Canada before another federal election. The franchise will be extended on exactly the same qualifications as to age, residence, etc., that it will be to the male electorate.

This will mean that about a million and a half new voters will be added to the federal lists before another election. Canada is the latest in a long list of countries which, since the beginning of the war, have enfranchised their women.

CITIZEN'S EDUCATIONAL BOARD

On Wednesday, February 13, the provincial Equal Franchise Board of Saskatchewan held its annual meeting. This board is a federation of the W.C.T.U., the Social Service Councils, the Women Grain Growers and the Equal Franchise Leagues, for the consideration and discussion of those matters requiring legislation. It was until the annual meeting of February 13 known as the Equal Franchise Board, and is responsible for much of the improved legislation of Saskatchewan relating to women and children. Because women have the municipal and provincial franchise and because there was definite assurance that women would shortly be given the federal franchise, it was decided that



A corner in the housekeepers' workshop—the Pantry

the old name had lost its suitability. It was unanimously decided to rename the board the Citizen's Educational Board.

The election of officers for the year 1918 was as follows: President, Mrs. E. R. Myers, Saskatoon; first vice-president, Mrs. W. W. Andrews, Regina; second vice-president, Mrs. J. Barratt Scott, Moose Jaw; W.C.T.U. vice-president, Mrs. Robert Sinton, Regina; Women Grain Growers' vice-president, Mrs. S. V. Haight, Keeler; treasurer, Mrs. Raymond Archibald, Saskatoon; recording secretary, Mrs. Meisenheimer, Strongfield. It was left with the members of the executive residing in Saskatoon, to appoint the corresponding secretary and the conveners of committees.

Many important matters came up for discussion at the board meeting. The retiring president, Mrs. F. A. Lawton of Yorkton, made the suggestion that the work of the board be carried out under the various local councils. It was unanimously felt that there was an unique work for the board and that it would be a detriment to the work of studying political questions and asking for improved legislation if the federated board were dissolved. It was therefore decided that the board should continue as organized, but under the new name. It was decided to prepare literature and undertake an aggressive membership campaign.

The following resolutions were discussed and adopted, and will be presented to the legislature: The W.C.T.U. presented this resolution and asked the board's endorsement: Whereas, it has been brought to our attention that there is no adequate provision made

for wayward and unfortunate girls in this province, be it resolved that this matter be brought to the notice of the provincial government, and that they be asked to take action at the next session of the legislature to help solve this great problem.

Resolved that the government be asked to establish a minimum wage of \$12 a week for all women workers.

Resolved that this board continue its insistence for permanent prohibition throughout the Dominion of Canada, and endorse the recent measure of the Dominion government in prohibiting the manufacture, importation and transportation of alcohol for beverage purposes for the duration of the war.

Resolved that this board ask the Department of Education that there be one language, English only, in the primary grades of the public school, and this resolution be sent to the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Trustees' Association, to be held in Saskatoon on February 20 and 21.

Whereas, dependence on the efforts of patriotic individual members of the community has proven a most dilatory and unsatisfactory way of dealing with food conservation, be it resolved that the P.E.F.L. of Saskatchewan memorialize the federal government with a view to securing by conscription the necessary supplies for our troops.

Resolved that our federal premier be asked to enact legislation by which a Canadian woman may not lose her nationality on her marriage to a foreigner unless she so chooses, and that foreign women making their homes in Canada may take out nationalization papers for themselves.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The work of the provincial health department was reviewed in the Manitoba legislature on the afternoon of February 8, by Hon. Dr. Armstrong, the provincial secretary, to whose department the health board is responsible. The report of Dr. M. Stewart Fraser, the commissioner, is one of progress. Quoting from the report: "In the year 1916 the co-operative plan of employing nurses for continuous service was evolved. Each nurse was given a district with an extent of area to which she was able to give personal attention within the range of her duties with reasonable regularity. The system grew out of the inability, on account of insufficient funds in the appropriation for this purpose, of the board to respond to the requests for more and more nurses. The benefit of the work the nurses were performing was so apparent to the municipal councils and school boards of the districts in which they labored that they were prepared and proposed to assist the government in the co-operative arrangement already referred to, by which the municipality, a group of schools and the government each pay one-third of the expenses of keeping a nurse permanently engaged. Such a partnership arrangement was entered into in the rural municipalities of Assiniboia, Rockwood, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Dauphin town, and negotiations are in progress now which are expected to lead to considerable additions to this territory during the current year.

"In the six municipalities in which the nurses were continuously working, 9,304 school children passed through their hands, and every person will be surprised to learn that 25 per cent. of the children had defective teeth; 20 per cent. had enlarged tonsils, 16 per cent. adenoids; 12 per cent. defective vision; 8 per cent. enlarged glands; 3 per cent. defective hearing; and 2 per cent. skin affections. Homes to the number of 4,610 were visited, where personal instruction was given in sanitation and child welfare. In the course of their duties, 36 cases of well advanced tuberculosis were referred for

medical treatment, and 55 cases of incipient tuberculosis were discovered.

Caring for the Children

"Child welfare is an important branch of the nurses' work, and while it is too early to measure the results to a very marked degree in infant mortality, the figures from the municipalities in which nurses were engaged during the full year are very encouraging. We have discovered that approximately 50 per cent. of the children are affected with minor afflictions. It has been known for years that hundreds of the children born in Manitoba do not reach the age of one year. We know, too, that large numbers of cases of tuberculosis in the incipient stages of development are lurking here and there among the population.

Child Lives Can Be Saved

"We know more than this, that 90 per cent. of the disabilities among the school children that impair their mental energy, and if left will detract very materially from their usefulness as individuals or citizens of the state, can be corrected; that the lives of the 400 infants that are annually dying from preventable causes can be saved; that most of our people who are suffering from tuberculosis in the early stages of its development can be cured; and it is the purpose of the board, with the co-operation of the department of education, the school boards, the municipalities and the people to expand their activities until this large and important field is fully covered.

Will Deal With Problem

"Such a program would call for an examination of all the school children of the province, and the provision of ways and means to correct the minor troubles that will be found in about the percentage just mentioned. At present, when the parents are advised of the trouble, some of them secure treatment without delay, another portion of the cases are referred to the hospitals for treatment, and quite a number are, up to the present, unprovided for.

"This is a recently discovered field of operation, and we desire to give to the school boards and board of health a little added authority to secure treatment for needy children, and place them, too, in a position to compete more successfully with their fellow pupils in the race for scholarship.

"It is also the duty and intention of the board that the nurses be the means of reducing infant mortality as far as it is due to preventive causes to as near the vanishing point as it is possible to reach.

Must Educate Mothers

"It is not expected, nor is it necessary that sufficient nurses be distributed over this province to personally care for the needy children and raise them past the danger point. Scientific feeding of children is a matter not difficult to understand, and children can be reached through the mothers, by the instruction imparted to small groups at regular intervals, until every mother is able to rear her little family safely through the tender period of their existence.

"In their movements among the people, it will not be difficult to discover many, if not most of the cases of tuberculosis, so early that under sanatorium treatment a very much larger percentage will be cured, and the danger from infection reduced to a minimum.

Four trips a day each to the cellar and upstairs mean an annual climb for the housewife of something like 26,500 feet and back again. This is equivalent to a round trip to the top of one of our highest mountains. By judiciously planning her work at least this much climbing can be saved by the average housewife in a year.

HELP

your eyes we measure of re- from wearing plain anything about your of our ability scientific work because of fair ment of every business is stand- ing all classes

er, often less where for in- vice.

ISFACTION D BY

"THE EXPERT"

Ground Floor

ANDON

exclusively.

and OPTICIAN

hat YOU s Wanted



tag

Motor her

WITH ENGINE WRINGER

trade at does not er send us their will mail you a daytag Laundry es). Even if you asher, it will be you as it contains ormulas and recis- to advantage It is FREE.

ESS:

g Company

MANITOBA

TO ADVERTISERS ON THE GUIDE