

WOMEN WORTH KNOWING

BY MARY JOSEPHINE TROTTER

Inspector of Schools
Margaret K. Strong

CANADIAN women and particularly teachers who are apt to grumble that men in the profession have all the preferences and the plums in matters of salary, promotion and appointment, are invited to consider the case of Miss Strong, a "mere girl," and something in addition, who "inspects" the public schools of New Westminster. You are asked to consider how she did it, how well she does it and, that digested, how she contrives to exceed her official programme.

The unusualness of Miss Strong's position would not appear unusualness in the country to the south of this Dominion. The United States has numbers of examples of women inspectors of education—literally hundreds of county superintendents and at least four State superintendents. And then as a case of a municipal superintendent there is Ella Flagg Young, of Chicago schools, while down in Colorado there is a woman legislator whose opinions on educational matters are held as stuff that school law should be made of. Helen Ring Robinson, this woman legislator, is not unknown to Canadian audiences. We applauded her



Margaret K. Strong inspects New Westminster schools, and now and then brings in a reform or two as we saw when she had the school teachers' salaries fixed at a minimum of seven hundred and twenty a year.

views about women on the school boards, and in other educational high places, just as though she voiced our own convictions. The difference between Miss Strong and ourselves is that she had the courage of the views we hold in common and simply claimed her due without distemper.

Now to have a "due" in a matter like this you must first have abundant qualification. Miss Strong began at the Hamilton Collegiate to achieve that brilliant series of successes which has punctuated her academic fortune. She entered the University of Toronto in 1901 with the Fifth General Proficiency Scholarship and the Edward Levy Gold Medal. She undertook the course in philosophy, a department so unattractive to most girls that she was the only woman that year in it, with such success that the final year she tied for the John MacDonald Scholarship. Even so early, this earnest student had the gift of regulating her life to include more than school and book-worm interests. She was liked immensely by all her fellow-students, being quite as keen on gayeties and frolics as she was on winning high scholastic honours.

On graduating, Miss Strong became assistant in the Psychological Department at the University of Toronto, a post which she filled for exactly a year, when a thirst to resume her studies overcame her. And she spent the following year at Cornell, where she took her M.A. degree in 1907. Fortune smiled—she received an appointment as head of the department of philosophy at Wilson College for Women, at Chambersburg, Pa. Here she remained for two years, leaving in 1909 to teach psychology and pedagogy in the State Normal School of Indiana. Then Canada beckoned its brilliant daughter, irresistibly. She applied for a school in New

Westminster and received the appointment—the principalship of the largest school in that British Columbia city. At the end of two years she became inspector, the only woman among hosts of candidates who answered the School Board's advertisement. She has had an alert eye for opportunity always and it is rather the result of work and wide-awakeness than of any favoritism of fortune that she occupies her present important office. Her winning quality has been efficiency. Her ambition at every stage of the game has been first to equal her occupation and then by force of growth, to expand it. For such, the bigger work is always waiting.

Canada has been gradually waking to the value of feminism in education. There have always been hosts of women



Miss Cora Hind has reached a position where nation-builders look upon her as a helper with the harvest.

teachers. There are now women trustees in certain of our cities. In Halifax the secretary of the School Board is a woman. But to New Westminster the credit must be given for first recognizing the value of a woman in the capacity of Public School Inspector.

And the honour to Margaret K. Strong is the greater when the character of the Municipal Schools which are under her direction is considered. The inspector is proud of their situations—overlooking the beauties of the Fraser River and backed by impressive towers of snow-capped mountains. They are well-built structures with spacious grounds and the outside regulations bespeak the inside.

Miss Strong is by no means Amazonic, although a determined and able little person. She is feminine, amiable, and charming altogether, in addition to having a gift of savoir faire. She has manifested the last virtue abundantly in office. She brought about a change in the salary schedule, whereby the minimum salary of a teacher was fixed at seven hundred and twenty dollars. She was also, lately, aggressively instrumental in having a Domestic Science Course and a Commercial Course introduced in the schools as regular parts of day school education.

Now, just as in her student days, it was Miss Strong's habit to exceed her programme of application to books, by other interests, she is still enlarging her sphere of activity by participation in women's enterprises outside the immediate round of her office duties. She is an active member of the Women's Council and bears the title, by recent election, of President of the University Women's Club.

A Connoisseur in Crops
Miss Cora Hind

FEW people, perhaps, would accuse Miss Hind, Commercial and Agricultural Editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, of being poetic. The woman whose reports of crop prospects are read with respect in three great countries—Canada, the United States and Britain—by men of business, is hardly a soul affinity of Bryant, at least as the casual mind is prone to judge her. However, the fact that this practical woman has devoted herself to the vast west country, to be its inter-

preter and its prophet, for a period of thirty years and over, is an indication of her profound appreciation of all that the poet has said in "The Prairies," of "the gardens of the desert and the unshorn fields boundless and beautiful, for which the speech of England has no name." Her work has prompted the reclaiming of the "deserts," the shearing of the fields for the good of mankind, and the dotting of unnamed spaces with names of towns which proclaim the advance of nation-building.

The able Miss Hind is a native of Toronto, a point which the West is apt to forget—so much is she part and parcel of its nature. Her father, a sculptor, had hailed from England. Both he and her very Canadian mother, a woman of U. E. Loyalist extraction, died before little Ella Cora had dreamed of being out of pinafores. She was brought up then on her grandfather's farm, a typical farm in County Grey, where she first learned to love farm life and people. She attended school first in the country and afterwards at Orillia Collegiate. She may have been conscious of inheriting the spirit which had made her father cut out forms from stone; her mind, like his, could perceive an image and free it with a metaphoric chisel.



The mother of the greatly famed Hambourg family is proud of the success of her children, but herself avoids the public eye.

Close to the soil in her ardent childhood, a deep love of the harvest grew up in her. To see the image of Canada's future, to help carve it into existence, agriculturally—that became her secret great ambition. To put herself in the way of its fulfilment, Miss Hind went West in 1882 and became the first stenographer in Western Canada in connection with the Macdonald and Tupper law firm, Winnipeg.

There, she learned much about Western farming and made such use of the knowledge she acquired, that she soon began to write reports of agricultural and live stock conventions, for Western papers. In 1906 she received the appointment of Commercial Editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, the position which she occupies at present. Her work entails much travel every summer, throughout the grain growing districts of the West, when she makes her estimates of the season's yield. She has numerous helpers, and the work is performed with the maximum of method in every respect.

So much has this specialist come to be trusted for the accuracy and extent of her observations, that she commonly acts in the capacity of judge at cattle fairs, grain shows and the similar exhibitions which are incident to the life of Manitoba. Her fame has extended beyond her province, and she often responds to an invitation to judge at fall displays of produce, elsewhere. "She is the only woman," as a contemporary has stated, "who has the privileges of the floor of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. She is a member of all the Western live stock associations and has represented western claims and western views both at Ottawa and in Toronto. She attends regularly the International Live Stock Show at Chicago, and her reports are regarded there as they are at home."

(Concluded on page 36)

A
Beauty
Secret

The
TEST
of
TIME

YOUTH and beauty are dependent upon the requisite amount of sound, refreshing, invigorating sleep. Merely eight hours in bed every night, will not suffice. Tossing about on a hard and lumpy, or uneven mattress, will not give you that appearance. What you need is

THE FAMOUS
OSTERMOOR
\$15 MATTRESS \$15

—the mattress that is BUILT—not stuffed. Every OSTERMOOR is firmly elastic and evenly soft all over, and retains its softness and elasticity throughout generations of constant use. It is built in layers of finest selected, long-fibre cotton felt, pressed into a casing of high-grade, serviceable ticking. The OSTERMOOR will not mat or become lumpy or uneven. It never requires renovating—an occasional sun bath will keep it just like new.

Insist upon getting the genuine OSTERMOOR, bearing the label on the end band—also the word OSTERMOOR in the binding along the edges. Look for this picture on the label:—



The OSTERMOOR is sold by the best stores in every town and city in Canada. Write TO-DAY for your copy of our famous "SLEEP" booklet. It is FREE. Simply send us your name and address on a postcard.

GUARANTEED
ALASKA
BEDDING

Made in Canada

The ALASKA FEATHER & DOWN CO.,
MONTREAL Ltd.
The ALASKA BEDDING CO., Limited
WINNIPEG
The ALASKA B.C. BEDDING CO., Ltd.
VANCOUVER

Wholesale Manufacturers Only