

August, 1907.

The Western Home Monthly

31

that the lack of help on farms is becoming a serious menace to the homes. In a somewhat less degree it is a menace to the home in the city also, and one that can no longer be overlooked or ignored.

Women at Work. In connection with women as domestic help, the returns from the census bureau of the United States, issued a short time ago, make interesting reading. It is shown that every fifth woman in the United States is a breadwinner in the sense of reaching wages for work done outside her own home. There are in the United States 23,485,559 women and of these 4,833,630 are breadwinners. These women are divided among 294 occupations, and, as there are only 303 occupations followed by men, it shows that women are employed in all but nine of the daily avocations of the working world. No women were reported as United States soldiers, sailors or marines, as members of city fire departments or as telegraph or telephone line men, or as apprentices or helpers to roofers and slaters, or as helpers to steam boiler makers or brass workers, although eight women are reported as boiler makers, two as roofers and slaters.

The occupation of domestic service still claims the largest percentage of women engaged in any one occupation, there being 1,124,383 domestic servants and 146,929 housekeepers. There are, however, more farm laborers by a hundred thousand than there are dressmakers, and nearly three times as many women engaged in farming on their own account as there are women employed as housekeepers. Over 68 per cent. of women workers are under 35, and 25 per cent. are under 21. This is in marked contrast to the ages of men workers, and indicates that ultimately the bulk of women workers marry and go to housekeeping.



Heart of Oak—By GORDON A. GRANT

*In my Grandmother's garret, I remember years ago,
When I was but a little chap, of six, or seven or so,
An oaken chest, both deep and wide,
In whose capacious black inside
I hid my childish treasures hide,
That none might see;
Save Phyllis, bless her heart, aged five;
She held the key.*

*My odds and ends I now must guard in more exposed places.
The good old chest now overflows with sheets and pillow-cases.
But in my heart, down buried deep,
A priceless treasure still I keep,
Where prying folk may come and peep,
But nothing see;
Save Phyllis, bless her heart, aged—well;
She holds the key.*

The Eisteddfod.

A Winnipeg Man selected as Judge for the great Welsh Festival.

Wales clings with fervor to the Eisteddfod, the great musical and patriotic celebration. The choral work at these festivals is generally of the highest order, and therefore it is not surprising that the men chosen as judges in the choir competition should be among the best known and most competent of musicians. This year, Dr. Cowan, Dr. Davies, Dr. Protheroe and Mr. Rhys Thomas will pass on the merits of the singers. The first three are Englishmen of eminence. The fourth is a resident of Winnipeg, whose work on behalf of music in the western city has had splendid results. Mr. Thomas may be regarded as an authority on music and musical topics. His taste is undeniable, his experience varied and his knowledge almost encyclopaedic. Because of this, it is a matter of considerable pride to the firm of Gourlay, Winter Leeming that since he has been in Winnipeg Mr. Thomas has been a firm friend to the Gourlay piano. A letter from him to the firm is as follows:—"When I wanted a piano some time ago for my studio, I examined a number of instruments by various manufacturers and finally selected a Gourlay, solely on its merits. Its tone is remarkably rich, the touch very responsive and the mechanism perfect. After using it for several months I am more than ever convinced that it is the finest piano made in Canada." Many other musicians of eminence in this country will endorse the opinion of Mr. Thomas.

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