

Grain Growers' Sunshine Guild

Conducted by Margaret

Head Office—GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, WINNIPEG

Telephone—Main 1834

Spreading The Gospel of Kindness

"What is the Sunshine Society?" is often asked. "Is it organized to scatter Sunshine everywhere? Is it new in its workings and ideas? Is it an expensive society? Are there any paid officials?" Some of the ideas of the Sunshine Society are as old as the sun; the plans for carrying on the work alone, are new. The society requires no fees or dues except kind acts and voluntary offerings. There are no paid officials, from the president general to the smallest soldier, all give their strength, thought and prayers to the cause without remuneration.

The object of Sunshine is to give the greatest amount of happiness to the greatest number of people at the smallest possible expense, and as a result of a happy thought, over 300,000 Sunshine members are holding up their hands to the world, saying "Share our surplus joys and sorrows." Because Mrs. Westover Alden, our beloved president-general, had more Christmas gifts than she needed, and realized that there were others who had none, she started the movement to encourage others to pass on from their abundance to the less fortunate.

GOOD CHEER

Have you had a kindness shown?
Pass it on.
'Twas not given for you alone,
Pass it on.
Let it travel down the years,
Let it wipe another's tears,
Till in Heaven the deed appears,
Pass it on.

This verse is the key-note of the Sunshine guild work and with thousands chanting it a wave of kindness shall pass around the world. The growth of Sunshine work has been phenomenal. Starting with a single thought it has grown until the members now number many thousands. From the Parent Society branches have sprung up until now they are to be found all over the world; in England, in Alaska, in Australia, in South Africa, in Central America, Canada and the United States.

Sunshine work is no new effort, it is simply Christian living. It is so simple that even little children follow it gladly. One can do little or much; the rich as well as the poor welcome it, and occasionally one needs it as bad as the other. The rich weighed down by cares of property, often shut in by sickness or domestic sorrow, their lives become darker than those who have not all the necessities of life.

One can carry brightness along one's daily life or go into the hospital and to the dark and gloomy places, then by the power of Sunshine conquer the shadow of sorrow and disease. Because you can give little, is really the greatest reason why you should join our ranks. A solitary dime cannot do much but fifty of these silver pieces can do wonders. There are many who can give thoughts and prayers; these are the best gifts of all—they are earnest and self-sacrificing.

The platform of Sunshine work is:—Work for those around you; begin at home, and if each Sunshiner the world over smiles on and serves his neighbor it will be well nigh a state of universal Sunshine. Though Sunshine work is international, the effort is strictly local. Sunshine work is not necessarily active or aggressive; it is not a fight for prominence, but simply like the rays of the sun, reaching everywhere that it is allowed to penetrate. If it finds snow it melts it; if it reaches the home, it brightens it, and its beams can reach the darkest corner and fill it with light.

I have often been asked if Sunshine is a religion. I never answer save in the language of that little verse that expresses our general feelings.

"Have you had a kindness shown?" Then people press me further; they say, "What denomination do you represent?" I have to plead absolute ignorance. We have whole Sunshine societies in Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Congregational and Dutch Reform churches. Some Jewish periodicals have a Sunshine Department in

every number; the Christian Herald has the same, so how can I say what denomination we represent? And yet it may be said, that, free as it is, from the mechanism of organization, broad as its range of influence, Sunshine has a creed. If I were to follow the ordinary lines of demarcation, I might say we have a hundred creeds, and they are all really one. Yes, we are Confucians, for we depend on the little courtesies and kindnesses of life to make up the great whole by which one must either stand or fall. We are tender to the aged and gentle to the children. To the sage maxims of the venerable Celestials we only beg leave to add as a suggestion for the removal of most human discomforts, our little watchword "Do something for somebody quickly."

Happiness in Forgetting Self

We are Hindoos for our charity takes within its range every living thing and a good Sunshiner would not be cross even to a dumb animal. We are Epicureans as well, for we believe in enjoying life, and we would say the surest way to be happy is to forget yourself. This recipe is an unfailing one. But most of all we are Christians, for it was Christ who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and "Whoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."

The Sunshine Society does away with all limitations to helpfulness. Its mission of gladness and mercy is as broad and pliable as the needs of humanity are great and diverse. There is no form

Each could help the other if only by an exchange of friendly letters.

So far as material Sunshine goes, there are not many lives so devoid of accessories that some are not superfluous. The most unlucky child has some toy that is not used. The most closely scripped student, has some text book that could be passed on to a boy who has none of that kind, and a farmer's wife may send a jar of jelly that will gladden the heart of some sick one. That the sympathetic soul may be brought into contact with some needy one, is the aim of the society. The old quotation says "Now we see through a glass darkly." It is the theory of Sunshine work that some of the smoke can be rubbed off the glass right here, and that heaven may thus be brought a little nearer to many thousand hearts.—MARGARET

FRESH AIR FUND

The following amounts have been received:
Mr. W. F. Burns \$5.00
Hon Mr. T. M. Daly 5.00
Mrs. N. T. McMillan 5.00
Jean Abel and friends, Hazelcliff, Sask. 1.40
Marion Stevens 5.00

Total 19.40

WANTED FOR SUNSHINE

Towels, linen (both bed and table) pillow cases, fresh eggs, butter, chickens, etc., Picture post cards, pictures, toys, games, etc.

GIFTS TO SUNSHINE

1 box of summer blouses and dresses



Pipestone Creek, near Wetaskiwin, Alta.

of discomfort or suffering of mind and body that it has not relieved.

Wealth and poverty have nothing to do with Sunshine, neither have creeds.

The Sunshine Society starts out with the proposition that the poor people are not mostly objects of charity and that the rich are not always without feeling or sympathy. Also that people who regard themselves as neither rich nor poor, are in an overwhelming majority everywhere. Kindness extends its Mystic Free Masonry over all classes.

The sturdy, barefoot boy who helps an aged man to cross a street, has much in common with the wealthy maiden who gathers together the foundlings of the alms-house and serves them with her own hands. He does not know it, nor does she, but both will be stronger for finding it out. The woman on a western farm a dozen miles from a railroad station, rebelling in her scant hours of rest against her isolation, and yearning for a glimpse of the greater world, has much in common with the wealthy woman who languishes in an elaborate city apartment, wondering what she will do next.

from the west. 1 box of clothing from Haverford College. 1 box of clothing spices, kitchen utensils, from Mrs. Gallsby. 6 beautiful picture books from Mrs. Stebbins, Regina. 2 picture books and a large quantity of pictures and post cards from Haverford. 25 cuts from Lonie Johnston.

MOTTO FOR THE WEEK

Before it is too late

If you've a tender message,
Or a loving word to say,
Don't wait till you forget it,
But whisper it to-day.
We live but in the present,
The future is unknown;
To-morrow is a mystery,
To-day is all our own.
The tender word unspoken,
The letter never sent,
The long forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent.
For these some hearts are breaking,
For these some loved ones wait;
So show them that you care for them
Before it is too late.

Hon. President - Lady MacMillan
Pres. of Manitoba - Mrs. N. T. MacMillan
Vice-Pres. - Mrs. C. F. Walker
Treasurer - Mr. W. C. Coady
Organizing Sec. - Mrs. E. S. Lister
Advisory Board
Mr. R. McKendry, Honorable T. M. Daly, Rev. J. L. Gordon, Rev. E. O. and Mrs. Armstrong, Dr. and Mrs. Weagant, Mrs. Rathbun, Mrs. Godfrey, Mrs. Grant Hall, Mrs. K. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Nichols, Mr. George C. Carson, Mrs. Rigg

HAN A BOAT.

Dear Margaret:—I should like to become a member of your club as I am a member of two other clubs. I came from Ontario a year ago and I like this country fine. We have a big slough in front of the house and a boat, and we often go boating. I am eleven years of age and in the fourth grade. But now there is no school.

MELINDER WOLFE.

Wheatwys, Sask.

THE LANE FAMILY.

Dear Margaret:—I am going to send some doll pictures to some of the poor little sick girls. I hope they will enjoy them. I cut the doll pictures out of the Ladies Home Journal. And I think the little girls will enjoy them. They are called the Little Lane Family.

FLORA EVANS.

Nutans, Sask.

HEARTY WELCOME.

Dear Margaret:—As I see so many children join the Sunshine work, I thought I would join too. My brother has joined it and I thought I would have to join too. I hope the Sunshine work will do a lot of good to poor women and children, and I hope the membership card and two cents and ten cents to help the poor.

ROBERT SCARTH.

Bismarck, Man.

PLACE OF REFUGE.

Dear Margaret:—Through the Grain Growers' Guide I have learned a little of your beautiful work and am anxious to become better acquainted with it. I read that your's was a place of refuge for the "nervous woman," and as I am a bunch of nerves this appealed to me. For some time I have suffered from a pain in the right hip and upon examination the doctor tells me the symptoms are of tuberculosis, and out on those wet prairie we have no way of taking treatment. Hence I am taking the liberty of writing to ask if you could tell me of a place where one could go. I am not sick, only unable to use my right foot. What is needed more than all in my case, is to find a place where one could rest from care and be able to build up shattered nerves; they drive me nearly frantic. I have been Post Mistress on the prairie for a number of years and am overworked till I am frenzied with nerves.

MISS A. MARTINSON.

Ellow, Sask.

The Fresh Air Home is for any one in need of change and rest. We cannot, of course, nurse anyone there but, if you just require good air and food we shall be delighted to have you join our happy circle.

MARGARET.

FRESH AIR HOME.

Dear Margaret:—Having followed with great interest the columns devoted to your work in the Grain Growers' Guide, I am at length going to try to get in touch with your club. I am a stenographer and teach music on a small scale, as the latter is what I am really trained to do, but not having found it practicable, I have worked mostly at stenography. Sometime ago someone mentioned that there was a block built for the accommodation of business girls. I would like to know whether that is so, and whether there is a restaurant attached to same.

I have also noticed that the work on hand is for a Fresh Air Home. Is that for summer girls, and would it be possible for a girl to go out there for her summer holidays? I have wanted so much to go out into the country for a little, but do not know just where to go. I got so run down in the Fall, and the doctor ordered me away to the country, but I did not know how to get there so I just had to stay in the city, consequently I had a most miserable time through the winter. Please give me all the information concerning your Club.

HOPEFUL

Glad indeed to hear from you. The Fresh Air Home opens on the first of July. I trust to have a Girl's Home built before Christmas, but it is uphill work. The charge for bed and board is \$4 per week. Write again and arrange when you can take your holiday with us.

MARGARET

COMFORTS FOR THE SICK

Dear Margaret:—Please find enclosed fifty cents to use in the way you consider best. Wishing you every success in your good work.

MABLE TODD.

Workman, Sask.

Many thanks for 50 cents, I sent some cherries to a dear child just 15 years, dying of tuberculosis.

MARGARET.

A LITTLE SUNSHINER.

Dear Margaret:—I did not see my last letter in print so I decided I would try again. I am collecting some money for your club, and hope it may become of some use. I see also that Harold Green is getting along nicely. I hope he received the few Sunday school cards. I hope your work is growing stronger and that it will prosper in the end. Please send me a silver badge, I shall be ever so glad to get it.

ANNIE A. McCONNELL.

Hamiots, Man.

(Age 18)