

The Co-operative Community

The Home and the Community

By J. S. Woodsworth, Director, Bureau of Social Research

An intensive study of conditions in the farm home made by the Extension Department of the Manitoba Agricultural College shows that much less attention has been paid to the home than to the farm. Labor-saving devices, for example, are purchased by the man for the farm almost regardless of cost. Within the home, however, the women drudge away without any of the modern devices, which could be secured at small outlay, but which would greatly lighten their work. Home-making, in fact, has hardly been recognized as an avocation requiring considerable skill and ability. The private home is the most wretchedly supported social institution we have, altho it is universally agreed that it is the most important. It is surely about time that we ceased declaiming about "the hand that rocks the cradle" and saw to it that the owner of the hand was given a fair deal and perhaps that the hand was a little less chapped and crippled. Our questionnaires brought out several items of interest affecting the home.



J. S. WOODSWORTH

Music in the Home

There are comparatively few homes where there are no newspapers, tho many of them are small local papers. In the older settled districts there are many musical instruments. Indeed, pianos and organs are often purchased before there is anyone able to play on them. Violins and phonographs are found, even in the homes of newly arrived immigrants. There are few good pictures, either in the newer or older settlements. Enlarged portraits or photographs and calendars decorate the homes of the English-speaking people and religious pictures the homes of the European immigrants of the Roman or Greek Catholic churches. There appears to be little education or appreciation along this line. A beginning is being made, however, in the schools. In one country town there was in the school an art exhibition of reproductions of the masterpieces.

In the open country there are few places of amusement. In the villages there is, as a rule, a skating rink and two pool rooms. One minister remarks, "pool rooms are a curse, but no other distraction offers." Less than half of the little "towns" have moving picture houses and in many of these, shows are given only once or twice a week. A few villages have athletic grounds, others tennis courts and curling rinks. Occasionally an itinerant company gives a concert or theatrical performance.

The church choirs and a few bands and orchestras do good work. One district has two bands, but complaint is made "that no lively tunes must be played, as these are the devil's music." According to the teachers, only about one-half of the districts have athletic clubs. Baseball seems to be the favorite summer sport, football, tennis, basket-ball and lacrosse are also played. The winter sports are skating, curling and hockey. Dancing is the prevalent indoor amusement. Musical clubs and card games are also frequently noted. In a number of communities the boys are organized as scouts. Little effort is made to meet the athletic needs of the girls. This probably accounts for the fact noted by Principal Reynolds that the farm girls who come to college are, as compared with farm boys, poorly developed physically.

Medical Services

Every home ought to be able to secure medical services. The reports from the secretaries of the farmers and women's organizations show that this is far from being the case. Sometimes this is due simply to indifference. One district reports that almost everyone owns a Ford car; yet for more than four years no doctor or health officer has inspected the school children. More frequently the lack of medical help represents part of the price which is being paid by pioneer settlers, a price that would not be necessary if large areas of land were not held

by speculators. Of 68 districts in Alberta, only 18 had resident doctors, and only 15 resident nurses. In the remaining districts the doctor was on an average 15 miles from the school. Outside of the cities there are few hospitals, and medical inspection of the schools is rare. Little wonder that the campaign in Alberta, for free municipal hospitals is meeting with a ready response and that a similar agitation has commenced in the other

prairie provinces.

Out of the 125 districts in Saskatchewan only 5 have a resident doctor and only 7 a resident nurse. One man states that there was one trained nurse and he married her! There are a few hospitals, some of them supported by missionary effort. Two districts report that eyes are inspected in the schools, one that there is general inspection. In Manitoba there are few resident doctors or nurses. The distance from the school to the doctor runs at about 10 miles; in the Slavic districts 14 miles. There is no medical inspection of schools unless an epidemic breaks out. This condition is now being improved, as the newly organized Provincial Board of Health has several nurses in the field.

Sanitation

Contrary to the usual opinion, sanitary conditions in rural districts are far from ideal. In one district a typhoid fever epidemic was brought about by contaminated water, in another the country is full of sloughs and marshy ground in which breed innumerable mosquitoes, flies, etc. In a mixed community of 200 English families, 250 Ruthenians, 15 Poles, 20 French and 5 German families "the foreign people have little idea of sanitation and their homes are not clean." In a similar district the note is "mostly slough; much stagnant water and barnyard manure in sloughs; typhoid common." In a number of the foreign settlements tuberculosis is very prevalent.

The little towns are worse; in many respects, than the open country. One is reminded of the saying attributed to Elbert Hubbard, "God made the country, man made the city, but the devil made the small town." The following notes about different villages are suggestive:—"Sanitary conditions crude, trying thru Board of Trade to improve matters." "Very poor water supply." "No sewers or drains." "General clean-up once in six months." "Stable manure, ash heaps, etc., left for a long time." "Things are as circumstances shape them."

Poverty Rare

Poverty as known in the city is rare in the country. It is true that there are many districts like the one which reports "everyone is poor in this homesteading country" but the situation is usually better described "new settlement; hence no poor," or "friendly community spirit prevents cases of extreme want." Relief giving is unorganized. The neighbors, the churches, various societies and occasionally the municipality "helps out" in particularly needy cases.

The neglected and subnormal children are more numerous than the secretaries' reports indicate. Our Children's Aid Societies receive many of their worst cases from the backward rural districts. The teachers, too, report a number of deaf and dumb and blind children, and many more with defective eyesight, mental defectives, epileptics and children crippled, it is said, as a result of meningitis and infantile paralysis.

Extreme individualism and the fear of "making bad friends in the neighborhood," or, in plain words, selfishness and cowardice, have often permitted little children to suffer for years unnoticed and unhelped. The claim of "the least of these my brethren" cannot be ignored; besides under modern conditions we are learning that no one can do his duty by his own home without taking an interest in other people's homes. In this interdependent age, it is impossible to tell just when the home ends and the community begins.



Mason & Risch Pianos

"Factory to Home"

Twenty Branch Stores

We have been building Mason & Risch Pianos for nearly fifty years. Today this instrument stands as the ultimate result of almost a half century of conscientious endeavor.

The purchaser of a Mason & Risch Piano secures an instrument of lifelong durability, at a cost, which, when spread over years of service, is insignificant.

The Mason & Risch Piano grows old gracefully, retaining all its original charm, because it is built right in the first place, by men whose sole aim is to make the BEST Piano possible, regardless of cost.

We extend to you the privilege of securing a Mason & Risch Made Piano or Player Piano from any of our Branch Stores at the Manufacturer's price, thus eliminating all Middleman's, Dealer's or Agent's profits or commissions. If you will but compare our FACTORY TO HOME prices with the prices asked for inferior instruments, you will be surprised at the substantial amount we can save you on your Piano purchase.

Write at once to our nearest Branch Store for our Special Holiday Offer. The Mason & Risch plan of payment will assist you in securing your Piano in time for the Holiday Season.

Exchange Department

We are constantly receiving good standard makes of Pianos and Player Pianos in exchange for Mason & Risch instruments. We thoroughly repair and renew these in our workshop, and offer them at bargain prices and on easy terms. A post card addressed to Dept. G will bring you promptly, complete list with description and prices of used Pianos, Player Pianos and Organs.

Mason & Risch Limited

302 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Man.

Branches at Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton.



TRAPPERS! Get More for Your Raw Furs

We pay cash for furs. Send for our price list, tags, etc. We send them free, also a BIG FREE TRAPPER'S GUIDE. We need millions of skunk, mink, muskrat and white weasel, and will pay you more money for these furs than anyone else. We also need all kinds of other furs for which we pay highest cash prices and charge no commission. Send us a trial shipment by mail. It will pay you. Write today.

NATIONAL RAW FUR CO., Dept. B.13
1209-11-13 Jefferson Ave. West, Hastings, W. Va., U.S.A.

BUY YOUR FISH

Specially Assorted Lots

Give pleasing variety without unnecessary quantity. Select preferred assortment and order by Lot Number.

LOT No. 1.—40 lbs. assorted fish, including Halibut, Salmon, Sea \$5.00

Herring and Flounders

LOT No. 2.—55 lbs. assorted fish, including Salt Codfish, White- \$5.00

fish, Silver Herring, Jacks and Finnan Haddie

LOT No. 3.—24 lbs. assorted fish, including Halibut, Whitefish, \$2.50

Sea Herring, Salt Codfish and Jacks.

Each Lot contains about equal quantities of each class of fish, all No. 1,

strictly fresh frozen and every pound guaranteed. Send cash with order.

In case of prepay station, enclose sufficient extra to prepay charges or give nearest point where an agent is located.

WRITE FOR COMPLETE PRICE LIST

A copy of our Recipe Booklet "How To Cook Fish" sent FREE with every order.

THE CONSUMERS' FISH CO.
Winnipeg — — — Manitoba



600.00

200.00

175.00

135.00

30.00

42.00

1272.00

well as

No. 13

Farm

rowers