

finest tragedy, the sublimest hope that the nation affords. The remote, all but friendless women who go down into the dark valley, and from whom no complaint is heard, bear an appalling risk of loss to the province, to the Dominion, which they ought not to suffer, and which is too often accepted as a matter of course.

There must always be, of course, deprivations on the frontier. But when human life is about to yield its increase, it should have as tender a care as the increase of the field has while it waits for cars. The record in the family Bible is as superior to the stud book pedigree, as the stars are to the dust. The pioneer is seldom rich. Expert help is often beyond his means. The tale of lives lost at the most precious, most jeopardous period is formidable as soon as it is gathered together. Probably in conjunction with the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Service a Provincial Immigration Service would ascertain the exact conditions in a given pioneer area, and take steps to organize practical help against the crises which are apt to inflict loss on the country, and dread of which materially retards the immigration of sensitive women who are not deficient in courage, but are merely endowed with saving caution.

This is pre-eminently a field for the activity of existing women's organizations, and has been touched by some of them. The demand for skilled nursing in cities and well settled areas is very great, and is being admirably met. It would probably be found that for pioneer settlements the principal need is for midwives who are not necessarily hospital experts, but who, in addition to practical experience have the intensely human qualities that may destroy the effects of the lonely isolation which accentuates the crisis in the fate of mother and child. The women's side of immigration has never been sufficiently regarded. If it were fully appreciated and its more poignant difficulties anticipated it would be much easier to attract thousands of the most desirable families to Canada.

Home Economics.

Swan Lake, Manitoba.

The meeting of the Home Economics was opened by the reading of the minutes of the last meeting which were adopted as read, after which the president, Mrs. Gordon, most feelingly voiced the sentiments of the whole society in the words of regret with which she expressed the sense of loss under which the society is suffering in the death of one of its most valued members, Mrs. Murray Simpson, and the loss of a clever little helper in the person of Delta Hartwell, who so often brightened the programme by her pretty recitations.

After a vote of condolence had been passed to those so sadly bereaved, the matter of finally settling on a programme for the current year was entered upon, and after discussion, the programme was drawn up. The president also spoke again on the need for systematic caretaking of the cemetery, which is a duty women can well undertake, and it was decided that a day for this work should be chosen at the next meeting in May. The need of extending the numbers and scope of the society was also urged by the president, who asked each member to try and bring a new recruit to the next meeting.

The subject for the programme at this meeting was "Home-making," and the two papers, contributed by Mesdames Hodgson and Downey, were read. It was soon evident that the choice of ladies and subject had fallen happily; both papers were interesting and well thought out; Mrs. Hodgson discussed home-making more from the religious and parental standpoint. Mrs. Downey, while taking an equally serious view of the subject, showed the absolute need for true unity and co-operation, not only between husband and wife, but also between parents and children. The reading was listened to with interested attention and a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the two ladies who had added, not only to the entertain-

ment of the afternoon, but who had fulfilled the raison d'être of the society, that of giving helpful ideas and suggestions to their fellow members.

Tag Day.

At the meeting which was held on Saturday, April 27th, to organize for Tag Day here, the following officers were chosen:—

Captain, Mrs. G. B. Gordon; treasurer, Mrs. W. E. Gardner; secretary, Mrs. B. Langridge.

It has been decided this year to enlist the help of the principals of the five school districts in our ward as the easiest and most thorough way of canvassing the territory to be covered, and a second meeting was therefore called for Saturday, May 4th, at 3 p.m. in Mr. Renter's store, Swan Lake, and the secretary was directed to write and ask the following ladies and gentlemen to be present:—

Miss Blackburn, of Lakeview; Mr. A. E. Ross, of Swan Lake; Mr. A. Sparling, of Norway; and the Principals of St. Gustave and Oak Hill schools, to meet and confer with the officers mentioned above. The secretary was also directed to write and ask permission of Mr. E. M. Wood, of the Provincial Board of Health for the Tag Day in this ward to be held on Saturday, June 1st, as being a more suitable day for, and offering better chances of, collections than Friday, May 31st.

The Loss of the Asia in Georgian Bay, 1882.

The portrait below is that of Christy Ann Morrison, the only lady survivor, and one of the only two survivors of the ill-fated steamer Asia, which was lost on the Georgian Bay, Thursday, September 14th, 1882, with fully 125 persons on board. Miss Morrison, with seventeen others, took refuge in the cap-



Miss Christy Ann Morrison.

tain's boat. The terrific storm soon reduced the number to seven, including captain and mate. One after another five of these strong men, though injured to hardships, succumbed to the terrors of the storm, and died from sheer exhaustion, while Miss Morrison and her sole companion, Mr. D. A. Tinkiss, still clung to life and hope, till after spending eighteen hours in the boat they drifted ashore on Friday morning. After escaping the perils of the deep they suffered the pangs of hunger for two additional days, until, through the assistance of an Indian they reached Parry Sound. These are the barest outlines of one of the most astonishing deliverances on record, and it must be admitted they entitle the subject of this sketch to the title of "Heroine" so universally bestowed upon her by the press and people of Canada.



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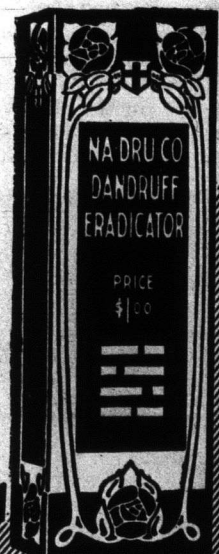
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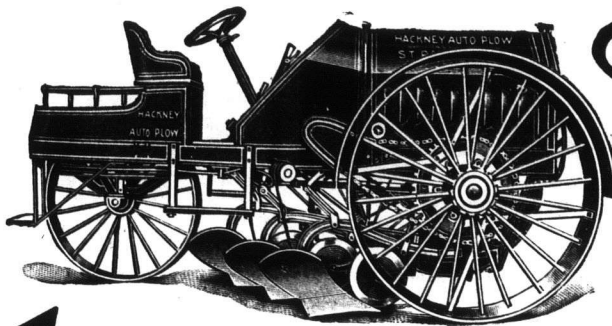
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