

Experiences Of Women in The west.

Position Of Women There Has Vastly Improved In Last Five Years.

EDMONTON, Tuesday.—The experience of women in the west, especially those on the farms, have long been a subject of curiosity to persons not familiar with the conditions which prevail in the prairie country. The alleged suffering and inconvenience which have been associated with the lot of the latter sex in accounts circulated from time to time in older parts of Canada do not appear to be conspicuous at the present time. The "fate" of womanhood in these parts is indicated by the experience of a farmer's wife, published in a special number of the Alberta Homestead, over the signature of Mrs. Gertrude Balmer Watt. The article is entitled "Alberta From a Woman's Standpoint," and summarizes a few of the attractions which this Province offers a woman on the farm. It is in part as follows:

The Joy of Living.
From far off, persecuted Russia, from India, Germany, France, from the north and the south and the east, westward the star of empire makes its way. Today this vast area contains one of the most marvellous mixtures of nationalities civilization has probably ever seen. And how is it working out? Board the C. N. R. train at Winnipeg and come to Edmonton; take the C. P. R. line and travel southward to your starting point. Go through the most interestingly bustling towns you have ever seen. Note the brand new buildings, the large hotels, see the class of immigrants who have taken up their homes in these wonderful new Provinces; look at the crowds around the real estate offices, see the loads of prospective settlers starting out for their future homes. And then go out and drive through a country where fences are not, where you will see the most boundless stretches of fertile land your mind has ever conceived where you will encounter a new air, and a new sky, the joy of living, hope, youth, your fairy tale comes true.

The Women on the Homestead.
Yesterday a woman from Chicago dropped in to see me. She has been in the west for a year, and formerly did sewing for me. Now she has just returned from putting in a six-months in the year residence on her and her husband's homestead near Manville, as required by the homestead laws. Here, said I to myself, is the one I have been wanting to interview—a delicate little woman, unused to hardships, who will tell me the truth about things.

"I suppose you're glad to get back to town," I began. "Must have been rather uncomfortable in all that cold snap."

"Well, do you know, we honestly didn't notice it," from this miniature five-footer. "You see, we never so busy, and then the cold in Alberta is, to my mind, the cheeriest, kindest sort of cold I ever experienced. I just feel splendid."

Happy and Hopeful.
"She looked it; for all the tiny, delicately-moulded figure, here was a woman full of the joy of living, happy, hopeful in the prospect of the future, their quarter section was to bring them. Bit by bit I learned the whole of her story. Last September they bought a team, and laden with the most of their winter supplies, two tents, and with no live stock but nine chickens, they left Edmonton to drive to their homestead. The journey out was perfectly delightful, the little woman assured me. In the daytime they moved along fairly rapidly, and at

night pitched a tent and built a small camp-fire where they had a good dinner. In time the quarter section was reached, and operations begun to erect a small house and barn. The lumber for the house had been taken out with them, and soon she and her husband had a crude but cozy little home for themselves. The horses had then to be thought of, and with the aid of neighbors logs were cut and hauled. In a short time a good, substantial log barn was reared, and my friends began to feel all the delight of landed proprietors.

Sat and grinned at each Other.
"If you had ever lived in Chicago, and never owned a foot of ground or even the nails in your home, you'd know something of how we felt over the possession of our homestead," went on this well-satisfied new settler. "At night we used to sit and grin at each other as we discussed the prospects of soon purchasing a cow, more chickens, and sundry additions to our stock-in-trade. This year the neighbors kept us pretty well supplied with milk, and when they failed we used condensed milk or went without. We could always get fresh meat, and with that and good, substantial vegetables you can't starve, can you?"

"In spite of the cold the chickens kept on laying steadily. I was rather surprised, too, because we hadn't any windows to the chicken-house and had to leave the door open to let the light in. However, I fed them well, so I suppose that helped. When I came away I lent them to a neighbor, and when we got back he has promised to return them, plus half the chickens he raises in the meantime."

Had No Time For Blues.
"At the query that it must be rather lonesome at times this light-hearted homesteader only laughed. "Lonesome? Well, I guess not. We have splendid neighbors, and then we haven't time for the blues." It appeared that when her household duties were over she sewed for nearby settlers, and thus added to her small supply of ready money. Next year they are to sow their first crop, when she expects to help seed and to share all the other outdoor labors. The prospect tickles her immensely.

Industry and Enterprise.
"You may think I'm smart," she said, "but I think you ought to know about some neighbors of yours. Mr. and Mrs. and his four children—a girl of twelve, two boys of six and eight and a five-months old baby. They are all French, the mother a dressmaker and the father a baker. Ready money being sorely needed she left the homestead and went in to Vermillion to take in sewing. She is now earning \$20 a week, the father runs the farm and the little girl takes care of the children. Every Saturday the mother drives out, does the washing, such sewing as is needed, and tidies up generally, and when the father drives her back to town he does enough baking to last her through the week."

"And the baby?" I inquired.
"Oh, it seems to thrive all right, my narrator assured me. 'The father and daughter seem to manage beautifully.' It's funny," she went on, "the way the young bachelors around the country are chasing after the widows for wives. You see, a widow can claim her hundred and sixty acres on her own and her children's account, so husband No. 2 really gets the benefit of a half instead of a quarter section."

Only a Sample.
"This small dressmaker's story is only a sample of the satisfaction expressed by every settler I have interviewed. If there are knockers in Alberta, I haven't struck one. In the eyes of the farmers of the future with whom I have come into contact shines the gleam of to-morrow's greatness. They are themselves part and parcel of the growth of the country that is astonishing the world. Out on the prairies, face to face with their naked soul, men and women come into possession of a depth of wisdom seemingly impossible to obtain when surrounded by the distractions of the town. And after all, is the secret of the spirit that animates the whole west, from the centre of the newest cities to the uttermost end of the distant homesteads, but the joy of labor, and satisfaction of knowing that in each man's hands lies the possibility of his own future?"

Improvement Will Continue.
There is no doubt that the position of woman has vastly improved during the past five years. In the cities and towns she has almost always been as well situated as other women in communities of similar size elsewhere, but

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SURPLUSES NOT DEFICITS (Morning Graphic)

Mr. George E. Foster, who was Minister of Finance from 1888 to 1896, when the Conservative government was driven from power, had a task far from enviable in undertaking says a contemporary, to criticize the financial statement of the Dominion's finances presented in the House of Commons by Mr. Fielding. It was Mr. Fielding's twelfth budget speech and his eleventh successive announcement of a surplus. With the single exception of his first budget speech Mr. Fielding has never made a budget speech without having a surplus to announce. His first budget speech, covering the fiscal year 1896-7, was the speech in which he announced the new Liberal tariff, known by his name which, with its British preference feature, set an epoch making precedent in the history of the empire, while inaugurating an era of unprecedented progress and prosperity for Canada.

The fiscal year, 1896-7, which except for its first month and a half, was the Liberal Government's first year in office, was the closing year of the operation of the Conservative tariff. Like the year preceding it was a year of deficit. And it fell to Mr. Fielding, as part of his duty in making the first budget speech, to announce that deficit, as his predecessor in the office of Minister of Finance, Mr. George E. Foster, had been announcing deficits in his budget speeches year after year.

The following is the record of Mr. Fielding to date, as Finance Minister:

Fiscal year	Surplus	Deficit
1896-7	\$519,981
1897-8	\$1,722,712
1898-9	4,837,749
1899-1900	8,054,714
1900-1	5,648,333
1901-2	7,291,398
1902-3	14,345,166
1903-4	15,656,984
1904-5	7,571,533
1905-6	15,938,118
1906-7	15,518,949
1907-8	19,009,006

Mr. Fielding has already far exceeded the total of ten years of office of any of his predecessors as Minister of Finance, while Mr. Macdonald, as Minister of Finance or Chancellor of the Exchequer in any British Government, including the Imperial Government, for a century or more, in quality of service as in length of service his record is unsurpassed. As for Mr. Foster, it may be noted, that in his last budget speech he had to announce a deficit of \$330,551, for the fiscal year 1895-6. The year before he had to announce a deficit of \$4,153,875 for 1894-5 and the year before that a deficit of \$1,210,392 for 1893-4.

ROBLIN, BLATHERSKITE.

Rarely has the windbag of a blatherer been so effectively punctured as that of Premier Roblin.

The hero of the pin act is J. S. Willison, editor of the Toronto News, who held a prominent position on the platform at Mr. Borden's meeting in Toronto, on which occasion Roblin made the slanderous statement which brought him to grief.

Roblin charged the Globe with robbery in connection with the building of the Crow's Nest Railway, and its editor with aiding and abetting that robbery. The irresponsible politician from the west had got more than usually beyond his depth; he had forgotten or did not know that the editor of the Globe, at the time referred to, was not J. A. Macdonald, whom he wished to knife, but J. S. Willison, at present, from circumstances which he could not control, one of the vehement of the journalistic supporters of the Conservative party.

Willison now says that the Crow's Nest Railway campaign originated entirely with himself, and that he did not know a Globe director was interested in the project, that he did not consult any Globe director on the subject, and he intimates pretty plainly that Roblin is a liar and that the truth is not in him.

The Free Press has already had one on the homesteads she had a lonely existence. The building of railways—thousands of miles—and of telephone systems, with the accompanying improvement in facilities for living, and the increase and expansion of settlement have affected a wonderful change. The improvement is certain to continue.

occasion to point out this last fact to its readers, but the confirmation has come from an unexpected quarter.

It becomes more and more evident that Roblin has been imported into this campaign for the very purpose of assisting in the work of distortion and misrepresentation. He is the bright and shining star of the slanderfest. His speeches contain a minimum of truth and a maximum of falsehoods.

His charges against the government are all as false and have been proven to be so, as the slanderer which is now denounced by a pillar in his own party.

A pretty minister of the Interior R. P. Roblin would make!

Mr. Willison's statement is satisfactory so far as it goes, but the pity is that it was not given earlier. He sat on the platform at Massey Hall and heard Mr. Roblin's statement and attack upon Mr. J. A. Macdonald, which he knew to be untrue, and yet he allowed the whole of the next day to pass without putting pencil to paper to make the statement which he only could make and which he knew it was his duty to make. It was not until Mr. Macdonald came out in Friday's Globe that Mr. Willison felt impelled to take the course which any man of honor should have taken half an hour after Mr. Roblin's speech.

Mr. Willison was within touch of the newspaper offices when he heard Mr. Roblin's slander—and he knew it to be both a slander and a falsehood—yet the index never occurred to him to indite a letter which would set the public mind right and would have been published in the same issue of the news papers as the slander itself.

It would have been such a simple thing to do. It would have been the honorable thing to do. And it is the thing which the J. S. Willison of two years ago would have done.

Evil associations corrupt good manners. Mr. Willison's association with his Tory bosses seems to have weakened his sense of personal and political honor to a pitiful degree.

As to his charge that Mr. Macdonald is hiding behind another man's coat tail, it seems to us that if any man is doing any "hiding" it is J. S. Willison. Mr. Macdonald has nothing to hide, for he had no connection at all with the transaction. Mr. Willison on the other hand, who conducted the whole campaign which is the subject of controversy, not only kept silent for thirty six hours, but only spoke when forced to do so by the publication of the fact, forced upon the Globe, that he was the author of the articles in question. The least Mr. Willison says about hiding behind other people's coat tails the better.—Ottawa Free Press.

There has been established in the city of Hamilton a tuberculosis museum, the object of which is to educate the public as to the causes of tuberculosis, its cure, prevention, etc.

The largest grain elevator in the world is to be built at Milwaukee. The temperance people of that city have no doubt insisted on something else than beer to make Milwaukee famous.

The total revenue of the United States Government in 1907 from spirits and malt liquors and from tobacco was \$247,458,911, or 2.88 per capita, equal to \$14.40 tax on every family.

After the lapse of fifteen years London will again have in November a Catholic Lord Mayor in the person of Sir John Stuart Knill, Bart, alderman of the Bridge ward, who stands next in succession for the office. The last Catholic Lord Mayor was the coming Mayor's father.

"You look worried," remarked the snuff-box.
"And I have cause to be," sighed the long plug of navy, "it won't be long before I am cut up!"
"Oh, that's nothing, my friend, it won't be long before I am pinched."

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