

# The Countrywoman

## Dawn

You that have faith to look with fear-  
less eyes  
Beyond a tragedy of world at strife,  
And trust that out of night and death  
shall rise  
The dawn of ampler life:  
Rejoice, whatever anguish rend your  
heart,  
That God has given you, for a price-  
less dowry,  
To live in these great times and have a  
part  
In Freedom's crowning hour—  
That you may tell your sons who see the  
light  
High in the heavens, their heritage to  
take—  
"I saw the powers of darkness put to  
flight!  
I saw the morning break!"  
—Sir Owen Seaman.

## Peace on Earth

The day we have waited for, longed  
for, sometimes despaired of, but in our  
hearts knew would ultimately come, is  
upon us—the day of victorious peace.  
Even after several days of living with  
no shadow of war above, it is difficult  
to believe that the shadow has passed.  
Our boys will come marching back  
again. Not all—and that is the war  
sadness that lives far into the days of  
peace. Fifty thousand of those who  
marched away have joined the immortal  
hosts, and their native land can know  
them no more. Their dust mingles with  
that of immortal France. But in their  
dying lives forever the imperishable  
honor of Canada. Their dying has made  
possible the victorious peace we are  
today enjoying.

But the boys will come marching back  
again. No more long nights of wonder-  
ing what the day will bring. No more  
grievous terrors of war. Peace reigns  
again. Victorious peace crowns the  
efforts and the sacrifices of the world.  
But peace has its difficulties, and in the  
overcoming of the obstacles in the path  
of peace the testing time has come  
for those at home. Our vindication of  
their splendid stand must yet be made.  
We cannot let their sacrifices be made  
in vain. Let us celebrate the advent of  
the angel of peace by permeating our  
souls with the spirit of those who will  
not return, by following the precepts  
of the thousands who return who walked  
through the valley of the shadow that  
liberty and freedom might be immortal.  
Let it be ours to bear aloft the torch of  
imperishable honor so bravely sustained  
on Flanders' fields.

## Merely Temporary Relief

Elsewhere on this page is an account  
of a meeting of the law committee of  
the provincial organization of the  
National Council of Women recently  
held in Calgary. They ask for mother's  
pensions, and also for the provincial  
government to make some sort of pro-  
vision for the aged and infirm. Are we  
not all trying to bring about reforms  
that deal with results rather than with  
causes? Why are mother's left unable  
to care for children when the family  
bread-winner has been removed? Is it  
not because there was no preparation  
during the bread-winner's life for just  
such an exigency? Why do old persons  
reach old age and infirmity without  
the wherewithal for their maintenance?  
Is it not because they too, during their  
earning years failed to prepare for a  
period of infirmity and disability?

It would be much better and more  
reasonable if we directed our energies  
to having enacted some sort of compul-  
sory state insurance. Under such a  
system there would be no need for relief  
either for mothers or aged persons.  
The burden would be equalized, and  
when the age of disability was reached  
maintenance would automatically be  
provided. Adequate insurance is today  
out of reach of the small salaried person,  
and our insurance companies are grow-  
ing wealthy. Their yearly statements  
reveal how wealthy. In the recent  
issue of the Victory Loan the Sun Life  
of Canada subscribed to the extent of  
\$10,000,000; the Canada Life, \$6,500,

000; the Great West Life \$3,000,000,  
etc. If we worked for the nationaliza-  
tion of Life Insurance companies, to-  
gether with reduced cost, more adequate  
disability clauses, and a measure of com-  
pulsion, we should be working for a  
reform that removes the cause. Mother's  
pensions would then be unnecessary, as  
would also charity or government relief  
for the aged and infirm.

## Law Work in Alberta

There was recently formed in Alberta  
what should be a very strong committee.  
It is an amalgamation of the law com-  
mittee of the Council of Women and  
the provincial executive, recently arrang-  
ed for by the  
National Council  
of Women. The  
newly appointed  
committee consists  
of the provincial  
vice-president,  
Mrs. C.O. Edwards,  
as chairman, the  
president of each  
nationally affili-  
ated society and  
one delegate, and  
the convener of  
the law committee  
of each Local  
Council. Mrs. J.  
F. Ross, second  
vice-chairman, is  
acting president of  
the U.F.W.A.

The subjects dis-  
cussed at the  
amalgamation  
meeting were re-  
lative to requests  
which will be for-  
warded to the pro-  
vincial  
legislature for  
laws and  
amendments  
to laws concern-  
ing women  
of Alberta.  
Mother's Pen-  
sions received  
much discus-  
sion, with  
varying opin-  
ions as to the  
advisability  
of introducing  
anything fur-  
ther at this  
date. Some  
thought that  
such a mea-  
sure would be  
saddling the  
government  
with too great  
a responsibil-  
ity at this  
time. Staunch  
supporters of  
Mother's Pen-  
sions pointed  
out that it  
was anticipa-  
ted by the  
government  
that the Sup-  
plemental  
Revenue Bill,  
which pro-  
vides for a  
tax of one  
mill on town  
property, and  
from two to  
four cents an  
acre on farm  
lands, would  
raise \$1,200,  
000 and the  
opposition de-  
clared, would  
amount to nearly \$2,000,000 more than  
was needed for the patriotic fund. If  
there was any such balance it was  
thought that it could not be used to  
better advantage than for Mother's  
Pensions. The present plan of the gov-  
ernment in setting aside \$20,000 for  
Mother's Pensions was to go fifty-fifty  
with the municipalities in all needy  
cases. The conference finally unani-  
mously decided to press for definite  
Mother's Pensions from the provincial  
government, the amount not to exceed

the allowance to be paid to soldiers'  
dependents.

It was also decided to ask the pro-  
vincial government to make some pro-  
vision for the care of the aged and  
infirm. The petition of the Calgary  
local that the provincial government  
provide a school or industrial home for  
wayward girls was endorsed. Changes  
in the Dower Act were also discussed.  
As the act stands now if a man fails  
to leave one-third of his estate to his  
widow, she must go to the expense and  
trouble of seeking redress at court.  
Also in giving her the right to the  
homestead, no provision is made for its  
maintenance. It was suggested that  
legislation providing for the voiding  
of a will which fails to leave one-third  
to the widow,  
some sort of an  
arrangement  
whereby a cer-  
tain sum be also  
set aside for the  
widow for the  
maintenance of  
her home, or the  
exemption of a  
certain number of  
cattle, etc., as in  
the case of debt,  
also that some pro-  
vision be made for  
the children in ad-  
dition to the one-  
third, would make  
the Dower Law  
more fair to the  
widow.

Mrs. Edwards  
led a discussion  
concerning the  
placing of free  
legal services at  
the disposal of  
women who are  
not financially  
able to seek  
the protection  
of the law  
which is their  
due. It was  
thought by  
the conference  
that a civil  
officer should  
be appointed  
to act in such  
cases. After  
discussing the  
minimum  
wage given to  
waitresses, it  
was decided  
to petition  
the govern-  
ment to  
amend the  
Factory Act  
so that each  
girl should re-  
ceive a living  
wage. It was  
also decided  
that the ex-  
ecutive be re-  
quested to  
petition the  
provincial  
government to  
enact a law  
providing for  
the registra-  
tion of all  
young girls  
under the age  
of 18 years  
by their  
employers  
within three  
days of their  
entering their  
employ, and  
also register-  
ing their leav-  
ing within 48



His Girl in Overalls

Well, yes, the kid's enlisted, we expected  
that, you know;  
When he heard the call to colors of course  
he'd want to go.  
An' we're proud an' glad an' sorry, for the  
lad's our pride and joy.  
And his mother—well, you know—mothers,  
an' he was our only boy.  
An' I—well, there's no denyin'—I depended  
on the lad.  
For he's always been a sight of help, an'  
comfort to his dad;  
But I never fully realized how much I'd miss  
the little sexup  
Till I started for the barn alone the morn he  
left for camp.  
I was feelin' pretty lonesome, an' somehow  
my eyes were dim,  
When I saw someone standing there, I really  
thought was Jim;  
But before I'd had time to speculate, my  
little daughter calls—  
"Say, dad, how do you like my bran' new  
overalls!"  
She had the team all harnessed an' had  
hitched them to the plow.  
"I've tried to do it, dad," she said "just  
like Jamie showed me how.  
I'm not needed in the house, you know, for  
mother she has Jim,  
An' so I'm goin' to do my bit in the field  
with you.  
"We've got to send our boys to war an' feed  
the people too.  
An' it's up to all us girls to show what we  
can do."  
Then she climbed up on the tractor an' drove  
away on that—  
My little gal in overalls and Jamie's old  
straw hat.  
An' sir, you'd be surprised to see the things  
that girl can do,  
An' how she works with might and main to  
help put things through.  
An' guess we needn't worry, sir, when duty  
calls.  
He can trust his boys in khaki, an' his girls  
in overalls.  
—Virginia, Minn., Enterprise.

well-known writer. What he says of  
the women of England is also true of  
the women of Canada and other parts  
of the Empire. Writing a few days  
ago he said:—

"A smooth-running express train was  
hurling us to London from the North  
at the rate of 50 miles an hour. It  
was a pleasant day, the carriages were  
comfortable, and a book and a smoke  
made excellent travelling companions.  
Then, quite suddenly, there came a dull  
noise like very distant thunder, and  
the carriage windows shook a little.

"Half an-hour afterwards we pulled  
up in a big station, the platform was  
crowded with munition girls—beardy,  
healthy lasses in khaki dungaree over-  
alls and mob-caps. They were chatter-  
ing excitedly. One, just opposite my  
carriage window, had her arms around  
a companion, whose pale face and  
trembling limbs were obviously the  
result of a nerve storm. A trying day  
in a hot factory, we thought. You see,  
she was the only one. Had there been  
more like her, one might have suspected  
that things had happened.

"We watched the girls in a half-in-  
terested sort of way. They were, it  
seemed to us, just waiting for a local  
train to take them home—for 'it was  
the time of day when factories close  
or change shift. Then, quite suddenly  
and without any show, a porter push-  
ed through the crowd, carrying a girl  
in his arms. We sat up and began to  
take notice. Then one of the male fac-  
tory hands came along supporting a  
boy who had a blood-stained handker-  
chief bound round his right leg. It  
was at this point that we began asking  
questions.

"One of the girls told us all about it.  
There had been, she said, an explosion  
in the filling room. Scores had been  
killed. We doubted her figures; but,  
as a matter of fact, the subsequent of-  
ficial report did not contradict her  
overmuch. The girls had all been sent  
home.

"Sent home! Why, didn't you  
want to come?"

"We had to, anyway," this with a  
shrug of the shoulders. "There was no  
place left where we could work."

"One or two more slightly injured  
girls were brought through the crowd.  
Their friends were tender and sym-  
pathetic with them, but there were no  
hysterics. Every woman there was calm  
and sure of herself. Three years ago  
many of them would have shrieked at  
the sight of a mouse. Now they were  
Englishwomen doing their share in  
fighting the Boche, braving dangers like  
their husbands and brothers. If their  
men-folk could stand uncomplainingly  
the hell of the trenches were they to  
blanch and shiver over an explosion?"

"They are women indeed, these war-  
workers of England. A race that can  
even on its distaff side, meet its em-  
ergencies in this fashion has little to  
fear of the future. While the honor  
of our posterity rests with women like  
these we have nothing to fear from our  
bitterest foe.

"When I am back in the line—when,  
perhaps, I feel just a little tired of it  
all—I shall only have to think of that  
shrug of the shoulders, and those words  
of simple heroism.

"We had to anyway!"—The Sun.

## Lady With the Lamp

There is in France a young English  
V.A.D. who serves King and country  
and the whole world by trimming be-  
tween 200 and 300 lamps every day. If  
any one has ever attempted to keep one  
lamp in order, that person will not  
envy the V.A.D. neither will the  
fine grade of patriotism underlying the  
lamp trimming be overlooked. The  
work is performed in a cold, dark cellar,  
and the worker is alone much of the  
time; but the thing that keeps her  
steadily and cheerfully at work is the  
fact that every lamp will be needed at  
night in the hospital to which the cellar  
belongs. It happens that this particular  
hospital is one established in an old  
French chateau, picturesque and full of  
charm, historically, but entailing a vast  
amount of extremely hard work because  
chateaus and monasteries were not con-  
structed, centuries ago, with an eye to  
perfect sanitary arrangements.

## England's Women

Tribute to the women of England  
for their glorious heroism in the great  
world conflict has been paid many times,  
but none more eloquent has been found  
than that by Captain R. F. Rees, the

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