

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

THE AUTUMN WARDROBE

Do you plan your wardrobe or do you merely buy the different parts of it on the impulse of the moment, hit and miss, regardless of their comradeship in the matter of color?

The woman whose purse is only of average length, or shorter, cannot afford to indulge the luxury of buying any dress or hat which happens to tickle her fancy for the moment. No, indeed! It must be a matter of serious consideration whether the dress can be worn satisfactorily under her long coat or whether the hat will be harmonious and becoming when topping her different garments.

The most satisfactory plan is to adopt one color scheme for a season or a year and adhere to it consistently. Suppose one were to take her most becoming color, among the sober hues, navy, grey, Alice blue, olive green or brown, as a basis for this harmonious wardrobe.

If Alice blue is her ladyship's most becoming color she may have her suit of this blue and her coat and hat of a deeper shade of the same color or of black trimmed with blue, as she prefers. Her blouses may be of white, blue or a delicate shell pink.

The golden browns can be charmingly combined with olive green and rose shades, but black is hideous with them. Navy blue is an individualist among colors, combining with very few shades effectively. There is a shade of blue approaching Alice that makes a pleasing combination with it, but it is most at home combined with black and white and an occasional dash of vivid red. The woman who has grey eyes, a brilliant complexion and a medium or slight figure may indulge herself in all the paler greys, mauve, heliotrope and be sure of being always becomingly and harmoniously dressed.

It would be too long a task to outline all the possible color plans, and, indeed, that is not the object of this article so much as to emphasize the importance of choosing all the parts of the wardrobe to harmonize.

Some reader will exclaim impatiently, "That is all very well for people who have plenty of money, but we country folk can't afford such elaborate schemes for dressing." But, of course, she is quite wrong. It is the rich people who can afford to buy things regardless, and it is those of us who are poor who have to plan and scheme to be well dressed on a reasonable expenditure.

It is ninety-nine per cent a matter of color, and all colors in the same quality of goods are priced alike. Black comes higher.

Now, those who are truly in earnest about being well dressed and who find that they have one of these hit-and-miss collections of clothes will do well to set to work religiously to wear out the present stock of misfits. Let the wardrobe get run down until there isn't a really respectable garment left in it and then begin with a new outfit in a carefully thought-out color plan, such as has been suggested. It may mean waiting six or nine months before putting the suggestion into practice, but what is that in the course of a lifetime?

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

AVARICE CAUSE OF WARS

My Dear Miss Beynon:—I still find pleasure in reading the Grain Growers' Guide, especially the Homemakers. I am so glad you printed the article against war August 4, 1915. We want more of such expressions. I feel just as she does about our ministers. Here in the States, too many of the clergy talk about "War for Honor," and it irritates me so I have lost all desire to listen to preaching at all, and so stay away altogether. So great is the profit in war munitions that the country has gone money-mad and I fear for all peace efforts.

We, too, will now enter upon a new era of armaments and what I fear still more, is that Canada, too, will do the

same, and the moment avarice and greed want war, there will be one. When secular writers in a secular press shall have done much to make the world better and life worth living, will then the pulpit bedeck itself in garments others have woven?

I derive my greatest inspiration outside the pulpit, but it ought not to be so. With solemn but simple ceremony we have dedicated the pulpit to be the mouthpiece of God. And what do we get in return? The pulpit is the bulwark of established prerogative and special privilege.

I think I see clearly where Canada is drifting. She will have her first war debt, and when will it be paid and how?

I feel for the western farmers. During my eight years among them I saw how they were being robbed. I can't even send a friend a pair of gloves without it costing him so much that it scarce remains a gift; and how foolish, for a gift ought to enrich. Here a farmer buys a plow for \$14.00, there for \$28.00, and so on with everything.

Now, I didn't have time to read every number of The Guide, let alone to write a letter, and so I must close, but some day I want to tell you what terrible lies are told to get people to become pioneers, that I know of from my own observation. Kindly forgive me if I tell it is your own government.

I learned to love those dear people out there, eighty miles away from any railroad, waiting for a road promised before they settled.

My happiest thoughts are that I gave away a few pamphlets on Direct Legis-

mark. Practically every pound that leaves Denmark is factory made. New Zealand has a reputation for quality butter, and it comes from co-operative factories. The reputation of Ontario and Quebec butter on the British market is increasing in direct proportion as the proportion of home made butter shipped is decreasing. It is the creamery butter that has made and sustains to a considerable extent the good prices now realized for dairy butter. If patrons were to go back on the creameries and start to market the larger portion of their cream thru the home dairy, we should immediately see decreased demand and lower prices.

The following is the conversation with a woman on a local market: "Yes, our factory installed a butter making outfit two years ago," she said in answer to a question put to her. "But then, you see, the factory is paying only twenty-seven cents for butter fat, while I can sell all my butter here for thirty cents a pound. Why should I send my cream to the factory?"

Now, everyone is supposed to know her own business best, but it is doubtful if the patron who markets a small quantity of butter each week is following a wise course. Take the case of the woman who was on the market. Her butter output for a week was thirty pounds. Altogether she gets about one dollar in direct cash by making the butter at home, and selling on the retail market. She takes half a day in making the butter. Selling and delivering it occupied all of Saturday. When we add to the value of her day's work, the expense of equipment,

Now, supposing that we can make equal profits financially, all work and expenses included, the question follows, Can the busy farmer's wife afford to make butter for sale? Not if the extra work adds enough to the other necessary work to make life a drudgery, or rob her of an occasional afternoon off.

Points for Discussion

1. Which would be better for one who could not do both: To make the butter and buy ready-made garments, or do the sewing and sell the cream?
2. The details of butter making and what are modern facilities for a small dairy farmer?

THE HOUSE WITH NO WINDOWS

One explanation of the complaint that Americans need more education is that they do not need more (considering quantity literally), but a different kind of education. The child in school is repelled by being compelled to learn a great multitude of things that he doesn't want to know, that he has no use for, and that will only burden him if he does memorize them.

A foreigner coming to America to engage in any business which requires an active brain, knows more in three months about our government, our laws and resources and nature, our whole national scheme of existence, than do the great number of native Americans in the same avenue of life. And this is because he takes into his mind only what he wants to know. He gets at the heart of things. He is not halted by an army of ornate but useless pieces of knowledge. It is easy to learn what you want to know.

A child growing up under the old educational system, is freighted with false mental structure, all of which must be torn away to get at his real self—in later life, some spark of realization lights the tinder of his individuality. Compare the child's mind with a vast tract of soil, fertile from centuries of care and development by the Master of gardeners (for the minds of the newborn are like the earth in springtime). Strangers come in to help the child work the soil, and they say, "He needs a house on this land—and while we are about it, we'll build a wall too, out of all these bricks and stones that are lying around unused."

So they build a long, rambling structure, and having many bricks and stones, they build a wall which stretches from either end of the house off into the distance. The wall is sheer and so high that it cannot be scaled. And the house has no windows, and no doors at the back. Down in front of the wall, is a narrow strip of ground, and the strangers say, "Here is a nice piece of land for you to plant a truck garden in."

Back of the house and back of the wall is the rest of the child's land, hungering for seed from which to bear marvelous grain and flower and fruit. But the wall is there! The child cannot get to his land. He must stay on the outer side of the wall, and cultivate the little truck patch, use the narrow strip of soil over and over again, until it is worn, tired, sterile.

One day, perhaps, when the child has become a man, he sees a tiny crevice in the wall. And he tears at it with bare hands until they bleed, for so eager is he that he cannot wait to bring tools. He tears at the rock until there is a little triangle of light showing thru. And he puts his eye there, and sees all the wonderland beyond the wall, the land which is his. Then, chisel and sledge and dynamite—the leveling of the house and the wall—the painting and the building anew. But so often the man, busy with his hoe among the radishes and beets, does not see the fissure in the wall.

The key to the education of the child is finding out what he needs most. So the logical and the just process is to help him cultivate, full range, the soil of his consciousness, and to build no false structures, no walls nor fences, upon his land.—John Nicholas Beffel, in The Mother's Magazine.

WHAT ARE THE GRAIN GROWERS DOING?

Rumors, let us hope that they are unfounded, have come to the Political Equality League of Manitoba, to the effect that the petition blanks sent out to the Grain Growers Associations of Manitoba are, in many districts, remaining blanks thru the negligence of the local executive to organize canvassers.

If the resolutions favoring this reform, which are passed with such unbounded enthusiasm at the Brandon convention each year, are worth the time it takes to pass them, now is the opportunity to prove it.

What is your association doing?

lation and on the cost of war. I hope The Guide will always teach that war is murder. If the pulpit will not lead, then let us drive! Sincerely,

GEORGE F. NEUHALL, M.D.

BUTTER MAKING VERSUS SELLING CREAM

A paper read by Mrs. J. P. Capsey before the women's section of the G. G. A., Silverburn.

In order to make butter or sell cream profitably we should keep healthy cows under healthy conditions. Milk a clean cow in a clean place and in a clean manner; separate this milk promptly thru a clean separator, producing a cream that tests about thirty-five per cent, as a rich cream means less cream to care for and if you are selling cream, it means more skim milk left on the farm for feeding purposes. Do not depend on the cellar as a cooling place, as it will not cool cream quickly enough, and unless the air is extremely well ventilated it might injure the flavor of the cream. Placing the cream cans in cold water, ice if possible, is the approved method of cooling.

So far the process is the same for home use or for sale. Now, if you are within reasonable distance of the station, and can sell sweet cream, you are ahead. If you have a horse and light rig for delivering the cream, without breaking a work team, you can enjoy a ride, do the family errands, and make a good profit.

However, with sour cream we could not expect the same profit, for it is the buyer's better facilities for making and selling that enables him to pay you as much as you can make from it.

Let us name some of the countries that occur to us because of their reputation for fine butter. First, Den-

mark, coloring matter, wrapping paper, stabling the horse a day in town, wear and tear on the rig in delivering, it seems that the dollar was hard earned and that its possessor is following a "penny wise and pound foolish" policy.

The Butter Making Problem

Now, on the other hand, if we do not sell our cream we each, with our good or better facilities, make our own butter. The work of curing the cream, coloring, churning, washing, salting, printing and wrapping and cooling the butter is too well known for me to go into the details of it. Yet, on the exact way these steps are carried out depends the quality of the butter made, and on the quality depends the price. And on the price we can get as compared with the price the factories can get, hangs the answer to the question of the day, namely, which is the more profitable, selling cream or making butter?

The set-back that the sale of packed dairy butter has received has been largely the makers' fault. If every person who was intending to pack a print of butter for sale could see the difference possible in appearance and keeping qualities between a solid square securely wrapped in paper soaked over night in a strong brine, and a loose, leaky, cracked square, loosely wrapped in a merely wet paper, they could easily realize that, as the majority have not received this training on dairy products that is open to the future generation, a large amount of poor quality keeping butter has reached the market and created the demand for the up-to-date factory products. I hope and fully expect that a new impetus will be given to the farm dairying as a result of the agricultural training and exhibits on these lines.