

# HOME JOURNAL

## A Department for the Family

### People and Things the World Over

The County Council of Victoria, in Ontario, has granted \$500 towards the cost of teaching agriculture in the high school at Lindsay, the county town.

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A two-cent letter rate between Newfoundland and the United States came in force on March first. Dr. Grenfell was chiefly instrumental in effecting the change.

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Ralph Sherman, Fredericton, N. B., has been chosen for Rhodes scholar for New Brunswick this year.

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An open air public school for tuberculous children has been opened on the roof of the public library at Franklin Park, Boston. School lasts from nine to five and during school hours each child is provided with a heavy ulster, and a cloth bag into which he crawls.

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Sir Frederick Bridge, in a lecture on ancient instruments, exhibited to the audience a flute of the Egyptians, made probably 6000 years ago. A musician played Annie Laurie upon it, the music being described as faint, sweet and eerie.

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Some German farmers living near Lanigan, Saskatchewan, have had some of their wheat turned into flour, and then have given it for distribution in a district to the north where hail last summer occasioned some distress.

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Geronimo, former war chief of the Apache Indians is dead at the age of 86 years. Twenty-two years ago he was captured by General Miles after a three-thousand-mile chase. He has been a prisoner at Fort Sill for many years.

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An amendment to the electoral bill in the Swedish parliament now provides that all persons over twenty-four years can vote without discrimination on account of sex. Women have now the suffrage in Norway, Sweden, Finland, New Zealand, and the states of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho.

### With Broom and Stone

The Winnipeg year is said to have but two seasons—exhibition and bonspiel, and they are what the verbose youth calls "diametrically antipodal." Very rarely it is cool during the big fair, and more rarely it thaws for the bonspiel, but these lapses of the weather man are forgotten as quickly as possible.

So every year during the snappiest February days and nights the devotees of the roarin' game come together from all points of the compass to enjoy ten days of good play and good comradeship. Work is forgotten for the time and the play spirit deep in every human comes to the front for a few days.

Every recreation and sport has its good points, and in some respects curling has advantages over other games acknowledged by both the interested and indifferent. For one thing it is a game in which the player is meant to have the fun. The spectators are welcome to what enjoyment they can get out of it, but its primary object is to please the player. Too many of our sports have degenerated into a crowd sitting on benches watching a few men work for a living at a toilsome and dangerous occupation. And the people who watch—exercising only their eyes and their voices—fondly imagine themselves to be true sportsmen. Then curling is a life game. The young can enthuse over it and the old need not lay it aside regretfully when abounding vigor is disappearing. Hockey, wrestling, boxing and lacrosse are seldom indulged in after a man gets

within sight of forty, but he can curl and enjoy it well on into old age. It is a clean game. No other, perhaps, has fewer charges against it of unfair play, petty jealousy, quarrelling and ill-feeling; and because it is a player's game and not played for the benefit of spectators, the gambling element in sport is reduced in curling to a minimum.

The benefits accruing to each individual are more than the mere enjoyment of a week's play. The crowd of six hundred men are not idlers. They work hard all the rest of the year in many and varied occupations, and the interest in the game is probably the one thing in common that holds the group together and puts them in a position to gain more than mere enjoyment. There are in that crowd doctors, lawyers, farmers, stockmen, clergymen, merchants, bankers and representatives of almost every other phase of industry in Western Canada, and the interchange of information and viewpoints must have an enlightening and broadening effect.

### A Forward Step in Education

The wisdom of having educational matters in the hands of provincial rather than federal authorities is readily perceived when the vast area and the endless variations of climate, soil and occupations of Canada are remembered. The chief end of education is to make a man a good citizen of that portion of the country in which he spends his life, and the training that fits him for proper living in one part of the world would be quite inadequate in some other corner of the globe. Conditions in Nova Scotia differ materially from those in British Columbia or the prairie provinces, and the system and method of educating the young of those provinces should show a corresponding variation. The ground-work, reading, writing and arithmetic, will be common to all, but each province will have its specialities to emphasize.

The prairie provinces are essentially agricultural. The wealth is in the soil to be developed by the farmer and stockman. The boys and girls growing up will go on with the work the parents began—work, with some further advantages of transportation and closer settlement and the increased difficulty of exhaustion of the soil from careless farming. To make sure that these advantages will be recognized and used and the difficulties avoided, the children of this generation must be educated along agricultural lines. The need for this was apparent to Western educators, and in an attempt to meet the need the subject of agriculture was added to the public school curriculum. The idea was excellent. There was just one drawback—the teachers were in blissful ignorance of the subject they were expected to teach. The authorized text book was sufficient for the children. It interested them so that they wanted to know more. So the appeal was made to "Teacher" who on other subjects was a mine of information. The teacher's infallibility was no longer to be taken for granted. She knew as little about agriculture as the pupils as far as theory went, and less than some of them when it came to practical knowledge. The teaching of agriculture was a farce in many cases, especially where the instructors had lived in the city all their lives.

To remove the subject from the curriculum was rightly considered a retrograde movement, a step backward instead of forward. But Manitoba has decided to further teach and train the teacher in this direction. The book knowledge gained in the high school is followed by a course of nature study in the normal training course, and the good work will henceforth be completed by a month at the close of the normal term spent out at the Manitoba Agricultural College getting a practical insight into the subject. This is certainly a step in advance and should prove beneficial to teacher and taught.

### What a Western Women's Institute Could Do

Though no definite steps were taken towards organization at the recent gathering of women at the Manitoba Agricultural College, yet the thought was sown in the mind of every woman present that, while to meet many women once a year was good, to meet with neighbors and friends in one's own district every fortnight or every month was better. This neighborhood club could be called the Homemaker's Society, Household Science Association, Home Economics Club, or any other desirable name that would indicate its object. It needs some kind of name, a president as a deciding voice and a secretary to send out notices, but aside from these few formalities, it can be as informal and friendly as you please.

There is a very real work that such a band of women can accomplish. The meetings need never be reduced to gossip and refreshments for want of live topics to discuss. In the house alone there are problems which dismay the homemaker if she must face them unaided. By the reading of helpful literature and the interchange of tested information, the question of healthful food, sanitation, ventilation, disposal of sewage, etc., can be rendered less perplexing if not satisfactorily solved. Ways of lightening daily tasks, new recipes for good dishes, "wrinkles" in sewing and furnishing can be exchanged with benefit.

Outside the home there are things to be done by a women's society, that are yet not beyond the limits of women's sphere as bounded by the veriest crank. There is always material in the rural school. The boys and girls spend more of their waking hours in school than at home, and too often those hours are spent in a dirty, ill-ventilated building whose influence more than counteracts that of the clean, tidy home where they merely eat and sleep. It is no trifle to make the school a better living-room for the girls and boys.

The need for more nurses through the prairie country is a crying one not the nurse who needs some one to wait on her, but the working nurse who can help herself and the rest of the family when the mother is laid by for a time. The Victorian Order of Nurses was organized for that very purpose, but Western people have never taken advantage of this excellent service to the extent that was expected. A Women's Institute could get into touch with the head of this order and have a nurse provided for their district.

A rest room in town for farmer women who go in on market days would be an excellent thing and not at all beyond the attainment of an energetic society. The need is apparent to every woman, who has had to wait round the store after her own shopping is done. Perhaps she has little children with her and they are tired, but can't be taken home until every one's business is accomplished. A room in a private house with a couch and a few rockers would prove a godsend. The churches might do much worse than devote a room to such a purpose.

The social advantages of such an association are manifold. Especially are they apparent to the new-comer in a district. She is sure to be lonely, knowing only the nearest neighbor. But if that nearest neighbor can call some day and take her to a meeting where there are a dozen ladies of her district, the loneliness will be forgotten and she will give and receive help.

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Archdeacon Sweeny, of Toronto, has been elected Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto, to succeed Archbishop Sweatman. Bishop Thornloe and Canon Cody had been nominated, and owing to a tie in the vote a deadlock occurred which seemed impossible to break without bringing in a third candidate. Both parties found Archdeacon Sweeny acceptable and he was elected by an almost unanimous vote.

## THE

### CHOOSE WHOM YE

If it seems evil unto you, Lord, choose you this day to serve. And the people of Joshua, "Nay; but we will serve the Lord."—Josh. xxiv.: 15, 2

"When soldiers take the fee,

And swear his own to be  
The royal badge on  
They show to young and  
Nor may we hide for  
The persecuted Name."

Usually I address myself particularly to those who, I apostle to the Gentiles, high vocation of a "servant of Christ." But to-day I speak especially to those who are easily along, without colors plainly, perhaps there is no hurry about definite decision. When the great choice before saying: "Choose you this day ye will serve," the people tate to declare:

"God forbid that we should the Lord, to serve other gods."

There seemed nothing of that reply, and yet Joshua ently still in doubt, for cannot serve the Lord: for God."

I think he was doubtful decision because it was made it was taken for granted, of course, that the Lord was there. There is the same danger grow up in a Christian or seems to be a matter of choice shall consider ourselves Christians it is easy to drift comfort life without really making all. That position is very Each of us must make his for Christ has said that a not on His side is against call is an individual one, a answer for himself, with mination, unless he wants self fighting against Christ.

In the ninth chapter of gospel we see how our Lord with men who, in an easy were willing to consider the followers. The first of the disciples finds his eager "Lord, I will follow Thee Thou goest!" met with the ing—a warning which must almost like a repulse—holes, and birds of the air but the Son of Man hath lay His head."

Indeed, if a man wants easy service, he must be devoted Leader, not one straight to the Cross.

The second man met call, "Follow Me!" with a delay, on the ground of his He also was sternly told that of the Master of the world, and overweigh all other claims.

The third disciple was follow Christ, but seemed to was no special hurry. He one who chooses that serve thoroughly in earnest, or else for the Kingdom of God.

So, in saying to way "Choose you this day will serve," I don't want you to the grand and glorious v follower of Christ should be lightly. A grand and glorious is never an easy one. ambition is to live an easy choose the service of Christ for enthusiastic followers like St. Paul, press forward many warnings that bondions await them, echoing declaration: "None of move me, neither count I unto myself, so that I might course with joy ready not to be bound only die at Jerusalem for the Lord Jesus."

Do you shrink back, think would rather choose an easy Why, Christ is calling n