

# The Countrywoman

## Manitoba Conference of Women

THE conference of Manitoba women which was to have been held November 20, 21 and 22, has been postponed till December 10, 11 and 12, on account of the epidemic of Spanish Influenza. By that time the present ban on public meetings will, in all probability, be lifted and all danger of the epidemic will be over. A letter to this effect is being sent out to all presidents of the confederated societies.

This is the first conference of the women of the province on a common platform, and it is being looked forward to with a great amount of interest. In confederation with the National Council of Women are the following: the Home Economic Society, the Women's Section of the Grain Growers' and the Local Councils of Brandon, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg and Virden. The program has been drafted and is under consideration by the different societies. After it has been discussed and revised it will be published in full in The Guide. The matters to be discussed are of vital importance to women of both town and country. A better understanding of each other's work and difficulties should result from such a representative conference. The well-considered opinion of the women of the province will be heard.

In order to insure representative attendance from all parts of the province it was decided by the committee to have the fares pooled, this will make the cost of transportation about five dollars. Each community in the province should see that its women are represented. Where one delegate from each society cannot be sent, there might be one chosen to represent all of the societies in the community and be responsible for giving a report to a mass meeting of those societies on her return. Clubs are asked to send in any suggestions for the program. Those wishing to secure further information in regard to the conference should write to Mrs. H. H. Goulter, of Virden the appointed secretary of the conference arrangements.

## Standardized Boots and Clothing

The War Trade Board has been instructed by the government to investigate the feasibility of standardizing qualities, styles and prices of certain commodities such as boots and shoes, textiles, clothing, etc. Similar action has been taken in England and the United States. Recently standards and prices for shoes were fixed in the States. The War Trade Board will go into the question of whether the charges are fair or reasonable. This matter will be investigated by Hon. T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, under the recent order-in-council giving authority to inquire into the cost of the necessities of life.

## The Dignity of Labor

On this page appears the pictures of three girls at work on the farm. We have all seen beautiful pictures of Millet and others, and read articles on the dignity of labor, but the real force of that thought is just beginning to come home to us. Girls, in the past, on the farm doing outside work, have not always felt that they were being admired for doing it. Now, they are sure that they are admired for the service rendered. The opportunity is ripe for some present-day artist to put this modern farm into a world-famous drawing. Whatever the future holds in store in the way of choice of vocation for women we shall have the pleasant thought that they stood firm "in the third line trenches" when they were needed.

## Women on War Labor Board

Theodore Roosevelt has written to William H. Taft, chairman of the War Labor Board, endorsing the proposal to add two or more women members to that board. His letter follows:—  
"Is it not possible for the national War Labor Board to put two or more

duly constituted women members on the board?

"If you approve of this, will you not bring it before the secretary of labor. In view of the ever-increasing importance of women's labor in war pro-



The Happy Milkmaid.

duction, it seems to me that it should be represented on the national War Labor Board."

Mr. Taft said the matter would be brought before the board for consideration.

## Women as Legislators

In these days when we are face to face with many legislative problems and looking to the future where the reconstruction problems rise before us it is interesting to know just what progress has been made by women as legislators. Many women are coming forward in the different countries of the world, feeling that it is their duty to



The Energetic Plowmaid.

safeguard the interest of the women and children, of not only this generation, but also the generations to come. An interesting review is given in the International Woman Suffrage News, for September, of the progress attained by the women in the different countries:—

In Finland, women have continuously sat in the Diet since 1907, in numbers varying from 14 to 25, out of a total of 200 deputies. They have taken their share of committee work and have been responsible for the introduction of many bills dealing with the rights of women, the welfare of

children, social, church, and economic questions, the supreme court, penal laws, apprentices, etc., etc. Owing to the political conditions of Finland, and later the revolution, legislation has been much delayed; and although repeatedly reintroduced, has not always become law; but in all things the women deputies have worked strenuously with the men for the welfare of their country. Both in their work on committees and in the introduction of national reforms, they have shown themselves quite as active as their male colleagues.

"In Norway, women are eligible, but no one has yet been elected a member of the Storting, although two women have sat as deputy members. This is accounted for largely by the electoral system and the women are working hard to change it.

"In Denmark, four women have been elected to the Folketing, or Lower House, for the first time this year.



The Serious Stockmaid.

There is no woman's party, the women elected belonging to various parties.

"In the Netherlands, the situation is peculiar, as women are eligible for election, but may not exercise the franchise. At the recent elections one woman was elected, two to the Lower House.

"In Great Britain, women, by a decision of the Law Officers of the Crown, are not eligible for parliament, but several women have announced their readiness to stand as candidates at the forthcoming election, and the Labor Party intends to introduce a bill conferring eligibility upon them, if one is not introduced by the government.

"In Canada, there are women serving on the legislatures of two provinces.

In the United States, women are serving on the legislatures of various states and are also eligible for Congress, Miss Rankin being the first woman representative of the Lower House."

## Women's Land Army

In New York state, after a year's trial under varying conditions, the women's land army has been pronounced a success. So great has been the success of the land army that a drive is being made for 1,000,000 sup-

porting members next year. This drive contemplates the establishment of 300 camps next year. This will mean the raising of a fund of \$600,000 to provide for the cost of the camps and their equipment; provide also for the working uniforms of the girls and the auto trucks to carry them to and fro from their work. Once established the camps are self-supporting. The employing farmer pays \$2.00 a day for eight hours of each girl's work. The fund acquired enables the camp to pay each girl \$15 a month and maintain the camp. These camps are organized in accord with the standards established by the agricultural college of Cornell University.

There are now more than a thousand women working on the farms of New York state, housed in 40 land camps or units. The result at the closing of the season has been a revelation to the farmers who employed the girls, as well as to those responsible for raising the land army. Women who have never before done farm work made themselves adaptable to almost any kind of labor. They have been most conscientious in what they did, far more so than many hired men. Farmers all over the state after hearing what the women have done are sending in applications for the camps to come to their assistance in handling the crop.

G. Howard Davison, manager of a big farm in Westchester county, said: "In employing the women I expected them to be adaptable along certain lines and I thought I would find them keen and willing. But I am amazed at their strength and endurance and at the way they handle heavy work. The fact that they can perform almost any labor on a farm is due to their aptitude to acquire the right knack of doing things and thus getting the best results with a minimum of strength."

Mrs. Mabel J. Eichel, upstate chairman of the women's land army, says that "public opinion must back the land army movement, just as it has the Red Cross, the Liberty Loan and War Savings drive." Mrs. Eichel says: "Public funds must enable the New York woman's land army to say to the farmers, 'There will be no excuse for your failing in your duty to make your farm productive, and to utilize every acre of it, for you will not be left alone to plant and tend, and gather your crops. A big, willing, and intelligent army of women, susceptible of training and capable of doing all the labor that you ask them to do will be ready to meet you more than half-way, stand by you through the toil and heat of the summer, garner your crops for you in the fall, and do all in its power to help you win the war.'"

## What to do with Cast-off Textiles

There is a definite use for all textiles in the most worn out condition. Old rags have many uses in the household as well as in commerce. Miss Mary E. Robinson, of the Extension Service of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, gives the following suggestions for the use of these cast-off textiles:—

- 1.—Underwear and hosiery may be used for wash-cloths, dusters, dustless mops, braided and woven rugs.
- 2.—Badly worn sheets, pillow cases, and parts of muslin underwear after being laundered may be torn and rolled into bandages and dressings for first-aid chests or Red Cross work.
- 3.—Parts of old table-cloths may be re-cut for luncheon cloths, table napkins, doilies and runners.
- 4.—Worn towels make good wash-cloths. Worn Turkish towels make good padding for kitchen holders.
- 5.—Worn curtains make good padding for ironing-board or dish-cloths.
- 6.—Pieces of woolen goods, percales, and ginghams may be used for patch-work comforts and quilts.
- 7.—If beyond practical use in the home, cloth or rags should never be thrown away or burned. They are needed in the manufacture of paper.

There are now about 270,000 women working on farms in Great Britain.



**WHAT CANADIAN WOMEN HAVE DONE & ARE DOING TO WIN THE WAR:**

30,000 CANADIAN WOMEN HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN MUNITION FACTORIES AT ONE TIME.

BETWEEN 5,000 AND 6,000 CANADIAN WOMEN ARE EMPLOYED IN WAR WORK IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

1,000 CANADIAN WOMEN HAVE ENLISTED FOR SERVICE OVERSEAS AS NURSES WITH THE C.E.F.

NEARLY 100,000 CANADIAN WOMEN ARE EMPLOYED BY THE ROYAL AIR FORCE IN CANADA.