

Woman's Quiet Hour

By E. Cora Hind

The Winnipeg District Women's Christian Temperance Union are providing free hot drinks for the returned soldiers. This work started while the boys were still in France, and Free money to carry it on was raised Drinks by what was known as the "Trinket Fund." When fighting ceased the work in France and Belgium was dropped, and a small balance remained in the treasury from the "Trinket Fund." The Winnipeg District W.C.T.U. feel very strongly that an effort should be made to supply something to take the place of the welcome that always awaited men in the bar-rooms when liquor was sold, and they decided that the balance of the "Trinket Fund" should be expended in free hot drinks at the Triangle Hut in Winnipeg for returned soldiers, and as demobilization will not be completed for some months they are appealing to the various local branches of the W.C.T.U. for further contributions to continue this work, and I have been asked to state, through The Western Home Monthly, that contributions for this work will be very gratefully accepted from any who may feel interested in it.

As the season advances, and the weather grows warmer, cold drinks will be substituted for the hot tea and coffee that are being given so long as the weather is cold. Anyone who wishes to contribute, no matter how small a sum, will please send it to Mrs. W. J. Meacham, treasurer, District W.C.T.U., 749 Westminster Avenue, Winnipeg.

The women of the W.C.T.U. in Winnipeg are contributing their labor as well as their money towards this work and feel that the women throughout the rest of the province will be glad of the opportunity to contribute small sums of money to enlarge the fund.

There have come to my desk during the month two letters on the subject of "war brides" from overseas; one from a returned soldier who brought a bride back with him and one from an Englishwoman, long Brides resident in Canada. I have also received from Mrs. M. Akers, my first correspondent in this matter, a very interesting article on the work that Britain has done in the war, written by F. B. L. Smith who states that he has been long resident on this continent. I am sorry not to reproduce the article as requested, but it is much too long. In looking the article over, I find little that has not already appeared in the Canadian papers dealing with the work of the British in the war.

I am publishing the two letters mentioned, and wish to say that having done so, the matter of the "war brides," so far as these columns are concerned, is closed. Personally, I greatly appreciate the letter from "Another Englishwoman." So far as the returned soldier's letter is concerned, he seems to have been very unfortunate, and I feel certain knowing, as I do, the strenuous efforts of the Canadian women to welcome the strangers from overseas, that his case is exceptional.

When I wrote the first article on "war brides" I did it with the kindest motive, and I am still at a loss to know why it should have given such deep offence. Apparently "Another Englishwoman" read it in the spirit in which it was intended and to her I am very grateful.

Dear Western Home Monthly:—Your letter re war brides in the February number of The Western Home Monthly I thought very kindly and full of common sense. Why it should call forth such a diatribe as that signed "Mary Akers, Grandview," I do not know. The president of the local council told me of just such another ill-advised objection to some kindly plans for the helpful teaching of the young wives on their arrival into the ways of their adopted country.

From my own experience, the English wife of an Englishman, from the bottom of my heart, I hope these young girls will willingly accept any kindly offer of help. My own slow assimilation, in spite of kindly advances, makes me feel

the keenest pity for any who may be placed (through their own insularity) in the position I was. Their husbands being Canadians, or Canadians by adoption, will probably be some help, but much more than that is needed, and if the assistance of old-timers will only make the brides realize that the customs of the country are the most convenient for that country, many heart-breaking experiences will be avoided and "experience cost dear school wages."

Sincerely yours,

"Another Englishwoman."

Editor, Western Home Monthly:—It was with great interest that I read in the February and March numbers of The Western Home Monthly the articles on "war brides," and as I am the happy possessor of one, I would like to air my views on the subject.

I had the honor of being one of the 1st Contingent, one of the "English" born. I had been in England about six months when I met the girl who is now my wife. Before we were married I told her that the life in Canada would be hard, etc., but she said she would be quite willing to go with me. She said the Canadian women would help her, etc.

While I was in France she wrote and told me she was doing war work. I objected, as there was no need for her to work. She replied that as I was doing my bit, it was only right she should do hers.



The Duchess of Marlborough, formerly Miss Consuela Vanderbilt, has won the election for appointment for the County Council. The Duchess was elected to the London County Council last October to fill a vacancy, her present election being for a three-year term. She stood for election as a Progressive, her opponent being a representative of the Labor Party.

In February, 1918, I was boarded as unfit, was returned to Canada, sailing March, 1918. My wife came with me, sharing the hardships of a transport and the submarine danger.

Travelling to Winnipeg from Halifax, we stopped at a small station on the other side of Montreal, and went to the railway restaurant to obtain a cup of tea for my wife, "being English." As soon as the girl (I'll not call her a "young lady") saw I was a returned soldier she was all smiles, but as soon as she caught on that my wife was an English girl her lips curled with scorn and she started to sneer. I have never in all my experience with girls seen such an expression on a girl's face.

Eventually we reached Winnipeg, naturally expecting to receive at least a handshake. There was no one to welcome us, and we came on a special train, and they would have been notified of our arrival. I would like to say that the only handshake we received from the time we said good-bye to our people in England until a few miles of our destination, was from a chum I met on the train. My wife by



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