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museum containing cases of ancient jewellery, nothing is more noticeable than the fondness of humanity for jewelled caskets and knives, in the early ages of history. The knife with handle set with dull sapphires or encrusted with rubies is much older than the pendant or the bracelet.

There is a new aspect of jewelled adornment which is welcome to most of us. That is, the wearing of jewellery, solely with regard to suitability of colour and design. Costliness, which was once the most frequently mentioned item, in connection with an acquisition of a new possession for the jewel-case, is not so often stated now, as an assurance of attractiveness. Indeed, some of the semi-precious stones have won a favoured place, solely on their merits of colouring, or their appeal to individual suitability. It is only the woman who has no appreciation of jewels for their own shining sake who wears them merely as a display of wealth. The jewel-craft of the future is likely to revive the delicacy and discernment of the Italian workmanship.

ERIN.

To Women of Canada

AN open letter addressed to the women of Canada concerning the need for fighting men, issued by the National Committee of Women, reads as follows:

"A year ago the thunderbolt of war fell upon us out of a clear sky! After the first moment of surprise and confusion had passed, we asked, 'How can we help?'"

"During the year that has passed, that question has found many answers. The trained nurse quickly proved her value. Other women were called upon, to organize and direct Red Cross and St. John Ambulance work or Patriotic Societies, while all gave time or money or personal service in preparing supplies.

"To comparatively few came the need for the supreme sacrifice—the sending forth of husband, son or brother to the fight. The first appeal for volunteers was limited and did not appear very urgent. All honour to those who heard and obeyed the earliest call of Empire and whose women sent them forth with pride to fight in the front rank of the Canadian forces.

"To-day the situation has changed. We have learnt, after a year of war, that our task is harder, our danger more real, than we thought a year ago. We have 'given' gladly: now we are called to 'give-up,' and service must fulfil itself in sacrifice. Most urgent of all to-day is the call to give up ungrudgingly our husbands, sons and brothers. We are called to create in our homes such an atmosphere of self-devotion that our men and boys may feel their resolution to offer themselves in their country's service is simply what we expect of them.

"This does not mean that women should be constantly urging their men to enlist, for it is doubtful if the patriotic persistence of a wife or mother would produce anything but a reluctant and resentful recruit. The men of Canada have not shown themselves less patriotic than their women; but it is for us, the women of Canada, to ask ourselves whether our self-sacrifice is falling short of the supreme test.

"Are we making it hard or easy for our men to obey their country's call to service?"

"Why is the call so urgent now?"

"The answer is simple: it is because our existence as an Empire is at stake. 'We went into the war to keep our solemn pledges to our Allies; and this reason still holds good.

"But there are now other reasons which did not exist a year ago. Belgium with her ravaged land and exiled people cries aloud for justice. What do Canadian women say to the appeals of her outraged women and mutilated children? They have suffered for us: what are we willing to suffer for them?"

"The women of France and Russia and the United Kingdom have long ago heard the appeal to give up their men, and have responded nobly. What will Canadian women do?"

"Beyond the keeping of our pledged word, the woes of Belgium, and the example of our Allies, there comes to

us to-day the knowledge that we are called on to fight our own battle; not to send help to Belgium or France or even England, but to fight for our own national existence.

"We are told by the men who know that we cannot win in this war without more men.

"If we hold back our men we are courting defeat: and defeat means, not a vague misfortune to the Empire at large, but the very practical result of a Canada governed by Germans.

"Do we want to know what that would mean? Then let us look at Belgium, and learn how the yoke of the conqueror galls the neck of a freedom-loving people. Defeat would mean for us a period of bitterest shame and discontent, and then—another war. Can we risk it? We are risking it if we do not make the path of service easy for our men.

"But the most compelling call for sacrifice rings out from the graves of those who on the fields of Flanders, at Langemarck, and Ypres, and Festubert, have blazed the trail to glory with their life blood.

"Can we make their self-surrender of no avail by holding back the men who would take up and complete their splendid task?"

"There is a saving which is losing: is it worth 'saving' our men from death if we lose their respect? There is a loss which is gain: even though we learn to face 'Desperate tides of the whole great world's anguish, Forced through the channels of a single heart.'

"We are called to scale the gleaming peaks of self-sacrifice, in the company of our brave sisters of the Allied nations.

"What will the women of Canada do?"

Municipal Markets in the West

MRS. GEORGINA FRASER NEWHALL, Honorary President of the Consumers' League, of Calgary, and formerly President of that organization, is a native of Galt, Ont. Mrs. Newhall became associated with the Local Council of Women of Calgary soon after taking up her residence there, some three years ago, and as chairman of the Home Economics Committee of that body began an active investigation into the causes for the exceedingly high cost of living. Some two years previously a municipal market had been built, but for several reasons the market was regarded as a dead letter. Mrs. Newhall revived interest in it by calling a number of public meetings, with the result that a Consumers' League was formed with Mrs. Newhall as president. Together with her executive, a body of most energetic women, Mrs. Newhall attacked the problem of the municipal market. Alberta farmers were circularized asking what produce they could put on the Calgary market; a carload of vegetables was brought in from British Columbia in order to prove that these could be sold more cheaply than prevailing prices; amendments were secured to by-laws dealing with the market, and a single fare on the street railway to and from the market on market days was secured.

The result of these activities was soon evident, and stall space was much in demand. Prices among the larger grocers and butchers fell every Wednesday and Saturday to meet the competition at the market, but as the organization, which grew rapidly in membership, remained loyal to the last-named, the reduction in prices up-town became permanent, thus benefiting the public generally. Within a very short time it became necessary to build a \$20,000 addition to the market. "The best thing that every happened to Calgary" is the way Calgary people speak of the Consumers' League. Nor is appreciation of the work confined to the townspeople—farmers, railway men and politicians say it has given a wonderful impetus to mixed farming in Alberta. Mrs. Newhall was invited to speak in Edmonton, Regina and Red Deer, where similar leagues were established with decided success.

Mrs. Newhall resigned the active presidency last fall, the work having become too exacting, but is still a deeply interested member.

Should your copy of The Canadian Courier not reach you on Friday, advise the Circulation Manager