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282 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg

Homesteads for Women

By "ISOBEL"

BACK TO THE LAND

Now that the fury and smoke and dust of the election is cleared away, we may once more resume our normal temperaments and occupations, drawing, meanwhile, such lessons as we can from the conflict just closed.

The defeat of reciprocity will mean, as the farmers at least suppose, a still more strenuous struggle to wrestle a "living" from the days as they pass; many years are likely to come and go before a like chance presents itself to clear us of the tariff wall that costs Canadians so dear. Consider for a moment merely the cost of flour in Winnipeg. Though the raw material in Minneapolis costs some 37 cents more on the quantity necessary to make a sack of flour, yet flour sells in Minneapolis 75 cents per "100" less than in Winnipeg. This extortion by the miller may or may not mean anything to the farmer, according to his proximity to a flour mill. If close to a mill, a farmer can have his wheat "gristed" and never know that the many bread-eaters are being robbed of a quarter of every sack of flour they consume, for he sure the Minneapolis miller gets plenty profit when he sells flour at 75 cents less per sack than the Winnipeg miller. Then what may we call the per cent. the Winnipeg miller gets? Larceny? It is the same with every commodity in the line of foodstuffs. What does it matter to the farmer that milk is already, at this season, 10 quarts for a dollar, payable in advance; that butter is 35 cents per pound, eggs 30 cents per dozen, potatoes 70 cents per bushel, onions \$1.50, and so on? It matters nothing to him because he does not buy these things and the cost of producing them is no more when potatoes are \$1.00 than when they are 25 cents. Now it is clear that the only safe place to be is on the farm where you can have your own provisions—at least foods—before any conscienceless shark can put a prohibitive price upon the necessities of life. What does it matter that wage earners are getting more wages than ever when the "cost of living" is a will-o-the-wisp, ever whisking ahead of him so that he can never overtake it?

Dwell upon the fruit trade for a moment and see what you may see. Orchards upon orchards of incomparable fruit yields in Eastern Canada, lying rotting upon the ground, turned over to cattle and hogs, while apples sell a few hundred miles away at five and six and even seven dollars per barrel, and other varieties of fruits accordingly, and thousands of humans hungering and thirsting for fruit can only view it lying in state within the shop windows marked at prices that sadden the heart; in the case of fruit not even subjected to that vicious and unchristian dictum: "Supply and demand." How many scared consciences that fabled phrase, "supply and demand" has salved! How many pockets it has filled with unjust gains! Perhaps only the honest poor has ever stopped to consider. The fruit trade of the West is based entirely upon the "demand." The supply is left quite outside of the matter because it is always ample. The fruit ring has business down to a science. The fruit ring may have ever so large a supply at its back, but only just so much is put upon the market at a time, just enough to capture all the trade possible at a certain high and very profitable figure; but never by any chance do they put upon the market so much at one time that any possibility arises of the supply lowering the price before the fruit spoils. So the poor go hungry, for they cannot pay the price that the fruit ring deems its due. Sugar within the last three months has shrunken till instead of eighteen pounds we now receive but thirteen pounds for one dollar.

Everything is on the same soaring and ever mounting plane, but the interests and the trusts and the mergers will never slacken their grip upon foodstuffs while governments are as they are. There is one hope, and only one—get back to the land, where flour and fruit and meat, and meal and milk and eggs and butter and vegetables can be found first hand, before the blighting grasp of the Trust has shrivelled it. Get back to the land! Let the women have homesteads free, and let the children grow in the freedom and fullness of repleted granary and larder,

GRAIN GROWERS

ARE YOU SATISFIED?

The reliability of the Commission Merchant who handles your grain is of utmost importance to you. There have been several changes in the personnel of the grain trade during the past year. Some have come and gone, but we are still at your service with a clear record of twenty-nine years in Western Canada.

INVESTIGATE and send your grain and option orders to the
Pioneer Grain Commission Merchant.

Box 1746

S. SPINK

Winnipeg

References: Union Bank of Canada, Royal Bank of Canada.

A SPLENDID SUGGESTION

Dear Isobel:—Will you please send me a petition form for Homesteads for Women and I will get a few signatures.

I propose that a petition form be sent to all the post offices, for I think by that means a good many would be able to sign without going out of their way to do so.

J. ARMSTRONG.

Rife, Sept. 7, 1911.

LET US HOPE SO

Dear Isobel:—Please send me four of your petition forms "Homesteads for Women."

I hope your petitions will be the means of freeing woman from the state of bondage and placing her where she belongs as co-equal with man.

DAVID SCOTT.

Aberdour, Long Coulee, Alta.

A SUCCESS

Dear Isobel:—I am sending in my petition. I have about all the signatures around here. Only 3 men refused to sign. The women here would be glad to have a bit of land to call their own, and the storekeepers say if women had something for their work there would not be so many unpaid bills. When women can have a homestead there will be a better class of men as well as better times. I sent you 79 names before in July and there are about 69 in this lot.

MRS. L. SIM.

Unity, Sask.

Note.—Well done, Mrs. Sim. I wish we had more workers like you.

Dear Isobel:—I enclose petition "Homesteads for Women" signed by our voting members. I would have had more signatures but did not have an opportunity to circulate the petition. Hoping that the next edition of the Homestead Regulation will contain a clause allowing women to homestead in the West.

HENRY BENNER.

Moyerton Local Union, Vanesti, Sept. 9.

Note.—Many thanks for good wishes and also for signatures gained.

DEATH OF PRINCIPAL PATRICK

Rev. Dr. Patrick, principal of Manitoba College, Winnipeg, died on Thursday, September 29, at his old home, Kirkintilloch, Scotland. Dr. Patrick came from Scotland in 1899, to take the position of head of Manitoba College, and returned home in August last suffering from a cerebral affection from which there was little hope of his recovery. Dr. Patrick was prominently associated with many movements in Western Canada which had for their object the improvement of social, moral and educational conditions, and his death will be very widely mourned. He was 58 years of age.

MAINE AND PROHIBITION

The final report to date shows that the repeal of the prohibition clause in the constitution of the State of Maine, was carried at the recent election by 26 votes, 60,487 voting for the repeal and 60,461 for the retention of the law. Prohibition will continue to be the law of Maine, however, until the legislature passes a license law, and the prohibitionists hope that through the referendum they will be able to defeat any measure which the legislature may pass.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS IN ENGLAND

The payment of members of Parliament is now an established fact in England. Many of the Conservative members have ostentatiously declined to accept the cheques or have made them over to charities in their divisions.

garden and dairy. Back to the land for the overworked, underpaid, underfed shop girl and seamstress, kitchen-maid and charwoman, office and factory hand. Back to the land where is peace and security and plenty, away from the crowded tenement, the narrow alley, the dingy office, the ceaseless maddening whirl of flying wheels and spindles, away from the scanty table, the thin coat and the ever thinning cheek. Back to the land, where no toll gates of avarice and greed rear their barriers of "price" between hunger and the over-flowing lap of mother earth. Let us back to the land, oh fathers, oh brothers, not to your well-tilled and yielding fields where we may, if we will, work and wear our lives away without money and without recompense, but to land of our own—the virgin soil where no man's foot has trod—to the unoccupied land of barren wastes, where only a wilderness of silence and still waiting reigns, land that is waiting only the touch of the human to "blossom as the rose" and to make glad and whole the anxious heart of woman. The land is idle; we are here, ready to till it. Give us free homesteads such as yours.

ISOBEL.

TIES UP LAND

Dear Isobel:—You will think me slow in sending back the petition which you gave me at the National Council convention in Port Arthur in June. I have done what I could, but it was not so easy as I thought it would be, as most men here are not in favor of women taking up homesteads. They think it will tie up the land too much, and the men will want the land later, even if they cannot gobble it all now. We must save it for the men. However, I have coaxed a few to sign, and even a few will help.

I have sent some of the petitions to Mrs. Hill, president of the Women's Institute in O'Connor, and also to Mrs. Carl, secretary of the W.I. at Kakabeka Falls, requesting them to ask the farmers' clubs to sign and forward them on to you when filled. Trusting I am not too late.

E. BOULTER.

Murillo, Ont.
Sept. 9, 1911

CANADIAN MAGAZINE TO HAVE POINTERS ON WOMEN HOMESTEADING

Dear Isobel:—Your kind reply to mine of August 11 was duly received. I also received the petition form, which I shall have signed. You might send on half a dozen more if you would like them signed by Toronto people.

I have just had a talk with the president of the National Council of Women and we have decided to give your fine and noble work first consideration in the press work of the N. C. in the Canadian Magazine for November. Could you prepare an article for us of 1,200 words on "Homesteads for Women" and send it in not later than Sept. 30, for the November issue? I shall be glad to help in any way in this splendid movement.

BESSIE McLEAN REYNOLDS.

Press Corr. N.C.W.C.

142 Howard Park, High Park, Toronto.

LOCAL COUNCIL WANT PETITION FORMS

Dear Isobel:—I am instructed by the Local Council of Women to ask you for copies of the petition, "Homesteads for Women." Miss Riddell, the secretary of the National Council of Women, informing the council here that these copies can be had from you.

(MRS.) FLORA HAMILTON BURNS
Cor. Sec'y Victoria & Vancouver Island L. C. W.

241 Niagara St., Victoria, B.C.