

This conference should give an excellent opportunity for the women of Manitoba to put the ban of their unqualified disapproval on the "woman's party."

There are many things which women, with their newly acquired citizenship

There will be three distinctly western books on the market for Christmas this year. Personally I am always glad when a new western book, that is true to the west, comes in time for Christmas. The old lavish Christmas giving is of course a thing of the past, and rightly so. Liberty bonds and thrift stamps should absorb our dollars these days. Nevertheless there are a few whom we should remember, the children and the far-away friends to whom the year has brought family losses. A book that may lighten a heavy hour or that may please the children is always a safe gift.

The three books that are coming out are by three people who may be safely trusted to give us something good to send to our friends. First there will be "Three Times and Out" the story of Private Simmons who was two years a prisoner in Germany, told by Nellie L. McClung; second, "The Cow Puncher," by Robert Stead of Calgary, whose "Kitchener and Other Poems" was so welcome last year. The new book links the old cattle days of Alberta up with the war, I understand. Lastly there is a book of verse for children by Mrs. Eccleston MacKay of Vancouver. This book has beautiful illustrations. The publishers promise that all of these books will be on the market in good time for the Christmas trade.

Written for The Western Home Monthly By Hannah D. Eby

A Thinking People

IN this strange sad time the thought life of the world is developing in leaps and bounds. The period of reconstruction is upon us, and patriotic Canadians are groping after the best with an intensity and singleness of purpose hitherto unknown. The hungry heartache felt by our people has become a national cross made sacred by the noble self sacrifice that caused it. The mere materialistic is sinking into insignificance, and the responsibilities and opportunities of leadership are heavy. Ideals are high for a nation is thinking.

A Real Danger

The title "Canadian" is strong enough to draw from the heart of every ally a thought of gratitude, honor and trust, while that of the enemy stops in terror and his face blanches with fear. But while our boys "over there" are showing the world what it means to be a Canadian and a soldier, we at home face an enemy which, unchecked, needs only time to break our Canada into a hundred pieces. In certain sections of our country there are alien settlements made up of those who are out of touch with its language and institutions. Here we have a little Germany, there a little Austria. Here a Doukhobour settlement and there a Russian. In many places courts and public business cannot be carried on without interpreters. These people call themselves Canadians, but there is no medium for social communication, and they know nothing of Canadian patriotism and ideals. Here they are right in the heart of Canada with the same ideas of life and government which, during the last century, has kept middle Europe a hot-bed of anarchy and revolution. There are hundreds of schools in Japan, China and India studying in English while there are hundreds in Canada in which it is seldom heard.

If our country is to become strong and take its rightful place among the Christian nations this state of things must cease. We must have one common language, the Anglo-Saxon, and we must have a common attitude toward Canadian ideals of life and character.

Our Hope Lies in the School

How can this unity be attained broken as we are into nationalities and divided into sects, denominations and classes? The only way in which we can become united into a nation is through the Christian public schools backed up by our higher educational institutions. An ever increasing responsibility with its accompanying opportunity is being vested in the teacher, Canada's foremost leader.

Respect for the Flag

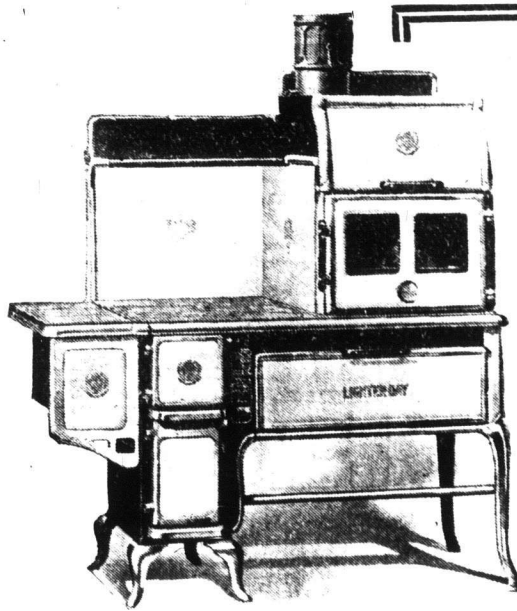
Then we have thought that in the building of a patriotic democracy such as we wish Canada to become the children could be taught more respect for our flag. Every child between the Atlantic and the Pacific, north of the border, should learn to salute our national flag. Then at each children's gathering on the raising of the flag every hand would salute, and every heart would respond to the wave of patriotic fervor created, while unconsciously there would be forged an unbreakable bond of nationhood.

National Strength in Character

This Canadian patriotism which we are seeking will amount to little, however, if it does not find its inspiration in the individual life and character of the people. Character, that is what counts in a nation as in an individual, and this all important thing is not acquired by haphazard dashes now and then. Each person makes himself by his conscious and unconscious conduct towards all that pertains to his everyday life, and a nation is strong or weak according to the strength of the moral character and ideals of its people. And again we say that the kind of nation we build depends upon our educational leaders, and the daily life of the boy and girl in the public school.

Frankness and Honesty Becomes a Habit

Our Canadian law says: "Thou shalt not steal," and just punishment is quickly meted out to the one who breaks it. But this does not prohibit stealing. How then can we build up in Canada a love of honesty so strong that all dishonesty will be reduced to a minimum? By constantly leading the child from Grade 1 up along the path of perfect frankness. By letting him know that to look with covetous eyes upon that which belongs to another is the way a thief is built.



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