

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

L'ENVOI

And only the Master shall praise us, and
only the Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money and no
one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working, and
each in his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the
God of the Things as They are.
—Kipling.

HARKING BACK TO THOSE WOMEN'S CLUBS

Allow me to distract your attention momentarily from the dish washer article of the 26th inst. to one which appeared in a more recent issue concerning the mooted question of forming women's clubs in connection with The Grain Growers' associations. Do you like the idea? If not, write and tell me why and I'll print your letter as readily as those in favor of the project, which I own I rather like. What we want is a thorough thrashing out of the question and a wise decision as to the best course to take. You know the conditions in your own districts and can give us the point of view of a person at close range. And please don't all of you leave it for some other person in the section whom you fancy is cleverer or better informed, to write.

I read rather a pretty little skit the other day which said that every man was better than another in something if it was only in sharpening a saw. So I don't care a mite whether you live in stone mansions or in sod shacks with a "lean-to" so long as you are women and homemakers, the opinion of one is as good as another to me.

Perhaps I did not make it very clear what work these clubs should take up. Such subjects as the preparation and uses of foods, care of poultry, making and marketing of butter, care of children and sanitation come naturally to mind and there is no reason why, if they choose, these organizations may not consider municipal, Provincial and Dominion questions—homesteads for women, Direct Legislation, suffrage or any other matter of great moment which interests them.

Below we give a clipping from the daily Free Press to show what one hustling Homemaker's Club in Saskatchewan has accomplished just by way of a brilliant example. At any rate let me hear from you on the question for or against because one does so hate to send one's little message out into the world and have it ignored and altogether superseded by a practical every-day dish washer.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

PENSE HOMEMAKERS

When women get busy there is something doing, no matter what the field toward which they direct their energies. One of the most progressive Homemaker's clubs in Saskatchewan is the one at Pense, and this is so, because the women have gone at their club work with a will, as the results show.

The club membership is not exceedingly large, nor are the members women of leisure who have nothing but outside work to do. All the members are busy women, all belong to other organizations, and help with church work, but all felt the need of some place where the women of all denominations and nationalities could meet with a common interest and that is found in a club that has for its object the betterment of home and community.

The first object of the club was to get a club room. This appeared easy of attainment, when an old church was offered them, if they would move it off the lot. Another lot on which to put it was rented to them, and they went to work. Everything appeared to be going swimmingly when suddenly the old church fell in two.

But the women were not in the least daunted. They had that old church rebuilt, almost square, with a small lean-to at the back, for wood and other things they wished to store there. From the outside the club room looks like a very attractive cottage.

The furnishings inside were donated by the members, but first it was necessary to paint the walls and ceilings. This the members did themselves. The ceiling and a few feet at the top of the walls, are cream, the rest of the walls are a pale green,



And They Say there is No Beauty in the West

which exactly matches a pretty green linoleum which covers the floor. A very pretty cupboard, which reaches almost from the ceiling to the floor, is in one corner. It holds all the club dishes and other necessities to prepare afternoon tea.

The room has three tables, a stove and a number of chairs, some rockers and arm chairs. On the windows are dark green window blinds and dainty curtains, harmonizing well with the other furnishings. There are magazines and newspapers for those who wish to read and last winter the room was heated three afternoons and evenings a week, that all who desired might go there and read, write, make a cup of tea or just rest.

There are but two women's club rooms in Winnipeg that I know of that equal this room in the little town of Pense and the women who have worked for it have done more good than they know.

The club house is paid for, and one payment is made on the lot on which it stands. But this is not all that this club has been doing. Many of the members are taking lectures in first aid work and expect to take their examination and get diplomas. Last summer they held a horticultural show, the first ever held in the town, as the agricultural society for the district has not had a fall or summer fair.

This year the club will branch out even more, and prizes will be given for vegetables, home cooking, preserves, sewing, school work, flowers and several other things. At present the club is making money by selling ice cream and home cooking in the club room every Saturday evening. It is well patronized and will no doubt have plenty of funds to meet the next payment on the lot.

The women of this club are very anxious to have domestic science and manual training taught in the school. No doubt other clubs want to see this work introduced, and the feasibility of securing a domestic science teacher, who would go up and down the line and spend one day a week, teaching in each place, has been discussed. To do this it would be necessary to have the co-operation of the school boards, and a grant from them; but it seems more than probable that the boards would be glad to assist this excellent work.

A GOOD WORD FOR CANADIANS

Dear Miss Beynon:—Excuse me for writing to you, but I read the letter of "Yankee Settler," and could not resist writing in praise of Canadian women. I hail from England and have travelled much among Canadians. I never found them "stand-offish," quite the reverse. They are very good neighbors indeed, as I live among Canadian neighbors and I like them. The one that Yankee Settler met, I have never met one like her. I hope she will find better neighbors, which I think she will, and not hate Canadian women for one which she thought had slighted her.

I also wish you, Miss Beynon, success in your page. Hoping I have not taken up too much of your time.

POPPY.

"WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, BABY DEAR?"

There is, or used to be, in one of our school readers—I am not sure that it is there now—a silly lying little poem entitled "Where Do You Come from, Baby Dear?" intended to deceive the youthful mind as to the real origin of life.

I used to inwardly rebel every time I taught that lesson to a class of children of seven, eight or ten years of age. Today I hope I would have the moral courage to defy even the Department of Education if necessary and refuse to try to trade on infant credulity in such a silly fashion.

Of course the children were not deceived. Some of the older pupils had usually enlightened them already with youthful frankness as to the way in which they came into the world. They whispered about it at recess and on the way home from school, not from badness, but because life and its how and why were matters exciting their natural curiosity.

A theory like that might be palmed off successfully on a really innocent city child but with children on the farm, who see the reproduction of life going on all around them, it is a different matter. They will gather by inference—and they would be very stupid if they didn't—that there is a general relation between the beginnings of all forms of life.

Just this very abundance of example should make it possible for country parents to teach their children nature's most beautiful truth in the most beautiful way.

We have a little booklet entitled: "How to Teach the Truth to Children," which The Guide will send to any of its readers for the nominal sum of five cents a copy, and which gives practical examples of how nature can be used to help parents in presenting this delicate subject. If you would like a copy, send five cents to the Book Department of The Grain Growers' Guide.

F.M.B.

WANTS INFORMATION ABOUT THE "SERVANTS"

Dear Miss Beynon:—I was very much interested in your article "Five Valiant Servants Wanting Country Employ," of June 26. Will you kindly send further particulars of the new Dish Washer. A number of us would like to know where these servants can be obtained and the price. Thousands of farm women are discouraged with farm life owing to increasing work outdoors and in. Men can get machines and help. There is little of either in the majority of homes in this land.

Thanking you in advance.

INQUIRER.

This is only one of a pile of enquiries I have had from women all over the country showing that our readers have no intention of sitting down tamely under their burden of work if they can find a remedy.

F. M. B.

TO LIGHTEN HOUSEWORK

Dear Madam:—As we are taking The Grain Growers' Guide I generally read the Country Homemaker's also Sunshine and I think they are certainly nice to read and some helpful hints are generally to be found there. Now I read in The Guide, June 26, of some helpful machines. I also agree with you that there should be more simple articles invented to make housework easier and quicker as no help can be got out in the country for love or money. I have seen my husband offer thirty dollars a month but could not get help just because it was on the farm and I do not think they would have to work harder than in some places in towns. I have a large family and not much help so I would like to know more about the Kitchenette family dish washer, whether it is at all satisfactory and if it can be used with any kind of dish pan or if a special dish is used and what price, and where it is sold and if children can work it or if it is hard to work. Kindly let me know as soon as possible as we have always a lot of dishes to wash and the oldest children are going to school so that they have not much time but have to help me some as there are eleven in our family. I will be much obliged to you for your help.

SUBSCRIBER.

FAVORS SUFFRAGE

Dear Friends:—Am deeply interested in woman's suffrage. I firmly believe that we little dream what we could accomplish if we would just show an earnest desire to better our conditions. I am desirous of taking an active part in lifting the social tone of our community.

SUFFRAGIST.

I think you will be interested in the summary I am trying to give of Schreiner's book. I am sorry that in the very limited space I cannot half do justice to this splendid work.

F. M. B.



DAINTY AFTERNOON MODELS

7453—Coatee or Over Blouse, 34 to 42 bust. For the medium size will be required 2 1/2 yards of material 36 inches wide with 2 1/2 yards of applique.
7459—Blouse or Shirt Waist for misses and small women, 14, 16 and 18 years. For the medium size will be required 2 1/2 yards of material 36 inches wide.
7448—Semi-Princess Gown, 34 to 44 bust. With four-gored skirt with back gored that can be laid in box-plaits or gathered with square or high neck, with or without cuffs. For the medium size will be required 5 1/4 yards of material 36 inches wide, with 1/2 yard 27 inches wide for collar and cuffs.
7440—A Three-Piece Skirt in envelop style, 22 to 32 waist. With high or natural waistline. For the medium size will be required 3 1/4 yards of material 36 inches wide.
7452—Five Gored Skirt, 22 to 34 waist. With high or natural waistline. For the medium size will be required 3 1/4 yards of material 36 inches wide when there is figure or nap, 2 1/2 yards 44 inches wide when there is neither figure nor nap, 1/4 yard 27 inches wide for the panel.

Ma'am—Well, James, I'm going to start beekeeping.

James—Bees is nasty, troublesome things, ma'am.

Ma'am—Oh, but I shall start in a very small way—just a pair to begin with.