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### The Woman's Quiet Hour

By E. Cora Hind

thoughtful woman in Canada is asking herself as she looks forward into the New Year. We had such high hopes for 1919. Peace had come and surely no period of reconstruc-What? tion could compare with the horrors of war. Twelve months have gone by and the world seems one sea of turmoil. Thousands of days of time have been wasted in strikes, the cost of living has advanced, and every day there is a fresh demand from some section of the community for higher wages and shorter hours. Production of all the necessaries of life has been curtailed for want of labor and owing to unprofitable prices to the producer. The world seems suddenly to have gone mad with the idea that it can live without working. Not quite all the world, how-ever, for the Germans are working twelve hours a day, evidently resolved that, having failed to conquer by force of arms, they will conquer by peaceful penetration, by being ready to sell goods to the whole world at a lower rate than is possible to the countries where labor is high in price and refuses to work more than six or seven hours out of the twenty-four. There is a very

That is the question which every coughtful woman in Canada is asking erself as she looks forward into the ew Year. We had such high hopes for 1919. Peace had come and country—it is as universal as discontent.

Discontent is rife and presently the full significance of unemployment will be upon us. Lavish spending is not confined to any one class or any one part of the country—it is as universal as discontent.

It is not a very rosy picture for 1920 and the old, old wish of "A Happy New Year" sounds almost like a mockery, and many feel like saying "Who will show us any good?" "Who is the Moses who will lead us out of the bondage of our discontent into the promised land of prosperity and development?" May it not be that it is a Deborah rather than a Moses who is needed? Or to come to plain everyday speech, is it not the duty and the privilege of the women of Canada to lead the country back to sanity and right living? This is not a sermon or a lecture to the women of Canada,

ever, for the Germans are working twelve hours a day, evidently resolved that, having failed to conquer by force of arms, they will conquer by peaceful penetration, by being ready to sell goods to the whole world at a lower rate than is possible to the countries where labor is high in price and refuses to work more than six or seven hours out of the twenty-four. There is a very present danger that the awful sacrifice of human life in the war will be made

#### NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM PREMIER OF ALBERTA



HE best message to the readers of The Western Home Monthly is one that will help them to see that Providence has spread as many blessings over Western Canada in 1919 as over any other part of the world. Despite the almost cataclysmic disturbances that threaten other nations of the earth, the

foundations of peace, good will and order remain unshaken in Canada. It is true that it has been a year of short crops, but it is not a year of famine and desolation such as faces, we are told, 100,000,000 people in Europe. We have nearly five times as much wheat as will feed us, and we should rejoice that we can help the stricken nations at the other side of the earth. Absorption of the citizens of our vast army is progressing better than we hoped, and reconstruction to a peace basis of industry progresses favorably. We have the industrial equipment and the intelligent labour force to meet the opportunities of the time, if we apply it to our vast resources, to do much good for the rest of the world that cries for food as the first condition of permanent peace.

While we suffer from high prices, we do not suffer from great scarcity like the people of the old lands, where rationing is still in force

Happiness is a relative thing. Compared with the stern exigencies of other people, Western Canada can rejoice as the psalmist that her "lines are fallen in pleasant places."

Chas Stewart

Premier of Alberta.

of none effect by the selfishness and idleness of those who have survived. The rejection of the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations by the American Senate, while an awful blot on the escutcheon of the United States, is by no means the only menace to future peace. Every idle man and woman, every man and woman trying to force their ideas of immediate reformation by acts or speeches of violence is endangering the world's peace. Every man and woman spending money lavishly for things they do not need and for which they are paying twice and three times what they are worth, is endangering peace. Every Canadian who is spending money to-day for goods from the United States other than for some vital necessity is endangering the future stability and peace of Canada. This is no "Made in Canada" propaganda, but merely a statement of the folly of further increasing the rate of exchange against us, by the purchase in the United States of things we could do without.

At a time when the country has justemerged from war and carries an enormous war debt and requires, above all things, to produce as much as possible and spend as little as possible, spending is on a more lavish scale than it has ever been even in pre-war days, and production in all lines from farms to manufactures is less and growing smaller.

who disapprove we may venture the modest hope that the "ayes have it," and take courage to once more appeal to the sanity, the courage and the self-sacrifice of women at this time of stress and danger.

Within the next two months there will be great gatherings of women in annual meetings, more especially the women from rural communities. What stand are these gatherings going to take on many of the questions of the day. more especially on the high cost of living? Are they going to take the view that governments and commissions can solve the problem? Are they going to keep up the tirades against war profiteers (it's an awful provocation, but, frankly, does it get anywhere?), or are they going to pledge themselves to the soundly economic course of producing more and spending less?.

It is awfully easy to say "Other women are doing it, the spending, why should not I when I have the money?" It is hard when you want something and have the money to bry it, even at the exorbitant prices being charged, to say, "It is not worth the money, I can do without it and I will." It takes courage and sacrifice to do that, but it is worth while. You say, "What is the good of my doing it, no one else is?" That is where half the troub!e lies to-

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