

Young Woman and Her Problem

By Pearl Richmond Hamilton

STORIES OF PIONEER WOMEN

There is no more helpful influence or inspirational guidance for our girls and young women than the knowledge of biography of successful women. During the past twelve years that I have conducted this page I have collected many books on the biography of women, for the purpose of gleaning all possible practical help for our readers. But there is an important book I cannot buy. We all want it and I wonder if the readers of this page would write it—*Stories of Pioneer Women in Canada*? Would it not be inspiring if we could publish one every month on this page? We can if our readers will respond. I am sure nearly every young woman knows a splendid old lady who has been one of Canada's pioneers. Her experiences would be rich in valuable instruction for every one of us. Our young women should know how these nation building women have paved the way for our opportunity of to-day. Their stories would teach us lessons in good citizenship. Marian Harland—a woman past ninety years old is writing a series of articles for young women. We will award a prize of ten dollars

for the best story of a Pioneer Woman—providing twenty stories reach us before the fifteenth of December. Any young girl or woman can write whether she be sixteen or sixty. There is no age limit.

Our much loved Canadian author—Nellie L. McClung has the following preface in one of her books:

"To the Pioneer Women of the West, who made life tolerable, and even comfortable for the rest of us; who fed the hungry, advised the erring, nursed the sick, cheered the dying, comforted the sorrowing and performed the last sad rites for the dead.

"The beloved Pioneer Women, old before their time with hard work, privations, and doing without things, yet in whose hearts there was always burning the hope of better things to come.

"The godly Pioneer Women, who kept alive the conscience of the neighborhood and preserved for us the best traditions of the race.

"To these noble Women of the early days, some of whom we see no more, for they have entered into their inheritance, this book is respectfully dedicated by their humble admirer."

One by one these women are passing away from us and with them many wonderful stories that are real Canadian history. Let us collect as many as possible. Among the women in the world's progress they have an important place. For one year may we have a story or more every month?

THE BUSINESS WOMAN

A convention of business and professional women was recently convened in St. Paul—the second yearly gathering together of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women. Elizabeth O. Toombe gives a composite picture of the business and professional woman as she appeared in St. Paul:

"The first impression is one of intense good health. In the place of the fragile body is a radiant creature with good physique, strong clear eyes, splendid vitality. She is filled to the brim with the zest of living and of victory, for the successful business woman has necessarily come off victor in many a fight. She is intelligent and thinks clearly and forcefully. She speaks and acts with authority because she has learned how to handle money, other women and, above all, herself. She serves in the Chamber of Commerce; she is director of many banks and she confers with city officials on subjects relative to her business and pertaining to the city's welfare. She

deals with bankers and brokers and serves on the financial committees of her community. In a word, she is a woman of affairs. And there were five hundred of her at the St. Paul meeting.

These women, organized, have helped the housing conditions for business girls. In some cities they have taken over rooming houses, made them comfortable and are renting them to business girls at prices low enough to meet all expenses, including the interest on the money invested. They are also helping the teachers by interesting the public in educational work. In some places they have made changes in the school system. Then, too, they have welcomed the teachers into affairs that had before been unopened to them, thus making them feel they are an important factor in the business world.

These women are bound to be a vital power in improving conditions in their respective cities, as was demonstrated in their interest in the Home Economics Department of the University of Minnesota where they were shown through the Home Cottage. The Home Economics students must spend ten weeks of their last year's work in actual home-making in this cottage. These business women watched students make out the budget, plan the meals, do the marketing and perform every bit of the housework; from dusting to laundry work. A nursery is an interesting feature of the work for a real baby "adopted" from an institution is cared for by these students. Each girl in turn assumes complete charge of the baby for a stated period.

Did this work appeal to these business women? Well, a New York delegate said she would take the idea home to her state. After all—the average business or professional woman is all woman. Mrs. Elizabeth Sears of New York has organized three-hundred of these clubs for business women. More than fifty professions and many thousand women were represented at this convention.

FOR THE YOUNG BRIDE-TO-BE

In a recent magazine an article about a very successful business man has this quotation: "Cash Street and Mortgage Avenue. My wife was a girl who'd everything a girl wanted to make her comfortable and happy. We began trading the first week we were married. After the rent was paid I gave her six dollars and a quarter a week to cover everything else. She made it stretch. I called the little street we lived on 'Cash Street', because no one would give credit to people who lived on it and I called the big street around the corner 'Mortgage Avenue', because that was what it represented mainly—mortgages. That six dollars and a quarter got raised considerably in time; but, whatever it was, she made it do, and I never heard anything about it. I never heard of servants' troubles or difficulties; that was her part, and she did it just as I did mine. Even when we could live on Mortgage Avenue without a mortgage we decided to stay on Cash Street, and we stayed seventeen years."

GIRLS' ORGANIZATIONS

The air is alive with conventions and social affairs of girls' organizations. Recently, at Government House, The Girl Guides were given a splendid start in Winnipeg and girls everywhere are asking to join. Leaders are being trained at Havergal and soon hundreds of our Canadian girls will be grouped together for training. It is the sister organization of the Boy Scouts. For eighteen months an organization of Girl Guides has been doing good work in Winnipeg and now we look for fine results from the present well organized committee.

This month several hundred C.G.I.T. (Canadian Girls in Training) met at a conference in Winnipeg. All these organizations should be encouraged. They mean good citizenship.

APPLICATIONS

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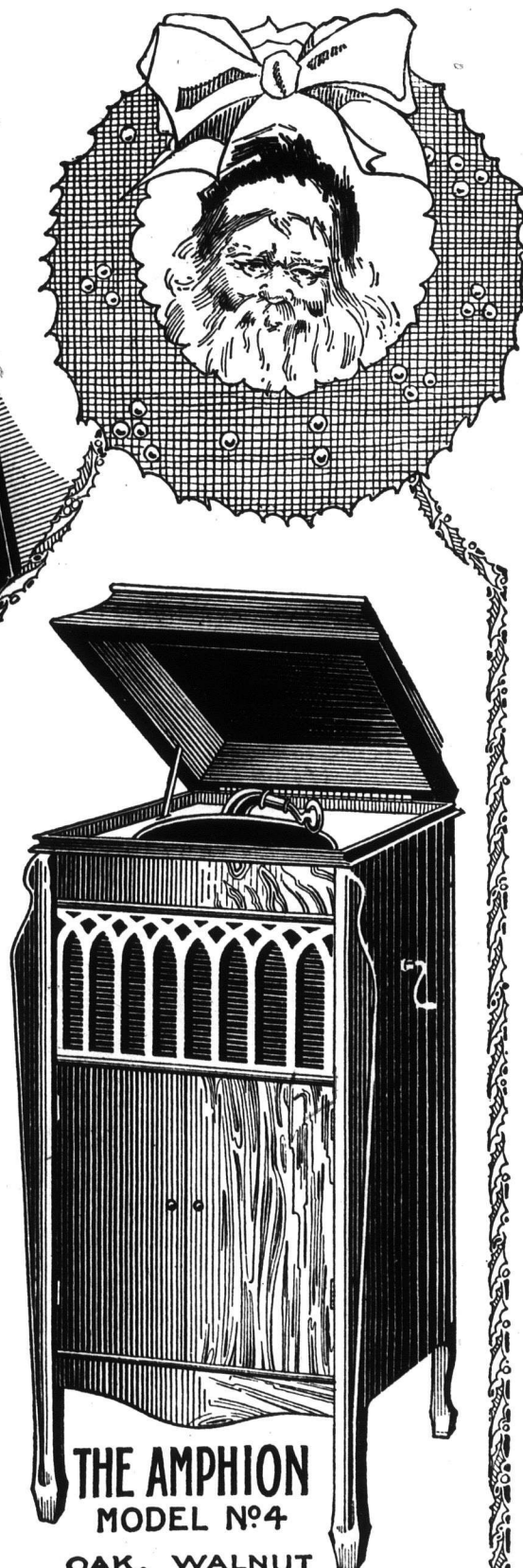


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