



Conducted by "ISOBEL"

A Homestead, Though Married

Dear Isobel, I have just read the petition prepared by you for the benefit of Western women. As you say, "women have helped men to homestead for many years and should be ready to help in this enterprise." The last clause of your petition reads: "All women of British birth," and further on, "those that are of the age of eighteen years, or if otherwise are of the age of twenty-one years shall be granted the privilege of homesteading." Now I would like to know what is meant by that. Is the age of twenty-one the limit, or does it mean twenty-one and over? I have read so many articles lately advocating the granting of homesteads to single women, I would like to know if that is what you mean, or is it married women as well? I certainly think women should have the same privilege to homestead as the men, especially all sorts of foreigners. But why single women alone?

The married women of the West have done as much as (and many of them more than) the men toward making the country what it is, and I think it would be a perfect shame to deprive the married women from the privilege of homesteading. However, I will say no more until I hear from you what you really mean. I would certainly advise not to circulate a petition advocating homesteads for single women alone. It is well always to consider such things from every point and not be able to see the mistakes until it is too late.

Such as the dower question. I for one think the women of Saskatchewan are making a mistake in the way they are asking for a dower law. I know many women who have made homes for themselves and family after the husband has squandered all, and I can not think there is anything fair in allowing him to have a claim on property he did nothing to help earn. I know it is hard to make laws to suit everyone, but I think the property should go to the ones who helped earn it. I think the wife should have all after the husband's death. Mothers will as a rule divide the property much fairer than the father.

If the petitions mean married women as well as single, I will help if one is sent me, but not otherwise.

LOUISE

Gainsboro, June 1, 1911.

NOTE:—I am glad this point was brought out. It is certainly intended that any woman, married or single, of British birth shall be eligible to homestead. It was not thought advisable to flaunt the married woman's claim before "the powers that be" because many men, unfortunately often in authority, have illogical and unjust notions about the division and distribution of wealth, of which Canadian homesteads form a tremendous part, therefore the married woman is not specifically mentioned in the petition in the hope that thereby she might pass unobserved, as it were, but she is certainly there, and who has a better right? It is the married woman, NOT the single one who has made the Western homestead taste as a sweet morsel in the mouth of the Easterner, and who most merits a homestead.

Here as elsewhere we have to keep saying that though a married woman lawfully becomes eligible to homestead, it does not obligate her to homestead.

The reference to age was meant only to apply to girls of eighteen who were living at home with parents or near relatives and do duties without actual residence, as in the case of sons; but where girls are strangers and living "it's strangers, they cannot be allowed to homestead until they are twenty-one

years of age, and then must reside on the homestead and do duties in all respects like men. To make it clearer, the meaning is that girls between the ages of 18 and 21 years may live at home and still take a homestead; but girls, and women (married or single) over 21 years must reside on the land as per regulations.

After careful thought it is felt to be best to have separate petitions, one for men and one for women, so that when the petitions are collected it can easily be ascertained which are the voters and how many, and which the non-voters.

Only men 21 years and over shall be allowed to sign the men's petitions, except boys of between 18 and 21 who are actually homesteaders themselves. Everyone must keep faith scrupulously in this matter, for we want a true expression of the country's opinion on this question.

Only women, married or single, 21 and over may sign the women's petitions. If any doubt remains as to the interpretation of any clause don't hesitate to ask. I appreciate the offers of help that have come in to further this great movement.

ISOBEL

25,000 HOMESTEADS

The C.N.R. are preparing an attractive booklet advertising the fact that there are 25,000 homesteads along their lines which are not yet taken up. The booklet tells where the homesteads are, what they are like, and gives instructions how to get them. A feature of it is a map showing the location of the districts and also the new lines planned by the company for these new districts. The booklet will be ready for distribution about the middle of next week.

Can be had on application to any C.N.R. railway agent by mail.

APPROVES OF HOMESTEADS

Dear Isobel, Will you please send me a petition in connection with "Homesteads for women" and I will do my best to get plenty of signatures for you. Personally I think the majority of women quite as capable of homesteading as the majority of men, and I wish the movement every success.

(MRS.) WINIFRED BYRNE

Nokomis, May 31, 1911.

ANOTHER AFTER PETITION

Dear Isobel, Please send me a petition for "Homesteads for women."

ESTHER E. DANDY

Pierston, Man.

THE HANDICRAFTS GUILD

I wrote the secretary of this guild on May 13 for the information promised to those who have requested further word about the work. I now find that she went abroad to Europe a couple of weeks ago, and my letter is following her up.

I am writing today to another officer of the work in Montreal from whom I hope to obtain just the particular matter I want, which will be sent out to all enquirers as soon as I receive it.

ISOBEL

SUFFRAGE NOTES

The first deputation that Lloyd George has received since his illness was a deputation of influential Welsh women, including Mrs. Lloyd-George. They came to ask his support for the Conciliation Bill. He promised to vote

for it, and is reported to have expressed himself as enthusiastically in favor of woman suffrage.

DUBLIN SPEAKS

Lord Mayor Presents Petition Urging Enactment of Woman Suffrage Bill

The press despatches say:

The advocates of woman's suffrage gave their cause another impetus in the House of Commons on May 17, when the Lord Mayor of Dublin, John J. Fartell, at the head of a deputation from the corporation of the Irish capital, presented at the bar of the House a petition urging the passage of a female suffrage bill at the present session of parliament.

The members of the deputation appeared in the full regalia of their offices, and the ceremony was attended with picturesque details.

55 City Councils Ask Suffrage

A most significant fact is the large number of city councils, now numbering 55, which have petitioned the government to give facilities for the suffrage bill. These include such important councils as those of Liverpool, Dublin, Cardiff, Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester and many cities scarcely second to those in influence. Beside these, a number of rural and district councils have petitioned in the same way. As the same women vote for these councils who would have the parliamentary franchise if this bill passes, it looks as if the councils not only feel the importance of their women constituents, but approve of the way in which they have used the power they already possess. The Antis explain the action of the councils by saying they are afraid of displacing their women constituents, which seems to me a conclusive reason why women should wish to have the power of the ballot.

TO KEEP COOL HOT NIGHTS

A trained nurse of many years' experience declares she knows no better way of keeping cool than that of wringing a piece of linen out in ice water and laying it over the eyes and forehead. A block of ice with several relays of linen on top of it may be kept conveniently near the bedside in case the sleeper should wake. A small bottle of water may also be put on the ice, although this nurse does not approve

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of drinking much ice water. If several blocks of ice are kept in different parts of the room they will lower the temperature to a surprisingly large degree.

The same nurse also advocates hanging damp sheets over all doors. They should not be hung at the windows, however, as nothing should be at or near the windows which will in any way impede air circulation.

One bright little woman, when asked her secret of obtaining sleep, no matter how high the mercury climbed, laughingly gave the pathological reply that her secret was simply her hot water bottle. She fills it half full of cold water and slips it between her pillow and case.

THE SICK ROOM

A few don'ts to those who practice visiting the sick: never go into the sick room more than necessary; stop in an adjoining room, give the patient your regards and sympathy through the attendant, or, still better, send flowers, and a simple but encouraging note to be read for the sufferer. Those who are caring for the sick should be cheerful (not hilarious).

Art as if you know there is trouble but that you have confident hopes of the results. Never whisper in a sick room. Do not beckon mysteriously for anyone to come out of the room as that is very much the same as if you have some secret from the patient. And never give up hopes. Many have been

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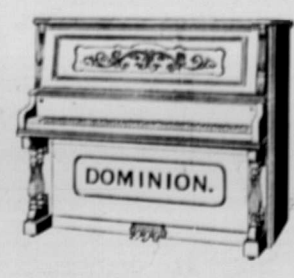
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