

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY MARY P. McALLUM

SASKATCHEWAN'S FIRST WOMAN JUDGE

On September 1, by order-in-council Saskatchewan's first judge of the Juvenile Court was appointed. The appointment was given to Miss Ethel MacLachlan, superintendent of the department of neglected and dependent children. Miss MacLachlan is very well known throughout Saskatchewan and the West and her many friends will rejoice with her in her new success. Those who know Miss MacLachlan and the splendid work she has done feel that to be Saskatchewan's first woman judge is a fitting tribute to her untiring and zealous work among juveniles. Her work to date has made her specially qualified for this latest position which is but a step higher and a little larger field for the exercise of those talents and characteristics which have made her work in the department of neglected and dependent children such a success.

Miss MacLachlan was born of Scotch parentage, her father being the late James Jenkins MacLachlan who came from the Highlands of Scotland to Nova Scotia in 1853. Her mother was Emma Anderson of United Empire Loyalist stock. She was educated in Lunenburg Academy at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, at the Provincial Normal School, Truro, Nova Scotia and later attended the Federal Business College in Regina, Sask. She taught school very successfully for a number of years in Lunenburg Academy. But in 1909 the call of the West was so strong that she came to Regina in September of that year. In April of 1910, she was appointed to the staff of the department for dependent and neglected children which at that time comprised only the superintendent, S. Spencer Page and herself. When no longer than a year there she was entrusted, along with her other duties, with the very important work of selecting foster homes for the children and of inspecting the foster homes in which they were placed. In 1913 she was appointed assistant superintendent taking almost complete charge of the department when the late Mr. Page was on holiday, inspecting foster homes or attending his duties as clerk of the legislative assembly. After the death of Mr. Page on October 10, 1916, she was appointed acting superintendent and a few months later superintendent.

When Miss MacLachlan entered the department the staff consisted of two, the superintendent and herself, and the number of children under its control was 35. At the time of her leaving to take up her new work as Juvenile Court Judge the staff was composed of nine while the number of children under its control had grown from 35 to 1,363. Of the children cared for 27 are fighting for king and country, one having made the supreme sacrifice. Ten of the girls have married, thus finding homes of their own. The others are in good foster homes growing up to be good and useful citizens.

Miss MacLachlan has received scores of letters congratulating her on her appointment as juvenile court judge, but perhaps those which give her the greatest pleasure and comfort are from the superintendents of the Children's Aid societies with whom she has worked for the past seven years. A. S. Wright, honorary secretary of the Children's Aid, Saskatoon, writes, "There will be no dislocation as there might have been with a brand new chief. The most important thing is that you have the personal qualifications in a marked degree. I feel everything is safe in your hands, and you have my hearty congratulations on your appointment. You are reaping the reward for your conscientious and excellent work." Arthur Hitchcock, president of the Children's Aid society in Moose Jaw, wrote, "Allow me to extend to you my congratulations on your appointment to the position of juvenile court judge. I feel sure that the mantle has fallen on worthy shoulders." Other messages came from prominent men and women in the same work who had been co-operating and associated with her during the past seven years, among them, J. J. Kelso, superintendent of the department of neglected and dependent children for Ontario, and J. S. Woodsworth, director of social research, Winnipeg.

As Mr. Wright pointed out in his telegram Miss MacLachlan possesses the personal qualifications in a marked degree. The older girls had learned to confide in Miss MacLachlan, and look on her as a real friend and kindly advisor, in all problems peculiar to them. She was to them a true friend as well as a comforter to their mothers. Their stories were always listened to and given every possible attention and kindness, no matter at what time advice was needed, in office hours or out of them. The introduction of the juvenile courts in Saskatchewan is a completely new venture, and when rumor was in circulation that Miss MacLachlan was about to be appointed the first lady judge in the

province the press of the province heralded her as the ideal woman for the appointment.

Miss MacLachlan has the honor of being the first and only woman who has ever been superintendent of a department of neglected and dependent children in Canada, and of being the first woman judge of the juvenile courts in Saskatchewan. Miss MacLachlan's career has been brilliantly successful, and the province of Saskatchewan does homage to her.

CLUB BEGINNINGS

Mrs. Blank had promised two basket balls to the district school when the big boys had made the courts in the new playground. She turned to a capable neighbor for advice as to how to secure those balls.

"Well," came the voice over the telephone, "I'm miserable from lonesomeness. Let's have a box supper or a basket picnic, whichever you want to call it, over at the schoolhouse and have a real good time. I guess I'm not the only one needing something of the sort. Everybody can see the new



MISS ETHEL MACLACHLAN
Canada's first woman superintendent of Department of Neglected and Dependent Children and Saskatchewan's first woman judge of the Juvenile Courts.

playground, and the courts, and I think you will get the balls on the spot."

"Fine!" replied Mrs. Blank, and she added to herself, "And I'll see how folks feel about the Improvement Club I'm bound to start."

The supper was such a success, the getting together in the clean little schoolhouse seemed so enjoyable, and the satisfaction over the new playground proved so mentally stimulating, that Mrs. Blank found alert listeners when she told what the agriculture college was offering country clubs.

"I hear," said Mrs. Blank in her straight-forward way, "that the college will send lecturers and demonstrators to any improvement or other club."

"Improvement club! What's an improvement club?" chuckled old Kebby Wheelock.

"There are lots of them right now in the state," said Carter Drake. "I was at a meeting of one in Waubesa County and I sure wished we had one."

"Well, what is it?" insisted Kebby.

"The people in a district," said Mrs. Blank, "organize themselves into a club to improve their district."

"Like how?" persisted Kebby.

"Improving roads. Improving general appearance of farm properties. Improving schools. Improving neighborhood neighborliness. Improving domestic work. Improving agricultural processes. Improving stock raising. Improving child raising and baby tending."

"Oh, come," laughed Kebby, wagging his grizzly beard, "we'd all be improved right off the face of the earth—it sounds too moving!"

"We could hold our meetings right here in the schoolhouse, couldn't we?" said one man. And then came the words Mrs. Blank had hoped to hear: "Let's organize right here and now!"

And they did.

"Now," said the beaming Mrs. Blank, "now that we are a real club and have a secretary, let us decide on what agricultural and domestic subjects we wish to hear lectures, and have our secretary write to the college about the matter."

And they did.

Meetings have since been regular and enthusiastic, gathering together both young and old. The college has already sent them three lecturers—one to speak on "Good Roads," one on "Chickens for Profit," and one on "Soil Tests."—Jessie Wright Whitecomb, in Mother's Magazine.

THE RAREST TALENT

"I feel of so little use in these progressive days," said a woman of mature years. "The woman of today is full of stimulating ideas. She is identified with important movements. She makes the most of her talents, but I—I—can do nothing. It seems as if I have so much to take up my time and yet I never do accomplish anything that will ever count in the vast scheme of things."

"You have the rarest talent that the world boasts and you make the most of it every day," replied her visitor. "You are agreeable to live with."

Agreeable to live with! Unassuming phrase, with what a powerful reach! With domestic squalls so flagrant, divorce rampant, "incompatibility" a household word, the woman who is agreeable to live with is a mighty factor in the press of progress. She brightens the atmosphere about her at a time when there seems much effort expended to make people good, but little to make them happy. Such a woman has the gift of divinity. She glorifies the commonplace. She nourishes the nation.

It is splendid to uplift, to be artistic, to head world movements, but there is little that so becomes a woman as to be agreeable to live with. It is a way in which those who tarry at home may keep step with their more conspicuously progressive sisters.—DARRA MORE.

CARE OF THE CHILD'S TEETH

By the end of the second year the baby should have his milk teeth complete, and until the sixth or seventh year, when the permanent set will begin to appear, these teeth must serve all the purposes that the final set will serve later. Since this is the time the child is learning to chew his food, a process necessary not only for proper digestion but for the strengthening and developing of his jaws and for the proper growth of the permanent teeth, it is important to keep the first teeth in the best possible working order. The condition of the teeth is a fair index to the general health of the child.

Until the child is old enough to use a toothbrush himself, the mother should wash his teeth every day; but as early as possible the child should learn to care for his own teeth. If the teeth cannot conveniently be cleaned after each meal, the mouth may at least be rinsed. Children should be taught that it is of special importance to wash the teeth and mouth after eating nuts, or any sweet, sticky, or pasty food. The teeth should be carefully cleaned at bed-time, since the fermentation of food particles left in the mouth, which leads to the decay of the teeth, proceeds more rapidly at night, when the mouth is still.

The child should be taught to brush the teeth from the gum downward or upward toward the cutting edge. When the teeth are bruised crosswise, the tendency is to push whatever is on them into the cracks and crevices of the teeth or under the edges of the gums. The inner surfaces of the teeth should also be brushed up and down, and the grinding surfaces should be scrubbed in all directions; after the scrubbing is finished the mouth should be thoroughly rinsed with warm water.

Some hard food like a stalk of celery or part of a ripe, juicy apple eaten at the end of a meal scours the surface of the teeth and leaves a fresh clean taste in the mouth.

Children should be taken regularly to a good dentist once or twice a year after the first set of teeth is complete. If cavities appear they should be filled with soft fillings and each tooth should be saved as long as possible. If the temporary molars are extracted before the sixth year molars come in, the latter will be apt to crowd forward into the space left vacant, and when the latter teeth come they will be pushed out of their regular places, destroying the natural line of the mouth. The first molars furnish the grinding surfaces necessary to proper chewing of the food and if they fall out too soon the child is hardly able to chew hard or tough food and is likely to swallow such food in chunks.

The care of the child's first teeth is important also because the health of the permanent set is largely dependent upon that of the first set. The second teeth are much larger than the first and consequently need more room in the gum. For necessary development the jaws must be given plenty of exercise. Consequently the child should have a mixed diet, including some hard food which he cannot swallow without chewing. Toast, crusts, hard crackers, certain fruits like apples, salad, vegetables and meats should provide the food elements needed for healthy teeth if the child is thriving.—Children's Bureau, Washington.

Ain't it funny that some folks you can't miss,
An' some folks you just miss a pile,
An' the folks you can't miss you see lots—
An' the other folks once in awhile.

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