

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon

BUSINESS METHODS IN THE HOME

When a man starts out in any enterprise his first move is to supply himself with the necessary equipment to carry on his work effectively, and the second is to arrange a system of work which promises the greatest economy of time and labor, and the third is to open some system of accounts whereby he can tell where he stands in regard to profit and loss.

Very few women, in the conduct of their homes, comply with any of these three conditions of successful business. The equipment in most homes for the business of housework is miserably antiquated and inadequate. Because so many women have had to persuade money from the pockets of their husband to their own, they have got into the way of doing without even very inexpensive little things that would save them endless time and trouble. Sensitive women hate to ask for money, if there is any likelihood of being refused, so they don't ask, and they don't have things. Therefore the equipment for the work indoors is a sorry looking business compared with the very excellent and up-to-date machinery out of doors.

The failure of a great many women to bring system into the work of the home is partly owing to this lack of facilities, but more to a natural conservatism. They are like the bride who complained to me that it took her such a long time to get her work done, tho they lived in a small suite and there was only her husband and herself. I spoke of the address I had heard Miss Kennedy, of the Agricultural College, give on system in housework.

The bride listened patiently. "But," she protested, "it would take me longer to remember to do things that way than it would to do them the old way."

"Very likely it would, at first," I agreed, "but you would soon be able to do your work in half the time."

She just smiled the quiet, obstinate smile of the woman who means to stay by her own way of work even tho it be the worst possible way.

It, of course, involves a certain amount of trouble and annoyance at first to get things working systematically, but the trouble is not comparable with that which comes from doing work in a hap-hazard fashion for a life-time.

Lastly there is the question of expenditure. Very few women have any accurate idea of what it costs to keep house. A still smaller number ever stop to consider whether they are giving their families the maximum of good, nourishing food for the money spent on the table. Most meals are got together hap-hazard. Each dish is prepared without any consideration of its relation to the rest of the meal. The result is that much of the money spent on food is worse than wasted, as it does actual bodily harm to those who partake of it. So I say that women ought to know how much it costs them to feed their families, and they should know when they are getting the greatest value for their investment in food stuffs, and having got them they should know how best to combine them for the welfare of the family.

In other words housekeeping should be put on a strictly business basis, and the housewife should seek earnestly to train herself for her very important work.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

AN ANSWER TO BUSHWHACKER

Dear Miss Beynon:—On your page of April 29, is a letter from one who signs himself "Bushwhacker," to which I feel impelled to take decided exception. I don't quite grasp the logic of the views expressed by him where he argues that women, and especially farm women, cannot keep up with all the questions of the day, because they haven't time to attend all the meetings of a political character. That is to say that women have more work to do than men

have, therefore they cannot attend the political meetings. Now, seriously, has farm housekeeping come to such a pass that women cannot find time to go to town to hear a lecture or two on politics? If so, isn't it about time that such a condition ceased to exist? On the other hand, is it very necessary that these political meetings be attended? I am not sure that it is well for all of us to hear a political orator too often. It might be as well not to trust these politicians with too much of our attention unless, of course, we decide to do our own thinking—which is not always their aim.

"Bushwhacker" states that men marry "to have a home, a cheerful place to return to after meeting the trials of the day, and a dear wife to cheer and comfort one." Pardon me for wondering if there are very many men who marry for these reasons alone. It shows a decidedly selfish streak, to say the least, and I wonder not that woman is sometimes tempted to neglect a home in which she forsooth must always wear her most cheerful smile, and after each day's "trials" must needs spend the remainder of the evening trying to "cheer" a crusty, disagreeable specimen of the masculine sex, who for the sake of the race should have sojourned in bachelorhood the remainder of his days.

Even if I could bring myself to be

cleansed this country from all its evil, but it is a step in the right direction, and it will help her to protect her children, by reason of the fact that she will throw all her strength into the fight for better and saner laws.

Our esteemed correspondent also tells us that if women neglect their homes by reason of the franchise there will be a larger number of loafers on the streets. And the responsibility, of course, will be laid at the door of emancipated womanhood! Our friend didn't tell us just who the loafer would be, but it is safe to assume that he meant the special privileged—the saloon keepers, the white slavers, the food dopers and the host of blatant recreants gathered from the four corners of the country.

And as to whether or not there is anyone to blame if an individual has not sufficient control of his appetite for drink to know when to stop, permit me to say that such an appetite is first created, and is easily enough controlled if the first glass is never indulged in.

If, then, by giving woman the franchise, we might get rid of even this one evil, the saloon, doesn't it naturally follow that the drink habit will be a thing of the past?

I agree with our correspondent that "people are always ready to hold up the drinker as an example of all that is low and vulgar," but that is only

Surely, it is easy enough to read the reports of the doings of the present parliament, which has seemingly ignored the fact that literally thousands of people who supported them wanted free wheat and free implements, and decide to support the Liberals at the next election and see if they will carry out their promises. "A change of pasture is fattening;" perhaps that applies to political parties as well as other things. I think it is certainly the duty of the farmer and his wife also to read enough to keep them in touch with the news, both political and otherwise. It is easily done, but it is better to make a start on the long winter evenings. As the rush of work begins it is easy to glance over the headlines and see the topic in which you are interested. When you are churning, glance over the article; if you have a washing machine have a magazine handy and read while you turn it. Look over your paper while a meal is waiting. I usually get my work over by 9.30 or 10 o'clock, and then read for half an hour or more. It is as restful as sleeping for me, because if the day has been an annoying one, I forget it in my interest in what I read. These are simply suggestions from one farmer's wife to others on how to get posted on politics well enough to vote, should we ever get the chance!

I also disagree with "Bushwhacker" when she says "no one is to blame if an individual has not sufficient control of his appetite to know when to stop." "Am I my brother's keeper?" All of us know how easily led many people are. If there were no bars, there would rarely be temptation; tho, for my part, I think that the making of alcoholic liquors should be totally prohibited. Surely a thing which is so deadly to mankind is an abomination to mankind. We hang a man who murders another; how much worse than a murderer is a man who deliberately and for money makes something which causes the death of thousands, the wrecking of homes and the destruction of youth!

In reading over "Bushwhacker's" letter I notice she says, "If women neglect the home, as they will do, more or less, there will soon be a larger number of loafers on the street." Now, if anyone can, by any stretch of imagination, give a reason for women neglecting the home because they vote, I am sure we shall all be grateful. It seems to me that men are more liable to enjoy the home if their wives take the trouble to post themselves on the questions of the day and talk on such topics rather than the gossip a great many women regale their husbands with. Surely, the mere matter of going to the polls and voting will take no more time than a trip to town.

AMERICAN.

Spanish Eggs

Boil for twenty minutes a teacupful of rice in two quarts of boiling water, containing a tablespoonful of salt, drain thru a colander and add a tablespoonful of butter. Spread the rice thin over a hot platter, and place on top of it six poached eggs. Serve at once.

Austrian Baked Eggs

Poach fresh eggs one at a time; then put in a well-buttered baking-dish; sprinkle with salt, pepper, bits of butter and grated cheese. Pour over the top one-half cup of cream sauce and cover with fine bread crumbs. Set in the oven to brown and serve hot with tomato sauce.

Belgian Eggs

Take four eggs, two cupfuls of milk, four tablespoonfuls of sugar, one teacupful of flour. Beat whites separate; add flour to the yolks and sugar; beat until stiff. Beat the whites and scald in milk; remove from the milk and set aside. Take the yolk and stir gently in the milk until thick. Remove from fire. Place in a dish to cool. Flavor with vanilla. Heap the beaten whites on top.

On Caragh Lake

(By Clinton Seollard)

I
On Caragh lake the evening light
Is violet and amethyst,
And the dark shadows of the pines
In silence keep their twilight tryst
And high beyond the purple groves
The sweeping moors, the climbing fells,
The rugged Kerry mountains stand
Like grim eternal sentinels.
In dying whispers on the shore
The ripples lap, the ripples break,
And there is peace beyond all words
As night descends on Caragh lake!

II
In unexpected grooves of flight
A blundering bat swoops swiftly by;
From out a copse drifts a bird's
Last plaintive melody.
The lake is like a mirror dim
With no disturbing breath to mar
While o'er a lonely fell there burns
One white vespertal star.

lieve that woman would neglect her home if given the franchise, I should still be in favor of granting it, for I believe that we have no moral right whatever to withhold it. And I should still have left for reflection the fact that the present state of affairs is not altogether conducive to the best interests of the family tree, and that we "lords of creation" hang onto some of the relics of barbarism just a little too long to promote sex amiability.

Our present social system permits certain evils to exist that are dragging many a boy and girl down the road that many of us hate to mention even, and yet, because of sex prejudice, a woman must not so much as raise her finger in opposition. Many and varied are the snares set to catch her boy and her girl, and seriously, she needs a little more working margin in the form of the franchise.

We hear much these days about "race suicide," but in my humble opinion there are worse things than a failure to be born. If the welfare of the child is to be neglected by those responsible for his very existence, "it were better for that child had he never been born." I am free to admit that giving woman the franchise won't

because human nature is human nature and will be so to the end of time. We can hardly hope to see the drinker held up as an example of all that is good and noble, as having ascended to the pinnacle of true citizenship. That the average drinker has good principles is readily admitted, but they are only discernible when he is absolutely sober. Yours very sincerely,

"DUMPY."

STUDIES POLITICS

Dear Miss Beynon:—The letter from "Bushwhacker" seems to call for an answer from those of us who believe most decidedly that women do need the franchise. I live on a farm and have all the duties which fall to the lot of farm women. I also have four children, the oldest six, yet I am easily able to keep up on the political questions of the day as well as my husband, and by the same means, namely, the papers. We do not attend political meetings and cannot see where they are of much benefit anyway. The speaker usually tells what his party will do, if elected, and what the other party has not done. Now, according to my way of thinking, the farmer is better off if he forgets party and looks at principles.