

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

THE RUSSIAN AND HIS VODKA

Ruth Kedzie Wood, an American traveler and authoress, who paused by the way, the other day spoke very emphatically of the curse the Vodka shops had been to Russia. Drunken peasants lay strewn everywhere along the road, with the mud from the carts splashing upon them and no one thought to drag them away, it was such a common occurrence. Both the men and the women drank, but the men most.

Their intemperance was not to be marveled at, she claimed, in view of the miserable condition of their lives. About eighty-five per cent. of the people are engaged in the farming industry, and of these many are so poor that they hardly manage to live from one season to the next. She was very hopeful that the closing of the vodka shops would prove to be the beginning of a new era for the peasantry of Russia.

The war, too, in other respects, unmitigated evil as it seems, would, she believed, prove a blessing in disguise in freeing these people from their social and political slavery.

At any rate, it is an interesting spectacle to see a people so addicted to liquor suddenly deprived of their drink without anarchy resulting. Undoubtedly it is because the peasantry of Russia has been so much accustomed to being ruled by an iron hand that they accept this drastic change so placidly, as, unquestionably, it is the Englishman's strong feeling for personal liberty which has made him show up so badly on the liquor question in this great national crisis.

Nevertheless, when men are dying by the thousand at the front because we are short of munitions of war is not the time for the individual to reduce his efficiency by self-indulgence.

NO COMPETITION

The difficulty of converting women themselves to the use of labor-saving devices in the home is given by the manufacturers as the reason for the high cost of these articles, according to the Delineator. It goes on to comment on this fact editorially and declares that the reason women are so slow to adopt modern methods which make for efficiency is that they never have to encounter competition in their work. Unfortunately, from the standpoint of efficiency, they have a sure and certain life job. If Smith doesn't like Mrs. Smith's cooking, he cannot say to her, "Mr. Brown's wife is a far better cook and housewife than you are, and if you don't look up and do better, I'll make her a proposition to take on the job." If that were possible, women generally would be keyed up to a higher standard of efficiency in their homes and they would find it necessary to provide themselves with every appliance which would aid them in keeping their houses spotlessly clean and their tables provided with the best of food, properly cooked and well served.

Such an opinion will no doubt raise a storm of protest from housewives all over the country, some of whom think that they are first class housekeepers, and perhaps are really so, and from others who will protest that they are not in a financial position to install labor-saving devices.

Let us take up first the case of the really capable housewife. Her house, if she is really an efficient housewife, will be spotlessly clean and tidy from garret to basement, inclusive, and the back yard will be as presentable as the front. There will be no grimy curtains and no mussed cupboards. Anything short of absolute cleanliness and order in the home is inefficiency.

The food served to the family will be well balanced, perfectly cooked and daintily served. Moreover, the funds expended by her for house furnishings and clothing will bring one hundred per cent. returns in real value.

Anything less than this is inefficiency in a greater or less degree. In order to reach such results the woman who

does her own work must arrange a very complete system of work and must introduce all the labor-saving devices as she can afford them. She needs a power washer and mangle, waterworks and sewer, screen doors and windows, a vacuum cleaner and a dustless mop and duster, and as soon as there is a thoroughly practical one on the market, a dish-washer.

Without these appliances it is practically impossible for one woman to keep a perfectly spotless house, provide proper food for the family and have a moment left in which to call her soul her own and cultivate the finer things of life.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

HEAD CHEESE

Dear Miss Beynon:—In The Grain Growers' Guide Homemakers Column there was a request for a recipe for head cheese. This is one we have used for years: Soak the head in salted water until all blood is gone. Boil until the

pulpit is one of the most exhausting things known—tho it looks easy—and most ministers on Monday mornings are mere nervous wrecks. Perhaps your correspondent occasionally visits her friends? Does she ever come home tired? How would she care to pay forty or fifty calls a week, with long drives in between them? The minister frequently has to do that and to come up fresh and smiling at each place of call.

The minister is everybody's property, and so, for that matter, is his wife. He must always be ready with consolation for the sick and dying, with advice and help for the needy, and in addition must make the church pay its way and run smoothly.

Your correspondent, doubtless, does her spring cleaning once a year and admires the result, her husband seeds his land and harvests his crop; the minister is always sowing, and on poor soil, and never sees his harvest, he is always cleaning up and the floor on which he works only seems as dirty as before.

The minister has expenses which the

and a greater tendency for her to become a godly nation. Yours faithfully,
T. C. B. BOON.

Goodlands, Man.

DO YOU CAN PEAS?

Dear Miss Beynon:—I will just write a few lines to let you know there is another farmer's wife who gets much enjoyment and help by reading your Homemakers Page.

I have watched this page very closely for the past few months and quite agree with the ladies about women voting. I think if they were entitled to a vote they would do much good for the world in general. Some time ago there was a discussion on the Homemakers Page about rug making. I must say I find rugs very useful things in using up old clothes. I tear the best part of the clothes in strips of carpet rag width, sew them all together, wind in a ball and knit them with wooden needles. First I knit a piece about twenty inches wide and thirty inches long. Then knit a border about six inches wide and long enough to reach around the main piece, if round corners are desired; or, if square corners are preferred, knit two pieces as long as the main piece and sew one on each side. Then knit two pieces long enough to reach across the end after side pieces are sewn on. This makes a very nice rug to put in the kitchen, in front of washstand or door. It saves lots of scrubbing, and I think that is what every farmer's wife aims to do is to save all the work she can.

Would some of the readers please send a nice recipe for bottling green peas, and in exchange I am sending a nice supper dish. It is good, and easy to prepare.

Apple Fritters

1 cup of sweet milk, 1 egg beaten well, 3 tablespoonfuls sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful of lemon extract, a little salt, 1 small teaspoonful of baking powder. Add flour enough to make as stiff as pancake batter. Then pare, core and slice thin three apples and add to the mixture. Grease griddle and bake in the same way as pancakes. Serve hot with syrup. Two teaspoonfuls of egg powder may be used instead of eggs in case you don't have eggs. You can also use any kind of fruit.

Wishing you every success, I will sign myself,

JUST A YOUNG WIFE.

INFORMATION ON BUGS

Dear Miss Beynon:—If "Spring-water" will enclose a United States five cent piece (not Canadian) to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., and ask him to send "Circular No. 47, Bureau of Entomology, upon the Bedbug," she will find all information how to destroy them. If it is desired to destroy them by fumigating the whole house, then let her send 10 cents altogether and ask for "Circular No. 46" as well, "Hydrocyanic Acid Gas against Household Insects." Probably a letter addressed to the Entomologist, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, mailed free, will obtain the desired information free of charge. I have recipes here myself, but I can recommend the above way. On application, the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., will send a list of most useful papers on every conceivable subject of interest to anyone, most of them costing only five or ten cents.

BACHELOR.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

A little cork fell on the path of a whale, And he lashed it down with his mighty tail; But in spite of his blows, it quickly arose And floated serenely in front of his nose. Said the cork, "You may flap and sputter and rap But you never can keep me down, For I've made of stuff that is buoyant enough To float instead of drown."



Furniture of simple design, painted white

meat leaves the bone, skimming all the froth. Set the liquor to cool. The meat we separate, the lean from the fat, when cold, then run it thru the meat chopper, using the medium disc. Take the fat off the liquor, using some of it to moisten the meat, boil for fifteen or twenty minutes. We use some kind of cereal, corn meal or wheat granules preferred by us. Seasoning to taste. This is nice cold or fried, rolled in flour then dipped in whipped egg. Hoping this may meet the approval of those who asked for the recipe.

FARMER'S WIFE.

PREACHERS' LIFE NOT EASY

Dear Miss Beynon:—The letter which appears in your issue of June 2, under the heading of "Ministers have an easy life," is a most charming example of the ignorance of the average Canadian woman, and a striking instance of the superficial view she takes of life.

Nobody who has any ordinary knowledge of a minister's life, from that of a bishop to that of a humble Methodist parson, will subscribe to the view that it is easy. In the first place it is a pecuniary sacrifice. There are few ministers, who, if their intellectual qualities had been used in other spheres, could not become comparatively wealthy men. Secondly: No minister can preach and do his work unless he puts in hours a week of patient and laborious study; this is part of his work which is not apparent to the public eye and hence foolish people imagine that it does not exist. Next there is the physical strain; public speaking from

ordinary person knows nothing about. He should spend at least fifty dollars a year on books; he has to pay cash for his goods where the ordinary farmer gets his on credit and then signs a note for them in the fall. The farmer, when he sells his wheat handles the money; I sometimes wonder what is the percentage of ministers in Canada whose salary is always there for them on the exact date.

And in the end, when his mind and body have been used up in the public service, when his best years have been spent in the most depressing and discouraging kind of toil there is, when he has spent forty years of his life in semi-poverty, then he is to be grudging the superannuation fund which would allow him a few years of quiet and unworried ease before he is put into his grave. And why, pray? For fear of encouraging insincere men. The day has gone by when insincere men can stay in the public ministry of the church; the minister lives too close to the deeper things of life to be able to stand the strain unless he is sincere; it is only perfect sincerity which will keep him at his post. The weakness of the church in Canada is that people who call themselves church members have a very pleasant habit of "putting their religion in the minister's name"; the man who takes up the ministry is expected to be something of a cross between a moral super-man and the Jewish scape-goat. When Canada treats her ministers as human beings and extends to them the sympathy she should there will be less immorality and corruption in both private and public life,