

Our Welfare Page

Conducted By Mrs. John McNaughtan, Piche, Sask.
"The welfare of each is the concern of all."

AN EVENTFUL YEAR

A PART from the world-wide turmoil, one is privileged to look back upon the most eventful year in the history of Saskatchewan. What of the two outstanding features—the enfranchisement of women and the passing of the bars and dispensaries.

The women have worked faithfully and in many cases strenuously to help bring about the closing of the dispensaries, but in this work they were united. Will the organized women stand united at the next election? If not, how will they divide? How many will be affected by the "patronage" curse? Already a number of workers for certain reforms have received the hint that in the future, the present means whereby they received their bread and butter is likely to be affected by their political attitude.

One of the most far reaching reforms in the future would be the establishment of a system whereby all government officials could obtain their positions by an efficiency test and having so obtained them be politically free.

What about prohibition? It seems to me that we have scarcely started our work in this respect. We have a lot to do, but the mail order houses and other inter-provincial methods will shortly restore it to us in its most malignant form. What are we going to do?

New Year Resolves

My Dear Readers:—A Happy New Year to all. I wish you all that you wish yourselves. How many resolutions are you going to make? Did you ever list them and can you remember how few of them you ever kept?

I have been sitting here tonight trying to recollect the many different ways that I have spent the thirty New Year Eves that I can remember.

I remember spending quite a number in the then orthodox manner of attending midnight service. I almost thought I had attended twenty such services, until I began to reckon up the number of Christmas pantomimes I had taken in on New Year's Eve. Somehow I have a more distinctly London impression of London, from the New Year Eves spent at "Aladdin," "The Babes in the Wood," etc., with the old-time favorites Dan Leno and Herbert Campbell, at the height of their popularity.

"Arry and 'Arriet" always seemed to be more in evidence. Perhaps they sported a "pit" seat instead of the gallery on New Year's Eve. Their buttons, and feathers and oranges! How quickly a pantomime crowd catches up the latest refrain? And by the way, why does a Canadian crowd not care to do this at concert or play? And after the play, The crowded and lighted streets, the world and the underworld. How close the Strand and the Thames embankment? What different pictures. And coming home from the pantomime on New Year's Morn! The syrens on the river trying to drown the hooting of the locomotives, and in an occasional pause the sound of the church bells. How attentive were the porters and policemen! And how the Scots gathered in St. Paul's churchyard to keep up the time honored custom. But they are talking "prohibition" now.

And then I remember the New Year parties where we used to adjourn to the top of the church tower to watch the Old Year out, and the New Year in. But there was no midnight service inside this time and other New Year Eves, when rounds of visits were made, and mince pies and egg flip were the order of the night. (There are two kinds of egg flip) And so many different mince pies, so many happy months, so one needed to make a round dozen visits. And then the "Waits" and the "hand bells." Old time customs these perhaps, but they promoted much good fellowship. What customs are we going to hand down? Once more, "A Happy New Year."

Liquor Stores Closed December 30.

Complete returns are not yet available regarding the referendum. Those that are to hand show such an overwhelming majority against the stores, that the Hon. A. Turgeon, attorney-general for the province, announced that every store would be closed on Saturday, December

30th, 1916. The complete returns from the cities show that 15,419 voted against and 2,430 for the maintenance of the liquor stores. The soldiers voted 1462 in favor of closing them and 452 against.

A Hospital Managed By Women

One of the most interesting phases of women's work which I saw in France was that of the Scottish Women's Hospital Association, at the hospital at Royau-mont, where I was glad to find we had a Canadian ward, with a Canadian flag on the walls.

The hospital is entirely managed by women; the surgeons, the nurses, the orderlies, the chauffeurs operating the motor ambulances are all women. The hospital building is the old Abbey and the Canadian ward was the old refectory—a beautiful Gothic hall. The women in charge have the real sense of the artistic as well as of the philanthropic. On every cot, there was a bright red blanket, and the bright red blankets presented a most pleasing contrast with the grey walls of the refectory. Each soldier, as he convalesces and is able to go about the grounds, also wears a bright red coat, and the contrast of the coats of the patients with the green of the beautiful park surrounding the Abbey make a very pleasing scene. In this hospital, I saw a number of the French Colonial troops—the great, powerful Senegalese, the blackest men one can see, side by side with the Tunisian Arabs, spare and agile. As the hospital is near the front, many of the most serious cases are taken to it. It was a very interesting and touching sight to see these wounded soldiers of France, men of Africa, of the Mohammedan faith being brought back to life and health by the skill and tender ministry of the Christian Women of Great Britain.

The marvellous spirit which France has displayed in this war and the wonderful achievements of the French soldiers have only been made possible by the heroism, the devotion and the self sacrifice of the women of France.—Hon. N. K. Rowell.

Query?

Dear Mrs. McNaughtan:—I am not long arrive in this country and what you call a foreigner. In your page I yet sometimes read, so will you please what I ask to me explain. In this country, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, the people do for prohibition speak absolute. I am so told this is not so, it must not, cannot be, for why, because long, long time ago, some very wise men, they found out they themselves more than enough for that time know, so laws they make for everybody who after them live.

Now, Mrs. Editor, please tell me is this a joke on me or everybody, won't you? I as well her that what you Direct Legislation call which is where I am come from, is all shut up in this same one box. Please tell me what sort of joke is also this?

NEW COUNTRY-WOMAN.

N.B.—Glad to have your letter. Will try to answer your questions next week.—V. McN.

Confirmation

Dear Mrs. McNaughtan:—I have been staying here, in a newly settled district, for some months. I have so often thought about you since I came. This is just one of those places you speak of in your addresses: fourteen new babies expected in the immediate district during the winter, and no doctor or nurse nearer than 16 or 17 miles.

I visited a neighbor yesterday who had just returned with her baby. It had cost her over \$70.00, so you cannot blame people very much if they try to manage with the help of a neighbor, and in this case there was not been a neighbor who could go. This "medical aid" question certainly needs attention.

F. E. S.

Subscribers are requested to advise us if they have any reason to doubt the reliability of any advertiser in The Saturday Press and Prairie Farm.

BOYS FEED HOGS—LEARN PROFIT

ONE of the practical schemes of the Ontario Department of Agriculture has been the hog feeding competitions, the prizes for which are based on profits and type.

These competitions are open to young men who have taken the four weeks' Courses in Agriculture conducted by the District Representatives. The prize is the Short Course in Live Stock and Seed Judging at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, January 9th to 20th, transportation to Guelph and return and board and lodging while there.

Where eight or more contestants finished in a competition two men are being sent to Guelph.

The hogs were selected when six weeks old and a value of \$4.00 each was placed on them at that age. Contestants were allowed to feed four and select the best three at the end of the competition. They were fed until 22 weeks of age and a record kept of the amount of feed used each week. Feed was valued as follows:

	Per Ton
Ground Oats.....	\$25.00
Ground barley.....	25.00
Ground Peas.....	35.00
Ground Rye.....	28.00
Ground Wheat.....	35.00
Bran.....	23.00
Low-grade Flour or Red Dog.....	32.00
Shorts or Middlings.....	25.00
Tankage.....	46.00
Green Feed.....	2.00
Skim Milk.....	5.00
Skim Milk.....	6.00
Whey.....	3.00
Pasture.....	75c per hog.

In estimating the profit the cost of the hogs, live weight, fed and watered, was taken at 11½¢ per pound. The prize was awarded by taking into consideration both the profit and the type, 50 per cent being allowed for each, the bacon hog score card being used for scoring type.

The following were the scores of some of the winners:

Ave. Cost	Ave. Value	Ave. Profit
Production		
\$11.11	\$27.48	\$16.37
9.28	25.51	16.23
12.92	28.44	15.52
9.83	25.07	15.24
13.28	28.44	15.16
11.13	25.76	14.63
9.06	23.46	14.40
11.35	25.62	14.27
10.21	24.38	14.17
9.81	23.88	14.07

THE GERMAN TRENCH HOUSES

THE German front in the West, the London Times tells us, is like a huge village that is strung out along a road three hundred miles long. Of course the houses are all underground. Still they are houses of one or two floors, built according to certain official designs.

The main door, of a pattern apparently standardised, so that hundreds come from the factory on one order, and missing parts can be easily replaced. The heavily timbered doorway is made to their measure. Inside, a flight of from twelve to thirty-six stairs leads down at an easy angle. The treads of the stairs and the descending roof of the staircase are formed of mining frames of stout timber, with double top sills; the walls are of thick planks notched at the top and bottom to fit the frames, and strengthened with iron tie-rods that run from top to bottom of the stairs and with thick wooden struts at right angles to the tie-rods.

At the foot of the stairs a tunneled corridor runs straight forward for perhaps fifty yards, and from it rooms and minor passages open on either side. In some of the dugouts a second staircase leads to a lower floor, which may be as much as thirty or forty feet below the trench level.

These staircases, passages and rooms are usually completely lined with planks. In one typical dugout each section of a platoon had its allotted place for messing and sleeping, its own place for parade in a passage, and its own emergency exit to the trench. In another, used as a dressing station, there were beds for thirty-two patients and a fair-sized operating room. A third, near Mametz, was designed to house three hundred men, with the needful kitchens, provision and munition storerooms, a well, a forge, an engine room and a motor room. Many of the captured dugouts were thus lighted by electricity.

In the officers' quarters there have been found full-length mirrors, comfortable bedsteads, cushioned armchairs and some pictures. One room is lined with glazed

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"sanitary" wall paper, and the present English occupant is convinced by circumstantial evidence that his predecessor lived there with his wife and child. Clearly, there was no expectation of an early move.

FAMINE PRICES FOR PAPER

The U. S. Trade Commission has completed its investigation into the present prices for paper and its cost of manufacture. No industry is more seriously threatened by the extravagant rise in the prices of raw materials than the printing and publishing businesses. Periodicals other than newspapers, for instance, must suddenly pay, in 1917, from 75 to 100 per cent more for their raw material—paper—than in any year for the last decade. The Trade Commission report in its remarks on the mill costs of paper manufacture made the striking statement that during the first half of 1916, when the prices of paper to the consumer were soaring, the cost of producing the paper was actually less than it had been at any time during the preceding three years. This remarkable finding, in the face of claims by the manufacturers that the prices of their raw materials had risen extravagantly, is explained simply and finally by the following facts: The ingredients for which the mill had to pay higher prices made up only a small percentage of the aggregate cost factors; and that disadvantage was more than swept away by the great cost reductions resulting from operating the mills twenty-four hours a day six days in the week, with every pound of paper sold without effort or expense to clamoring buyers. In spite of this fortunate situation of the paper makers, buyers of news-print not protected by contract arrangements have had to pay as high as six and even seven cents a pound for paper that would have cost them under like conditions in 1914 less than three cents. The Trade Commission finds that the 1916 mill cost of producing this news-print paper is about 1.65 cents.

The A

Good Attendance an

THE annual convention of the cultural Societies of the province was held at the week, there being a large gates present. Hugh M. Jaw, was elected chairman. Interesting addition by Dean Rutherford, President of Manitoba College, F. L. minister of agriculture, Director S. E. Greenway, which was in part as follows:

Since my report to you have been 4 new societies the Minister of Agriculture total for the province the year more or less societies to the number of Grain Growers' Association associated with my department held exhibitions and other for which I have supplied facilities have been free of charge by over 40 Grain Growers' Societies during the year.

The following table will show the comparative growth of agricultural societies during the year. The following table will show the comparative growth of agricultural societies during the year.

Spring Stallion Shows.....	13
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Seed Fairs.....	87
Poultry Shows.....	25

I look for progress in spring show. We have four over the preceding indicated a thirty per cent increase, and fifty per cent money offered which \$2282. There were 177

The ploughing match over the high figure year, 868 farmers competed. The societies this purpose this year. The match of the year is at Dundurn of the Grain Growers' had an attendance of 1000. A committee appointed ploughing as a check on judge provided by my

The Standing Crop taking on more and more good farming competition held 90 competitions, 10 and 40-acre plots of oats, barley, flax, corn, grass, farm gardens and competitions. For this was raised and 686 for Each society can earn this work, by offering different crops. Many of doing this.

An increased interest throughout the province, I was asked of horses to several J held this year, and 18 agricultural exhibitions, and the day is not far away cultural society work without recourse to g You will be interested there are more than have an entry list in exhibitions of 200, and 300.

The help problem for a slight decrease in stock entires other exhibits of ladies' growth. The director list more attractive present the women encouraged by only very a total offering of about provided in the live s of the societies are fi pointment of women able aid to their work cation that horse raci ously endowed as in t few cases.

There have been h during the year about fairs. This activity i the societies except i