

The Woman's Quiet Hour

By E. Cora Hind

It is not good to be one of the travelling public in Saskatchewan in this latter half of the year of grace 1915. Unable to reach the Government the disgruntled hotel keepers are, in many cases, taking their grievance over the closing of the bars out of the travelling public, while at the same time they are raising their rates. Advances in rates run all the way from 50c. to \$1.00 per day. The majority of travellers would undoubtedly be quite willing to pay the additional rate (though it is a little hard to understand why it should be 50c. in one town and \$1.00 in another only a few miles off), but having paid it, naturally they want the worth of their money, but they are not getting it. The writer of this column has just returned from a somewhat extended trip in Saskatchewan, and speaks out of the fullness of experiences many of them far from pleasant. In a number of towns the hotels have been promptly closed without warning to the public, and many an unfortunate traveller has alighted at a station where there is but one train daily, only to find, after the train has pulled out that the hotel is boarded up. In the majority of such towns it is possible to get a meal of sorts, but a decent bed is much more difficult to negotiate.

At very many points, where the higher rates are being charged, porters to meet the trains have been cut out, and the traveller has the pleasure or pain of testing muscle by lugging baggage often three, four or five blocks to the hotel and lugging it back to the station on departure. In very many of the houses there is an air of sullen resentment that is extremely unpleasant.

It seems to me that in removing the bars the Government should have made some provision to protect innocent travellers from so much annoyance, but as a matter of fact the Governments of the provinces have never really protected the travelling public, only those persons who wanted to imbibe "spirituous and malt liquors." While the governments have not done their duty, it is equally true that the organized temperance forces of the West have not seized a very obvious opportunity to make "banished bars" popular by themselves catering to the travelling public. There are throughout the United States and Europe many lines of hotels covering often several states or countries and all under one central management, and very excellent management it is. Why should not the temperance people organize some form of joint stock or co-operative company, and eventually control the accommodation for the travelling public throughout the three prairie provinces, and see that they get uniformly good service at reasonable rates. The amount of stock might, like

a company was got under way, and went to the governments with a reasonable proposition properly worked out in detail, there would not be much trouble in getting the governments to limit the number of hotels in any one town, to put them under license and to require a certain degree of accommodation and efficiency, which would be ascertained by regular inspection.

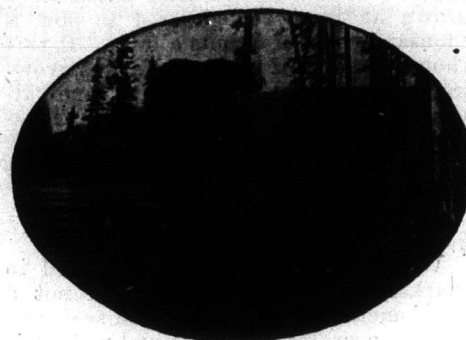
Inspectors of hotels should be properly trained women. In fact the inspectors of all public and industrial buildings should be women. In all the smaller towns and villages the management of the hotels could also profitably and successfully be in the hands of women. After all it is only housekeeping on a little larger scale.



The Allies seem to have won the day in the Balkans and their diplomacy has made its first triumph in Roumania which is said to be ready for a declaration of war against the Teutons and a participation in the campaign against Constantinople. This picture, just received from Roumania, shows King Ferdinand in his quaint costume

In all the smaller towns and villages the hotel, without the objectionable and dangerous feature of the liquor bar might and should become a social centre for the whole community. If a rule, even if present buildings were taken over, to secure a small piece of land, either adjoining the hotel so near to it as to be convenient, and have this made into a garden with lawn and possibly tennis courts or similar attractions for summer evenings. A small fee could be charged sufficient for upkeep. The dining room of the hotel could be used for local dances and other festivities, in this way adding to the revenue and furnishing a much more convenient place than the chance hall without proper dressing rooms or means of serving supper. It could also serve as a gathering place for women's meetings which include the women of all denominations. The rest rooms which are in such demand for the women coming in from the farms, could very economically and satisfactorily be located in a hotel without a bar. In fact the scheme opens up wide possibilities for the social life

of the community, and in addition it would serve to stimulate tourist travel through the provinces. In these days of motors what more delightful than to run out to a well kept hotel in some charming prairie village or town for the week-end? People would do it by the score



Emergency Station at Bear Creek, B.C.

if they were sure of clean comfortable rooms and good home meals, plain but well cooked and well served. In this way the country and the cities would be drawn more closely together to the mutual advantage of both. If all the provinces were organized and the business run on a sufficiently large scale it would be possible to have each hotel supplied with its own water works and electric lighting plant in the smaller places where no town supply is available. To the motorist the attraction of the well kept country hotel where a good bath is obtainable after a long run in summer heat is very great. This business of catering to the travelling public and the local requirements of the smaller towns and villages might well become a profitable and highly respected calling for a large number of women. The only way to bring about this much to be desired end is for the women to at once begin agitating for this system to supplant that of the present hotels. It is no use to expect a man who has been engaged on the liquor business, when forcibly deprived of this source of revenue to be very keen on making his hotel pleasant without it. In a great many instances the hotel buildings are owned by or heavily mortgaged to wholesale liquor dealers or manufacturers, who demand interest on their money, or who have had very high rents for buildings as licensed houses, and are not willing to take less. That hotel property has been absurdly inflated there is no manner of doubt. Also many of the hotels erected are far too costly and far too large for the towns in which they are located. The whole problem will take time and money to work out, but if the various temperance organizations wish hotels without liquor to become popular and prevent a clamor for the return of the old system they must be prepared to work hard and take small profits possibly for some years no profits at all, if the good work is to be thoroughly established.

Have had several letters about Red Cross work, and have answered them to the best of my ability. Let me say once more that local organizations in small towns and rural districts would be well to avoid the making of surgical dressings and confine their efforts to those lines of work which require no sterilization. Might I say a word about making supplies of shirts, socks, bed linen, etc. A great deal of the work sent in has had to be remodelled; pyjamas with sleeves upside down are by no means uncommon, and sheets and pillow covers not of regulation size continue to arrive. Regular instructions are issued, and can be obtained by writing the secretary Red Cross for Manitoba, Keewayden Building, Winnipeg, and it is a pity to spoil a fine effort of helpfulness by trifles such as these. There are reasons and good ones for the regulation of sizes, and why not add to your gift the grace of being just exactly what was called for.

By the way donations of money for the Red Cross, sent to any of the provincial centres, such as Winnipeg for Manitoba, Regina for Saskatchewan, are forwarded to England absolutely free of expense. Of course for the looking after the offices, in Winnipeg, for example, there must be a secretary with a stenographer,

and system of books. The answering of correspondence alone is practically two people's work. Then there is the buying of supplies, the cutting out of garments, the giving out to be made and the receiving after they are made, the checking of parcels from the country, the listing and proper packing of all supplies for ocean shipment. This part of the work cannot be done by voluntary helpers, because it must be done regularly and systematically day after day, or else there will be a break in the stream of supplies, possibly just when they are most needed. Salaries for the necessary officials are being paid, but that is all; the givers of money and supplies may rest absolutely content that not one dollar is being wasted, and the Red Cross work is being run so that the minimum of expense is incurred, and the maximum of efficiency attained.

September

(George Arnold)

Sweet is the voice that calls
From babbling waterfalls
In meadows where the downy seeds are
flying;
And soft the breezes blow
And eddying come and go,
In faded gardens where the rose is flying.

Among the stubbled corn
The blithe quail pipes at morn,
The merry partridge drums in hidden
places,
And glittering insects gleam
Above the reedy stream
Where busy spiders spin their filmy laces.

Ah, soon on field and hill
The winds shall whistle chill.
And patriarch swallows call their flocks
together
To fly from frost and snow,
And seek for lands where blow
The fairer blossoms of a balmy weather.

The pollen-dusted bees
Search for the honey-les
That linger in the last flowers of Sep-
tember,
While plaintive mourning doves
Coo sadly to their loves
Of the dead summer they so well remember

Yet though a sense of grief
Comes with the falling leaf,
And memory makes the summer doubly
pleasant,
In all my autumn dreams
A future summer gleams,
Passing the fairest glories of the present.

Legal Formality

Mr. John G. Carlisle tells of a case that many years ago he was called upon to try before a justice of the peace in the mountains of Kentucky.

This justice of the peace was also a blacksmith. He came into court from his smithy, and, retaining his leather apron, mounted the bench with all possible solemnity of manner. The worthy man was very officious in his manner, trying hard to imitate the legal dignitaries he had seen in the surrounding districts. It was plainly to be seen, says Mr. Carlisle, that the good man had determined that in the presence of a "city" lawyer from Louisville, it behooved him, the justice, to assume a judicial air that would be doubly impressive. The case under trial was that in which suit was brought for the payment of feed furnished certain horses. Mr. Carlisle represented the defendant, and the defence madewas that the bill had been paid. When argument had been had, the justice delivered himself of the following:

"The court is very familiar with this case. The court has listened to what the witnesses have got to say and the talk of the lawyers. The court will not decide this case just now. It reserves its opinion. The case goes under advisement for three days, and the court will then decide the case in favor of the plaintiff."

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Totem Pole, Kitwanga, B.C. G.T.P. Railway

that of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, be limited as to the number of shares that could be held by any one individual, thus preventing the control getting into the hands of a very few. If such