

At the Sign of the Maple

A DEPARTMENT MAINLY FOR WOMEN

Parcels Post and the Housewife

By MARY JOSEPHINE TROTTER

THAT rare old Blue-beard, the "middleman," is likely to get his deserts in the near future, in this country. And will not Fatima, the housewife, be delighted? Poor bullied soul! Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux has brought in a resolution calling for the establishment of a parcels post system, in Canada, similar to that just inaugurated in the United States. And Hon. L. P. Pelletier, an obliging Sister Anne, is shading his eyes to see how the system works, in the country south. Rescue appears to be coming from that quarter. Poor old Bluebeard-in-general had better look to his pate and the express companies particularly and expressly.

The Postmaster-General may miss this important point in reporting what he sees across the border: that California women, acting through the National Housewives' League, are utilizing the new parcels post system there to facilitate direct dealings between the consumer and the producer. Henceforth, in their purchase of eggs, fowl, butter, garden truck and other farm products, the services of the middleman will be dispensed with—and a tooth will be knocked from the grin of the cost of living.

And perhaps the Postmaster-General will miss this little joke. A woman mailed a cake to a friend. And only half the article was delivered. The postman was suspected, even accused; but denied the charge. If the poor fellow dies—and if guilty he may—it will probably lead to the first post (office) mortem!

Developments in the Playgrounds Movement

IT will be admitted that Canada is a rather colossal lump for one woman, acting as leaven, to work with. But nothing staggers Miss Mabel Peters, who initiated the Playgrounds Movement in Canada and is, at present, attempting in this country the organization of a National Playground Association.

In her home city, St. John, New Brunswick, Miss Peters is still chairman of the original committee appointed by the Local Council of Women for the conduct of the playgrounds of that city, and she is president of the St. John Playground Association.



Miss Bernetta A. Miller, the American Aviatix, Who Will Fly Down Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, on March Third, in Advance of the Suffragette Pageant. She is Making an Original Newspaper Fiction a Fact.

St. John, thus, was the centre of the playgrounds development. The movement became extended with the appointment of Miss Peters to the office of chairman of the Vacation, School and Supervised Playground Committee of the Canadian National Council of Women—a committee which was appointed at her request.

According to Miss Peters, in *The Club Woman*, January: "It is the purpose of the playground enthusiasts in Canada to organize a National Playground Association, and the National Council and the various committees and associations have petitioned the several Provincial Boards of Education to provide special courses in the Normal schools for playground teachers or leaders."

Better than the benefits derived from curfew bells and a whole host of similar negative measures is the positive idea of child conservation as it is working out in our cities from coast to coast. The playgrounds idea is rapidly becoming a general one, due in practically every case to the Local Council of Women, and their success in securing both private and civic interest and co-operation. Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, London, Hamilton, Montreal and Amherst have all espoused the playgrounds idea and are loud in proclaiming its benefits.

Folk-dancing, games of all nations, swimming and children's entertainments—these are some of



No Longer is the Chinese Woman a Creature of Bound-up Foot and Brain—According to the Lectures of Dr. Yamee Kin, Head of the Imperial Pieyang Woman's Medical School and Hospital of China, Who at Present is Making a Tour of American Cities.

the pleasurable and profitable lures which are robbing the moving-picture halls to the peopling of the popular supervised playgrounds.

Miss Peters, along with her very fruitful efforts in this regard, is an ardent worker for woman suffrage and is vice-president of the Canadian Woman Suffrage Association.

"The Unheeding Street" a By-gone

THE day is gone when saints were accustomed to "thread the unheeding street." For streets have been learning the art of taking notice. At any rate, the other day, in downtown Montreal, business people were at pains to observe in a way that affected the pockets the fifty canvassers there abroad in the interests of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

The campaign started simultaneously in all parts of the city and all day long two thousand or more of the women collectors collected, with a clinking of coin that compensated fully for the endless ringing of door-bells. The forces were more than astonished at the big results.

Lest any difference of opinion exist as to whether or not the solicitors were saints, let this be noted: "In five years, the Victorian Order of Nurses has attended to fifteen thousand confinement cases and has not had one death, either mother or child.



Gaiety and Nobility Are Again to Be United By the Marriage of Miss Olive May, the Musical-Comedy Actress of "The Sunshine Girl," and Lord Victor Paget, Brother and Heir-Presumptive to the Marquess of Anglesey.

The charges for these visits ranged up to fifty cents, but in most cases, the clients of the Order being principally of the absolutely poverty-stricken class, the visits net no returns."

There are to-day sixty-one nurses employed by the Order, and these women are paying six or more visits daily. Their remuneration is small and the Order depends to a great extent on the charity of the public for its existence. Mrs. H. R. Ives was in charge of the down-town canvass.

Miss Wylie in the West

WAS it thought Miss Barbara Wylie had gone back 'ome, chastened if not completely subdued in spirit? No, for that is not the way of this militant suffragette who can scarcely say she came, she saw, she conquered.

The Wylie one was in Calgary, lately, taking it out on the women there for indifference and inaction—taking it out, I may say, Barbarously. She denounced indifference to the franchise equally with those crimes which exercise of the power to vote, on the part of women would remove. Her reference particularly touched the White Slave Traffic; and Calgary winced, mindful of local disclosures, recently, even though facts had been greatly exaggerated.

But inactive? The women of Calgary resented the imputation. And, indeed, the work of the Y. W. C. A., of the W. C. T. U., and the various women's bodies, to the end a cleaner, better, happier city, and efforts toward the establishment of educational centres—did not these sufficiently stamp the libel?

Also, why militate for that which is coming by natural methods—a higher schedule of women's wage and a better educational system? For instance, the city council of Edmonton at the moment is dealing with the question of the insufficient wage—as a result of a letter from the Women's Council of the United Aids, asking for the erection of a hostel for business girls. Again Albertan women not inactive!