

# The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY MARY P. McALLUM

Let us learn to be content with what we have. Let us get rid of our false estimates, set up all the higher ideals—a quiet home; vines of our own planting; a few books full of the inspiration of a genius; a few friends worthy of being loved and able to love us in return; a hundred innocent pleasures that bring us no pain or remorse; a devotion to the right that will never swerve; a simple religion worthy of dignity, full of trust and hope and love—and to such philosophy this world will give up all the empty joy it has. David Swing.

## PHILOSOPHY OF SAVING

Most of us are under the impression that we have learned about saving nearly all there is to learn. The fact of the matter is that we as a nation and individually are touching merely on the fringes of real saving. The saving of food nationally and individually has never seriously concerned us until recently. So many millions of people who before the war were contributing to the food supply of the world have been removed from that role and are now consuming without producing, that a possible shortage of food is now seriously brought to our notice.

And we think we are saving and we peel our potatoes before they are cooked when we should know that upwards of 20 per cent. of those peelings would be saved if peeled after cooking. We think we are saving and we buy vinegar and throw our apple and fruit parings to the pigs and rinse the remains of fruit in jars into the pig's feed. We think we have reached the pinnacle of saving and we still take a second serving of rich coconut pie. We are just learning the a b c's of saving in food as yet.

Nationally we are very wasteful. Thousands of tons of straw have been burned annually on the prairies. Scientists are experimenting in an endeavor to obtain gas from straw and they are enthusiastic over the measure of success they are obtaining. Millions of dollars of forests have been destroyed by fire and we scarcely gave the matter of a forest fire a second thought, for were there not millions of dollars in forests still standing? Food in inestimable quantities has been taken out of our land and wasted, leaving the land barren and poor. Ignorance and poor living conditions are costing thousands of lives. In fact we are more wasteful of human life than we are of almost anything else. Yet we wonder how we can save any more.

Our manner of living has been becoming more complex every year. We did not arrive at such a state of complexity without great cost and waste. It is impossible to get back to the old simplicity of former days nor do we wish to bring back former days, but we can attain a certain measure of simplicity even in the complexity of the modern days. And it is for that simplicity we should strive. Simplicity should be the basic fundamental of life at any time and certainly in a time of such tension and pressure as that of the present. Our whole civilization has been built on a process of waste, it would appear. Until we get back to a plane of simplicity and view things in their right perspective, we cannot hope to accomplish much in the way of fundamental economy. The statements of our food controller, Mr. Hanna, only verify the complexity of modern life. He is finding that the path between the producer and the consumer is so twisted and round about and so many people are implicated in that path that to simplify it would knock the bottom out of our economic situation. There was a time when our economic life was no more complex than the carrying of a bag of wheat to the corner store and the carrying back of some sugar and tea and other staple commodities. We must somehow get back to a happy medium between the extreme of those far-away days and the extreme of economic life today. Producer and consumer must get back to first principles of real and fundamental saving. Very little can be accomplished without serious study of the whole situation and a hearty co-operation. It does not solve the matter of take the re-

sponsibility off our shoulders to lay the blame for the present economic situation with its resultant high cost of living on the war, or the government, or Mr. Hanna, or the retailers, or the middlemen, or on anyone else. We have to face the problem of saving from our own standpoint and baffle with it in our own way, and bring to bear on it the light of our own philosophy. There is much yet to be learned about saving. In fact we are only in the kindergarten stage.

## THE COYOTE NUISANCE

I have always been an advocate against the wholesale butchery of prairie chickens, those low sufferers of year-round hardships in the west. Not so much did I pity the ducks. I compared them with the people who could afford to go to California for the winter. And I am glad that the American and Canadian governments are allied in protecting the prairie chickens this year.

But I wish they would form another alliance, and that is for the extermination of those pests the coyotes. There is just one word that can be said for the coyotes, but that can be disposed of in short order. They are great scavengers and dispose of dead carcasses, etc., that are thrown out. But a little legislation would compel people to look after that sort of thing.

Everywhere, nearly, in the west you hear farm women complaining of the coyotes being after their poultry. Every where you hear farmers saying that they would like to keep some sheep if it were not for the wolves. If these pests were removed the shortage of wool would very soon be relieved, saving thousands of dollars, besides building up a great national industry in both neighboring countries, that of wool growing.

Now we live in a jut of the Dominion buffalo park, near Wainwright, a reserve of 100,000 acres. Our place is fenced on two sides, in fact by the park fence, and in this tremendous area no shooting is allowed. The result is that it is a breeding place and a refuge for coyotes. Burrowers, they come under the fence, grab a chicken and dash back. They can laugh at you through the fence if they have any sense of humor, which no doubt they have, as they are "cute" enough for anything.

Three of my neighbors hereabouts have gone out of poultry raising entirely, and, with all my chicken raising this summer I have about what I started with in the spring. It is hard for people to fence in their chickens and feed them expensive grain when they should be out gleaning after the binder or scratching around the threshing-stings.

This spring a coyote took a young pig from near the stable. This fall, while the men were stacking grain, one came out before their eyes and grabbed a big buff rooster, the head of the flock, and dashed into the park with him. I think if the government brought in lots of hounds and organized regular hunts all over the country, it would be great, and the farmers could join in when the busy time is over. It would also be great sport, no doubt.

Individual action does not do much when such

tremendous areas are protected, where hundreds are raised every year to strike out all over the country, far and wide, to rob the poultry yards.

I'm sure thousands of western women in Canada and the States would be glad to see the coyote nuisance stamped out and hear their blood-curdling howls no more. They are a menace to young calves, too. A rancher told me not long ago that he saw a cow driving a wolf from her young calf while another was dragging it away, when he rode up and rescued the calf. Let us make concerted action, I say, and down with the wolf.

ANNIE SHEPPARD ARMSTRONG.

## A LETTER ABOUT MOTHERS

"Dear Bill:—We saw one of our boys off last night—off for France. . . . His brothers were with him, a sister too, and his sweetheart. Yes, and his mother was with him. He introduced the gang to his mother, and after he had done so, somehow it seemed he became the secondary member in the group. She hadn't a tear. As the youngest brother said to me today, 'Wasn't she great though? Mother always was there in a pinch.'"

"You can bank upon it, mother was there." She said very little. She was not upset. She was the head of the family, lending them courage and strength, rather than requiring it of them, and giving up her oldest son—the boy who had taken the place of his dead father—to the service of his country with a dauntless spirit that matched his sacrifice.

"There were tears in her eyes when she got back from the train. But there were other things there too—things that I couldn't describe and that I wouldn't if I could. The Kaiser had better look out for the boys who leave mothers like her, Bill. I'm strong for mothers."

—From a son "somewhere in Minneapolis."

## VOCATION CHOOSING

Girls who share the responsibilities of their home are usually those who love it most. The daughter should not be treated as a favored boarder, but as a contributor to the home. Adolescence is the time gently and earnestly to put into the girls' hand the tools of her future profession. The mother who says: "Oh, it's so much easier to do it myself," is doing her daughter a fatal wrong. Housework, marketing, the care of money, sewing, patience and unselfishness with children, these she must have if she is to be in her turn a successful homemaker.

When school is over, unless there is the daily bread to earn, nothing is better for a girl than to take a course in domestic science. Eugenics, psychology and physiology are also interesting and developing subjects to study.

Suppose, someone may suggest, that these girls who have been so elaborately prepared for the profession of motherhood, should not marry? What then? Has not a lot of valuable time and energy been wasted? I think not. A course of training such as I have suggested develops a woman along all the lines in which she is best fitted to influence her generation. Many women who have spent their whole lives in "mothering," have never actually given life. To prepare for motherhood and homemaking develops and perfects the highest instincts woman possesses and there is always a place for her to exercise her profession and a corner of the world crying out for her ministrations. Even if she never comes to the full glory of her life, yet will she in no way be debarrd from carrying on her vocation.—Mothers' Magazine.

Here are some of the things that we have been accustomed to import from Germany and Austria: lace, toys, artificial flowers, fruit and leaves, dress trimmings, chinaware, cutlery, combs, buttons, fancy goods, lead pencils, drugs, dyes, chemicals, musical instruments and parts and electrical apparatus.



A COMING GRAIN GROWER  
Little Willie Evans of Brookdale, Man., who knows all about farming and stock raising



CANOEING ON ROUND LAKE, NEAR PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN