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Female Labor on the Farm

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

It sames the labor troubles on the farm is not confined to us men and our work.

Last week the "Home Makers' Club" met with Nora, my wife. Bein' as I had a bit of a cowl I was in the house all day, and, belave me, yer honor, there was somethin' doin' every minute and a few words in betwene.

Says Mrs. Finnegan: "Sure and it's the awful toime I be havin'. Here I am wid a man and seven childer and two hoired men, and I can't get a girl atal. I've had foive in the last yare. The first was no good. The second didn't loike the childer, the third didn't loike me man, the fourth didn't loike work, and the last married the hoired man."

"Yis," says Mrs. Doherty, "it's the same wid me. Faith, and the only plan I can think of is to move to Alberta among the Mormons and Tom get another woife. Sure and it's aisier for a good-lookin' man to get an extra woife nor it is to get a girl to work."

Says Mrs. McDuff: "Yer roight, ladies, the min's problem aint half as bad as ours. Sure, a man does all he can and his woife does the rist. We have only two chances for a rist."

"And where's that?" says Nora.

"Battleford and the cemetery," says Mrs. McDuff.

Up spakes Mrs. Magee: "We're all agreed as how we can't get no help on the farms. We be always blamin' the girls because they won't work on the farm. Faith, ladies, and it strokes me as maybe the throuble is wid the farm and not wid the girls atal. Here's a noice girl I knowin' Regina. She's a stenographer. She works hard for \$45 a month, and she pays \$30 a month for board and \$5 for washin' and car tickets. She's workin' for \$10 a month, ye see, whin Mrs. Finnegan would pay her \$30."

"Hould on," says Mrs. Rafferty. "Sure and me girl is goin' to school in Regina, and it costs her \$40 a month to live, sayin' nothin' about clothes."

Says Mrs. Finnegan: "What we want to know is how to get female help on our farms. Say, Mrs. Black, sure ye always have a good girl. How do ye kape her? It bates me completely how yer girls always stays wid ye till they gits married."

Says Mrs. Black: "Me and me man jist trates her exactly the way we think we'd loike to be trated if we was in her place, and it works foine. Whin I was lavin' home to-day me girl says: 'Now, Mrs. Black, if Mrs. Murphy axes ye to stay for supper, jist ye stop as long as ye loike. I'll look after the house and fade the min and the hins.'"

Jist thin Kathlane come in wid some tay and chicken sandwiches—Nora is consarvin' the ham.

Says Mrs. Thompson: "Say, Kathlane, whin ye was goin' to Collagiate in Regina ye must have mit lots of girls. Can ye tell us why they won't work in the country? Sure and a girl on a farm can save more money nor a \$75-a-month-girl can in the city."

Says Kathlane: "Yis, Mrs. Thompson, I'll be tellin' ye. I've talked wid dozens of girls and I'll put ye wise. Take it from me if ye want girls on the farm ye must be after makin' the farm more attractive nor it is now. Wan thing is the lack of conveniences. The danged men will have ivereverything they want, from an automobile to a harrow cart, as their fathers niver dreamed of, and the women is still carryin' water and churnin' and washin' jist loike the women as come over on the Mayflower. Thin, again, the girls wants some company. On most farms her only chance is to flirt wid the hired man, and whin he is a German or an Austrian that chance is gone. Sure and yez women has bin talkin' for a long toime about 'community centres.' Why don't yez git busy and conscript foive acres more for yer school ground and have a noice garden and park and baseball and tennis and the loikes. Faith, and yer as bad as the min. Why don't ye do somethin'? Give the girls some society and use thin roight and ye can git thin. And there's wan more thing and that's the biggest trouble of all."

"And what's that?" says some wan.

"The long hours," says Kathlane.

"The saints presave us! Would ye hear the girl?" says Mrs. Flynn. "Sure me grandmother and me mother and meself all got up at four in the mornin' and worked till half-past noine at noight

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