

Farm Women's Clubs

NOTE.—Any woman in Saskatchewan who feels that she would like to have a Woman's Section of the Grain Growers' Association in her district, should communicate with the provincial secretary, Miss Emma Stocking, Delisle, Sask.

Any Alberta woman who would like a Woman's Section of the United Farmers in her district should write to Mrs. R. M. Barrett, Mirror, Alta., who is the woman's provincial secretary for Alberta.

COMMUNITY BETTERMENT

Note—This paper was prepared by Mrs. Richardson to be read at the Brandon Convention, but being unable to be present and deliver it, Mrs. Richardson has kindly sent it to be printed in The Guide.

F. M. B.

On looking at the question of how best we can help our community, one wonders just what is meant by that word "we." Does it mean an organization of women alone, or is it meant for a grain growers' association with a membership of both men and women? However, perhaps it is immaterial when we come to the study of the needs of a community; for a community is composed of both men and women, besides children; and each adult individual is under an obligation to assist in making that community the best possible in every respect, both for their own sakes and for the sake of the rising generation.

The most common idea of a community is that it is the district lying around a certain public meeting place, such as the church, the school or perhaps the post office and unconsciously we describe a circle embracing that area and upon the people living here, we look as belonging to our community.

On taking a census, if we may call it so, of these individuals we find all classes of people living here; religious, educated, musical, industrious, generous, lazy, worldly, drunkards, dependants, etc., and as we find the majority so we characterize that community.

It is said that no man liveth unto himself, no matter what he is or where he is; his influence for good or evil is bound to spread, and so with a community.

Community and Nation

Let us travel east or west, north or south, and invariably around every centre of church or post office we will find a circle embracing the community the same as we have at home, and on travelling over the whole of Canada we find a regular network of these circles lacing and interlacing for the influence of each community is found to be running over the prescribed lines and leaving its mark for good or evil on its neighbor.

With these communities all formed, and a census of their character taken, we find we have a nation and its character. Looking at the question in this light it brings home very closely the heavy responsibility on the individual to keep his character right that his community and his nation may bear an unblemished name.

It is said that most people require a jolt to set their thinking apparatus in motion; therefore it surely is the task of any organization to supply that jolt. And furthermore when the right jolt has been administered, it is the further duty of the organization to see that the mill, or the think tank, or whatever you may choose to call it is well supplied with the right material. Grain Growers' Guides, Tribunes, Single Taxers, Free Trade literature and the Bible make a splendid menu and are guaranteed not to rust or corrode the machinery nor allow cobwebs to collect.

The Value of the Bible

But why the Bible? say you; we are not a church organization; leave the church and the preacher to do their own work. But listen to this written by Mr. Woodworth in The Guide of December 13, 1916, concerning communities:—

"In Manitoba from ten to fifty per cent of the people attend no church and in some cases the figures would reach sixty-five per cent. Is your community reckoned in this?"

"In Saskatchewan in ten per cent of the districts reporting, at least ninety per cent of the people attend no church."

"In Alberta in some eighty districts the average percentage of families attending no church is sixty per cent. Many churches report little or no co-operation in community work."

Now when the people are not attending church is there any chance that any religious teaching is being given in the home? And where ignorance of the

Bible prevails where does the individual get his standard for right living and that which makes for the best type of citizenship? Am I right in asserting that every nation's standard of morality and right living is based on its religion? So how can we in Canada have a righteous nation if we do not have righteous individuals? And when people will not go to the church, other organizations and schools ought to hold up the right ideals.

Good Books Essential

A bunch of lively school children with their minds alert and in the course of training cannot be said to be in need of a jolt to set them thinking, so there must be something wrong when we see these same children at the age of eighteen or twenty requiring something to set them thinking.

And how much time, possibly six or eight years has apparently been lost for there has not been material within the reach of these young people to instill into their minds, principles that make for the best men and women. They know nothing comparatively of good books and perhaps have seen only such newspapers that savor of partisanship rather than statesmanship, and without religious teaching what kind of citizen will they make?

Therefore the one great opening for service in the community is to place before the young people as they leave school, something that will educate and interest them, something that will broaden their outlook on life and will instill into their being those principles that will make of them clean and upright citizens who will work for the upbuilding of Christian communities and a Godly nation. The one great help to this end is good books and magazines in the home.

Too many people consider money spent on books as so much money wasted. If any man were to put the price of a car into a library for his family, he would be called crazy. And instead of going to Brandon for three days to attend the Grain Growers' Convention, his neighbors would be very apt to say that he ought to be a permanent resident there, in a certain big house, and kept there at the expense of the government.

And yet we can compare the value of a splendid library placed at the disposal of a family, as against the value of a car that is used a few months in the year. Ask some of our editors how many subscriptions they have lost since they have raised the price of their papers to \$1.50. It seems a poor policy to rob your minds to enrich your pocket books, or be better able to take in small pleasures.

Many ideas regarding clubs, recreation grounds, socials, picnics, banquets, etc. might be brought up, but communities are like individuals, their tastes and talents differ, so it is for each to find out their own abilities and work accordingly, and with all our work let us remember that what we put into the individual we put into the community; and what we put into the community we put into the nation; and not for time alone, but for eternity.

STELLA L. RICHARDSON,
Beaver, Man.

THE SCHOOL A CENTRE

Why should not the school be the centre of the intellectual life of its neighborhood? Why should not the Free Library be lodged beneath its roof? Why should not the great thoughts of the ages be brought to the people here in picture and story and song, thus transferring the service of the old-time Lyceum to the Social Centre?

We welcome the movement that is using the school buildings on election days for polling places. Why not? Could not the money thus saved to the city be put to many good uses?

And still there is another service these buildings could render which we see looming large on the horizon of our needs. What of those hours of Sunday afternoons when Sunday-school is "out" and when the streets again are filled with the surge of young life, much of which is never

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