

# The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

## THE HOUSEHOLD NUMBER

I want two kinds of contributions for the Household Number this year, one dealing with the efficient home, and the other with the problems of mothers. The subjects are to be divided this way: Household Efficiency—

1. Re-arranging the present equipment and making simple additions, such as hooks, shelves and cupboards, to increase the efficiency of the home, with drawings indicating the original arrangement and the improved one.

2. Equipping the home with modern labor saving machinery which, with its cost, is listed below, with drawings showing how the new machinery should be placed to insure the greatest comfort and convenience to the housewife, the cost not to exceed eighteen hundred dollars. In this case the housewife is to pretend that she has half the price of a good steam plowing outfit to spend upon her end of the farm business.

### Mothers' Problems—

1. Care of the very young child.
2. Training the child's character.

### Prizes Offered

I know that nearly all of our readers would be glad to co-operate with me in making the best Household Number. The Guide has yet published without any prospect of remuneration, but as some compensation for your trouble in preparing the material I am going to offer cash prizes of three and two dollars for the best and second best articles submitted on each of these four topics.

There are only a few simple rules to be observed. All articles must reach The Guide not later than February 22. And they must be written on only one side of the paper and in pen and ink, and addressed to Francis Marion Bynon, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.

Now put your thinking caps on and see what splendid material you can send me for the Household Number.

### A Word of Explanation

Lest the average farmer's wife should think I have taken leave of my senses, a word of explanation concerning these subjects is in order.

Beginning then with the first half of the first subject. It is my opinion that the work in nearly every farm home could be reduced greatly by re-arrangement of the cooking utensils and supplies. For example, I had occasion to get the breakfast in a certain house for a few mornings. I found that the coffee was kept in the pantry and the pan in which it is boiled out in the kitchen, necessitating a trip from the kitchen to the pantry with the dish, but the coffee pot into which the coffee was poured when ready for serving was in the pantry, requiring another trip. During my short regime I changed them about and kept the pan for the coffee in the pantry and the pot in the kitchen, and by that simple alteration saved myself many steps.

What I would like our readers to do is to consider carefully the arrangement of supplies and utensils that results in the greatest economy of labor for the housewife. This may include such modest changes as the building in of shelves and simple cupboards, and any other devices within the financial reach of people who have quite moderate means.

The second part is much more elaborate in its scope. What we want is a plan of the ideal farm home, the farm home which will be able to compete in attractiveness with the city home, the home which is so well equipped for its business that the farm women will be more or less independent of the vagaries of hired help, and still have time for those little graces of life which make the position of the town woman seem so desirable. This will cost money, but anything in life that is worth having does cost money. All of the equipment suggested in this list will not be possible except for very well-to-do farmers, but there are many not so well off who can plan now to build up such a home year by year, as their means permit, and the home will be much more efficient when complete if it is planned as a complete whole from the beginning.

We would like, in connection with this second subject, a diagram of the model kitchen and laundry, showing where each article of furniture is placed, and an article telling the why of the arrangement.

A rough outline of the cost of properly outfitting a farm home can be gathered from a combination of the following items which we have collected from our various advertisers:

Building of a small engine room and laundry and equipping for heating in winter, \$250.

A 24 h.p. gasoline engine, \$90.

Power washing machine, \$75 to \$115.

A 32-inch power run ironing machine for gas or gasoline heat, \$63.50.

Stationary tubs, \$32 each.

Installing an electric lighting plant, \$250.

Installing hot air furnace, \$250. Hot water furnace, \$350.

Installing vacuum cleaning plant, \$250.

Installing water system in house, \$125.

Carpet sweepers, \$2.00 to \$4.00.



PLOWING FOR RICE PLANTING WITH WATER BUFFALO

Cabinets for kitchens, \$30 to \$60.  
Long-handled brushes, \$1.75.

### Saving in Work

This equipment would do away with scrubbing and wringing clothes in the old back-aching way. It would abolish a great part of the hand ironing. It would do away entirely with the chasing of dirt from the floor to the furniture with a broom and chasing it back again with a duster. All the carpets would be kept clean by running a piece of tubing over them once or twice a week and using the carpet sweeper between times to gather up the surface dirt. Where there are rugs with a border of floor showing, the long-handled brush will be used to gather up the dust off the boards. There would be no more carrying in and out of water, no dirt of stoves in the living rooms to clean away, no filling and cleaning of lamps.

Well but, you say, what will the housewife do with all her spare time. Some who enjoy outdoor work and hate household drudgery will perhaps make enough out of raising pure-bred poultry, sheep or pigs to save the price of the machinery twice over. Others again will never be able to show a dollar's financial return for the investment, but they will live longer and happier lives and give their families brighter and sweeter memories at home, and there should be absent from such a home all the grumbling discontent with farm life that is undermining the agricultural industry in this country.

## HAWAII

### A Serial Article Concerning the Scenery and Industries of These Beautiful Islands

In conclusion, the Hawaiian Islands present life under ideal conditions, and life is indeed most pleasant in these lands of glorious color set in sapphire seas under the glow of the setting sun. We began by quoting Mark Twain, and we cannot do better than close with a prose poem by the same author concerning the islands:

"No alien land in all the world has any deep, strong charm for me but that one; no other land could so longingly and beseechingly haunt me sleeping and waking, thru half a lifetime, as that one has done. Other things leave me, but it abides; other things change, but it remains the same. For me its balmy airs are always blowing, its summer suns flashing in the sun; the pulsing of its surf beat is in my ear; I can see its leaping cascades, its plummy palms drowsing by the shore; its remote summits floating like islands above the cloudrack; I can feel the spirit of its woodland solitudes; I can hear the splash of its brooks; in my nostrils still lives the breath of flowers that perished twenty years ago."

## THE SOCIALIST DISCUSSION

Dear Miss Bynon:—Not only have the Socialist party fallen down on woman suffrage, but also notably and lamentably on peace. I see little that is practical in Marxian Socialism, but I did have great hopes that their ideas of the brotherhood of man and the solidarity of labor the world over would preserve peace for us. Germany has four million Socialist voters and one hundred and ten Socialist M.P.'s. But these men made but feeble protests when their standing army and navy were continually increased from year to year.

You women are interested in peace. I have been studying lately the Yellow Book of France on the war. The French government published a report on "German Public Opinion," dated July 30, 1913—two years before the war. It is remarkable for the accuracy of its insight into Socialist psychology. Speaking of the one hundred and ten Socialist deputies, the report prophesies as follows: "In the presence of war this body would join the chorus of rage with the rest of the country. These partisans of peace on the whole believe in war, because they see no solution of the present situation of overproduction and over-population." The war has literally verified the truth of these statements. The German Socialist is pretty nearly as clamorous for this war as the junkers; he gladly slays and maims his brother French and Belgian Socialist co-worker, taking part in burning down his home and destroying his town. Where I live was a hotbed of Socialism, and meetings were held regularly. We now hardly hear the subject named; the war has taken the life out of it, because Socialism is proved to be no remedy for the world's evils. I am referring to Marxian or revolutionary Socialism as distinct from Democratic Socialism. The people of the latter faith take all the good laws they can on the way to their goal, and if human progress terminates in Socialism, I have no complaint. Yet I don't at all think it will.

Mary Nicolaeff has written one of the most extraordinary letters I ever read—"Marriage is Slavery." Does she desire concubinage or free love? I have seen free love openly advocated by Canadian Socialist papers and also by Germans in their country. The state is to feed the offspring. Will not the last state, morally and socially, be worse than marriage, where laws hold both parties responsible? We read continually that a workman is a slave to the employer, the hired man to the farmer, the farmer to someone else, the wife to her husband, the children to their parents, and so on all around. I am old and have seen social conditions greatly improved all around, tho there's much yet to do. The workman is less a slave than ever he was, compared with the real slavery that existed in Jamaica and the states to the south of us.

OLD FARMER.

## CARLYLE'S GOOD MOTHER

Carlyle once wrote these words of his mother's religious influence over him as a boy, and of the purity and nobility of her Christian character: "My kind mother did me one altogether invaluable service. She taught me, less indeed by word than by act and daily reverent habitude, her own simple version of the Christian faith. My mother, with a true woman's heart, and fine tho uncultivated sense, was in the strictest acceptance, religious. The highest whom I knew on earth I saw bowed down with awe unspeakable, before a Higher One in heaven. Such things, especially in infancy, reach inward to the very core of your being; mysteriously does a Holy of Holies build itself into visibility in the mysterious depths, and reverence, the divinest in man, springs forth undying from its mean development of fear."

## PILLOWS

The baby is better off without a pillow, and the baby does not need feather mattresses or cushions. Children suffer unnameable torture from congested blood induced by feather pillows and pads. When the child gets older a lam hair pillow which slightly elevates the head is all right. If the child lies flat and the bed or cot is level, the baby is likely to grow straighter than if he is forced to lie in hollows and to double up in order to be comfortable. The baby must not be covered with too heavy blankets. He suffers from the weight, and it is just as injurious to him if he sleeps too warm as it is if he sleeps too cold. Good judgment must be exercised at all times.