

AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE



"She finds farming congenial and male costume much more fitted to the work she does than woman's,"

The Woman Who Never Looks Back.

BY NORMAN S. RANKIN.

"We speak of the man who has opened the door,
Of the great teeming West, that has brought to the
fore

The wealth of the prairies—so vast and so wide,
But how many think of the one at his side,
The one who has made him a home in the shack,
His comrade—the woman who never looks back."

—Mary I. S. Schaeffer.

WHEN No. 1 pulled up panting at the station in Calgary, a turbulent mass of passengers avalanched on to the platform. And amongst them was "The woman who never looks back." She was smart and well proportioned, and might have been taken for a college youth. Her face was pleasant, deeply bronzed, inclined to be square with a broad mouth and forehead, over which a thick mass of auburn hair struggled from beneath her tweed cap. Brown eyes twinkled at you. Probably five feet three or four inches in height, she gave the impression of strength and endurance. Her costume—about which so much publicity has ensued—was certainly unique. A cloth jumper over a shirt waist, a cloth skirt, knee length, brown leather leggings and a three-quarter overcoat completed it. And as she strode across the platform with a grip in each hand and her cap set jauntily on the back of her head, one certainly would have thought, "A jolly good-looking young fellow." I did.

A good deal has been written about "The man in the Shack," but little about the Woman. The strong, courageous, hard-working wife of the early homesteader, who, in pioneer days, accompanied and roughed it with her husband, forty miles from no-



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where. And in addition, there are to-day hundreds of wives scattered across the broad prairies of the West, who have left comfortable, even luxurious homes in the Old Country, "Down East," and across the border, who do more than a man's work, cultivating and improving the farms on which they live. But as yet, with the exception of the heroine of this article, Miss May, I have not heard of the out-and-out professional woman-farmer.

And yet, that's what Miss May is. Undoubtedly. And what is more, she is an expert at it. For the past ten years she has been following it, and has properly certified documents from farmers with whom she has been employed, which not only prove that she has made a serious study of farming in all its branches, but is eminently fitted to take it up in the West and make a success. And when the Customs officials who held her up at St. John upon her arrival recently, on account of her male costume, learned this, they swept their gold-embroidered caps from their heads and bowed low.

Amongst the many applications received at the London office of the Canadian Pacific Railway this past winter, for Alberta's "ready-made" farms, was one from Miss Jack May, of Norfolk. Miss May wrote that she had occupied almost every kind of farm position from that of ordinary farm hand to bailiff, or manager, and that she wished to try her luck in Western Canada. Her application was considered, her claims as a successful agriculturist investigated, and a farm at Sedgewick allotted her.

Miss May is the daughter of Admiral May, and farms because she wants to. Also she wears masculine garb because she wants to. One might wonder why she wants to, but it wouldn't do him any good, or bring him any nearer a solution. There's no argument open. She finds farming congenial, and male costume much more fitted to the work she does than woman's. And that's enough. Accompanying her is Miss I. M. Wittrick, a lady friend, also from Norfolk. Miss Wittrick will attend to the "house-keeping" end of the farm while Miss May superintends the farming.

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An English Visitor.

THE Honourable Mrs. Norman Grosvenor, who has spent three months in a tour of Canada, sailed for England on July 14th, after having investigated conditions for the work of the Colonial Intelligence League. This English association, with a head office at 36 Tavistock Place, London, W.C., was formed on February 23rd, 1910. Since then it has prospered and increased its bounds of work, until it bids fair to do excellent service both for England and the Colonies.

Mrs. Grosvenor is chairman of the executive committee of this league and, during a recent visit to Toronto, explained fully its purposes and aims. Princess Christian of Schleswig Holstein, an aunt of His Majesty, King George V., is president of the organization, and the list of vice-presidents includes such famous names as the Lord Robert Cecil, Lord Curzon, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Grey, Lord Milner, the Marchioness of Salisbury and Lady Mount Stephen. The first colonial branch has been formed in British Columbia, with Miss Dorothy Davis acting as agent, 2, The Nicola, Nicola Street, Vancouver.

"Imperialism" is a word of unpleasing suggestion to certain ultra-democratic Canadians, who regard it as a synonym for jingoism. In its true sense, the word implies both rule and responsibility—and it is

in this sense that the supporters of the Colonial Intelligence League uses the high-sounding syllables. The object of the league is to assist educated women in the old lands to obtain positions in this country. Such women are very much needed in a new country, while the surplus of women of that class in England makes a large exodus desirable. The work of the Colonial Intelligence League is carried on by those familiar with the operations of the British Women's Emigration Association and the South African Colonization Society.

It has been generally admitted that there is a lamentable lack of definite information as to the nature of colonial opportunities for educated women. This the new association undertakes to supply. "The first and most imperative need," says the first annual report, "seemed to the Society to be the establishment in the Colonies of expert paid agents, who should report to the Committee here (England) on the openings for women at any moment in any given district, and who could foresee and send information with regard to any fresh developments in connection with women's work in the near future."

In February, 1911, the Head Mistresses' Association approached the Committee of Colonial Intelligence and offered them valuable help and influence, on condition that about half the Committee should be composed of their representatives. The Committee therefore accepted their offer, dissolved itself, and re-formed under the title of the Colonial Intelligence League. Head Mistresses, who are frequently consulted by the parents of their pupils with regard to their future careers, will be able to furnish them with reliable information, and at the end of the school course proper, to advise as to the different forms of training likely to lead to successful careers in the Overseas Dominions.



THE HONOURABLE MRS. NORMAN GROSVENOR.
Chairman of Executive Committee, Colonial Intelligence League.

Since April, 1910, applications have been received from 380 women of the educated classes requiring information regarding employment in the Overseas Dominions as home-helps, nurses, teachers (elementary and secondary), dispensers, secretaries, dress-makers, horticulturists, librarians, etc.

Mrs. Grosvenor was decidedly optimistic regarding Canadian opportunities for the educated English girl and expressed the hope that she would soon be able to return to Canada. She insisted especially on the importance of having local officers under the management of those who would be acquainted thoroughly with Canadian conditions. Local interest has been aroused, particularly in the West, and there is every prospect for success in this latest effort of practical imperialism.

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The only international feminist literature shop in the world has been opened in London, England, the enterprising proprietor being Miss Sime Seruya, a lady of Portuguese birth.