

# The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

## TOLERATION

These are searching times. Opposing ideals and theories of life are clashing within the boundaries of each of the warring nations almost as emphatically as upon the battlefield and with scarcely less bitterness. The need for patience and toleration on all sides was never greater.

It will help to keep internal peace for everyone to remember that a man can no more change his opinions because somebody asks him to than he can change his complexion. What he believes about anything is the result of his education and environment, of his whole mode of life and thought up to that moment. He may be induced by public opinion or economic pressure to conform to another point of view, but that does not alter his opinion. That can be changed only by a process of reasoning, by evidence being produced which satisfies his mind.

To question the sincerity of the advocates of an opposing belief is bigotry. Ninety-nine per cent. of those on each side of any contentious question are absolutely sincere.

It is equally futile to get angry with the exponents of objectionable opinions, for no man deliberately says to himself, "I think I'll pick out this opinion and hold it fast, for better, for worse." Hardly! A man's attitude on any particular issue is a product of a million decisions and emotions of his past life. If he has been a stand-patter on the thousand and one small matters of his daily life he will be a stand-patter on a great issue, and he will stand very pat indeed. But if, on the other hand, he has been habitually at variance with the established order of things and has been given to interrogating every custom and institution he encounters, he will in all probability challenge the great issue with no uncertain sound.

## ARE YOU A FREE TRADER?

I have often felt that I would like to know how many of the women who read this page are Free Traders and what it was that made them opponents of Protection.

For my part, the thing which first turned my thoughts in this direction was a statement made by the hosiery buyer for one of the big department stores. He said that in the hosiery mills, situated in the very dampest part of England's damp climate, several more pounds of wool floated away into the air and were wasted upon a fair day than upon a rainy one. Just imagine that hosiery mill transported to Canada with its dry atmosphere filled with electricity, and think how much of the wool would go up into the air during the carding process.

Now, as a matter of fact, there are hosiery mills in Canada, and in order to make them pay it has been necessary to place a tariff of 30 per cent. from England and 42 per cent. from U.S. on hosiery because, while there are many things which this country can do superlatively well, manufacturing woollen goods is not one of them.

That set me to wondering why any industry should be encouraged to thrive in adverse conditions. Wouldn't it be much more economical to have all woollen goods manufactured in a damp, heavy atmosphere, to have, in fact, every industry carried on where the raw material could be procured most advantageously and where the climatic conditions were favorable to its inexpensive production?

I have interrogated many protectionists on this point and have never found any who could provide a satisfactory answer. They usually point to the large numbers of people employed in the factories of these unnatural industries, and claim that at least they have provided labor. In this they assume that if the people were not engaged in the wasteful production of things foreign to this country they would be sitting in idleness. It is not a justifiable assumption. Canada is a country rich in undeveloped resources and poor in exotic industries.

## THE HOUSEWIFE'S BUSINESS

Perhaps it is a safeguard for the future of the race that so many young girls get married without apparently giving a second thought to the magnitude of the business they have undertaken. Little fluffy-haired things whose attention has for years been divided between tapping the typewriter and having a good time enter upon the business of being a housewife and mother with a light-hearted

casualness that to the more mature mind is astounding.

"For richer, for poorer, till death do us part," is just a part of the red tape of getting married. The girl doesn't see that she is suddenly being transplanted from a subordinate position, with comparatively little responsibility, to a managerial post in one of the most important businesses of the country.

To be a successful wife and mother involves the need for several kinds of expert knowledge which the average girl does not possess. She should know, first of all, how to keep a house absolutely spot and span with the smallest expenditure of time and labor. She should be acquainted with food values and the science of buying and preparation of food so as to get the maximum of value for her family out of every expenditure. Finally, and most important of all, she should know how to care for herself during pregnancy and how to take care of a little baby.

It was the most vicious kind of prudery which kept the young girl of a generation or two ago from facing quite honestly and frankly the probability that marriage would bring her motherhood with all its privileges and responsibilities. We have at last thrown off the cloak of that false modesty, but



"A Family Dinner Party"

the average girl is still far from being equipped to cope with the new responsibilities that marriage involves.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

## FROM A CANADIAN BY ADOPTION

Dear Miss Beynon:—When I read your article in a recent issue of The Guide regarding Mrs. Nellie McClung's asking Premier Borden to grant the federal franchise to all British and Canadian-born women, excluding the foreign-born women, I wanted to grasp your hand and thank you most heartily for the stand you take against such a policy and for your emphatic expression in upholding right and justice.

Why is it that the words "foreign born" seem to be synonymous, to so many people, of all that is

ignorant and incompetent? It seems like a stigma resting upon all people not born in Great Britain or in Canada, notwithstanding the fact that as large a number of foreign born women are as intelligent and intellectual as those who happened to be born in the United Kingdom.

Undoubtedly the women from the United States are classed among the "foreign born" also. The intelligence of the women population from the States will stand comparison with the British and with the Canadian women any day. The number of college women from the States scattered over Canada's prairies is not small. Indeed, many of them are farmers' wives, and they are capable of holding their own when it comes to exercising the right of franchise as well as performing other public duties for the upbuilding of the community in which they live and of the nation as a whole.

But these "foreign born" women from the States are not the only "foreigners" who would suffer grossly if Mrs. Nellie L. McClung's request be granted. There are thousands of women from the different countries of Europe whose intelligence and ability are above all criticism, and they are prepared as fully for the exercise of the franchise as are the British and the Canadians.

Well we know there are only too great a number of women who are most ignorant, but we know also that that number includes British and Canadians as well as foreigners.

The writer was born across the sea in one of the most progressive and democratic countries in the world. We are as proud of our nationality as Mrs. McClung or any other British or Canadian woman ever can be of hers. Illiteracy is almost, if not entirely, an unknown quantity in our native land. The school system ranks among the best in the world. Art and literature are on a high plane, and we may well be proud of both. Our women enjoy full franchise, and have shown themselves worthy of this great responsibility. Having enjoyed these privileges in our native land, what must be our feelings upon coming to this country to find that we are classed among criminals and lunatics!

We came to this country to make our homes. We brought new ideas and impulses which only tend to perfect the product of the common "melting pot" in our adopted country. What would Canada be today if her foreign population was suddenly removed? Does not Canada need us equally as much as we need

Canada? Canada's interests are our interests. Why then, should we be barred from the franchise when we are as thoroughly awake and equally as interested in all the public affairs of our country as Canadians or British ever could be? Is this democracy? I say "our country." Are we not loyal subjects? We love Canada, and we teach our children to love this country, the land of their birth. Our men are sacrificed for the cause of the Empire. Our hearts bleed for the cause as do those of the British and of the Canadians. We give our money to the cause. We offer our all! What is our reward? We ask none. The reward is in the doing. Only that we be treated on equal terms with any other woman of the Empire, wherever she may have been born.

Thanking you, Miss Beynon, for your firm stand for the right, I am,

Yours for political justice,

MRS. A. G. HANSON.

Clavet, Sask.

## CAN'T REFORM OTHER NATIONS

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have often thought of doing so, and at last I am writing to thank you for the articles in the Homemakers page of The Guide on the question of war and peace.

I feel sure no nation is so good that it can take upon itself the task of setting another nation right. We shall each have to work out our own salvation, and it may be that the nation that loses its life will gain it.

I cannot understand our ministers talking about an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth when our Christ said, "Bless them that curse you." I do not believe for one minute in peace at any price, but neither do I believe in war at any price.

Yours sincerely,

J. HOURLEY.

Edmonton South.

## LET US CO-OPERATE

There are many things which the readers of this page know which would be helpful to other women. I can think of a dozen or two off-hand, and you will be able to think of dozens more. For example, some women have a knack of making over clothes to excellent advantage, other women are clever at freshening up their old hats and making them qualify for a second or even a third season, some have a genius for arranging their kitchens and their work so as to leave leisure for reading and social life, some have been very clever about making an independent income off the farm, here and there a woman is full of bright ideas for entertainments in the community or home.

We would like to hear from all of these women. We want them to give us explicit information on the particular line in which they excel, and we are willing to pay at our regular rates for these contributions and for photographs illustrating the work described. Address all the contributions to Francis Marion Beynon, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.