

# At the Sign of the Maple

A DEPARTMENT MAINLY FOR WOMEN

## Y.W.C.A. Progress in the West

By IRENE MOORE

THE women of Saskatoon have a name for being as energetic and as wide-awake as their lords and masters. In one very important race they have far out-distanced the men. The goal they arrived at on one of the pretty April days was a handsome brick Young Women's Christian Association home, 50-girl size, with two huge fire-places surrounded by cosy-corner upholstery, a large panel-finished dining-room facing the morning sun, and floors as hard and slippery and shiny as are to be found in wealthy girls' homes.

The Young Men's Christian Association is older

The curiosity, which is frequently exhibited by those who visit friends in trouble, is not necessarily unkindly; but the world is learning that the truest sympathy is expressed in few words and often merely by a comprehending hand-clasp. To many who are suffering from bereavement, the questions of the inquisitive consoler are an irritation amounting to torture. May we remember that, in times of crushing sorrow, platitudes and exhortation against worry are wasted, and that a sympathetic silence is pure gold.

### Oriental Objection to Girl Labour Law

THE question of the employment of white girl labour in Oriental business-houses is a live question in the larger Canadian cities, but especially in Western Canada. There a large number of Chinese and Japanese are owners of laundries, eating-houses and even general stores, and these have been accustomed to employ white girls. Recently the Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan passed an act forbidding the employment of white girls in such establishments. This law came into force on May 1st, and the first trouble came in Moose Jaw. This city has more Chinese and Japanese residents than any other city in the Province. The Chinese would not likely make trouble of their own accord, but led by the Japanese they are assisting in the discussion. The Japanese take the ground that their rights are being curtailed, they being naturalized British subjects. They are prepared to contest the act as a question of international law before, if need be, the Canadian Supreme Court or even the British Privy Council.

Without prejudging these claims, it may be pointed out that every Province of Canada has exercised the right to regulate child and female labour. It hardly seems likely that the Dominion Government or any court of competent jurisdiction would deny the right of Saskatchewan to enact legislation which it believes to be in the best interests of the social life of its people.

### Events of the Week

THE Local Council of Women in Vancouver are taking an interest in improved building regulations in that city, especially advocating adequate sitting-room in boarding and rooming houses. They are also advocating women sanitary and food inspectors for the city health department.

Mrs. Mary Riter Hamilton has been exhibiting her pictures in Winnipeg under the patronage of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. She was as kindly received by the art lovers of Winnipeg as she had previously been in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Cameron were local patrons.

On Saturday, 11th, the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King addressed the Women's Canadian Club, St. John, on "The Celebration of One Hundred Years of Peace Between the Anglo-Saxon Nations on the North American Continent." Incidental tribute was paid to Lady Milley, who occupied a seat upon the platform by the side of the president of the club, Mrs. E. Atherton Smith, as one of the inspirations of the speaker's public work. For the rest, the meeting partook of the social nature.

The Fort Osborne Barracks, Winnipeg, was recently the scene of a fancy

dress ball of "Ye Olde Tyme" flavour, the host and hostess being Colonel and Mrs. A. C. Macdonell, and, the guests appearing in all the bravery of quaint habits, powdered heads, rouge and "patches." Over a hundred persons were entertained.

Miss Marie L. Southall, A.T.C.M., is a gifted and ambitious young violinist of whom her school may reasonably be proud. Miss Southall's recent recital at the Toronto Conservatory proved her



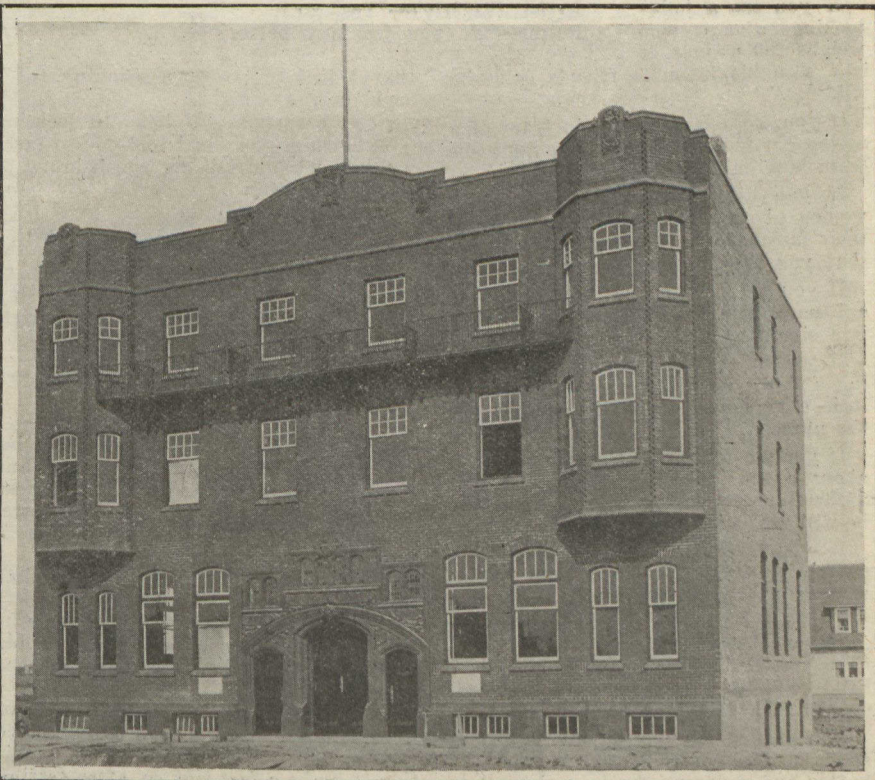
MISS MARIE L. SOUTHALL,  
A Talented Violinist, Whose Home is in Toronto.

marked ability and reflected much credit upon her teacher, Miss Lina Adamson. The young lady's name appeared on the programme for the Conservatory Commencement Concert, May 21st, at which she played the Mendelssohn Concerto.

A Country Fair was given in the Guild's gymnasium under the conduct of the ladies of the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Y. W. C. A. The characteristic blandishments were exercised on the public, and the affair realized a substantial profit.

The Duchess of Connaught was guest of honour at the annual meeting at Montreal of the local Council of Women. Lady Drummond delivered a brilliant address, on the occasion of Miss Derick's being presented with a token of esteem by her community of admiring fellow-workers. Mrs. Walter Lyman read the year's report.

William Alexander Coote, the distinguished Eng-  
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The Newly-opened Home of the Young Women's Christian Association at Saskatoon.



MRS. WALTER C. MURRAY  
President of the Y.W.C.A., Saskatoon.

than the sister society, has had a roaringly successful campaign for funds, has for two or three winters listened every Sunday to more or less eloquent sermons—yet in the shape of lodgings or welcome for the stranger who hits town, there's only an unroofed excavation overlooking the Saskatchewan.

The Y. W. C. A. Saskatoon branch was born under a lucky star, and with a silver spoon in its mouth, and has prospered right along. The president, Mrs. Walter C. Murray, a graduate of the University of New Brunswick, and for fifteen years before coming to the berry-picking city, a resident of Halifax, could explain the secrets of the association's success. So could Mrs. H. D. Weaver, the secretary; Mrs. J. H. Holmes, the treasurer; Mrs. L. G. Calder, chairman of the house committee, or Mrs. A. P. McNab, chairman of the membership committee, or any other member of the directorate. It has been hard work and persistent work, but it has been done merrily, for teachers and stenographers and dressmakers and servant-girls must have a place to sleep, and sometimes their purses are lean and lank and can't hold their own with hotel rates.

And then for eleven months of every year the hotels are as full as sardine-cans, and the drummers knowing the trails to the hotels better than foreign girls do, the girls arrive last to find no beds to spare.

So the Y. W. C. A. twenty have kept open house in such cottages as could be rented, and now have a splendid home of their own. It is of rich dark Venetian red brick with equally rich and dark green trimmings.

### Our Consoling Friends

IN the matter of "consolation," the world is coming to an essentially sane attitude. The old-fashioned would-be consoler, who was so certain that she knew the Divine purpose or judgment in the case of a calamity, is disappearing, and no one will mourn her departure. A Canadian woman who has lived in a large city during most of her life recently returned from a visit to a small village, exclaiming, "It was a charmingly pretty spot, and the drives were delightful. But the way in which each caller wanted my poor sister to recite every detail connected with her husband's death was too much for me. I prefer neighbours who mind their own business."