

Correspondence

War Widows and Canada

Dear Editor—As I am interested in the question of war widows and Canada and you ask for letters on the subject, I feel I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing some of my thoughts.

Perhaps it would be as well to mention that I am an Englishwoman and have been in this country three years. As help on a farm, I have had opportunity to form opinions on my country people (of a certain class), both men and women.

In February I first read of the intentions of the Salvation Army in "The Family Herald and Weekly Star," and I felt indignant, for I felt that the best people would not come over. I spoke to one or two of the neighbors about the problem but I fancy they do not understand, or else are not interested enough in social questions to talk about them, although I believe they would be just as well pleased if these country women of mine and their families did not arrive in Canada.

Canada has not had the best of the people from other countries. I have seen for some time that it is the men and women, the boys and girls with "brains" who are needed over here—those who see ahead with the honest purposes of bettering themselves are bettering others and the nation. Perhaps if it had been the better middle class people of England who came across first, the men you speak of, who are in high public offices, would not have been tempted to do the dishonorable things that have been committed, for they would never have come to the fore, but men of a more balanced fibre would have been in their places.

The war widows who possibly will come over are those who come from a society of people, who are "helped" and whose "stay" is the Salvation Army and other like social workers.

We could not do without the men and women who devote their lives to such institutions as mentioned above. I say we cannot do without them in England, for they have made, and are still making, and will make certain classes of people respectable and self-supporting. Without the aid of these social workers the people would fall into their old, idle ways, just because they have not the mental stamina to think and plan for themselves.

When I was in England, I was, for some time, a worker in a mission in the east end of London and I used to think, "If only these people could get a bigger place to live in, then perhaps they would live. They are cramped and have no room to expand." But since I've been in Canada I have had to alter my views, for most of them cannot live bigger—in mind I mean! For this reason I think it would be the wiser plan to bring to Canada war widows who used to be school teachers and store clerks. Those who have been used to planning improvements, either for the better living of children, or the surest and best way of making sales and pleasing customers. Those who think out for others and not the persons who rely on others to make life respectable for them.

I am not unpatriotic to my own country people, but I do know that some classes are more able to build up a hardy and honest nation than are others. The workers of the Salvation Army, I know, will understand my meaning when I say they are the support of most of their lay adherents. These latter have religion, but not always Christianity, and it is Christianity and not religion that makes the individual independent and self-reliant. In twenty generations from those who are helped to a better life now, the offspring will be as able in every way to endure being dumped down on a lonely prairie farm and work out for themselves plans for the future.

My whole plea for Canada is that she can have women who think beyond the present and the people of the future who will make a nation to be proud of. For after all we have been handed down from ages far back our good and our bad characteristics, and, if we overcome the bad in ourselves with our own thinking, those who follow us will be wiser and stronger.

Yours truly,
"Englishwoman."

Wants a Badge or Arm-band

Dear Editor—I am writing to ask you if you would be kind enough to put this letter in The Western Home Monthly, as I would like to hear other readers' opinions on this matter. I think that all young men who have tried to join the army to fight for king and country and have been rejected on account of health should have some kind of a badge or arm band to show that they have tried to do their "bit." The 102nd battalion was trained here and of course lots of soldiers would say to any fellow who looked fit "why don't you join up?" In lots of cases the individual spoken to had tried and had been rejected, just as in my own case. I would not have to be asked had I been fit, so I would like other readers to write to me or to The Western Home Monthly and say what they think

about it. It is awful dry here, everything is drying up for the want of rain and there are some awful bush fires around, too. Wishing all good luck and a speedy ending of this terrible war, I will sign myself as before,
Western Bachelor.

Doing their Share

Dear Editor—I have at last decided to write a letter. I enjoy reading your paper immensely and have taken it for quite a while now. When I saw a city girl's letter in the February issue, I thought it was my place to write to the page and let her know that they are not the only Red Cross workers. Why right around here everyone is busy knitting socks and making shirts. I helped mother knit three pairs of socks. There have been four or five box socials and silver teas; also other entertainments; the proceeds of which go to the Red Cross funds. "A Farmer's Daughter" says

that it is the farmers who help the most. Twenty-seven young men have gone from around here, including married men, so our little village is doing its share surely. Hello! Soldier Admirer, come for a long horse back ride with me, with overalls and all.

I was born in the year 1899 and have lived on the farm all my life. "Blue Eyes," I'm as tall as you and have blue eyes too. I would not mind hearing from you, if you would write first. Also any others who would care to write. My address is with the Editor.

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