

The Young Woman and Her Problem

By Mrs Pearl Richmond Hamilton

Prize Problem

The prize offered in this department for the most serious problem is awarded to the writer of the following:

"My home is on the farm. I live with my mother, father and one brother. I like farm life very much as I like to study nature, but lately I have found it lonely. I am now twenty-six years of age and I have always desired to have a trade or profession. My father does not like me to go away but my brother is quiet and I find it quite lonely. I think every girl should have a trade and be able to earn her own living for one never knows what may happen. I feel I am at the age for definite decision. My question is: What am I to do?"

This is a problem that concerns many daughters in rural places. A letter came to this department from an unmarried daughter who had spent her life working at home. After the death of her parents, her brother took possession of the farm and sent her out into the world—alone and penniless. She wrote me asking my assistance. While it is well to remain with the home people, it is more necessary to plan for a future and when a girl is at the age of twenty-six, it is time for definite decision.

Perhaps an opportunity may be made on the farm and reasonable parents would be willing for the daughter to work up a profession if convinced of the necessity of future protection. Apiculture—or the bee keeping industry is a work that is receiving a great deal of attention just now. It is especially interesting to women.

The Ontario Agricultural College is conducting a series of experiments in apiculture, in conjunction with apiarists all over the province, that are very instructive. The work is being done under the direction of Prof. Morley Pettit, provincial apiarist.

A young Canadian woman apiarist last year ran fifty colonies of bees for comb honey and made a profit of over \$20 per colony from sales of honey alone.

Miss Aileen Coombs of Berkeley, Cal., is paying her way through the State University of California by keeping bees. In this work she is assisted by her sister, who is also a university student. The two girls pay their entire way by the sale of honey produced by their own bees.

The scientific study of seeds is a new opening for women. When the United States department of agriculture deemed it necessary to establish a seed laboratory at Berkeley, Cal., Anne Maude Lute was put in charge. The laboratory is considered a part of the agronomy department, which concerns itself with the production of crops from seed thus protecting the farmer from poor seeds. At the customs houses in California samples of all seeds entered at the customs houses in California and neighboring States are examined and reported upon before they are released. Such a laboratory is valuable to consumer, producer, commission merchant and broker as well as the farmer.

Miss Lute loved botany and was first appointed scientific assistant of the bureau of plant industry at Washington, D.C. and after a year was promoted to the state laboratory of California. There must be a future in Western Canada for women seedologists.

A lonely girl on a farm studied the woods about her—she is now at the head of the department of forestry in a state university.

Miss E. Cora Hind, during her girlhood, became interested in the stock on the farm. She is today the only woman commercial editor on the American Continent.

Miss Alice Brown of Boston has won the \$10,000 Winthrop Ames prize for a play entitled "Children of the Earth." During her girlhood she wrote stories of the people about her. She lived on a farm during her girlhood.

Books and magazines on every subject can be procured at little cost thus making it possible for any girl on a farm to learn a profession at home. Every young woman should learn a trade or profession. If it be not possible to learn it at home then it must be elsewhere.

The Expression of Inspiration

In a noisy subway station in Boston in the busiest part of the city a ticket seller's booth is occupied by a girl—Miss Paeff.

She is a slim, black haired girl about twenty years old. Miss Paeff attends strictly to her work but she wastes no time between the sales.

Underneath the ticket ledge an improvised shelf has been made to hold modeling clay and Miss Paeff picks up a lump and begins to pat it into human shape. She has so far overcome environment as to create objects of art. She sculpts, plans, rough moulds and finishes during the odd moments when no one is demanding a ticket. She has in this way won half a dozen scholarships at the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. She has won a purse of a hundred dollars and the commendation of such sculptors as Bela Pratt and Cyrus Dallin.

She is the second daughter on a large family of Russian Jewish children and her parents could not afford to send her to school. Obstacle after obstacle rose in her way but obstacles never troubled Miss Paeff. She had no money so she earns it and with the money earned in the subway station ticket booth, supplemented by prizes and scholarships, she is paying her way.

Miss Paeff does not allow art to interfere with duty. A proof of her conscientious application to business may be found in her assignment to the Park Street Station, for this is the most exacting and hurried station in Boston.

When asked—"How can you do it?" she replied:

"If you don't feel things you can't express them even in the calmest spot on earth, and if you do feel things, you've got to express them—no matter where you are."

The Teacher In the Country

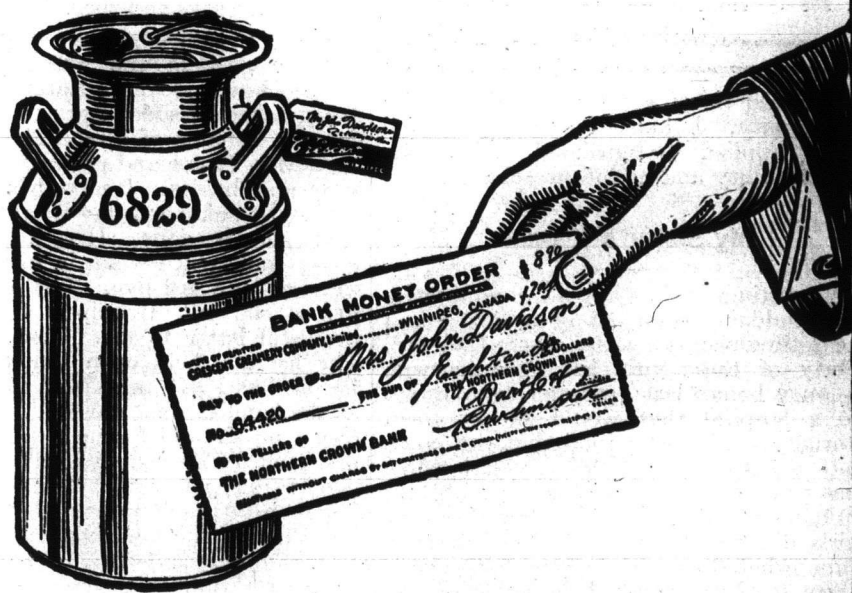
Out in the dingy one room country school house, cold in winter and hot in late spring time, the teacher's heart aches for better equipment with which to guide the young minds waiting for the direction of her leadership. Our men and women of the future are molded at this age and hours are wasted and brains lag into laziness as days drag out their monotonous programme of daily class recitation. They count the classes until recess, then till noon—from noon to recess and on to four o'clock—long, weary, tiresome hours that might be made so profitable. This is the reason John Jones devises mischief and Mary Smith cancels her name with the letters in the name belonging to the boy across the aisle: "S" cancels with "s"—"I" with "I"—"m" with "m" and so on through the "love, hate, courtship and marriage" roll until Mary Smith knows the actual condition of affection concerning every school boy in the room. I know because I have been there. I have spent hours in the little country school house—idly dreaming of nothing while waiting for "my class time." Then later I had to make up those lost hours by studying hard into midnight. The hours wasted in the country school may determine a nation's destiny.

Twenty-five restless boys and girls—thirty-five classes in a day—are enough to drive any teacher into nervous prostration.

Miss Grace Wyman, principal of a unique rural school at Mendota Beach, Wisconsin, determined to change conditions in the tiny one-room school house where her boys and girls wasted surplus energy in trying to be good because they liked their teacher.

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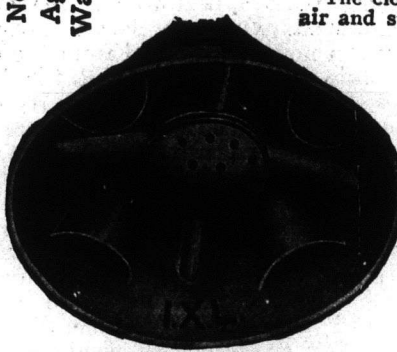
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Note:
Agents
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Girl Guides

A request has come to me asking for information regarding "Girl Guides." Women from the towns in the west tell me they want to organize girls' clubs in their home communities as they believe it would help young girls who want a good time.

Miss Agnes Baden-Powell, sister of Sir Baden-Powell, is the originator of the "Girl Guides" movement in England which has spread to many other countries. There are already 12,000 of these handy girls at work and at play in Great Britain. They learn cooking, camping-out methods, nursing, making bandages and splints, and saving life from fire, drowning or poisoning.

The Baden-Powell Girl Guides held a rally recently in Richmond Green, and Princess Lichnowsky wife of the German Ambassador was present. General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B., made an inspection and Miss Baden-Powell addressed them. Five hundred "Girl Guides" were present.

I think a "Girl Guides" organization in every town in Western Canada would not only develop character in girlhood

She with her pupils convinced the school board of the need of a modern, well-equipped building. If you could step into her school room today, this is what you would see—a boy thumping his language exercise on a typewriter, next to him a girl is cutting a dress on a table. Near by another young miss is at the sewing machine. In the rear an older pupil conducts a primary reading class. A boy at the blackboard is doing a problem. In the hall, another lad is sweeping. The teacher herself is hearing a recitation. Behind a screen, a lad at a work bench, busy with tools, is making a book rack or mending a chair. On Fridays the girls come to school with raw food and prepare a luncheon in a fireless cooker and oven. Once a month the parents are invited.

About twice a year there is a district exhibit of the things that the children have made, with the whole neighborhood in interested attendance. Miss Wyman has accomplished this, and men and women are being developed in this school. No time is wasted, boys and girls are ambitious and fascinated with the work and there is little need of discipline.