

From out the sunset lands,  
So bountiful, so merciful,  
So sweet of soul is she;  
And over all the world she draws  
Her Cloak of Charity.

The poet of the above verses might be expected to be a recluse; on the contrary, Alfred Noyes is a social being. One of his personal anecdotes tells of a letter which he recently received from a man who had read that

fanciful collection of poems, "In Old Japan," in which Old Japan is made the home of every delightful dreamer, and Robert Louis Stevenson is especially referred to as an inhabitant of that country of mystery and charm. The writer of the letter called Mr. Noyes' attention to the fact that Stevenson lived and died in Samoa.

The poet's wife is an American woman—which also proves that he can not be a recluse.

## About Factory "Homework"

Number Three in a Series of Practical Talks on  
Woman in Industrial Life

By EDITH LANG

### Toronto's Domestic Workshops

"HOMEWORK," or the manufacturing of goods in the homes of the work-people, instead of in factories and shops, is at the bottom of many a social problem. A great deal has been written of recent years about "sweatshops" and "sweating systems" in England and other old countries. It seems a pity that Canada has not learnt the lesson that sweatshops grow up wherever manufacturers give out work to be made up away from their own supervision and that of the inspectors under the factory acts.

The manufacturer takes an order in a clean and tidy shop, but he sublets the filling of it to another man, who may sublet the job again, each subcontractor getting a smaller share of the profits for his own, or take the work to his own home, employing others to help him there, and so long as not more than six people are working in his home at one time, he is free from those restrictions of the Factory Acts, which limit the number of hours to be of work, and demand a much higher standard of sanitation and cleanliness than is to be found in "domestic" workshops.

There are not many trades in which homework is very prevalent in Toronto; but it does prevail in the custom tailoring trade, and is also to be found in such trades as fur coat lining, boot lining, cap-making, tag-making, etc.

The tailoring done in the homes is not the cheap "slop" clothing as most people imagine; it is practically all the high-class suits and coats, which are made right through by the journeymen tailors and their one or two helpers, and on which a great deal of handiwork is expended.

The Ontario Factory Act is very explicit on the subject of clothing which is given out to be made up in the homes of the workers. It says that no man shall expose for sale any garment so made up without a permit from the inspector stating that the place of manufacture is thoroughly clean and otherwise in a good sanitary condition. This permit is to state the maximum number of people who may be employed on the premises; it must not be granted until a visit of inspection has been made, and may be revoked if the health of those employed there, or if the public render such revocation desirable.

### Law a Dead Letter

THIS part of the Factory Act seems to be quite a dead letter. There is no compulsory registration of outworkers; the factory inspectors do not know where to find them, and if

they did they could not hope to adequately inspect them with the present number of inspectors. A recent investigation of domestic shops revealed anything but a satisfactory condition of sanitation, and even when the actual workshops were clean, they were situated in houses which were filthy beyond words, and it is difficult to believe that no risks were run by the wearer of the expensive clothes which had to pass through such corridors and stairways.

The health authorities in Toronto have decided to investigate this matter of industrial hygiene, and it is to be hoped that some successful campaign will be carried out.

### Problems to be Solved

IF domestic workshops were cleaned out, there would still be other troubles inherent in the homework system. Tiny children can there be set to work, women who have already worked the full legal



MRS. COCHRANE.

President of the Women's Art Society of Montreal.

years of age work either in a factory or a home workshop. It will be most interesting to watch how this law works, but it would seem far simpler and should be quite possible here in Canada, where the existing evil is comparatively small, to prohibit homework at all except in the few exceptional cases where a person is absolutely unable to go into a factory such as widowed mothers with young children and cripples. These people would have to obtain a license to work at home; careful investigation would be made before the license was given, and it would have to be renewed every year. The comparatively few outworkers would be all known to the authorities and easily inspected, and the fact that they were so few would prevent the frightful competition

among themselves, which has now such a disastrous effect on their wages.

The workers would most assuredly be benefitted; the public would be safeguarded from physical infections and the worse horror of wearing clothes made by sweated labour. The only person to suffer by the enactment of such a law would be the manufacturer who now gives out his work. He would, in future, have to pay to provide a workshop for his employees, of the cost of which he is now robbing his work people, since he pays them no extra wages to meet their increased expenses of rent, etc., but rather the reverse.

The days when "The Song of the Shirt" was penned are supposed to be the days of an outworn epoch. But the echo of the song still haunts our cities in the corners where lurks the custom of factory homework. It is for woman with her new power of public recognition to investigate our domestic workshops, and still the sinister echo there forever.

### Women Factory Inspectors

ALISON CRAIG, who has recently been writing on "The Romance of Factory Growth in Winnipeg," while cautioning the reader to bear in mind that a "factory is not a philanthropic institution," and stating that factories locally are in very fair condition, advocates, nevertheless, the appointment of women as factory inspectors.

Says this writer: "You ask why so insistent for a woman inspector? Not only have women so far show

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### Truth About Dyes for Home Use

There are two classes of fabrics—Animal Fibre Fabrics and Vegetable Fibre Fabrics.

Wool and Silk are animal fibre fabrics. Cotton and Linen are vegetable fibre fabrics. "Union" or "Mixed" goods are usually 60% to 80% Cotton so must be treated as vegetable fibre fabrics.

It is a chemical impossibility to get perfect color results on all classes of fabrics with any dye that claims to color animal fibre fabrics and vegetable fibre fabrics equally well in one bath.

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ON SIR EDWARD CARSON'S DOOKSTEP.

Naturally the Irish Unionist Leader was somewhat indisposed, recently, when a doughty band of suffragettes of Ulster determined to camp on the mat until they had seen him.

hours in a factory sit sewing late in to the night, foreigners and "greeners" are employed and work long hours for low wages, as it is almost impossible to organize them into unions where they are so scattered, and the profits of the sub-contractor himself are diminished by the necessity of paying for rent, light, heat and machines, all of which would be provided at the expense of the manufacturer if the work were done in a factory.

It is these evils that cannot be touched by the health authorities, even where a systematic inspection is carried on, as in England. New York is just "trying out" a new law to stop the sweating system, by which nothing to be used by a child, whether clothing, foodstuff or toy, is allowed to be manufactured in a home, nor may any child under fourteen



White Serge dyed Green.