The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Mary P. McCallum

Women's War Work

A PAMPHLET issued by the Director of Public Information, Ottawa, concerning Canada's War Efforts from 1914 to 1918, contains some interesting statistics for women. The statistics, however complete, can only give a very imperfect impression of the services which Canadian women have rendered since the beginning of the war. The following are a few facts which bear on women's work during the war.

About 2,000 women have enlisted for service as nurses in the C.E.F., and have proceeded overseas. Many are serving in Canada as hospital probationers and in England in the V.A.D. department. Nearly 1,000 women are employed by the Royal Air Force in Canada on a wide range of duties, including motor transport work. Between 5,000 and 6,000 women are at present employed in the Civil Service for the most part on work created by the war. About 75,000 women gave their services to assist in the compilation of the National Register in June, 1918. Women commenced to take an interest in agricultural work early in the war. Now they are working on farms in all parts of the country.

Nature's Best Playground

Figures are not available to show the extent to which women in general, commercial and industrial life have replaced the men who have been called to the colors. There are, however, many thousands of women in banks, offices and factories which before the war had an entirely male staff. Womens' clubs and societies all through the country since the beginning of the war have very generally diverted their energies to special war work, and have been of the greatest service. The conference of about 75 representative women from all the provinces of the Dominion called at Ottawa last February served a very useful purpose. It increased the measure of cooperation between the government and the women's organizations throughout the country.

This record is intended to mark the beginning of the fifth year of the war. It should be remembered that the first four years may well be the prelude of a greater effort still to come. Our accomplishments must be regarded as a stimulus to further action while the need lasts. Canada's women have shown that they are ready when the opportunity comes for service. The fifth year of war stretches out before us and may afford larger and heavier tasks but we know that the women of Canada are ready to do their share no matter what it may mean to them in sacrifice of their own comfort and time.

Teen-Age Girls

A meeting was held in Winnipeg last week of the secondary division committee of the Sunday School Association to arrange for speakers for the Manitoba Older Girls' Conference. The fifth Older Girls' Conference is to be held at Portage la Prairie, October 18 to 20. This conference is to be held under the recordination plan. In point of leadership and unity of forces, it will be a banner gathering for the province. The principal outside speaker will be Mrs. A. Lamoureaux, of Chicago, author of the widely known book, "The Unfolding Life." A large number of local leaders will assist, including Miss H. Palk, Miss Helen Davison, Miss B. Briggen, Mrs. W. F. Cann, Mrs. G. H. Stewart, Miss Jean Duncan, Mrs. E. B. Reynolds and Miss McElheran. The teen-age girls and their friends will be looking forward to this important gathering and laying plans to get there or to send a representative.

Training a Child's Pride

Nature gives all of us a certain amount of pride. We wish people to think well of us. The child shares in the same feeling but he lacks the mind mature enough to decide between what is truly worth while and lasting and what is superficial and of passing value. To have a measure of self respect there must be a reasonable pride concerning personal appearance, capability, honor, and family. In olden times there were those to whom pride and vanity were synonymous terms. It was thought wise to humble a child's pride. A few of us can remember such a painful experience. It hurt at the time and we wonder now did our parents realize the value of a certain kind of pride. Pride does not imply snobbishness. Even the small child must be taught the difference of these two.

In place of crushing the natural instinct of growing youth to want to reach up and to avoid unpleasant consciousness it is much better to train and guide that instinct in a wise way. The child who is taught to have a pride in his nails and teeth, to take pleasure in suitable clothing, properly cared for, and to enjoy orderly, tidy surroundings will be more discriminating and will take pride in worth while achievements. Let us encourage the right kind of pride and discourage that which has in it anything of unkindness to others. Make pride the stepping stone to a higher plane by training the children so that they will instinctively turn from the cheap and harmful because they are too proud to lower themselves by contact with the unworthy.

The Mothers of Men

The hottest battle that ever was fought—
Shall I tell you where or when?
On the maps of the world you will find it not—
'Tis fought 'Ev the mothers of men.
Nay, not with cannon or battle shot,
With sword or nobler pen,
Nay, not with eloquent words or thought
From the mouths of wonderful men.
But deep in the walled-up woman's heart—
Of a woman that would not yield,
But bravely, silently, bore her part—
Lo there is the battle field.
No marshalling troop, no bivouac song,
No banner to gleam and wave;
But oh, their battles they last—
From babyhood to the grave.
Yet as faithful as the bridge of stars,
She fights in her walled up town,
Fights on and on in endless wars,
Then silent, unseen, goes down.
Oh ye, with banners and battle shot
And soldiers to shout and praise,
I tell you the kingliest victories fought
Were fought in those silent ways.

Oh spotless woman in a world of shame!
With a splendid and silent scorn,
Go back to God as white as you came,
The kingliest warrior born.

—Joaquin Miller.

—Sent by Mrs. G. Long.

The Allies' Food Situation

Recent reports relative to the food situation have been interpreted in some instances by the public as indicating that the necessity no longer exists for special conservation efforts on this continent. It is important that the utmost publicity should be given to the frank statement which has just been made by the food controllers of Great Britain, United States, France and Italy. This is made public by the Canada Food Board. In London, England, these representatives of the Allied nations passed the following resolution.

"Resolved, that while the increased production of the United States renders it possible to relax some of the restrictions, which have borne with peculiar hardship upon all our peoples, yet it is absolutely necessary that rigid economy and elimination of waste in the consumption and handling of all foodstuffs, as well as increased production should be maintained throughout the European Allied countries and in North America. It is only by such economy and elimination of waste that the transportation of the necessary men and supplies, from North America to the European front, can be accomplished, and that stocks of foodstuffs can be built up in North America as an insurance against the ever-present danger of harvest failure, and the possible necessity for large and emergency drafts to Europe. We cannot administer the food problem on the basis of one year's war. We must prepare for its long continuance if we are to ensure absolute victory."

Conservation must still be practiced in Canada so far as wheat, meat (especially beef), dairy products, fats and sugar are concerned.

No Women for British Parliament

Andrew Bonar Law made the statement in the House of Commons that according to the decision reached by the law officers of England, Ireland and Scotland, that women are not entitled to become candidates for parliament. The officers were unanimous in their ruling. This settles the controversy which arose out of the extending the franchise to women. Some have held that this gave them the right to sit in parliament and several women had announced their candidacies for office.

A Community Kitchen

If Toronto women are not careful they will lose their reputations as leaders in new forms of patriotic activities. Much talk has been heard of dehydration and community kitchen plans, but nothing definite has been decided despite the approach of the canning season. Moreover, it has been left for little Saskatoon to announce a municipal cannery there.

Most enthusiastic over it is Mrs. Ira Mackray, regent of the Municipal Chapter, I.O.D.E., Saskatoon, who has been in town this week. The cannery is the project of her chapter, which includes all the I.O.D.E. members in that city. It's an outcome of a gardening campaign which they have been conducting for months. As a result not only have 56 acres been turned into gardens in the city, but the Chapter has taken seven itself.

But the cry has been, "The farmers will not grow more because they are not sure of having it taken off their hands!" So the chapter obtained a city grant of $200 and the use of a curling rink as a cannery for the summer. The city has also agreed to give free steam into it for canning purposes, and any woman can bring her materials there.

Farmers who cannot otherwise dispose of produce are invited to bring it to the cannery, which will pay them fair prices and sell the food for patriotic purposes in the winter.

Is this scheme not an example to those women who are still raising money by expensive old methods?

"How did you happen to think of it?" we asked Mrs. Mackay.

"We had a member," replied Saskatoon's regent, "who was a domestic science expert, who had come out on one of those government food demonstrating trains and had married an agricultural professor. She had spent some time in the States, where the women had started both canning centres and community kitchens."

But not only was there a canning enthusiast among the I.O.D.E. delegates but in Mrs. Arden, the former national secretary, was found a dehydration devotee.

"Why, it's the easiest way to preserve fruits and vegetables," says Mrs. Arden. "We did quantities of wild raspberries and cherries up at our Muskoka place last summer. Spinach and beet tops and those service berries were also a success. My husband just made wooden trays and we put them on tables or on the verandah every day and dried them in the sun. We took them in at night to keep them from rain or heavy dew."—Toronto Star.

College Graduate Farmerette

Miss Annie Norrington, a final year student in science at Manitoba university, last spring answered the call for help on the land. She is putting in her second year as "hired man" on a Manitoba farm. She has taken her full share of the work which falls to the lot of the hired man, rising at a quarter to five and working through the long days which the farmer must necessarily put in, in order to do the vast amount of work in the short summer season. She has gone through the usual farm operation of plowing, seeding, haying and mending fences in wet whether. This spring Miss Norrington went back to the land again and out in all the wheat, oats and barley on the farm. Miss Norrington said that she was not nearly so tired after this year as last. It looks very much as farming for women is not an extraordinary hard task after a few months "in training."

His Humble Function

"As nearly as I can determine," said the supercilious young woman, "men are what they call a literary back."

"No," replied the young man wearily, "I'm not even a back. I'm a jitney."

"Come On In. It's Foam, Not Snow!"