

## Farm Women's Clubs

### THE WOMEN'S SIDE OF THE G.G.A.

The following address was delivered by Mrs. S. V. Haight, Vice-president of the W.G.G.A., before the G.G. No. 4 District Convention at Regina.

In the last couple of years, and especially since the last convention the women of the province have taken a very active interest in the Grain Grower movement.

The Women Grain Growers have grown almost faster than any other women's club in Canada, for in nine months over fifty auxiliaries have been organized. When you think that this is a farm women's association it seems even more wonderful, for it's a well known fact that farm women are the last to take up club work. Nearly every town, no matter how small, has some club or society for its women. It may be a church or temperance society or a pleasure club, but there is always some thing, some place for the women to meet for work or enjoyment, some place to get acquainted.

Farm women have at last awakened to the realization that there is great benefit to be derived from an organization of this kind. The Grain Growers' Association appealed to us most. It seemed nearer to us. The men had this and we could see the great benefit it was already, and we could see still greater possibilities. In union there is strength and the greater the union the greater the strength, and the stronger the union the more can be accomplished.

And we women longed to help in some way. So when Mr. Green summoned us to Saskatoon we thought out and formed the auxiliary. But we felt that before we could do much we must first educate ourselves. We must meet for the purpose of getting acquainted with our neighbors, then study the questions of the neighborhood, the district and the province.

#### Banish the Bar

We have never yet seen any good done by a bar. The money put in circulation there could as well be circulated thru more productive channels. We do not approve of the barroom influence, and we have pledged ourselves to do all we can to do away with this evil.

We would send a petition now to the legislature to close the bars of Saskatchewan, till the war is over at least. By that time perhaps some way may be devised whereby the profit may be taken out of the business so the bars will never be reopened, for if the business was not so profitable there would not be so many in it.

#### Women's Business

A government is not "of the people" till all the people are represented. Now we have a government of part of the people for all the people. But when justice is done the women, and they are given a voice in the government they must live under, then and then only can we say we have a government of all the people for all the people by all the people.

The women feel that they should have some say in certain things, for it is our business if bars are put in the way of our children. It is our business that more is not done to do away with the white slave traffic. It is our business that thousands die yearly from tuberculosis and other preventable diseases, and almost nothing is done to stop it.

If doctors were provided to visit rural schools and examine the children at stated intervals, many eye, ear and throat troubles and other diseases that may not be fatal, yet often lead to life-long misery, could, if taken in time, be cured or prevented altogether. And this is politics if we ask the government to take a hand in this, and a part of politics we must look deeply into for the protection of our children.

#### For Peace

Another political question is the "Policy of Peace." We women were never consulted about this war, yet we must furnish all the soldiers and the hard times that will follow this war we must share. We are doing this willingly, or trying to. We are helping the

Patriotic Fund, we are helping the needy homesteader fund; we are sending barrels of clothing to the destitute. But all the time we are protesting against this war madness, this awful sacrifice of human life and property.

Perhaps this war could not have been prevented, but we feel that for a good many years there has been too little peace talk and too much craze of armament. We feel that the women of Saskatchewan and of the world must arise and demand that there shall be no repetition of this war, and that this must be stopped as soon as possible, the sooner the better before more valuable lives are lost. Nothing in the world can ever repay a nation for the loss of its young manhood.

There are other political questions a farm woman must study. Freight rates and tariff and land speculation. We must study these things in our co-operative buying, so that we may know how much these add to the cost of our living. That they have their effect is easily seen.

And our taxes. I am afraid this tax question will confront a good many women in the next few years, whether or not they believe women should mix in politics.

#### Rural Schools

Are your rural schools all you could wish them to be? Could you think of no improvements? Are you taking an active interest in the work being done there?

Have you a social centre in your district? Perhaps the barroom is the nearest. If it is, isn't it partly your own fault?

Wake up you grain growers and you women of the farm! Organize and co-operate to form a social atmosphere that will educate and entertain in a way to build up a better womanhood, a better manhood, a better neighborhood and lead us all to better citizenship.

And by organizing, the women as well as the men, will help strengthen both organizations. For the S.G.G.A. needs all the strength it can get. It can never be strong enough till every farm man and every farm woman in the province is not only a member but an active, living, thinking, working member, working for himself and the good of the order.

The G.G.A. favors votes for women. Then let the women show that they want it. I am sure if they had the right to the ballot they would not misuse that right.

If women were given the vote they would use it for humanity not for property. Men have not made such a glorious success of government altogether. Wealth has increased, but has been unfairly and unjustly distributed. Men have failed to drive homelessness, worklessness, hunger, disease and distress from the land. Women hate these things and would surely work for reform in this direction.

One of the planks in our working platform says: "Make farm life more attractive, thereby keeping the young people on the farm." One way to make farm life more attractive is to study out better methods. Study time-savers. Talk these questions over at the W.G.G.A. meetings, find the quickest and best way of doing things that some of the endless drudgery of the farm may be done away with. It is up to the women themselves to change these conditions, if they are to be changed, as the children are closer to the mothers; and the men, I am sure, will do all they can. The women must co-operate with the children in making fun and pleasure.

The W.G.G.A. have set themselves to solve a great many problems. They want to encourage the farm women in the study and use of all time and labor savers and how to make the most of things at hand. A few minutes or a few hours saved in a day gives that much more time for study or enjoyment. The W.G.G.A. encourage discussions on all subjects at their meetings, educational, useful and social.

#### Improve Surroundings

Farm life can be made more attractive by studying to improve the surroundings, tree and flower planting and



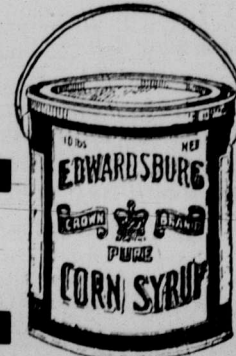
## Home - Made Biscuits — and CROWN BRAND CORN SYRUP

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