

# WOMAN'S SUPPLEMENT

A FEW PAGES PREPARED TO MY LADY'S TASTE

## The Editorial Table

### A Protest From an Ex-Regent

IN the March issue of our Women's Supplement there was a protest on this page against the Daughters of the Empire using bridge tournaments as a means of raising funds, while special reference was made to the action of the Ottawa chapters and the Chamberlain Chapter of Toronto, as they provided the most recent instances of the practice.

From a former Regent of the Chamberlain Chapter has been received an elaborate defence of that particular organization, from which may be quoted the following:

"I have read with much interest the statements in your paper directed against the I. O. D. E., and in particular against the Chamberlain Chapter, and I beg in the first place to make an unqualified denial of the assertions in that article. There is no evidence whatever of insubordination in the Daughters of the Empire, the chapters everywhere working with the National Executive entirely harmoniously. Bridge entertainments are not contrary to the policy of the National Executive. Before suggesting the idea of a bridge at all, I, in my office as Regent, was particularly careful to obtain the permission of the Executive of the National Chapter, which was promptly given. . . The Order, being non-sectarian in character, is entirely within its rights in making use of any recognized social attractions to raise funds for the many splendid and varied schemes it undertakes for the benefit of the community. The Chamberlain Chapter, which has been specifically and most unnecessarily attacked, has, perhaps, more than any other Chapter of the Order, adhered faithfully to the educational propaganda of the society, and will continue to exercise its right to choose the means by which it will raise funds, subject alone to the approval of the Head Office and answerable to no other self-constituted judge. When the papers and the people who presume ignorantly to criticize the I. O. D. E. can show the same volume of gratuitous and self-denying service, for the sake of upbuilding our national life, and will loosen their purse-strings and put their dollars in our coffers without the inducement of bridge, dance, ball or what not, then, and not till then, will they have earned the right to sit in judgment upon what the Order and its branches may or may not do."

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### The Question at Issue

EVIDENTLY the writer of this letter considers that the paragraphs on the subject of "The Game and the Order," which appeared on March 15th, were inscribed by an arch-enemy of the Order, who was "attacking" the organization. On the contrary, I am an enthusiastic admirer of the Daughters of the Empire and have a firm belief that what they have accomplished in the past will be eclipsed by future achievements. If the writer of this letter of protest will re-read the article in question, she may find the Order given credit for its record of honour and usefulness. It is because the Order has such a high place, as a patriotic organization, that it seems a pity for it to resort to an "afternoon of bridge," as a means for raising funds. Such a resort will appear to many as unworthy of its dignity and original aims. So far as the Chamberlain Chapter of Toronto is concerned, no "attack" was intended. The former Regent is quite correct in her reference to the educative work of that chapter, which has been excelled by no other branch of the Order, in the earnestness and intelligence of its patriotic efforts. Reference was made to that chapter, merely because it was holding a "bridge" on March 27th, and was therefore an instance of direct timeliness.

In publishing the fact that the Chamberlain Chapter had obtained the permission of the Head Executive, justice is done to that organization's invariable desire to be in accordance with those in authority. It was asserted, some time ago, by those who were in a position to know, that the Head Office was not in favour of the "bridge" road to an enlarged treasury. If the Head Office has changed its policy, such action as holding bridge tournaments on the part of individual chapters is, of course, in keeping with the wishes of the chief officers.

However, to insinuate that the press has no right to express an opinion on such a matter is decidedly mistaken. The newspapers and weekly publications of the Dominion are cheerfully ready, as a rule, to lend their columns to report the proceedings of patriotic societies. Such organizations are not private enterprises, but public affairs, and consequently are quite legitimate objects for journalistic comment, favourable or otherwise. If the Canadian Club of Toronto (the men's organization) were to hold a bridge tournament, in order to raise funds, I should consider it quite as incongruous with the standing and aims of the club, as I do the action of certain chapters of the Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire. This is a matter where there is room for difference of opinion. It is hardly to be considered, however, as an excuse for an exchange of futile personalities. It is not even a question as to whether bridge, as a private diversion, is commendable or not. The question simply resolves itself: Is the Game worthy of the Order?

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### League of the Empire

THE work of the League of the Empire, which is largely educational, is progressing satisfactorily throughout the Dominion. That indefatigable Englishwoman, Mrs. Ord Marshall, who visited Canada three years ago, is most actively connected with the society's operations, and especially with the agricultural prospects for young Englishmen in Canada. In Toronto, the League recently gave a reception in the Convocation Hall of the University, during the convention of the Ontario Educational Association, when the "profession" was given an opportunity to learn more of the social and educational aims of the society.

The chairman for Canada is Principal Maurice Hutton, of University College, the vice-presidents are Colonel G. T. Denison and Dr. James L. Hughes. The League, in its initial aims of helping the children of the Empire to become acquainted with each

other, is doing a good work of broadening and practical imperialism.

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### Our Multi-Coloured Modes

MORE and more brilliant grow the hues of fashion, and "all the colours of the rainbow" is a poor phrase to describe the display of new fabrics. As one vivacious shopper remarked:

"You may wear purple charmeuse, veiled in orange chiffon, trimmed with bows of royal blue ribbon, and be all the fashion."

"I like bright colours," admitted another, "but I don't like startling colour combinations. For instance, the union of purple and cerise, which is fashionable this year, is simply inartistic and abominable. Then, purple and coronation blue is another harrowing combination. Carrot yellow with pink is another, which fairly screams at you in these spring days. Why can't women be sensible about these fashions and use colours in moderation? The worst of it is, that a season of dullest drab and sad browns will succeed all this outburst of bright hues."

Those of us who enjoy bright tints can revel in the display to our heart's content, while we may pray to be protected from indulging in a simultaneous indulgence in violet, scarlet and sky blue. The old ultra-Puritan idea, that there is something wicked in the enjoyment of gay colours, dies hard. The early Puritans did not entertain it, for we know that Colonel Hutchinson and John Milton appreciated rich array, while the latter's writings, as Macaulay says, "are a perfect field of the cloth-of-gold." Surely, the Creator of all the varied loveliness of grass and flower and sea never intended that his human creatures should wrap themselves in sombre-coloured fabrics and refuse to be glad. As for "mourning," as it is observed conventionally, it is an utterly mistaken and depressing fashion, which Hope and Faith should alike forbid.

ERIN.



The Hostess, Lady Pellatt (centre), and Group of Official Supporters, at "Casa Loma."



And Some of the Guests—Two Hundred and Fifty in All Were Entertained.

### Girl Guides Progressive

AS fortunate in her executive as Sir Henry is in his gardeners is Lady Pellatt, chief commissioner of the Girl Guides' Movement in Canada, and the movement displays an astonishing hot-house growth.

Among the two hundred and fifty girl guests of Lady Pellatt lately at "Casa Loma," were four companies of girl guides new since we wrote of the movement in December. The girls behaved beautifully—a girl guide's characteristic—the while they over-ran joyously the fairy conservatories, paid a visit to the stables, and sat at tea.

The growth of the movement in other cities is correspondingly rapid. Nor is the development one of numbers only. For instance, on March 26th, in Toronto, girls of companies two, three and four were publicly awarded proficiency badges for laundry work, cooking and household management. Emphatic stress is laid on domestic work by the officers, and girl guides are conspicuously "home girls."

The movement, by means of its Councillors, is inter-related with all the national women's organizations. Office-holders are Lady Pellatt, Mrs. F. H. Torrington, Mrs. Plumtre, Mrs. Helen C. Parker, Mrs. P. L. Mason, Mrs. A. E. Gooderham, Mrs. R. Falconer, Mrs. H. D. Warren and Miss Edith M. Mairs.