

# The Countrywoman

## Autumn Days

**P**ERHAPS at no time in the year is the prairie more beautiful than it is during the last week of September. This year the early frosts have done their prettiest work on the trees and shrubs and grass. The landscape is a blaze of yellow and orange and red. Unlike the solid mass of green of the trees in the summer each separate tree stands out in its own particular yellow or golden garb, in contrast to all about it. A trip in the bluffs and woods at this time of year is the only tonic worth while.

Just when the women editors of The Guide, both of whom are country bred, were thinking that nothing mattered but a day in the country, a kind mind-reading family invited them to a place in the family car, and all were off for a day in the country. The day gave promise of being all that tradition and the poets have painted a September day to be, and the woods were at their grandest. The road lay along the Assiniboine River to the westward. The destination was a beautiful country home in the heart of the woods on what was the bank of an old river. The pictures, fancy painted, faded into insignificance when at the end of the lane its beauty burst upon the party. It seemed a bit of earth apart from things worldly. All about were the woods in their yellows and oranges, and scarlets, and their long purple shadows. Truly it was a sight for the gods. The trip home was made in the full of a great red harvest moon. The air was filled with the indescribable odors of the auto. One breathed deeply and sat silent in the presence of the enfolding grandeur. To strike the city pavement and to face the glare of myriads of lights was to be brought back to the reality of every-day life lived in the heart of the West's great city.

But the vision remains. And in these days when human-kind is tried by false conceptions, and misunderstandings, and grief and sorrow, what a steadying effect nature has. One is reminded of Mr. Wood's thought in his Chautauqua address when he said that it was impossible for one to believe that God would fail in His supreme being, man, who was made in His own image and fashioned after His own likeness. All of nature seemed so in accord with His divine plan, that it is unbelievable that man can long be the one discordant note.

## Women and Reconstruction

Miss Majorie MacMurchy, who is head of the women's department of the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association, recently outlined in Everywoman's World, the work of reconstruction as she sees it in her preamble on reconstruction in general, she says many good things, but in her definite outline of the policy of her department she uses much the same high-sounding, and indefinite if not quite meaningless phrases, which characterize the pronouncements of others of the leaders of the Reconstruction Association. She is adroit in her evasion of the real motives and purposes behind the Reconstruction Association. She clothes what she purports to be the clauses of her policy in fine sounding phraseology, which, when analyzed reveals the nothingness behind it. The great need which the Reconstruction Association has of the co-operation and sympathy of women was better revealed in the first report of the executive committee than in the outline of policy by Miss MacMurchy. Among other things it will be remembered that the executive committee recommended that a matriculation scholarship be offered at various Canadian universities for essays by a girl matriculant on the economic importance from the national standpoint of household buying, or on the training of girls for skilled employment.

However, Miss MacMurchy does say some harmless things which can cover a multitude of methods or means to an

end. Her definition of reconstruction is, "Reconstruction may be stated to be the comprehensive effort to reorganize ourselves for better work, better social conditions and better spiritual life." Another splendid thing she says is, "It used to be thought that reconstruction could be left until after the war. This is a mistake. Reconstruction must win the war."

Her statement of policy is as follows, but don't be satisfied with once reading, study it and sift it down in comparison with the program of reconstruction as outlined by the Council of Agriculture in their Farmer's Platform:

"The material well-being of the homes of Canada and of individual men and women depends on sound national economic conditions. The Canadian contribution to the stability of democracy will be great or less according to the strength of these economic conditions. These are:—

"The control and development of our own natural resources.

"Increasing production in manufac-



The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating.

tures, agriculture, mining and forestry. "The conservation of wealth by thrift.

"Ample capital for use in production and development.

"Sound national finance. "An export trade to pay national debts and of a character to promote the employment of Canadians in Canada.

"An import trade which will further the developments of industry and employment in Canada, and which will not create merely unproductive debt.

"The friendly co-operation of labor and capital.

"Wages, housing and standards of living which will endure national well-being and efficiency.

"The encouragement of ability in management and genius in organization and initiative.

"A sufficient reward or incentive to encourage the individual to put forth his or her best powers.

"To work for a right solution of any of these economic problems is to be engaged in reconstruction."

## Women in Insurance

At the insurance convention in New York, on September 4, 5 and 6, members of the Life Underwriters' Association of Canada and of the National Underwriters of the United States, met in joint session. Women delegates at that convention appear, by the reports, to have taken quite a prominent part. Miss Leonora M. Cowick, president of the New England Women's Life Underwriters' Association, stated that all companies should take up women's departments. As men were being continuously taken for war service more

women should be in the field. The speaker favored compulsory life insurance, although not as a government measure. Women can work as hard as men, but the business requires efficient, high-class women as sellers. That the time devoted to life insurance as is devoted to other businesses is bound to mean success was strongly emphasized.

Mrs. Jenny Watkins, the only woman member of the \$200,000 Club of the New York Life, spoke of her nine years' experience in the field, and argued that the greatest opportunity for women to sell life insurance was at the present time.

Miss Constance Woodward, the leading woman member of the \$250,000 Club of the Equitable Life of New York, spoke on the subject of "Women as a war essential to the Life Insurance Business." Her argument was based on the ground that the depleted ranks of business men must be filled up. At the present time the United States has about 2,000,000 men overseas and 2,000,000 women are now engaged

ing centres make it difficult to hold an exhibition at a point convenient to all schools. In such cases it may be advisable to hold more than one, but it is thought best for one association in the municipality to organize and direct the whole affair.

## Women at Work

No attempt whatever is made in this report to recount the enormous service rendered by the women of Canada. A few facts only are given. It is worth while knowing that there is scarcely a part of this country where women have not voluntarily engaged in farm work. About 75,000 women gave their services for the compilation of the National Register, last June. Nearly 1,000 women are now employed by the Royal Air Force in Canada on a wide range of duties. The number of women employed on munitions at one time rose to 30,000, while 2,000 have gone overseas as nurses. It is worth remembering that this year has seen the granting to Canadian women of the Federal Electoral franchise.—The Courier.

## Liquor in Old Country

Lord d'Abernon, chairman of the Central Control Board (liquor traffic), recently held a conference at the Overseas Press Centre, of the Ministry of Information, in order to give correspondents of overseas journals an opportunity to learn something of the effect of liquor control on the working class population in Great Britain.

Lord d'Abernon gave a brief summary of the measures taken by the board in dealing with the drink evil. In the first place the hours during which liquor shops are open have been reduced from 19 hours before the war to five-and-one-half hours at the present time. And care has been taken that the hours during which drink is obtainable are the most suitable. Intoxicating liquors of excessive strength have been compulsorily diluted. Credit, canvassing for liquor orders, and "treating" have been prohibited, and canteens, for the provision of food and non-alcoholic refreshment, for munition and transport workers have been instituted.

Another factor, which doubtless has operated to produce sobriety, is the reduction of the quantity of liquor available for consumption, by the restriction of the issue of spirits and wines from bond, and curtailment of the beer-barrelage, to meet the requirements of the food controller in face of the submarine menace. These latter features, however, are not due to action taken by the control board, and obviously cannot be introduced into any permanent scheme of liquor control. The prohibition of "treating" has put a stop to what Lord d'Abernon termed "compulsory drinking," a practice previously common with workmen, especially on pay days when a group would assemble in some public house and each man "treated" or stood a drink all round. The institution by the control board of canteens for the provision of meals and non-alcoholic refreshment, in connection with large works, docks, and so on, has been an important and successful experiment. In the course of the board's investigations it was impressed by the serious lack of any provision of a suitable place where the workmen could take their meals. Often the only alternative open to the men was an overcrowded public house or some corner in the works itself. The canteens are operated by the employers solely in the interests of the workmen and are not run for profit. The board have now provided some 700 canteens which cater for about 1,000,000 workers daily.

Recently the Dominion government has appointed a woman member on the Civil Service Commission at Ottawa. She is Miss Ruth Walker, B.A., a graduate of MacMaster University. She has for the last year been a specialist on history at Woodstock College. She received her appointment because she was successful in the competitive examination for the position.

October 2, 1919  
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**D**EAN Julia had been Agnes and every open never saw

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