

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

DREAMS

Such a little thing often turns the course of a human life and makes it a success or failure that it is surprising how cheerfully ordinary mortals go about tinkering with the wheels of destiny. How glibly is some shyly-broached scheme pooh-poohed or laughed out of court. The scheme, if undertaken, might mark an epoch in the life of the other person, but it conflicts with some little prejudice in the mind of the listener and is promptly quashed. Not a moment is given to consideration of its pros and cons, not a thought to its probable effect on the fortunes of the person whose brain has hatched it. No, the hearer conceives an instantaneous prejudice against it and comes down upon it severely.

Families feel themselves to be especially privileged in this matter, and parents are perhaps the worst sinners because the most powerful members of the family group. It would be interesting to know how many people have succeeded in this world in spite of their parents, not because of them. There would be a goodly company. They number up into the thousands who, instead of opening the door to a good education, for the boy or girl, have declared that the youngster has more education than they ever got, the implied conclusion being, "And look what a great man am I." But when the boy or girl snatches an education in spite of the parents they go about bragging as if it was entirely due to their tender encouragement.

Brothers and sisters are frequently no less futhless than parents—rather more so, if anything. They often suffer from a deep-rooted conviction that nobody closely related to them can amount to anything, each one being, in his own mind, the one possible exception to mediocrity in the family.

In these discouraging circumstances it is small wonder that so very little originality is shown in the conduct of our lives. Every out-cropping of it in the child is severely squelched by an ever-vigilant family circle, and later a thoroughly conventional community resents any deviation from the standard type.

Here and there a very determined person goes his own way in the face of family hindrance and neighborhood prejudice and succeeds. Then his parents speak of him proudly as "My son Charles," and compare him with his brothers to the disparagement of the latter, who have heeded their advice and kept in the beaten path. The point of it all is that it is a very difficult thing to strike out on a new road, whether it leads to a new method of farming, an unusual business occupation, or merely untraveled avenues of thought. The very people who should encourage are almost certain to be the most pessimistic and incredulous of any hidden abilities, but no one who has even a little dream should allow himself or herself to be laughed out of it. Dreams are what the progress of the world is built upon.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

WHO BUYS RAGS?

Dear Miss Bynon:—Do you know of any place in Winnipeg where they buy old rags? Please do not publish my name, but put the answer in Home-makers' page, which I enjoy very much.—X.Y.Z.

Answer

The Shragge Iron and Metal Co., 409 Princess Street, Winnipeg, buys old rags and pays about two cents a pound for them.—F.M.B.

CRUDE OIL BURNER

Dear Miss Bynon:—In your issue of April 5, in the Country Homemakers' column, I noticed an article on the closing of the Agricultural College for this year. The domestic science department had on exhibition, amongst other things, a new burner for crude oil which can be fitted into an ordinary cook stove. In your next issue, kindly let us know where this burner can be procured and the probable cost.

Yours very truly,
PETER MOIR.

Answer

The people handling this burner are something like Finnigan, on again, off again, gone again. However, I have just uprooted an address which may lead to success. I am told that if you will communicate with S. J. Smith, 2256 Angus Street, Regina, he will supply all the needed information.

F. M. B.

WHEN DO WOMEN VOTE?

Dear Miss Bynon:—I am rather in the dark concerning the voting by women in Saskatchewan. Are they going to be allowed to vote next December on any and all matters, as provincial parliament representatives, etc? Also how will they be able to vote if their names are not on the voters' lists? A councillor of this municipality said recently that there had been no notice to the effect that the voters' lists would be changed, and they had no intention of changing them.

The heavy rush of spring work being about over, we women will have a chance of discussing the questions up for voting, but we want to be sure that we really are going to vote.

I thought if you would answer this in The Guide a number of women would be interested.

I am, Yours sincerely,
Aikton, Sask. MRS. J. A. JAMES.

Answer

In order to be sure of giving you the correct answer I consulted the Attorney-General's Department, Regina, and received in reply a letter referring me to the amendments to the Saskatchewan Election Act made at the last session of the legis-



First jury composed entirely of women which considered four Mexican bandits in a superior court of San Diego, Cal. Since several suffrage bills have been introduced in California women have frequently served as jurors, but this is the first time that the entire jury was composed of women.

lature. As usual these amendments are concealed in much legal verbosity, but interpreted in plain English they mean that, wherever the Election Act formerly read male it now means male or female, that new lists must be made, and that all qualified electors will have an opportunity to register before an election is held.—F.M.B.

PROUD OF U.S. ATTITUDE

Dear Miss Bynon:—Why is it that Canadians are so anxious for the United States to get into this war? I have been hearing sneers about the States in my immediate vicinity, but thought it purely local, but yesterday I picked up The Guide—and let me say right here that we appreciate the G.G. Guide so much, also the other farmers' papers, and consider them so far ahead of the same kind of papers at home—this Guide had a letter published with sneers about the "cousins on the South," as I hear them called so often. This party refers to them as people "too proud to fight," and who "write notes" to countries who destroy women and children.

Now, Miss Bynon, Canada—especially Western Canada—is composed of a great percentage of States people. As a rule we are loyal to the allies. I might say all English-speaking Americans are loyal. England is our mother country as well as yours, even if we did see fit to sever the colonial relation. Then those of us who have come to Canada have made it our country by adoption; we are loyal, but we can't so soon throw off our love for our old country. It doesn't make us a bit worse citizens, rather better, I should judge, because we can't so soon forget. We are proud we come from a country that is "too proud to fight." We are only afraid that there is an element down there now that is going to set the country back and get ready to fight. You may call it "old womanish" or what you please, but you must admit that a country as well as a person must have ideals ahead of it even if they are not strong enough to live up to them and war, as war, can never be put down until

a country is strong enough to say "I won't fight," just as dueling died when men got strong enough to say, "I won't fight," when a seeming insult was given. Now, in less than fifty years, dueling has ceased completely—in the States, at any rate.

And, at any rate, hasn't the States a right to run its own affairs according to its own way of thinking without being dictated to or sneered at by its "cousins across the line"?

A CONSTANT READER.

SAFETY FOR BABY

When you purchase raw or dipped milk, simply putting it on the ice is not sufficient to render it safe for the baby. It is safest and best to pasteurize all uncultured milk for the baby during the summer. This process of pasteurization is carried out by heating the milk in a pasteurizer to a temperature of 145 degrees Fahrenheit, holding it at this temperature for thirty minutes and then cooling rapidly in running water. If you have no pasteurizer, the milk bottles may be placed in a pail containing boiling water, the pail covered and then removed from the stove and set aside for a half hour. At the end of this time remove the bottles, cool them rapidly under running water and put them on the ice until needed. Rapid cooling is of great importance.

Do not boil baby's milk. Boiling alters the nutrient value of milk. It impairs or destroys certain vital principles in milk called vitamins. Milk in which these have been impaired or destroyed by boiling tends to develop in children a disease known as scurvy.

But remember that neither boiling nor pasteurizing can make dirty milk, half-spoiled milk, or fly-infested milk pure enough for your baby. Ice is the very best preservative of milk; but be sure that your refrigerator is scrupulously clean and that the milk is separated from other eatables. Milk absorbs odors, attracts germs, and is very susceptible to infection. So guard it carefully.

Remember that it is the duty of your state, your city and your milkman to see that you get clean, pure, fresh milk.—Dr. Wallace Hamilton in The Delineator.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Use a cheap wire hair brush to clean the broom of the carpet sweeper. Nothing else removes so quickly the tangles of hair, lint and dust. Clean the sweeper at least once a week if you expect it to give good service.

To keep lemons from drying out or moulding put on a saucer and cover with a tumbler. If only half the lemon is used at a time, set the unused half on the cut side and put the tumbler over it; it will keep for several days.

At least once a week fill the granite or enamel coffee pot and cereal cooker with cold water, adding to it a bit of soda, then bring this water to the boiling point, turn out, rinse the utensil with cold water and turn upside down to dry without using the dish towel.

When corn is in season save the cobs and dry them for winter kindling. Soak some of them from time to time in kerosene and thus have a quick and safe fire starter, but don't as you value life and property attempt sprinkling them with the inflammable fluid after you have put them in the range.

The table pad or silence cloth of cotton flannel not only saves the cloth itself, but will make a thin, cheap cloth look quite respectably heavy, also it protects the surface of the table. Old blankets well washed, then cut the right shape and size and bound with tape or blanket ribbon make excellent silence cloths. They should be cut the exact size of the top of the table so that none hangs over the edge, and there should be two in constant use so that once a week one of these can go to the laundry.

To keep small tablecloths and tea spreads from cutting in the folds roll them on a broomstick cut the right length and padded with cotton flannel. The rolling should be done while the ironing is in progress, and the ironed surface rolled inward. Don't roll too tight, and if necessary secure the roll from unwinding by tying a flat piece of tape about it, then lay the whole on the linen shelf. A very little pulling and patting will make the cloth set smooth when spread on the table, and the surface will be of uniform gloss.