

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

A DRY MIDDLE WEST

It is true that the middle West is cold when it's cold, hot when it's hot, and windy when it's windy, but the peculiar combination of the newness of the country and its bigness seems to induce its citizens to settle its problems in a new and big way.

The opponents of temperance urge that the world becomes better generation by generation, rather than day by day, and that such legislation as woman suffrage and temperance is passed during periods of emotional uplift, after which there may be a reaction. Admitted, but the back-wash is never complete. A great body of people cannot go out and take their stand for moderation, and decency, and social cleanliness, as they did in Manitoba on March 13, without the whole body politic being sweetened and purified by it.

So it is really a great privilege to live in a young, strenuous country, full of the zeal of doing things, and fearless of consequences.

THE NEW MODES

About every third year we have fashions which remind one of a way station. Situated about half way between two violent extremes they are quite moderate and temperate in character, and this, thanks be to a kind providence, is one of those years.

It may be, indeed there is rather disquieting evidence that we are on the way to crinolines and capes, but, leaving the unknown tomorrow to take care of itself, let us enjoy the quite distinctly pleasant lines of the new frocks and suits.

There seem to be only two freaks in the new modes, the skirt with the hoop effect at the hips and the hideous design having an extended pocket effect at either side. The remainder are shirred, gathered, rippled or smocked and all of them are pretty and becoming.

Moreover, the new fashions take cognizance of the fact that the average woman is equipped with two legs and two arms, which in following the ordinary activities of life are required for use. It might seem superfluous to comment upon this fact were it not that fashions have taken turns about with the upper and lower limbs in hampering their usefulness with clothes. First she tied the arms down with kimono sleeves and then she tied the feet together with skirts which made walking all but impossible. But this year she is in one of her sanest moods. The fashionable gowns are soft, roomy and pretty. In the suits the skirts are usually gored into a wide flare or set onto a yoke with pleats, but in the gowns the skirts are shirred or pleated onto the blouse and more often than not they are tucked or trimmed with bands of a contrasting material.

There is not a set style of blouse which overshadows all other types but there are two features which are asserting themselves with special emphasis in many different styles of bodices; they are the little shoulder capes, and the long, transparent sleeve gathered at the wrist.

In the suit coat one meets with two distinct types of collar, the severe military style, buttoning straight up to the throat, and a soft, loose, rolling collar which turns back nearly to the waist and which is almost invariably of a contrasting color or material. Both styles have the rippled skirt. Then, too, that quaint bolero jacket has bobbed up again, as it invariably does every few years, this time with pointed fronts, on occasion, and other superficial evidences of modernity.

The All-Important Headwear

It has been stated in this column before, but it will bear repetition, that there is no other one feature of a costume as important as the hat. If one would be well-dressed a hat should never be bought lightly, on the impulse of the moment, but should be studied carefully from every angle and in relation to the different costumes with which it is to be worn.

The styles of this spring offer two extremes, very little and very big hats, with the ever-fashionable sailor to bridge the gap between. The trimmings consist of flowers, generally piled high in front, ribbon shaped into lightly-poised, bird-

like bows, ruffles of tulle about the crown and gaily colored birds.

Fashionable Footwear

Only in the matter of shoes has Fashion departed from her dignified and sensible course. In order to flatter the fashionable woman with the idea that her feet are a size smaller than they really are, the new shoes and pumps have the heel high and sloping sharply at the back, atrocious things to walk in, but producing a misleading effect of smallness and sleekness.

UNFAIR TO IMMIGRANTS

Under the heading, "Women and Homesteads" in The Guide for February 23, it says among other things, "The Dominion government has sunk millions of the country's money dusting around the dirty corners of Europe, trying to scratch together a population for our western provinces. And they have succeeded. Thousands of Turks, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Austrians, etc., have been dumped on our prairies knowing nothing of our language, laws and institutions, and earning as little." A little further on it says, "But a Canadian or British born woman, no matter how highly educated and capable she may be."

I wonder if anybody who is using such language as this writer did has got any right to call herself educated, not to say highly educated.

If the author of that article would study a little geography and read the newspapers she would

wise they have been forced to go to detention camps. This is my point of view. I think that not all of the English or Canadian born will have the same opinion as the author of that article had, but will look at the things as they truly are.

MILY REZAC.

I should like to say that I have the deepest sympathy for people resident in this country whose homeland is at war with us. True, some of them have made themselves objectionable, but there are a great many who, tho they have gone quietly about their business, have been made to suffer unjustly thru the hatred and suspicion war always engenders.—F.M.B.

"MUST PLAY HIS WAY"

Dear Miss Beynon:—"I had planned to give a patriotic acre, but, believe me, now I will turn it into the Belgian Relief, Dominion Alliance, or Chinese Inland Mission Fund. What is the sense in my giving twenty-five dollars to the Patriotic Fund when several of my near neighbors, better able to give than I, don't give a cent." So writes your correspondent, "Another Grouchy Wolf," in your issue of March 1, 1916. Please, will you allow me to tell "Grouchy" what I think of him, or at least of his letter. It is decidedly pro-German. Its influence will weaken the British cause; it will hinder the giving to the Patriotic Fund; it will hinder enlisting; it will make it easier for Germany to win. Whether "Grouchy" knows it or not, he is helping Germany, he is linked with men of barbaric impulses, who crucified Canadians, killed women and children, ravaged Belgium, fired on hospital ships and murdered Edith Cavell.

"Grouchy" wants a compulsory tax. All right, "Grouchy," keep right on helping the enemy, and if you and Fritz are successful in crushing our beloved empire, and Germany rules Canada, you will get it, and plenty of it.

"Grouchy" is like a little boy. "If you can't play the way I want you to play, then I won't play at all." He tells us what he wants and until the government does as he wants it to do he won't give it his support. Well, dear Miss Beynon, what does this prove? Simply this, that in Canada we have the fullest degree of freedom, and some of us are abusing it. Yours for the Empire,

AMOS WILTON.
Nevis, Alberta.

DOG AND CAT BITES

Dog and cat bites are among the more serious mishaps which befall young children. Bandage immediately, tightly and above the wound. Encourage free bleeding. Cleanse the wound as thoroughly as possible with peroxide of hydrogen, alcohol or tincture of iodine. Get the child to the doctor at the earliest possible moment.

NIGHT-FALL

(By Emma Gertrude White)

In the maple, chants the katydid
A measure shrill and thin.
In the dusty grass, a cricket scrapes
His cheerful violin.
Across the street, my neighbor
To her baby, softly sings,
And the sound is wafted to me
Where my sea-grass hammock swings.

And the sky, a gray-blue curtain,
Stretches coldly overhead;
From the hill, a distant street-lamp
Sends a gleam of dusky red.
While the stars shine forth but dimly
(Still the gentle mother sings);
And their radiance soft is falling
Where my sea-grass hammock swings.

More insistent waxes Katy,
High above the cricket's trill;
Brighter-grow the stars far shining
And the sky grows bluer still.
"Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber,"
Softer still the mother sings;
Night has fallen and enfolds me,
Where my sea-grass hammock swings.



A LIVING ROOM WITH GREY, ROUGH PLASTERED WALLS

find out that in Austria are many different nations, each with a great history, and highly educated. I am pretty sure that there would be very few who would express themselves on behalf of another nation in the way she did.

It is the truth, the Canadian government has been advertising in Europe and has brought the thousands of Turks, Bulgarians, etc., to Canada, because the Canadian government knew very well that all the millions of acres in Canada would be worthless without a population. Besides, did not this government know that those immigrants from the "dirty corners of Europe" would bring money along, which they would not be able to keep for themselves, but would have to spend in Canada, and there are the Canadian born in there first who would have the benefit of it. I have never heard nor read that the government has given anything away to these people.

Anyone who takes up a homestead has to put a whole lot of money and labor into this land before he can get the worth of it out again.

And now, since the outbreak of the war, is the public treasury again called into requisition to keep them under guard so that they may not blow up our railway bridges, etc." It says in the article. Here she is mistaken. These prisoners have to work. That the government has not put them to work before was not their fault, but only the fault of the government. Then I guess that there are very few of them who are held as dangerous, but the most of them are only the victims of this war.

They have been working, but have been turned out of work thru the length of time the war is lasting. Their savings have been used up and, as it was impossible for them to get work or live other-

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