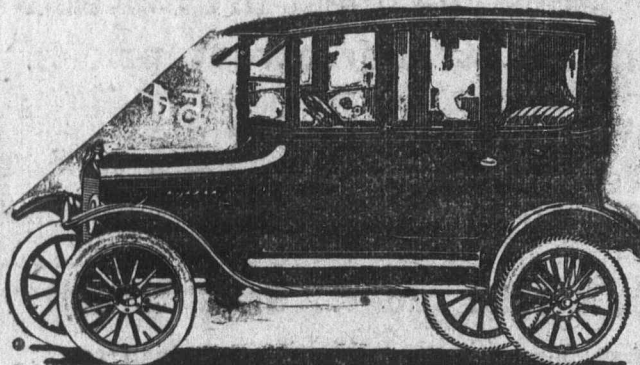


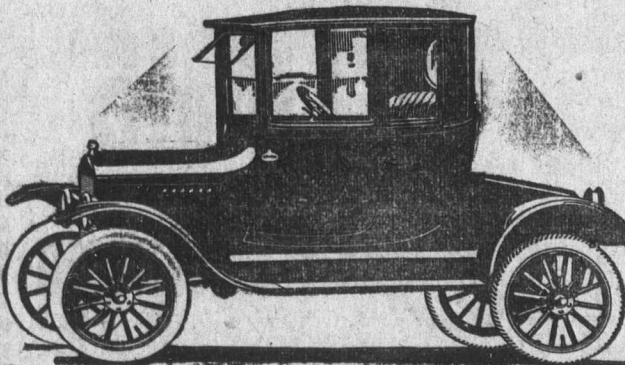
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A GREAT QUESTION

"Shall women be admitted to the ministry?" is a question which is just now agitating the Methodist people of Canada. The quarterly boards have been giving it attention, and in the course of a week or so they are expected to give their decision on the point. As on every question of importance that of a woman clergy no doubt has both its supporters and its opponents, while there may be some also, who care little what the decision may be. While we have not heard or read the arguments pro and con, it is not difficult to do a little guessing, and what we say is probably as applicable to other church bodies as it is to the Methodists. Supporters will naturally point to the active part taken by women in church affairs and ask, Why draw the line at the pulpit? Many church congregations of all denominations are there where the bulk of the work is done by the women members, but for whose activities it might be difficult to keep congregations together. Surely, it might be argued, women who have done so much good in other branches of church work should not be debarred from this particular one. Then there is the further argument that too few young men aspire to the ministry, and that if this is permitted to continue, before many years pass there will be empty pulpits in the land. Opponents of such an innovation will advance the old argument against woman pastors that they urged against women voters, namely, that the "women don't want it." The coming election will show whether or not this argument as originally used is a real one. There will no doubt be also the claim that it is unscriptural for women to preach, and some antis may even go so far as to quote Paul's injunction to the Corinthians to "let your women keep silence in the churches, for it is not permitted them to speak, but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything let them ask their husbands at home, for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." There have been in modern times women preachers who have done immense good, and it may be that were the sex given opportunity to take the divinity course they would give as good an account of themselves as have the men. Another possible argument is that a woman can't make a good preacher and pastor and be an efficient wife and mother. This may be a genuine argument, for there is a limit to woman's as well as to man's capacity, and many a preacher of today will tell you that if he had to look after the children as well as preach and perform pastoral duties, either the preaching and pastoral work or the family would suffer from neglect. It may be—we have heard to the contrary—that the proposed women ministry would be bound to celibacy; if that is the case then one of the strongest arguments of the antis is at once disposed of. It is not at all likely that lack of vocal or rhetorical gifts is advanced as an argument against the admission of women to the pulpit, seeing that so many married men are convinced quite to the contrary. There are husbands who will tell you that when they have considered it the part of discretion to go upstairs with their shoes in their hands instead of on their feet that they have encountered women who as extempore speakers have men beaten to the late Roosevelt's frazzle, which, by the way, might be taken as an argument by "pros" who object to the use of notes or manuscript in the pulpits. However, we feel confident the question will be properly decided by the people immediately concerned.—The London Echo.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

THE TREES OF OUR PLANTING

We saw an old man the other day planting trees and the thing looked both significant and interesting. If his enterprise proves successful, it will be long after he has quit this mortal life that it will reach its fruition and men will rejoice in the glorious beauty and shade and fruitfulness which he has helped to create; and that thought ought to help to inspire him to do his deed with care and thoroughness. In the long after years men will thank him for what he has done. Is not all of life something like the planting of a tree? If we live it well, there will be many who come after us who will have reason to rejoice in the abiding beauty which we have helped to create. Sometimes life seems so fleeting and transitory that we wonder if it leaves anything behind it which abides, but is not all that is beautiful in our modern society and civilization the result of the fine, good living of individual men and women who have gone before? They planted their tree and it grew into beauty and fruitfulness, and today we are able to rejoice because they lived and loved and labored so well.—Guardian.

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Just Hints to Local Merchants

YOU are now busy arranging your displays of Christmas Goods. Before you finish give a thought to your LIGHTING SYSTEM. The MOST brilliantly lighted store, both inside and in display windows, is naturally the one that attracts the most attention. Use plenty of hydro this month. Add a few extra high-power lamps and string display lights throughout your store. Ask us to assist you with your lighting. Our suggestions are yours for the asking. Increased business is bound to come if you make your store bright and attractive enough.

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