

THE FARM WOMAN'S PAGE OF NEWS AND OPINION

"If I Were My Wife"

What the Farm Woman Should Do, From One Man's Viewpoint

BY F. G. B.

IF I were my wife I would begin right now to fight the pests, germs and the hard, disagreeable part of housekeeping for this summer. To fight a battle before war is actually declared is a good way to keep the enemy from the home and so prevent disaster.

First, I would give special attention to my windows and doors. If there are no screens for them I would buy wire, employ someone to make them and thus have them ready, for what is the use to have such things if we are late in getting them in, and let the flies get ahead of us. I would learn all I could about the best methods of trapping and poisoning these insects, and be fully prepared with my deadly weapons, for in the country especially the flies will swarm on the back doors and it is almost impossible to keep them out of the house. A few traps and some poison about the porch will help considerably.

If I were my wife I would look for conveniences for my own kitchen and home, such as labor-saving devices. We men have them on the farm, so why not have them in the house? Too often this is neglected by thoughtless men and borne patiently by the housewife. I would, if possible, have running water in my kitchen, with spigots for both hot and cold water. Lights I would have installed even if money was scarce and my husband objected. Think of the work saved by abolishing lamps! I would never stop fuming until I got mops, carpet sweepers, oil stove and all necessary cooking utensils. All these things our city sisters possess, and how they are envied by the country woman.

These things are necessary because servants are scarce, and the housewife and mother owes it to herself as well as to her family to save her strength and live in peace. If I were my wife I would not spend this summer in fighting flies and doing hard work that modern conveniences could do for me. No, I would not—not if I could possibly help it—not even if I had to get a divorce from myself.

How Co-Operation Works

Editor Nonpartisan Leader: I am so glad the "Farm Woman's Page" is not filled up with recipes and how to feed two children on the food that one should have. It is about time the women should find out why we are forced to eternally economize to keep our families just merely existing.

The little letter of Sister N. A. Stongaard on co-operation was especially interesting to me, for we have a co-operative society known as the Grangers' Warehouse company of Methow valley. This co-operative society is the outgrowth of political persecution of the farmers during the war by local merchants, bankers and politicians. They mobbed our Pomona master because he was a member of the Nonpartisan league; they refused to allow us to hold meetings and picnics in the town we had built and were supporting. Acting as the council of defense they prevented our speakers from keeping their appointments with us. They called us Socialists, Bolsheviks, anarchists, I. W. W.s and pro-Germans. They did many other disloyal things which the farmers endured to prevent revolution and bloodshed.

As a result the farmers and their wives got together and started a warehouse company. For a small beginning

we capitalized for \$2,500 and divided it up into 100 shares at \$25, rented a building, which we now own, and set up in business.

We buy at wholesale and distribute to our members at cost, plus a per cent for running expense. The warehouse is kept open one day each week and that is a busy day.

The women were right in the front-line trench in this move, taking shares and making sacrifices to pay for them, attending all meetings and boosting. We have been doing business about nine months and many of us have saved several times the price of our share.

There are 46 such warehouses in our state and many more planning organization. We have our wholesale society and are planning to go into the manufacturing business.

If any sister is interested in starting a co-operative business similar to ours I think it would be possible to get a copy of the constitution and by-laws of our state Grange warehouses.

Don't be afraid, sisters. Have confidence in yourselves and you will succeed in North Dakota, where the people rule.

Winthrop, Wash. MRS. ALFA S. VENTZKE.

Mothers Need Better Care

A vast area in the Northwest, larger than the state of Connecticut, was served by only three registered doctors, the children's bureau of the United States department of labor reports. In one northwestern county two-thirds of the women were unable to have a physician's attendance at childbirth. That better care of expectant mothers is needed is indicated by the fact that the percentages of infant mortality due to premature birth have increased from 17½ per cent in 1910 to 21 per cent in 1917.

WANT WOMAN'S BUREAU

Women are making a determined drive at Washington to have congress establish a woman's bureau as a permanent branch of the United States department of labor. The bureau was established temporarily during the war, with an annual appropriation of \$40,000. The women ask that this be increased to \$150,000, pointing out that congress is appropriating \$300,000 to improve the breed of domestic animals and over \$5,000,000 for all animal industries.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The national office of the Women's Nonpartisan clubs, along with the National Nonpartisan league and the League publications, has been moved to Minneapolis and is located in the Minnesota Daily Star building. Address Flora Thomason, National Secretary, Women's Nonpartisan clubs, P. O. Box 2072, Minneapolis, for membership or other information.

League Candidate for Treasurer of Minnesota

MISS LILY ANDERSON of Franklin, Minn., has been selected by the farmer-labor forces of Minnesota as their candidate for state treasurer. Miss Anderson was born in Minnesota 28 years ago, daughter of a pioneer family. Her grandfather, Max Haach, was victim of an Indian uprising in southern Minnesota while protecting other settlers from the natives.

Miss Anderson and her brother, Irving Anderson, who returned recently from army service in France, manage together a 287-acre farm at Franklin. When help is short she puts on overalls, helps in the milking of 15 head of cows in caring for feeder cattle and other farm work.

Miss Anderson received her education in California, where the family lived for a few years on account of her mother's ill health, and at the Franklin high school.

She has been active in the women's auxiliary of the American Society of Equity, Minnesota union, for the last five years, serving successively as secretary of a local, as organizer and as state secretary. She has been active in Methodist Sunday school work, attending state conventions as well as working locally, and has been one of the most active workers in the state for the Women's Nonpartisan clubs. During the war she was district chairman of the food conservation board and member of the executive committee of the county health board.



MISS LILY ANDERSON

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Bees Cut Living Cost

Minnesota Woman Gives Her Experience for Benefit of Others

EDITOR Nonpartisan Leader: The article on bees by Charles Olive pleased me very much. If every farm family had three or four colonies of bees, intelligently managed, they would not need to buy much sugar at the present price, since honey is well adapted for sweetening and makes fine cakes when proper recipes are followed. It is one of the most healthful sweets and very well liked by most people.

I will add a few suggestions for beginners which I learned through experience. Ten years ago I bought the first colony of bees, but did not know anything about their habits or management. I could not tell the queen from the others. I have averaged five gallons of extracted honey per colony every year and have always had plenty of winter feed for them. Get one colony of bees, a smoker, an extra super filled with frames, with full sheets of foundation for surplus honey. Ten frame hives are best.

I use a large brim straw hat, over which I slip a veil made from black cloth screen, sewed, bound and shirred on top; then a raincoat which closes well around the neck, so the end of the veil is inside the coat, and a pair of gloves. Protected thus I use the smoker gently and then I can work with them all day without any trouble.

Do not work with bees when you are nervous or very sweaty or when the weather is very sultry and a storm threatening, as they are liable to be very cross.

Work gently and slowly. Do not jerk the frames out, as that makes them cross, and avoid crushing bees when changing frames.

I hope this will encourage other farm women to start with a few colonies. They will enjoy keeping bees and will have all the honey they want to eat.

Fairfax, Minn. MRS. GUST C. ALBRECHT.

Work for Women to Do

Editor Nonpartisan Leader: I read in our last Leader a piece headed, "Women Must Wake Up," that appealed to me very much. The thought came to me, "Why?"

Here we have been lying dormant too long, politically. Now comes the call, "Wake up." What does it mean?

It means there is oppression, some awful oppression, that is causing such unrest. Such calls for help ought to be heeded by every woman who can possibly get out on election day.

I am very glad for the Women's Nonpartisan clubs. They will be a means of great education for the women. We need a club in this locality very much. I am doing all I can to advance the cause.

It seems very necessary that every woman should wake up to the great responsibility that is now upon us.

The organized power of those against us is now keeping the workers in slavery, but by the power of our ballots we may set them free.

I love the slogan, "Freedom for all forever."

MRS. C. S. PERRINE. Sherburn, Minn.

A NEW HOLIDAY

The celebration of June 14 as "Neighbor's Day," with nation-wide community meetings, is proposed by the national conference on community organization, which is trying to promote a more friendly spirit in communities throughout the country.