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A BAG OF TOOLS

By R. L. Sharpe

Isn't it strange
That princes and kings,
And clowns that caper
In sawdust rings,
And common people
Like you and me
Are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass,
A book of rules;
And each must make—
Ere life is flown—
A stumbling block
Or a steppingstone.

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the gardener special help when it was most needed and his readiness to take her to club meetings, challenged her to greater effort and helped make club work more important and fun.

Then there has been the vitally important role of the Home Economist, those very special friends of members and leaders, who have directed the work in the field and have meant so much in the lives and homes of club members everywhere. It was as County coaches that they pioneered in club work with the late Miss Verna Hambridge creating and writing Food Projects, Miss Lulu Row, giving the same guidance in Clothing and Miss Jean Scott in Hospitality. Our own Director, Miss Helen McKercher, as always with her understanding and appreciation of rural families, did outstanding work in central Ontario in the early days. Now 4-H Homemaking Clubs are fortunate in having her, with her special training and experience, as Director of Home Economics Service, directing their programme. Club members of other days will recall many former Home Economists as they think back on their club experience. Northern Ontario remembers with affection Miss Lilly Petty who for many years was Home Economist from Muskoka to the Manitoba border. Grey County since the beginning has enjoyed the leadership of their Miss Flora Durnin, and Miss Elsie Irvine has her roots down in a corner of Miss Petty's territory — Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora; and there are many others.

In 1940 half a dozen girls achieved Provincial Honours, having completed 12 projects; and in 1941 thirty-one were proudly wearing Provincial Honour Pins. In a letter to them in December I congratulated them on their accomplishment, telling them that we were tremendously proud of their achievement and all that it represented. To quote from that letter: "You are the pioneers in Homemaking Clubs. You have shown that you have the characteristics of the pioneer — industry and endurance, determination and perseverance, co-operation and dependability, courage and resourcefulness. May you continue to develop these traits which will contribute to your success and satisfaction in all that you do. Your Homemaking Club experience makes you key people in your respective communities, counties and in the Province. As specially trained young women you have certain responsibilities and

obligations. People will look to you for leadership, to establish standards, and to apply club practices in daily living — to show that knowing means doing."

In reporting Homemaking Clubs in the Fall 1940 issue of Home and Country, I raised the question What of Club Work? "You ask, What of Club Work? Does it develop girls? Does it assist them in their daily living? Does it encourage them in establishing goals and standards? Does it challenge them to think and to weigh values? Does it give them an opportunity to work with others and co-operate with others? The answer will be found in the girls themselves, as we see them today, tomorrow and in the years ahead, in their clubs, in their homes and at their work."

As we look about us and see former club members in action in homes, in various professions and jobs, and giving outstanding leadership in their communities, they answer these questions in a right splendid manner. We are always delighted to hear and see them and to find them leading Homemaking Clubs and taking special pride now in having their daughters in club work. Because of their own club experience they are ever zealous in helping these daughters organize their busy days so that they find time for both club work and school.

The comment of one of Ontario's representatives at the 1959 National Club Week was most heartening. In paying tribute to club work, she intimated her readiness and eagerness to assume some responsibility for their continued success in the next twenty-five years.

May Ontario 4-H Homemaking Clubs keep on growing, expanding and changing as tomorrow's youth needs differ from those of yesterday and today.

It has indeed been a thrilling, enriching, rewarding experience and high privilege to have been associated with Homemaking Club members, leaders and families for a quarter century.

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A SMILE

Let others cheer the winning man,
There's one I hold worth while;
'Tis he who does the best he can,
Then loses with a smile.
Beaten he is, but not to stay
Down with the rank and file;
That man will win some other day,
Who loses with a smile.

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We see a sorrow rising in our way,
We strive to flee from the approaching ill,
We seek some small escape, we weep and pray,
But when the blow falls then our hearts are still.
Not that the pain is of its sharpness shorn:
We find it can be borne.

* * *

A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich;
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong;
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense —
Of service that thou renderest.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

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