



## THE PATCHWORK QUILT

By Natalie Whitted Price

Did Gran'ma ever tell you about the patch-work quilt

That lies across the sofa in her room?

It is made from scraps of dresses that she wore when she was young,

And some of them were woven on a loom.

Sometimes when it is raining and I can't play out of doors,

She lets me spread it out upon the floor,

And as I choose the pieces I'd like to hear about, She tells me of the dresses that she wore.

It isn't just the dresses that Gran'ma tells about, It's the things that happened when she had them on,

And almost ev'ry piece that's in that dear old patch-work quilt,

Holds the mem'ry of a sorrow or a song.

Oh, things were very wonderful when Grandmama was young,

You ought to hear her tell about it all.

The ladies all were beautiful, the children all were good,

And the men were all so gallant and so tall.

My Gran'ma told me once that life is just a patch-work quilt,

Of births and deaths and marriages and things;

And that sometimes when you're looking for a lovely piece of red,

You only find a knot of faded strings.

But she says the red is redder when it's by a piece of brown,

And gray is not so gray by sunny gold;

Oh, I hope I'll have a lovely patch-work quilt like Gran'mama's,

To show to little children when I'm old.



## More Nellie McClung Books

**I**N PREVIOUS ISSUES OF *Home and Country* it was reported that through the initiative of Velore Women's Institute, or through their consultation with the publisher, Nellie McClung's book "Clearing in the West" had been reprinted, and that it had been recommended for public or high school supplementary reading by Departments of Education in several provinces.

The primary reason for putting the book on the supplementary reading list is that, being the autobiography of Nellie McClung from her early childhood when her family left an Ontario farm to "take up land" on the Western prairie until the day she was married, it tells the story of a period of history of the Canadian West that may soon be forgotten—a time when thousands of hard-working, God-fearing people from the Eastern provinces went to live on Western homesteads, to make homes and build communities and open up the land for a pros-

perous agriculture. Of course there are other reasons for reading "Clearing in the West"—the gripping story it tells, its warmth and humor and the down-to-earth philosophy—uncomprising, compassionate, wise and witty, that is typical of Nellie McClung.

The reprint came on the market last fall and the demand for it was so encouraging that the publisher ordered a reprint of the second part of Mrs. McClung's autobiography, "The Stream Runs Fast." This begins where "Clearing in the West" leaves off, and tells the story of the author as a young mother, a good neighbor, a woman deeply involved in her community and later a public figure — writer, crusader and Member of Parliament. Like "Clearing in the West," "The Stream Runs Fast" is alive with human interest, humor and color and at every turn a challenge to our sense of social responsibility. This book came on sale in Canada in April.

So now, in the two books, we have available for our reading a complete story of the life and work of Nellie McClung. And not only this. The publisher has also reproduced Nellie McClung's first book, that priceless little gem "Sowing Seeds in Danny."

"Clearing in the West," "The Stream Runs Fast" and "Sowing Seeds in Danny," are in paperbacks, published by Thomas Allen Ltd. The price of each is \$2.98.

## Home Economist Honored

**W**HEN MISS ELSIE IRVINE, after nearly twelve years' service as District Home Economist in Thunder Bay, resigned to be married, the Women's Institutes of the district, the Junior Farmers' Association and the 4-H Homemaking Clubs presented her with a five-piece silver tea and coffee service and tray. The party for Miss Irvine was a very gala affair, the Institute women serving refreshments from a table centred with a miniature wedding cake which was later presented to Miss Irvine. The leaders of the 4-H Homemaking Clubs of the district held another party and presentation, one of their gifts to Miss Irvine being an oil painting done by a woman of the district. Miss Irvine is now the wife of James Felker, a farmer of Haldimand county. (In her excellent work in directing 4-H Homemaking Clubs, Miss Irvine was an enthusiastic promoter of Garden Clubs; and some of her associates say that her wedding was timed so that she would be settled in her new home and ready to plant a garden as soon as the frost was out of the ground.)