The Modern Housewife

By Hildegarde Kneeland

In most masculine eyes—and even in some feminine—the average housewife to-day is a Cinderella in modern dress. The magic wand of the Industrial Revolution is supposed to have transformed her from a household drudge into a lady of leisure. On every hand the opinion is heard that she has ceased to be a "producer," that insofar as she still has a job, it is that of director of consumption.

According to this view, another wave or two of the wand will imperil her very existence. Her early demise as an occupational type seems inevitable.

In the long run life prediction as to the housewife's fate will probably prove correct. For her fairy godmother seems to have no intention of ceasing to lighten her burdens. Every year, every month, sees a further increase in the use of ready-cooked food, ready-made clothing, ready-washed laundry, even ready-trained children—and this despite our almost violent prejudice for the home product.

But we appear to have overestimated the speed at which the transformation has been taking place. We have been so absorbed in watching the changes in the home that our ideas as to what has already happened have gotten somewhat ahead of the event; we gaze into the future and think we are viewing the present.

In the days of our great-grandchildren the housewife may be as extinct as the dodo. But at the present time some 26,000,000 hale and hearty followers of the trade might arise and announce in the words of Mark Twain, "The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

With the help of the extension and research staffs of several colleges, we have induced more than 2,000 homemakers to keep careful daily records of how they spent their time for seven days of a typical week.

Most of these records came from middle-class homes—from farm and village women with whom the college extension service is in touch, and in smaller numbers from club-women in towns and cities. The results so far tabulated are surprising to those of us who by temperament belong to the historical, eyes-on-the-future school.

Five-sixths of those home-makers spent over 42 hours a week in their homemaking, more than half spent over 48 hours, and one-third spent over 56 hours. The average for all is slightly over 51 hours a week. If this be part-time work, what, one may ask, would be full-time?

No standard has yet been set for a reasonable working week for the homemaker. But probably we should all agree that more than eight hours a day for seven days of the week would exceed a reasonable figure, and that less than the 42-hour week of the white collar worker would be unduly low.

If we take this range of 42 to 56 hours as roughly marking the limits of what might be considere da full-time job in homemaking, exactly half of the homemakers in the study will be found within this class, while one-third will be classed as over-worked and only the remaining sixth as underworked.

Judged by this group of housewives, homemaking is still for the majority a full-time job, and too much work is still a more frequent problem than too little.

When we turn to the farm records, and include in our figures the time spent in the care of poultry and milk, in gardening and in other farm work which falls to the homemaker's lot as "naturally" as does her part-time jobs fades to a negligible figure, and the extent of overwork takes on serious proportions. The average time spent in all work by the 950 farm women whose records have so far been tabulated is over 62 hours a week—almost 9 hours a day every day of the week.

The similarity of the urban and rural records holds even in the distribution of the total time among the various household tasks. The city homemakers, to be sure, spent a few hours more during the week in care of children and purchasing, and a few hours less in cooking and dishwashing. But this smaller amount of time spent in the kitchen is mainly due to the larger number of meals eaten away from home by members of the city routine tasks the figures are almost identical—about 7½ hours a week, on the average, for cleaning, 5½ for laundering, 1½ for mending and 4½ for sewing.

But the conclusion seems justified that even in the large cities the overworked housewife has by no means passed into history; in fact she may still outnumber the housewife with too much leisure.

How can we account for this situation? In view of the transfer from the home of the spinning and weaving and sewing the butchering, baking and candlestick-making of our great-grandmother's day, in view of the decrease in the size of the family and of the smaller and more convenient houses in which we now live, why is it that so many homemakers are still overworked?

A partial answer is undoubtedly to be found in the regrettable fact that our great-grandmothers were even more overworked.

[illegible] more important, perhaps, is the fact that a larger share of the work of the home was formerly done by other members of the household. Not only were there more families employing hired help, but more had grandmothers, unmarried sisters, unmarried daughters living and working in the home.

Much of the gain which the Industrial Revolution has so far brought has gone into reducing the work of the household to a one-worker job. A sixth of the homemakers included in the bureau study received no help whatever, either from paid workers or from members of the family. And on the average they received from all sources only 10 hours a week of help. Only about 5 per cent of the ploy paid workers, and there is little reason to expect that this number will greatly increase in the future.

Whatever may have been true of our great-grandmother's day, this much is certain: the primary problem of a large proportion of homemakers is still how to cut down their hours of work to a reasonable number. But how about those homemakers who do not have enough work? Even to-day there are several millions of them, and we may confidently expect their ranks to increase. What solution can be found for their problem of too much leisure?

The answer is usually made, "a job outside of the home." But those who make this suggestion are clearly not among the 2,000,000 maried women who are trying it.

The greatU majority of jobs available are full-time jobs, and the homemaker usually finds that where she had too much leisure when she did only her household work, she has too little when she does that and another job in addition.

The conclusion seems inevitable, then, that the time spent by married women in house-keeping must be reduced—not only for those who are over-worked, but reduced as well for many others to a leisure-job which can be done by the homemaker outside of regular hours.

From the June Survey Graphic

Norumbega Tower Norse Site

Capt. John Smith called New England Norumbega when he gave an account of his travels thither to Charles I. But it was Prof. Eben N. Horsford, Rumford professor of chemistry at Harvard University, who in 1889 built Norumbega Tower near the Waltham-Weston boundary line to mark what he believed was the site of a Norse settlement dating back to the year 1000. The settlement, it will be recalled, is spoken of in the Saga of Eric the Red.

It is probably true that, in those early days, the explorers of the North American coast on the east gave the name "Norumbega" to various sites, as well as to a river and to a mythical Indian city. In 1539 the name was applied to the whole coast from Cape Breton to Florida. Mercator's map, published in 1541, locates an "Anorumbega" near the Hudson River.

The origin of the word has been attributed to many languages; as an Indian word meaning "still waters," and a Spanish word meaning "fields" and as a Norse word, taken from "Norvegr" meaning Norway.

Professor Horsford was not only a professor of chemistry, he was a discoverer; he put a new face on the Christian missionary achievement by revealing the once unknown Christian continent of faith ad thought. In Wellesley College, where he taught, he devoted one room to a collection of literature from the peoples that had no literature, that is to say, until Christianity came. He made a collection of languages reduced to writing, of alphabets made, of grammars and dictionaries printed and, from the translated Bible, the nucleus of literature; all this was in addition to his work as an antiquarian in historical and geographical fields.

Professor Horsford did not believe that the French or English discoverers in the fifteenth, sixteenth and even the seventeenth centuries were responsible for the evidences of occupancy in New England before the Pilgrims, but that they went back direct to the Norsemen. The sagas tell that mainly in Vineland the Norse explorers conducted their mercantile interests. Their trade was in furs, fish, masur wood and agricultural products. This barter probably extended over a period of 350 years, from 1000 until the last Norse ship put back to Iceland, perhaps about 1347.

Norumbega Tower was raised because Professor Horsford believed it was very near by that Leif Ericson built his home and the amphitheater on the borders of the Charles River. Certainly the site, four miles above tide water on the river, bears out to some degree Professor Horsford's contention that here was the center of Norse trading activities in New England.

Patrolling Our Highways

Patrols and work gangs maintain nearly 45,000 miles of roads in Canada in repair at an annual cost of over $16,000,000.

CHARACTER

The happiness of woman, as of man, depends in a greater measure upon the individual completeness of character.

The pen is mightier than the sword; but is does just as many foolish things

England in 1929

By Harold J. Laski

We have reached in England a more critical period than at any epoch since the end of the Napoleonic wars. Then, as now, classes confronted one another in a struggle for supremacy. Then, as now, a commercial crisis, a currency crisis, an industrial crisis, taxed for a generation the quality of her statesmen.

In 1815 it was not less clear to the discerning mind than in 1929 that the institutions of the state stood in nead of renovation. Then, as now, the ability to reform, not less than the skill to preserve, was the obvious lesson of great events.

But England emerged from the Napoleonic wars with one supreme advantage she does not now possess. Her primacy over other peoples in the process of industrial transformation was, broadly speaking, unchallenged until the eighties of the last century.

To-day England fights in a world market with rivals at least as well equipped as herself. She fights, too, at a period when the unstable equilibrium of Europe and of Asia makes the restoration of markets a matter of profound difficulty. She competes with an America quite obviously destined to the economic leadership of the world. England, in a word, has no longer those ample margins of economic security within which, at any period make concessions to the disinherited.

There are over one million and a half unemployed persons in England. The mining industry is at an ebb even lower than 1924. The distress in the coal fields has reached proportions so vast that in South Wales and the Tyneside there are whole villages where not a single wage-earner enjoys the security of continuous employment.

The iron and steel trades are in a condition so bad that the employers have demanded a protective tariff, while the trade unions are asking for a thorough governmental inquiry into every nook and cranny of the industry. The textile trades have never known worse markets; and the workers have been either completely idle or on short time for so long that they have wholly forgotten the brief gust of prosperity eight years ago.

The shipbuilding industry tells a similar tale; pictures might be drawn of unemployment in Glasgow, on the Mersey, and on the Tyne, which seem in their grimness to outstrip even the legends of the hungry forties. These are the staple industries of England.

The result as the elections show, is that the Liberal party is less able effectively to attract the voter to its side. Its disappearance into the major parties is inevitably a question of time.

The Labor party is undergoing so rapid a transformation that description of its place is by no means easy. It is a socialistic party, committed by its character to the inception of vast changes.

Most of its leaders realize that, given the utmost good will, system overnight; and it has followers to whom the ideal is deliberately revolutionary action by constitutional means. As a result, it is still overwhelmingly a working-class party.

England in 1929 is, therefore, at a halting place. The force of circumstances has, over a century, made it into a political democrasy; its problem is now that of transformation into a social democracy as well.

It is no easy task to uproot the tradition of aristocratic control in a country as old as England. It is no easy task, either, because it has to be accomplished in the midst of an economic world revolution, in dustrial supremacy has gone. To accomplish it, there is need for the revision not only of the accepted notions of industrial and political control, but also of the historic notions of English foreign policy. What does all this imply?

Anyone who analyzes the character of English industrial organization and compares it with that of America will be struck by a number of small but significant facts. Compared with America, the size of the industrial unit in England is small, the age of the average director is high, and muhc of the plant is all adapted to modern demand. The three conditions, of course, hang closely together.

English industry is still largely in the personal stage. Father and son still tend to be associated together in business; and the tendency is to make a finished product of high quality for a small market.

The price, too, is high, for the business man in England seeks a high return on a small capital rather than a low return on a high one. He does not show much anxiety to experiment, either with the commodity he produces or with the market he explores. In the result, he is too often unable to compete with rivals much more alert than he to new market demands.

Yet, clearly, the future of industry is with the big unit and with mass methods of production. The future, too, is with the younger in industrial direction, men who are still speculative enough to adapt themselves to new ways.

The way out seems to lie in a deliberate policy of rationalization, conducted in co-operation with the trade unions. Conferences with the unions may well, if they go forward, mark an epoch in English history. For English trade unionism is marked by a new spirit. It has realized that a mere policy of negation will carry it nowhere. It is anxious for efficiency and reorganization as a condition of porsperity for its own members.

The next years, accordingly, will see either voluntary or forcible reorganization in the industrali field; and if it is the second, a Labor government will be the active agent in the process. It will, indeed, have no alternative.

No party representing the working class can do other than compel the examination of the basic industries and set their house in order. Inevitably, that will mean a wide extension of government control; inevitably, also, it will mean an effort to give employees a definite place in industrial governance.

England in 1929, with all its problems, gives one the sense of being upon the verge of an intellectual renaissance. There is an eagerness for knowledge abroad, a sense of spiritual hunger, which gives to the observer a vision of spaciouness not characteristic of a people that has passed its zenih. The new mind, indeed, requires a new body. The new body involes medicine more drastic than the patient has been willing to swallow.

Yet the new England, if it can be made, will more than repay the cost of construction. For the first time, her liberty will be real since it will be born of equality. For the first time, the principles of her life will seek to express the ideal of justice. And having thus saved herself by her exertions, England, once more, may hope to have saved Europe by her example.

From the Spring Yale Review

Real Cherry Blossoms

JAPANESE MERMAIDS IN INTERNATIONAL MEET

These Japanese girls are the first of their race to go aboard for international competition. They will represent Nippon in the swimming meet at Honolulu this summer.

Two Palaces of 700 B.C. Are Uncovered in Irak

Chicago—Palaces of two Assyrian kings whose conquests are recorded in the Old Testament, magnificent buildings long buried and forgotten, have been discovered, the University of Chicago announces.

Prof. Edward Chiera, directing the Assyrian expedition of the university's Oriental Institute, has just returned from Irak with a romantic story about the finding of the royal abodes of Sargon II and Sennacherib.

The expedition was "blessed with almost too many results," said Dr. Chiera. Crating and moving the massive fragments was little short of an engineering feat. One item now en route to Chicago is a great stone bull which weighs 40 tons. In all, 125 tons of Assyrian art are on their way here while another 125 tons have been turned over to the Irak Government museum, the Government having assisted the Chicagoans generously.

The Latest in City Street Transportation

NON SKID COMPOSITION COVERS FLOORING IN ALUMINUM STREET CAR

Interior view of first all aluminum built street car ever constructed in world, which has a non-skid flooring and form-fitting seats.

Opis, Dreaming Among Its Ruins,

Toledo, O.—Opis, known in Babylonian literature for 1000 years and an important city of business and art built upon the forgotten ruins of ancient Akshak, is to be visited again this summer by Leroy Waterman, professor of Semitics at the University of Michigan, who, with his aides, will direct the third annual expedition jointly fostered by the Toledo Museum of Art and the university.

On the previous journey rich finds rewarded the explorers. The workmen dug into the home of a gentleman and among its 20 rooms found his office. There were 460 tablets there and further investigation uncovered more than 4000 documents. There was evidence that his library had been burned in a great fire, but since the writings were traced on brick, Professor Waterman explains that the flames only blackened them and in a way helped to preserve them.

Evidence that the same site was later the city of Ctesiphan of Grecian origin, and still later Saleukia, the capital of a province, given to one of his generals by Alexander the Great, has also been uncovered at this point. In fact, the leaders feel they have found indications of lve Hellenistic cities above the Babylonian and Sumerian cultures.

Location of the site was the result of years of study by Professor Waterman. Through literature he had traced and retraced the ebb and flow of commerce, art, and arms, the effect of geographical and climatic changes, and when he arrived on the spot to do some digging he found conclusive proof that he had located the ancient cities he sought.

The area of exploration comprises 860 acres in the far-off valley of the Tigris and Euphrates, giving testimony of seven great cities piled one on top of another through more than 5000 years.

Disappearing Isle of Falcon, Near Tonga, Decreasing

Auckland, N.Z.—From time to time news reaches New Zealand of the activity of one of the most curious volcanoes in the world, the disappearing island known as Falcon, near Tonga.

This island has had a most checkered history. It was first seen as a breaking reef by H.M.S. Falcon in 1865. Twelve years afterward another warship saw smoke issuing from the sea where the reef had been. In the 'eighties it was found that an island over a mile long and 150 feet high had been thrown up, a mass of ashes with deep water all round. It sank again and later rose longer than before, and so on. Last year two American natural scientists landed on the island accompanied by the Prime Minister of Tonga, who claimed the spot for his tiny country.

There are signs that Tonga's new possession will shortly disappear again. On a recent round trip of the steamer Tofua, whose home port is Auckland, the captain took the ship slighly off her course so that the passengers could get a close view of Falcon Island, and it was seen to be decreasing in size.

According to an account published in the New Zealand Herald, the island is without life. The Prime Minister of Tonga planted a cocoanut palm there, but no signs of a tree were seen. The sland is a mass of cinders and lava, with a burst of steam coming every now and then from the crater. The Pacific swell is eating into the sides and the heavy tropical rains are taking their toll.

"Equal Partners"

Christchurch, N.Z., Press: As long as our own Dominion depnds on the British Navy for protection and upon British markets for the disposal of its products, we cannot—as of course w do not—pretend to be an eual partner with Great Britain, and the same is true, though in some cases to a lesser extent, of the other Dominions. No New Zealander will mind being told that the peace and welfare of his country depend "on the maintenance of stable governmen tand wise statesmanship in Britain," and neither will a Canadian or a South African if he takes his stand on realities rather thn on constitutional formulas.

"A woman has sunk pretty low when she has ts swing for it."