

WOMEN TOILERS IN FRANCE

Desiring to see something of the home life of French women, of the wage-earning class I selected as my hostess a bright, vivacious young matron and persuaded her not to vary her ordinary routine, but to make me one of the family for a day or two, writes a correspondent from Paris.

I had easily accepted the comfortable middle-class habit of breakfasting at 9 or 10 in the morning. It was not a joyful experience, therefore, to be roused at 6 a. m., nor was it pleasant to dress in a room the cold stone floor and damp walls of which suggested some ancient dungeon. However, I had earnestly sought this very privilege, so I wrapped myself in discreet silence, and a thick steamer rug, and strove to appear cheerful.

In the kitchen I found madame preparing coffee over a tiny alcohol stove. Monsieur, a cooper by trade, was arrayed in his working blouse and just going out to the bakery. Extreme simplicity characterized alike the table service and the breakfast. Three earthenware bowls and a loaf of coarse bread were set on the bare table. I can still taste that bowl of black coffee. I had readily adopted the custom of drinking a tiny glass of "cafe noir" after dinner, but it tastes very differently in the morning. I thought it worse than the cheapest brands and there was neither milk nor sugar available to modify the flavor. However, I managed to take my bowl with due politeness, and furtively looked around for some butter to make the bread more palatable. But there wasn't any. The loaf was broken in three portions, and we breakfasted by dipping the bread in the coffee.

Madame disposed of the kitchen work by simply rinsing the bowls and coffee-pot in cold water. She said we would "make the chambers at the noon intermission. As we were clearing the table I said to madame: "Don't you like coffee with milk and sugar?"

"Oh, yes, yes; it is very good," she said quickly, "but we do not afford it. Sugar costs 12c. a pound and milk 4c. a pint. Coffee alone is very dear. We pay 60c. a pound."

I simply gasped when she mentioned the price.

Madame had no coquetry about her personal appearance on working days. The severely plain dress of common, dark cotton was made with a loose jacket and skirt. The small tight sleeves were explained thus, by madame: "I have balloon sleeves in the latest mode for my best dress, but they take too much cloth for a working costume."

She made so much noise clattering over the stone floor that I was curious about her shoes. Truth compels me to say that they were not entirely of wood. Leather tops and wood soles made a durable, though not an elegant, foot covering. Shoes of this sort cost \$1.40 a pair. My friend wasted no money on head-gear for everyday wear. A sort of woollen hood was put on the head and the ends fastened about the waist. Yet, madame, being young, pretty, and tolerably neat, looked rather active in this coarse attire.

Everybody takes two hours at midday for "dejeuner," and the family returned at 11 a. m. While "making" the chambers, I looked over the furniture and the rooms. People here like to live near their work, and it is the custom to huddle the small stone houses into a labyrinth of narrow dark streets. The mild climate tempts people to economize fuel, though I think it is at the expense of health and comfort. The thick stone walls keep the houses cold and damp, even when the atmosphere is quite warm. The people live out of doors and in the cafes as much as possible, regarding home as a place in which to eat and sleep.

My friends' flat consisted of three tiny rooms on the fourth floor. There was neither city water nor sewerage. The narrow street and tall houses effectively shut out the sunshine, but madame did not seem to care about that. "The sun shines every day in the factory," she said. The room assigned to me contained only the most necessary furniture. The wardrobe and dressing case in madame's room were rather clumsy and looked like a century old; but the design was quaint and the wood had acquired a beautiful color. She had purchased these articles from a second-hand dealer at a marvelous bargain, and assured me that "few working people had anything like that in their homes." The bedstead was adorned with an elaborate canopy of chintz curtains.

The kitchen had a shelf for dishes, a table and three chairs. The only approach to a stove was a tiny stone receptacle for charcoal, built out from the chimney. It was not used by this family, however, and they bought cooked food at shops in the vicinity. The simplicity in house furnishing eliminated much of the work usually incidental to housekeeping.

The house seemed rather lonesome, and I remarked to madame: "You have no children?"

"Oh, yes; a little boy, 2 years old. I hadn't seen or heard him anywhere, so I said tentatively: "He is not here?"

"No, no; he is at a village in the Maritime Alps."

"On a visit to some relatives, perhaps?"

With an impatient shrug at my stupidity, madame explained: "It's the custom to send our children away to be reared directly after birth. Almost the only exception is when one has to support an aged mother at home. In that case she may care for the child."

It took me some time to fully assimilate this remarkable piece of information.

"You see the baby often?" I ventured.

"No," said the mother, briskly. "Once, maybe twice a year. It is expensive to go so far."

"Are you not lonely for him?"

Madame assured me placidly that she was not lonely, and found her factory companions more interesting than a child's care. It cost \$7 a month for the expense in proportion to the wages earned by the couple, they evidently never questioned the wisdom of the plan.

Madame grew hilarious when I tried to describe American home life.

"So droll!" So very extraordinary," she exclaimed, "for a married woman to stay at home with her children, instead of earning wages to help her husband. Anyhow, it would be impossible here for a man does not earn enough to keep a wife and children."

The latter remark really explained the custom. It is an absolute necessity for the wife to work every day and supplement the husband's earnings. The families are usually very small, one or two children is the usual number. Of course there are exceptions. One woman in the tobacco factory had six children, the eldest only 7 years old; yet she had never been absent from the factory more than seven weeks at any one time. The women regarded that matron and her family with stern disapproval.

"Why do you marry, when you have neither home life nor the companionship of your children?" I asked.

"It is the custom to marry," replied madame. "An unmarried woman over 20 years of age is not well regarded." She either could not or would not give any further explanation of the marriage custom.

I was now getting too hungry to continue inquiries about domestic life, and invited me to go shopping with her.

We bought a quart of "vin ordinaire" for 8c, a loaf of bread at the Boulangerie for 4c, a quart of bouillon at the Boucherie for 10c, and a plate of hot spinach at the Charcuterie for 6c. The bouillon heated over the alcohol stove, formed with bread, the first course. The tiny bowlful of soup merely whetted my appetite. The plate of spinach made about two bites apiece. A glass of wine finished the meal. Madame and her husband had evidently made a very satisfactory meal, and were quite unconscious that I had not done likewise. As a sacrifice to politeness I said that I had an excellent meal and that everything tasted very good. So it did. My mental reservation was that I had only had a taste.

The working day closes at 6 o'clock. Before going home we stepped in to a cafe, where monsieur and madame had their evening glass of absinthe. A spoonful is diluted with a glass of water and the mixture sweetened. The cafe was crowded with people, all whom ordered absinthe. I wanted to buy one, but it cost only 3c a glass. I did not like the stuff, it reminded me of a cheap soda fountain mixture. It has no alcoholic flavor.

"You like absinthe?" I queried.

"Oh, yes," they responded in chorus. "One must always have a glass or two before dinner. It is an appetizer."

"You are not afraid of getting the absinthe habit, and being unable to do without it?"

"I think we already have the habit," said the young woman. "We both drink more than we did a year ago. I can't get along without my evening glass."

"Don't you think it bad for the health?"

"Oh, yes! oh, yes!" chirped madame. "We call it the route to the lunatic asylum. Absinthe is alkali and bad for the nerves. But what difference? One lives only once."

For dinner we purchased a little plate of boiled beef for 15c, another loaf of bread and Gruyere cheese for 4c. The latter is 25c a pound. I quite agreed with the shop-keeper, who called our purchase a "petite morsa" could have for one day as they did always. The French are accustomed to scant food and small variety. This family's bill of fare varies very little from week to week. It is a good illustration of the standard of living among the best paid workers; there are many forced to exist on much less.

I estimated the day's living expense for three, thus: Breakfast, 6c; dejeuner, 28c; dinner, 26c; making 20c for each, or 40c for the usual family. To monsieur's and madame's daily expenses were added absinthe 6c, alcohol, for fuel, 5c, and 15c for wine and cigarettes. The evening at the cafe, giving a daily total of 66c for living expenses.

Madame was a very acute little person, and managed to see my calculation. I feared that I had given offense. On the contrary, she kindly showed me her account of income and expenditures for the previous month.

EXPENSE.	
Meals and wine	\$20 10
Rent	7 00
Care of child	7 00
Child's clothing	1 00
Washing	1 50
	\$36 66

INCOME.	
Madame, 70c per day	\$18 20
Monsieur, 80c per day	20 80
	\$39 00

Monsieur sometimes earned \$1 a day, but had so many idle days that the daily wages that month only averaged 80c. So they had \$2.34 a month for clothing and incidental expenses.

We adjourned to the cafe after dinner and passed the evening there. It was more comfortable than the home, being warm and well lighted. All the friends and acquaintances gathered there. The air was soon thick with smoke, and there was a perfect babel of tongues. The women drink wine, but do not smoke. There was much hilarity and animated conversation, yet no approach to intoxication. The common wine of the country contains little alcohol, and a glass or two suffices for the whole evening. They thoroughly enjoy the relaxation from the sterner realities of life. All their evenings are spent at the cafe. Often there is music or amateur theatricals. The cafe is the one bright spot in the worker's narrow life; and with their vivacious and pleasure-loving temperament, amusement and social diversion is a real necessity. To them the cafe atones for many other privations.

Benton Wilson was liberated from a Washington State penitentiary during the holidays on pardon, after having served two years of a long sentence that he had received on a confession of murder, which he had made to shield his father. The two were charged two years ago with the murder of Benton Wilson's brother-in-law, and the father being tried first and the prospect being dark for him, his son got up and confessed that he did the killing.

THE WEALTH OF CANADA

SOME OF THE GREAT RESOURCES OF THIS COUNTRY.

Mr. B. E. Walker Speaks About Them at the Canadian Club in Hamilton—Some Interesting Statistics About Our Country.

Before the Canadian Club of Hamilton the other night, Mr. B. E. Walker, the general manager of the Bank of Commerce, delivered an interesting lecture on "The Natural Resources of Canada."

Mr. Walker pointed out that the basis of love of country was not the fertility of the land and its goodness to the people who cultivated it, nor was it either the physical beauties of the country or its historical associations. But the true root of this feeling was such intimacy with the qualities of a country as was sufficient to enable its inhabitants to conceive it as a whole.

Canada, however, had only been in existence since 1867. Cabot had made his discovery 800 years ago, and Peter Kalm, the famous Swedish naturalist, had written about the resources of the country as far back as 1750; but at the time of the capitulation, in 1763, the population consisted of only about 70,000 French-Canadians, and from the St. Lawrence river to the Pacific ocean was practically an immense waste.

ROOM FOR MANY MILLIONS.

Proceeding with his subject, Mr. Walker said that how little a community could live on was shown by the inhabitants of Gaspé and Muskoka. The statement that the savings of the world thus far amounted to only ten months' food supply and about three years' annual income enabled us to perceive what we had in our control. Many millions could live in Canada in simple comfort, but we had higher aspirations, both personal and national, which we would succeed in realizing in proportion to the wisdom we display, especially in regard to the development of our national resources.

Referring to the question of our national property in raw materials, Mr. Walker said that we had three classes of raw materials in Canada which answered this definition, namely, that which was now producing that profit, that which would do so if worked, that is if there was the capital requisite for that purpose, and that which did not now do so because of its geographical position. There were also two kinds as to destructibility—that which was not replaced, as timber, and that which reproduced itself, an example being the successive crops on farm lands. Whether or not we were developing the right kind of raw materials with reference to these facts was a mighty subject.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS.

Forty-five per cent. of our people were engaged in agriculture, and it was only desirable that the percentage should be far larger. At the date of Confederation the agricultural exports were under \$20,000,000, and now they were over \$50,000,000, including animal and dairy products. That was a great deal of money, but small as compared with the exports of other countries. Canada was now only beginning to be mentioned as a wheat country, yet our wheat brought the highest prices in Europe and had taken gold medals at London, Chicago and San Francisco. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia and Alberta possessed 239,000,000 acres, of which only 7,832,000 were used for crops or ranching. Wheat was also being grown within the arctic circle. Canada could equal any country in raising wheat when the conditions were equal.

CATTLE TRADE IN THE WEST.

Speaking of the growth of the cattle trade in the west, Mr. Walker said that it was in 1890 that the first car load of cattle was shipped from the Northwest, as previous to that time those engaged in the trade had only been acquiring stock from which to breed. In 1895 \$1,000,000 worth of cattle had been sent out from here, whilst last year, Manitoba had exported 13,800 cattle, and had packed and exported 26,000 hogs. He also spoke of the enormous trade there would be when Manitoba possessed the same stock as Ontario, illustrating his points by the aid of the following instructive table:—

Manitoba		Ontario		Dominion	
	1895.		1891.		1891.
Farm Stock	95,000	650,000	1,500,000		
Horses	210,000	2,150,000	4,200,000		
Sheep	34,000	2,000,000	2,600,000		
Swine	37,000	1,300,000	1,800,000		
Poultry	about	at home,	226,000	7,800,000.	

ABOUT OUR FISHERIES.

The fisheries of the country came next. Mr. Walker pointed out that the coast line of British Columbia was more than 7,000 miles—twice that of the British Isles—and the eastern coast line up only to Belle Isle was 5,600 miles. There was also 15,000 square miles of inshore salt water, and 30,350 square miles of fresh water. The catch of the last 25 years in the east included 100,000,000 cod, 50,000,000 herring, forty-five million lobster, 36,000,000 mackerel, 38,000,000 salmon and 12,000,000 haddock. The men employed numbered 70,000. The catch of herring, whitefish and salmon trout in the great lakes during the last 12 years amounted to 300,000,000 pounds. In British Columbia the value of the catch in 1876 was \$105,000; in 1894 it was \$4,000,000. The salmon caught in the past twelve years was worth \$21,500,000. Our chain of lakes extended right up to Hudson Bay, which itself contained an almost inexhaustible supply of fish, which might in the future be the food supply of a portion of the population of the United States.

CANADA'S GRAND FORESTS.

Speaking of the Canadian forests, Mr. Walker said that they had already been denuded of oak, elm, sycamore and wal-

nut. In white pine, however, Canada was on the lead. The great bulk of the world's supply of white pine was in Canada. What we had would last for 100 years if any care was taken of it. The belt commenced at the southern edge of Algonquin Park and moved west and north to the Gaitaineau, Bonlonge and Black River districts. In the latter localities it was rapidly reproducing itself. The most valuable timber asset we had, however, was the spruce timber. Reproducing itself as it did it was practically inexhaustible, and, in addition, it was of a much better quality than that which grew in Europe. Canada already supplied Europe with timber for pulp for the best paper, and the next step should be to make the paper itself here. The British Columbia forests, with their immense trees, could not literally be said to be inexhaustible, but the quantity was so great that that was practically the case.

OUR MINERAL RESOURCES.

Before concluding, Mr. Walker referred to the mineral resources of Canada. He stated that in 1895 the metallic products, including gold, silver, nickel, copper and lead, were worth \$2,370,146; the non-metallic products, which consisted of coal, stone, bricks, lime, petroleum and slate, were valued at \$15,875,197, and sundries at \$254,657, a total of \$22,500,000. Of this only \$7,500,000 was exported. The following table of comparison between the outputs of Canada and the United States was given:—

	Canada	United States.
	1895.	1891-92.
Gold	\$1,900,000	\$33,000,000
Silver	1,150,000	83,000,000
Copper	850,000	37,800,000
Iron	238,000	25,300,000
Lead	750,000	18,000,000
Nickel	1,400,000	57,000
Coal	7,800,000	191,000,000
Petroleum	1,200,000	30,200,000
	\$15,398,000	\$418,375,020

WE WANT MORE POPULATION.

He also said that population was the one thing that was wanted, for although 5,000,000 was enough for a nation, it was not enough for such a vast territory as Canada, and it was necessary to have from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 in order that there might be better coherency. The quality of the population had to be good, however, for size by itself was of no value, as might be seen by comparing little England, Scotland, Switzerland, with China, India or the United States. A very large population meant poverty and social dangers. The kind of settlers needed were young people belonging to northern races, and if they did not come to Canada they should be brought. In any event, whether or not the population increased rapidly, Canadians should be a contented people, since they had good institutions and the largest measure of liberty, a fine climate and a stability of character which was generally recognized.

THE SIXTH SENSE.

It is the Relationship of the Muscles and the Brain.

The faculty most nearly approaching a sixth sense is the muscular sense, or the sense of weight. If we regard the senses as merely specialized parts of the nervous system, adapted for the reception and transmission to the brain of impressions of a special kind, then this is the sixth sense without question. Indeed, man's senses are regarded by physiologists as six in number, and this one is among them. In support of the claim of the sense of weight to that the sixth place physiologists tell us that the muscles have a peculiar sensibility, which is shown in that their nerves can communicate to the mind an accurate knowledge of their states and positions when in action. By this sensibility we are not only conscious of a morbid sensation of a large sum of muscular action, but we acquire, through muscular action, a knowledge of the distance of bodies and their relation to each other, and are enabled to estimate and compare their weight and resistance by the effort to move or raising them. Except with state of each muscle, we could not tell how or when to move it for any required action; nor without such a sensation of effort could we maintain the muscles in contraction for any prolonged exertion. More obscure, but no less positive, is the sense of equilibrium, located in the semi-lunar canals of the internal ear. It is this which is affected by "dizziness," or "giddiness." Among animals and fish the "homing instinct," or sense of direction, certainly comes under the question. It exists in the human beings, but it appears to be diminishing with the progress of civilization.

WINTER WRINKLES.

John—"Is your wife clever?" Jack—"Clever enough to make me think that she knows less than I know."

Maud—"What makes you think Maj. Dulwit is in the signal service?" May—"Because whenever he appears the conversation flags."

"Berkeley is completely out of his head." "What makes you think so?" "Why, he tried to borrow \$10 of me the day after Christmas."

Judge—"I think I have seen you before." Prisoner—"I have had that honor, your Honor; I shaved your Honor."

"Because whenever he appears the conversation flags."

"I hate to bother you, Pop, but, really, I'd like to know—" "Well, what?" "How it happens that baby fish don't get drowned before they've learned to swim?"

The doctor—"You'll be all right soon." The victim—"Glad to hear it, doctor. I'd hate to die just now when I've only had the wheel three weeks."

"I've made one New Year's resolution that I'm going to see carried out." "What is it?" "The world has got to treat me better than it did last year."

"Have you broken your New Year's resolutions yet?" asked one of another. "Didn't make any." "That's what saved them, then."

Paterfamilias (balking the floor with son and heir)—"Walking, they say, are such helpless things! But what do they think of me? Talk about helplessness!"

ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Happenings of Recent Date.

The body of a man supposed to be the only Hindu in Kentucky was found frozen in Richmond.

After ransacking a house at Phoenix, Ariz., a thief left on a window sill a purse from which he had taken \$7.

Paris University is considering the establishment of a degree for foreign students as testimony of their work done there.

For a shipment of seventeen barrels of apples which a Waldo, Me., farmer sent to Boston he received only 10 cents a barrel.

Unconscious thieves stole the roof of a house at Skamokawa, Wash., sawing it off, rafters and all, just below the top of the walls.

Robert Burns' "Jolly Beggars," first edition, a pamphlet of sixteen duodecimo pages, uncut, was sold recently for \$105 to a Glasgow collector.

Archduchess Stephanie, widow of the late Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria, sang for the first time in public lately in the Luxemburg church near Vienna.

A glass headstone has been put up over the grave of George E. Evans, a Mason, at Eugene, Or. It was sent on there by his father from Gibson, Neb.

Rather than stand the cost of feeding horses through the winter, farmers in sections of northern Indiana have killed them, and disposed of the carcasses to fertilizing factories.

A spree in North Miami, Fla., has brought one Seminole Indian into deep disgrace before his tribe. Some one cut his hair, and he has been forbidden to return to the tribe until it shall have grown again. His fellows think a mean white man tricked him.

Several farms of Wabash county, Ind., were overflooded by oil, from the new Cudahy pipe line, which burst near La Gro, and one farmer has begun suit for \$12,000 damages. A dozen of his neighbors are waiting to see how he comes out before suing.

The family of Mrs. Mary Ragland, a widow of 83, living near Port Gibson, Miss., objected to her marriage with L. H. Lyman, a neighboring farmer of 70, who had courted her for two years. So the lovers eloped, and were united in matrimony at the Court House by a supervisor.

A lively old lady of 109 years, named Sarah Thomas, provided excitement for the town of Llanelly, in Wales. She possesses all her faculties, but has to be locked up in her bedroom at night, as she is a dangerous somnambulist. The Princess of Wales sends her on her birthday as many shillings as she has lived years.

Ulysses' Isle of the Cyclops, lying close to the Sicilian coast near Acicastello, has been presented to the University of Catania by the Marchese Gravina, its owner. The island is a basalt rock rising 300 feet above the sea, and will be used as a biological station, the university establishing extensive laboratories on it.

Lille has hundred-year-old woman who has not only abstained all her life from wine, beer and liquor, but she has also never tasted coffee. She drinks bouillon and occasionally tea. She is descended from a merchant who is still celebrated in Lille as "Pere Quarante Deux," having been the father of forty-two children in Louis XV's time.

Deductions from employees' wages made at a factory at Elwood, Ind., to pay the salary of a physician whom the proprietors place there to attend the workmen in case either of illness or accident. The practice is said to be against the wishes of nine-tenths of the men, and a suit for the employees' right to make it is contemplated.

An enterprising schoolmarm, of Westbrook, Me., seeing a fine rooster choking to death on her way to school one morning, caught it, cut open its crop, which was clogged with a thoroughly sewed-up incision with silk, and put the rooster in a barrel where there was nothing to eat. Three times daily for two days she gave it medicine, and it came around all right.

According to recent French statistics, France lost 130,000 men by death through wounds, sickness or accidents in her war with Germany, while 139,421 men were disabled on the field of battle. Germany's losses were 79,155 dead and 18,543 wounded. The monetary loss is more evenly divided, that for France being 12,606,487,522 francs, while for Germany it was 8,000,000 francs.

On the Glasgow underground railroad the experiment was recently tried of doing away with tickets and letting people ride as far as they wished for a penny. On the first day of the trial, however, many persons got into the cars and spent the day riding round and round. The directors did not have the patience to wait for the novelty to wear off, but restored the ticket system after a week.

A drill which J. J. Kammer was sinking in a quest for water on his place at Gadsden, S. C., struck at a depth of thirty-five yards, three feet of a substance which was softer than the sand above it and below it. It was found to be wood that resembled cypress or walnut. There have been other similar finds in the neighborhood, and no water has been struck anywhere around there.

In Brighton, England, the Christmas dole of half sovereigns was distributed to 150 persons over 74 years of age this year, who, with the exception of one man of 102 appeared in person to receive it. The procession was headed by a woman of 97, whom eight other persons 90 years of age or over followed. There were 55 men whose average age was 82 years and 6 months, and 95 women averaging 82 years and 8 months.

Mrs. Hobbs, an intimate friend of the first Duke of Wellington, has just died in Ireland at the age of 103 years. Her husband was badly wounded at Quatre Bras. Five of her fourteen children and six of her forty-four grandchildren are serving in the British army, and she had besides thirty-two great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. On her hundredth birthday the Duke of Cambridge congratulated her in behalf of the army.