

GIRLS GET THIS GREAT BIG HANDSOME PRINCESS DOLL. ANN HER WONDERFUL DOLL'S FAIRY PALACE.

FREE NATIONAL PRODUCTS LIMITED Dept. H 49 TORONTO, ONTARIO. Advertisement for a free doll and fairy palace.

WHERE WOMEN VOTE

PARTIAL FRANCHISE IN MANY PARTS OF THE DOMINION.

Municipal Vote is the Only One Permitted to the Gentler Sex Under Canadian Law. But Wives Are Debarred Except in Three British Columbia Cities and in Nova Scotia When They "Keep the House."

The cry of "Votes for Women" has swept around the world and there are few countries to-day where it is not a burning question or an accomplished fact. Eighty years ago women could not vote anywhere, except to a very limited extent in Sweden, and in a few other places in the old world, but since then the gains have been remarkable, though usually accomplished one step at a time—school suffrage, municipal suffrage, and finally the full Parliamentary vote. China is perhaps the only country where women have come into possession of equal suffrage with men without going through the preliminary stages. The other countries where women are now fully enfranchised are: Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, the Isle of Man and the American States of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington and California. Ohio will probably be the next, as the bill for equal suffrage has passed both Houses and been referred to the people; while Kansas and Oregon are expected to follow soon.

It is important for Canadians to know just where they stand and what powers they already possess, for we are accustomed to hearing the rather vague statement that "Women possess the municipal franchise in Canada, but do not make much use of it." The limited municipal suffrage we already possess varies in the different provinces of the Dominion.

In Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Alberta and Saskatchewan, widows and spinsters over 21 years of age who own property are entitled to the municipal vote.

In New Brunswick and Manitoba all widows and spinsters who are ratepayers to any extent have the municipal vote.

In Ontario widows and spinsters who are assessed as owners or occupants of property to the value of \$400, or income of not less than \$400.

In the above-mentioned provinces a woman on marriage becomes disfranchised and her husband acquires the right to exercise the vote belonging to her property either by itself or in addition to his own; in Nova Scotia, however, whenever a woman actually supports her husband and he has no property or income of his own, it is she who votes, while in all other provinces the husband, under the same circumstances, is entitled to vote on his wife's property or income. In Nova Scotia, the qualifications for widows and spinsters is property to the value of \$150, or personal and real property to the value of \$300.

In British Columbia widows and spinsters who own property are entitled to the municipal vote, and in addition to this, the right to exercise full municipal franchise on the same terms as men has been granted to women, married or single, in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria.

No woman in any of the provinces of Canada may hold any municipal office. This is unusual, as in almost all countries where municipal suffrage for women exists, they are entitled to hold office. In England there are three women mayors and three of the members of the London County Council are women. In Birmingham ten women were recently elected to the Board of Guardians. Of these two were unopposed, and the rest, with one exception, headed the polls. In Kansas there are 77 women holding elective offices in the state, two of whom are judges and one a mayor. Not a single instance of a woman defendant, or careless or incorrupt books, has ever been reported among women who hold county offices.

Widows and spinsters in all the provinces who are either holding independent property, or who are ratepayers, are entitled to vote for school boards. In addition to this a woman property owner in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, is not disqualified through marriage from the exercise of the school franchise, as she is in other provinces.

British Columbia is the only province where (with the exception of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo, where only women, both married and single, whose names are on the assessment rolls are entitled to vote) wives of voters in school districts have the right to vote for and to serve as school trustees without having to possess real property or income of their own. It is therefore the only part of Canada where mothers, as mothers, and not as property owners, have the right to control the education of their children.

The great argument against giving women a full franchise is that they do not make use of the privileges they already possess. To this we may answer that the majority of women possess that right only when they are too young or too old to care about it. At twenty-one few women of any men either for that matter—take an interest in politics, and the majority of widows are old or infirm, and having been disbarred of this privilege for the greater part of their lives, have ceased to care for it.

Prisoners Were Happy. Wild turkeys and wilder partridges, ducks, geese and other birds helped make the prisoners at "Fort Fern," at Fort Williams, happy on Christmas Day. The dinner was more than an ordinary character, and the fowl was taken by the prisoners during the winter season in clearing up the one thousand acres just north of the city, and of which three hundred and fifty acres have been cleared and planted.

The one way a man can win an argument with a woman is to state his side of the case, then stand the door behind him.

ONTARIO'S "CLAY BELT."

Seven Years Ago Men Called It "Dead Man's Land."

Two men were returning from the West seven years ago by way of North Bay. As the train ran through the eastern section of Northern Ontario, they sat silent for several hours gazing out of the window at the endless grey rock, with its covering of scraggy pine and blackened timber standing stumps and bare against the line of the sky.

"Dead Man's Land," exclaimed one at last.

"It will never be a country," replied the other. "It is a stone desert." Let those men go without delay to the towns of Cochrane and Porcupine, communities which were overtaken by the disastrous fire of June, 1911, and were reduced to ruins. Let him stand on the clay hill above Lake Commando and look down on Cochrane, rising from its ashes. Hundreds of new buildings have been erected since the fire.

"Third Street" and "Fifth Avenue." The hundred men falling in that trench are putting in water works and sewers. The Government employees are cutting a mile swath about the boundary to stem another tide of fire. Twenty years from now "The Clay Belt" will look like a section of the Western part of Ontario. Most people have heard of this tract of fine farming land in a vague sort of way, but few are aware that it contains 30,000,000 acres of land which lies south of Winnipeg, 300 miles south of Edmonton, and 400 miles south of the famous Peace River country. The soil is good. It is covered with light timber, a mere corn crop in comparison with the growth which confronted Old Ontario settlers fifty years ago.

The strength of "The Clay Belt" is the fertility of the soil. It is grey clay, sandy loam, and occasionally homely black muck. The proof of fertility is the abundance of clover, which never lifts its leaves except amid affluence; it grows there luxuriously on lawns, in the fields, in the swamps, and on the roadsides. Trim other stands of fields high, and crops of wheat, oats and hay compare favorably this year with those of Old Ontario. Pasture is going to waste in quantities sufficient to fatten all the lean kine of Canada, and already the frontier farmers are stocking with thoroughbreds. Naturally, the stock men are those who have been in the country long enough to amass some capital. The pioneer in his cabin is thankful if he has a single cow.

A certain guide to the progress of the country is its architecture. It shows all the grades and struggles of advancement. There is the "four square" log cabin of the pioneer, with its flat roof and single window. In the older farming districts log cabins have been replaced by frame houses or more substantial dwellings of brick and stone. In the towns the types are legion. Barabour, Toronto, in its early days could not in variety of design, surpass the efforts of these northern home builders. But go into the centre of the town and look at the buildings. The banks, the stores, and offices are brick and stone, constructed not by weather-beaten, but to last generations.

Canadian Holly.

Christmas holly grown on Vancouver Island was last Christmas shipped to all parts of the continent, and an industry has been inaugurated which promises to become more and more important in ensuing Yuletide seasons.

Orders were received from as far as Los Angeles—over one case as far as the City of Mexico—north to Dawson City, and east to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, while New York, Boston and Chicago received big consignments.

The industry was started some years ago by private citizens in Victoria sending sprigs of holly with the beautiful scarlet berries to friends in the east. At once there grew up a demand for more.

Two Old Stand-bys.

Two of the old stand-bys of the House of Commons staff have gone with the passing of Lucien Dube, and "General" Williams, on the eve of the opening of the session. Dube was housekeeper for a term which stretched back to the days of Sir John Macdonald, and "General" Williams was the outer guard at the Chamber door. The old and kindly "General" was a prime veteran, and could cover his breast with even more medals than Col. Harry Smith, the Sergeant-at-Arms. It was Williams who stopped Rodolphe (now Sir Rodolphe) Forget from entering the Chamber on one occasion. The financier was paying one of his rare visits to the House and was passing through the swinging doors when the "General" nabbed him. "You can't go in there," he whispered, "no one but a member can enter the Chamber." And it was not until Robert Bickerdick identified his fellow Montrealer that old Williams relented.

Wolves Plentiful.

Wolves are very plentiful in northern Manitoba this winter and are roaming around in packs of from thirty to forty, according to T. H. P. Lamb, the Moose Lake trader.

Mr. Lamb interviewed the provincial authorities last spring to suggest a special bounty for the destruction of wolves and is now again urging the importance of such a measure, which he declares, is required immediately for the protection of the moose, which forms the greater part of the Indians' supply of meat, and for the protection of travellers in the district.

Rare and Well Done.

Reporter—It was a rare sight. City Editor—When you write the story I want it well done.

The more fact that a man doesn't laugh at his own jokes is no indication that he doesn't think them funny.

OLD STEAMER PASSES.

Last Stern-Wheeler on the Skeena Disappears With 1912.

Before the eyes of western Canada there is taking place to-day a development of civilization no less revolutionary or suggestive to the imagination than the passing of the stage coach before the rumbling wheels of the railroad. As settlers pushed their way ever farther north in the Province of British Columbia, the need of communication between the interior and the coast asserted itself, and for years the shallow, fast-flowing streams between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific have served its high-ways for the picturesque stern-wheeler steamers with their no less interesting passengers—pioneers and prospectors, for the most part, who have listened to the call of the unexplored.

Gone, however, are the days of the stern-wheeler on the Skeena River. The old order changes and its death-knell, as in the case of the stage coach, has been sounded by the steel horse now pulling along the northern bank of that great artery which runs for two hundred miles through the fertile interior of northern British Columbia to the coast. The year of 1912 is the last that the Skeena will see of the river steamer. Owing to the expense of sending a steambot up the river and the time consumed in making the voyage, competition with the railroad will be impossible. The day of high passenger and freight rates is over, and the steamer should have its supplies shipped in at a reasonable rate, for the latest transportation facilities have now appeared in this new northland.

While the old-timer welcomes the advent of the locomotive into that country, it is with a sigh that he bids farewell to the homely little craft that served his needs so long. With the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway operating passenger trains on regular schedules from Prince Rupert to Hazelton, beyond Skeena River Crossing, a distance of about 155 miles, the great northern country will develop at an amazing pace. Three trains are despatched each way over this line every week, and the number of passengers carried in the few months since the service was inaugurated is surprising. The fine steel cantilever bridge which spans the Skeena has been opened and work trains cross it daily. The rails are 173 feet above the water, while two massive concrete piers, resting on the river bottom, rear themselves up to the height of a little over 100 feet, so that steamers could pass under the bridge without difficulty.

A Benevolent Innovation.

Just at the present time when everybody in Western Canada is counting the big profits he has made in 1912, Sir Donald Mann's typical story may well be told. He relates how a man in British Columbia met a man from Alberta and the two fell into conversation on the usual topics. It is said that there are only two subjects of conversation in the West, wheat and city lots. However, this particular talk became more general and turned on the relative merits of the two provinces.

The man from British Columbia dilated upon the wonderful natural resources of that province. Any man who could work was sure to become rich in a very short time. Any man with a little capital could become a millionaire with equal rapidity.

The Alberta man admitted that British Columbia was a fine province, but he was bound to maintain the superiority of his own.

"Yes," he said, "men get rich in Alberta without working."

"But what's farming if it isn't work?" "No," he persisted, "the farmers have very little real work to do. It began to be middling easy when the gas-pump and the self-binder came in. But the gasoline engine—"

The "Last House."

An effort is to be made to preserve an historic old structure known as "the last house in the world" and which is located at Edmonton, Alta. This building, or group of buildings, is known as Fort Edmonton and for years was the only structure in this northern outpost of civilization. It was formerly owned by the Hudson Bay Co. and the original fort standing on the spot was built in the latter part of the 18th century. It was named Fort Edmonton by one of the leading men in the Hudson Bay Co., after his birthplace in England. The leader in the movement to preserve the old fort is a prominent club woman of Edmonton, Mrs. Arthur Murphy. She will bring a proposition before the Provincial Legislature next spring to restore the historic structure by using original materials. The fort occupies a prominent place on Parliament Hill at Edmonton.

Didn't Get Her Wish.

Each with fingers tightly clutching the ebb of a wishbone, the rest of a meal served at the Grand Trunk restaurant at London recently—two ladies beheld themselves of what they most desired. With all the due formalities of an ancient superstition, they pulled the Y-shaped bone to see whose wish was to be granted.

To Fight Consumption. A Bombay philanthropist has given \$75,000 to start war on tuberculosis.



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