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# THE FARMER'S WIFE

The Magazine for Farm Women

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Miss Orinne Johnson, at the right, has just—

To the left, Miss Lucile Reynolds, who together with



## ARRIVED!

YOU will like these newcomers in THE FARMER'S WIFE family when you come to know them. They're your kind of folks. They know farm life because they have lived it, they are well schooled in home economics, and they have had wide experience in extension work. Miss Lucile W. Reynolds will give her time to the Master Farm Homemaker movement, releasing Miss Rowe for larger contribution to the magazine. Miss Orinne Johnson will be in charge of the clothing and textiles, and furnishing departments, succeeding Miss Dunnigan, who closed her many years of splendid service on our staff to be married.

We hated to say goodbye to Miss Dunnigan, but we all rejoice with her because the joys of homemaking are to be hers in a new way. Incidentally, she promises to be a contributor to THE FARMER'S WIFE.

A NEW story by Ruth Sawyer comes in the October issue, "Good Ground," dealing with a live question. You'll enjoy it. No, it's not a Tad and Danny story. Mrs. Sawyer prefers to leave their future to your imaginings. But she writes this:

"What's happened to Danny and Tad and the Birdeen? I caught a fleeting glimpse of them early this spring when 'Himself' and I went up to that part of the woods for trout fishing. First of all they are happy in a deep, understanding way. Next, they are forging ahead—as you knew they would. Last of all, the Birdeen has cut a tooth. He looks like Danny—and the whole lumber camp were his godfathers when he was christened in the nearest village church last Easter."

What do you think about Ruth Sawyer's decision as to another Tad and Danny story?

THIS issue has much good material to work into one of your club programs. For example, Miss Hoyt's article about a farm home in Japan would be a good reading, and so would Miss Shuler's article about what Canadians think of us, and Mr. Streeter's article on a Michigan rural school experiment.

## Our Page with You

### A Parable for School Days

A CERTAIN father and mother prepared a bounteous meal for their children, but having set it before them, they first put a bandage over the mouths of the little ones, and tied their hands, and then commanded them to eat. But they could not, and so in the presence of plenty the children were starved.

A parable of foolishness!

And yet, many parents will this fall set a year's schooling before children whose eyesight is poor, whose ears are stopped up, whose teeth are giving pain and putting poison into their blood, whose bodies are weakened by throat infections, and expect them to fill themselves with learning.

That is what they do when they send their boys and girls to school without first having them examined by a competent doctor and correcting such defects as may be found. Boys and girls cannot learn well when they are handicapped by physical weaknesses; they merely lose time and weaken their bodies still further.

Common sense says, give your children a physical examination before they start a new school year.

### A Shorter Work Week

FARM women generally have too long a work day. In 700 homes, well scattered throughout the country, the homemakers were found to average more than 63 hours of working time per week—altogether too much.

And what's to be done about it? Nobody ever suggests a law establishing an eight hour day for farm homemakers, so they'll have to take the law into their own hands and make their own way to a little less labor and a little more leisure.

### Women Capture Another Post

WHILE in this country we are still talking about giving a woman a place in the Cabinet, the thing has actually been done in Great Britain.

Following the recent British elections, Miss Margaret Bondfield was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Labor, the first time in any country that a woman was thus honored.

Credit for the appointment belongs to the Labor party, which won the elections, probably in no small measure because of the women's vote. Labor leaders in Parliament last year fought for legislation which gave the vote to all women over twenty-one instead of limiting it to those over twenty-five.

Conservative party leaders and press pooh-pooh the Bondfield appointment, and make light of women's political influence. But they may some

day sing another tune, for British women voters outnumber men voters by 14,500,000 to 12,500,000.

When will an American president appoint a woman to his cabinet? Probably not until women make it clear beyond all doubt that they have the ability and experience to fill such a place satisfactorily, and that they have a political power that amounts to something. But that time is near. Another four-years may actually bring it.

### "Sail on, sail on, sail on, and on"

YOU will probably smile, as we did, at this story of a fourteen year old Ohio boy who is ambitious to be an author.

"I know I can write good stories," he said in a letter to us, "but when I send them to the editors they always send them back. They don't seem to understand. Sometimes I feel like getting discouraged, but then I remember what Columbus said on his voyage of discovery, when everything seemed against him: 'Sail on, sail on, sail on, and on.' Then I forget about being discouraged and try again."

We smile, and yet we have respect for that boy's great faith and stick-to-it-iveness. We smile, probably because our own experiences have made us feel that youth's ambitions are often a bit ridiculous. We respect the lad's spirit, because we know that the world gets better only as boys and girls catch a vision of what they may do and hold firm to a faith that they can do it. Really, it is foolish ever to smile at anybody's faith, because so often faith is most powerful when it seems most ridiculous.

We grownups should never exhibit the scars of our own disappointments to our boys and girls. We may help to guide youthful ambition and faith, and do what we can to see that they are hitched up to aims that are possible of achievement, but never do aught to destroy them.

### A Right Smart Job

IT TAKES a mighty smart man to make a living on a farm these days," said a speechmaker who was talking in a rather discouraged tone to his audience, "but most anybody can be a banker."

We think that the speechmaker was wrong about banking, but he was everlastingly right about farming. Farming is not a peasant's job of grubbing in the ground with a hoe—not in this country. It is a business demanding intelligence, skilled management, knowledge of machinery and power, understanding of markets, and uplook and outlook.

That's the glory of American farming—that it is an occupation for smart men and women and that it offers a challenge to the very best that is in them!

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SEPTEMBER, 1929

Haskell Coffin  
*[Signature]*

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