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THE FARMER'S WIFE

The Magazine for Farm Women

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Burden Bearers

BURDEN bearers are we all,
Great and small.
Burden sharers be ye all,
Great and small!
Where another shares the load
Two draw nearer God.
There are burdens we can share with none
Save God;
And paths remote where we must walk
alone.
With God;
For lonely burden and for path apart—
Thank God!
If these but serve to bring the burdened
heart
To God.

—By John Oxenham.

From a Far Country

THE FARMER'S WIFE travels far to reach some of its readers each month. A letter from one of these distant friends was mailed from a little village in Yugoslavia, a farm village called Zemelj, near the post office, Gradac Dolensko. The writer earlier sent us a little story of her work and life which found a place among our Letters from Farm Women and for it she received a check for three dollars, United States money. The other day we had an acknowledgment from her in which she said:

"I received cheque for 178 dinars. I thank you heartily for it. I really needed the money because we had poor crops this year, so we haven't much to sell and prices are low."

That's a bit of first-hand evidence that farm people everywhere are facing difficult times.

In Four Colors

IF YOU will turn to pages 20 and 21 you will find that our showing of spring styles is presented in attractive four color printing. We hope that you like them. If you do, that will encourage us to do it again. Incidentally, THE FARMER'S WIFE styles are up to the minute, they show garments that are easily made, from patterns that are accurate. Best of all, THE FARMER'S WIFE patterns are cheaper in price than any other although as good as the best.

Ask Our Editors

LET us repeat our invitation to you to write to our editors whenever you have problems in homemaking that you would like to discuss with them. Among them are specialists in every field of home economics and they welcome the chance to be helpful to any of our readers. Just enclose a stamped, self-addressed letter for the reply to your questions.

Get Rid of Waste First

IN THE name of economy a good many unworthy proposals are being made in state legislatures and in Congress. For example, here are a few of the measures that have been offered and which are getting more or less serious consideration: To prohibit the use of public moneys to support schools beyond the tenth grade; to abolish extension service; to do away with public health service by county nurses; to cut out much of the present rural free delivery of mail.

You will note that these proposals would be especially harmful to the interests of rural people. They would destroy the progress that has been made in a whole generation toward better living standards. Rural people must not yield their right to the fundamentals of a satisfactory existence in the open country.

Of course, economies in government are necessary. However, they should be sought first of all in efforts to eliminate extravagances and wastes. There are plenty of those. In many states honest search is being made for them. In Congress there is too much log rolling to make progress toward real economy very encouraging. If wastes were corrected there would be no need to deprive rural people of things that have rightfully become necessities for satisfactory living.

They're Aroused!

FARMERS everywhere seem to be aroused as they have seldom been before. They are moving in force upon mortgage sales to stop them. They are meeting by the hundreds in county seats to demand economies in local government and a lessening of tax burdens. They are visiting legislatures in great numbers to insist upon savings in state expenses and the enactment of helpful laws. They are making a show of strength in Washington to get action in Congress. Throughout it all they seem to be cooperating more fully than ever before and to be organizing themselves better. Experience is teaching them by its hard knocks that they cannot hope to get a square deal for agriculture except by working together for it.

This widespread rising of farmers so far is peaceable, as it should be. The reports of violence are very few and far between. The movement is more or less determined, of course, but determination is necessary. And so is a little "heat" necessary. As it used to be said in the olden days, "A mad Monday makes a clean wash." But progress toward a square deal for agriculture will depend very largely upon whether reasonable demands are reasonably demanded.

Are farmers making any progress in their peaceable "revolt"? A good deal, especially when they know clearly what they want. They are getting cuts in the costs of local and state government, and they are making gains toward a fair adjustment of farm debts. It is when their demands are not clear and simple, but all tangled up with tariff schedules,

allotment plans, money standards, political ambitions, and the like, that matters move slowly.

There is progress, too, in the direction of thoroughly convincing urban people that there can be no prosperity for them if the farmers are not prosperous. On the whole, there is reason to believe that agriculture will finally get what it deserves because it is so essential to the national welfare,—providing that farmers know clearly what they want and work together to get it.

"Spruce Up," Says Aunt Mary

AUNT MARY says that when she feels a fit of blues coming on she drives it away by sprucing up.

"I take time to do my hair up nice," she says, "make sure that my face is clean and hands neat, put on a dress that looks good on me, and a good pair of hose and shoes, and then I feel so self-respecting and capable that the blues don't have a chance."

"And after I get John and the boys and girls to come to the supper table looking like folks who amount to something, we are certain to have a happy, sociable time that lasts all evening and makes the next day more successful. It's because we get spruced up mentally and spiritually as well as physically."

"It makes a lot of difference, too, whether we fix up the farmstead every spring and plant some flowers, set out a few new shrubs, seed the lawn where it needs it, clean away the rubbish and do a little repairing here and there. A family can't very well be self-respecting and happy if it lives in a place that is neglected and disgraceful. Just a few flower seeds and a few hours of intelligent work will make your home grounds look glad and give the family joy all summer long."

"Sprucing up helps you to ride your troubles, instead of their riding you."

Ever Near the Precipice

WE SEEM ever to be traveling dangerously near the edge of the precipice of war. There is in our relations with Japan right now, for example, enough of serious misunderstanding, enough of real or imagined disregard of pledges solemnly made, enough of offended racial pride, to bring sharp disagreement, charges and countercharges, and perhaps unfortunate acts. Very easily then the flames of war might burst forth.

What can we citizens in the ranks do about it? We can hold fast to our belief that there are very few, if any, reasons that justify going to war; that only through peaceful ways can either international or individual differences be settled permanently,—by war never. We can in our own thinking continue to outlaw war and demand of those who represent us in Washington and in foreign courts that they also outlaw war. It is our part to say to Washington that war must be avoided; it is Washington's part to obey, and it will if we the people insist. So continue to lift up your voices in behalf of all sensible efforts for peace and against war.

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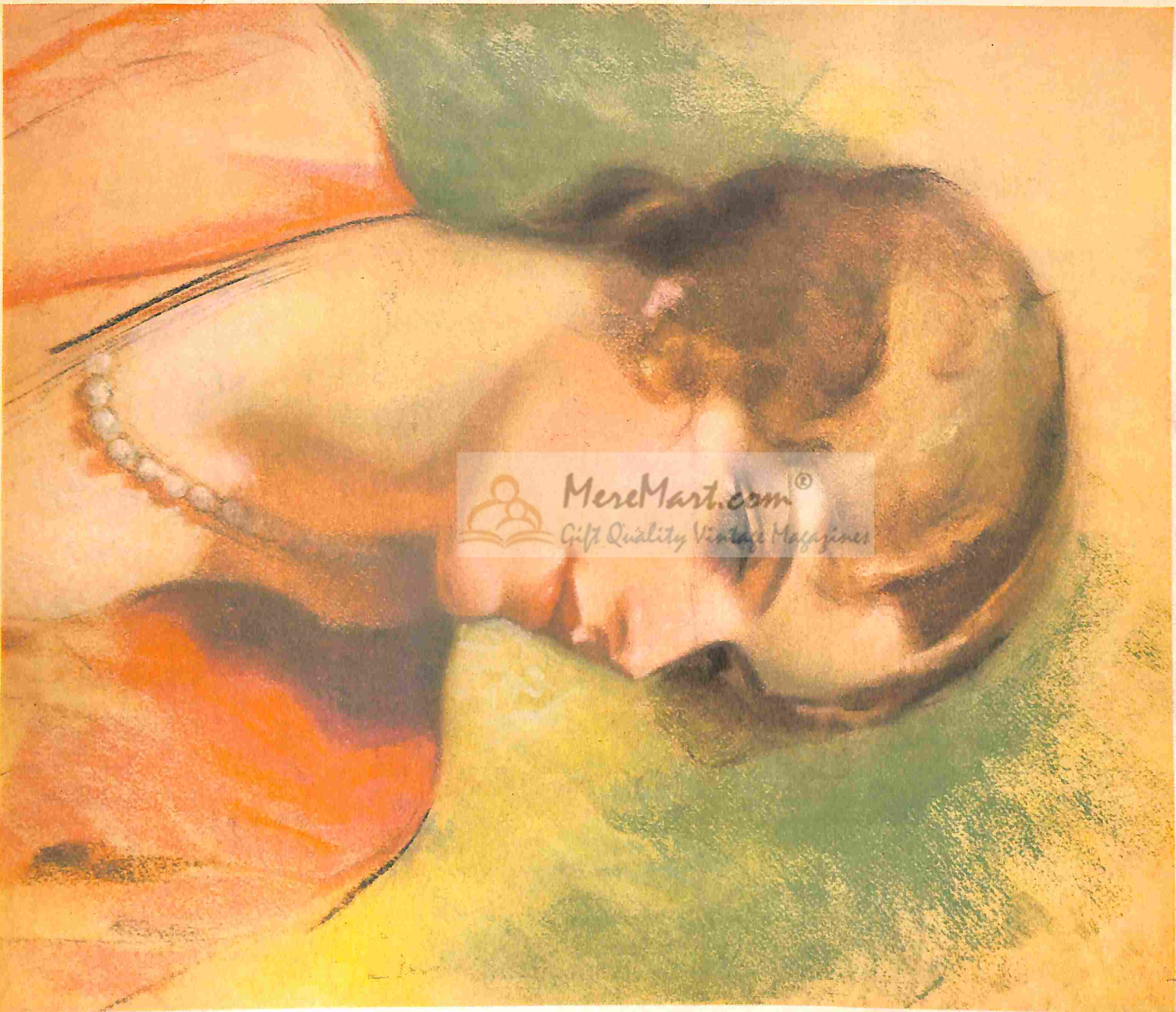
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