The Story of Three Women - Club Work As An Internationalizing Agent

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The Story of Three Women
Club Work As An Internationalizing Agent
By LETA GRACE SORLAND

HARK! all you of little faith in club work. Heed all you who hint of wasted time. I am going to tell you a true story about three women I know, two of them from Iowa and one of them from France.

Perhaps you are living on a mid-west farm and have seen a neighbor give up his land because the prices of farm products have gone down so far that he couldn't even pay the interest on his mortgages.

We all agree that this makes a serious situation for him in which we should all be concerned. There is little use however in wasting breath talking about the middle man making all the profit for the fact there isn't much profit for any one. How can there be when every magazine we pick up tells of starving millions, whole nations who have almost forgotten what a pork chop looks like. How can we get big prices for our corn and pork when half the world cannot buy corn and pork.

Several organizations in this country have been founded upon this very basis, namely, that since our problems are so involved in the problems of other countries, the sooner some of the worst of theirs is cleared up, the sooner some of the worst of ours can be cleared up.

At Iowa State College, in Ames, this winter we have had the opportunity to become rather authentically acquainted with the work of an active member of one of the largest of these organizations. Miss Anne Morgan, daughter of the late J. Pierpont Morgan, is vice-president of the American Committee for Devastated France. We have never seen her but we have come into direct contact with her work and handled some phases of it here this winter. She it was who traveled up and down the war torn districts and studied at first hand what resources were left and how best to go about helping a country to revive industrially. She it was who got of the possibilities of club work as an agency through which to pass sorely needed information and as a civic center around which to build constructively. She it was who started the ball to rolling.

France today has no club work but she will have, for this is a story which largely concerns a certain invisible little brown-eyed woman who has come to get it. She is Madelaine Aydat of Puy de Dome. France, whose home is Chagourdat par St. Genis, Champanelle, meaning a farm near the town of St. Genis in the district of Puy de Dome.

Madeloisse Aydat is a quaintly charming, little person, impressing one immediately with her driving and untiring energy. Her wonderful, dark eyes sparkle with enlightenment. With an inner vision, she sees a future France happy and prosperous once again. But when you talk to her you discover she is not only visualizing a happier day for France, but she is an exponent of the new internationalism and is dreaming dreams of a whole world made happier by learning to work together.

She seems in her euger little way to be the very embodiment of the spirit of international club work. With her expressive French accent and many gestures she says, "I believe club work to mean, 'I know something and I want you to know it.' Now that we both know it let us go and tell others that they also may know it, and so on and on and on.' It is the spirit of service. It is as altruistic as the love one has for another. It spreads and scatters helpful knowledge everywhere. It is a wonderful thing but we do not have it and I have come from France to Ames to learn how it is carried on in this sun and white, as with an inner vision, she sees a future France happy and prosperous once again. But when you talk to her you discover she is not only visualizing a happier day for France, but she is an exponent of the new internationalism and is dreaming dreams of a whole world made happier by learning to work together.

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The Story of Three Women

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you wonder what kind of a school that would be? Well, for twenty years France had the very helpful traveling school. Each one had two teachers and they went into some district that had called for them thru the government and set up a school in some house or hall or whatever the people had furnished for them. Most every district had one school and some had two or three.

"To this school came all the girls fifteen or over who were not in schools of other kinds and they were instructed in cooking, dairying, clothing, sewing, and some agriculture. A school stayed in a community three months and then went to the opposite side of the country and after three months moved in answer to some other call. What they taught depended largely on what the particular community needed and wanted most. The teachers for these schools were secured ready to teach when the burdens of the teaching and everyth in g had study and teaching and everything had been made m erely so much to putter about with the chickens and work about the garden. It was such a great change for me and I got well and strong and just liked so much to be out doors and work in the nice clean fields.

"But I had learned thru study so much that my neighbors did not know. I saw the great wants in some things and such pitiful economy in others. I saw that they did not know how to economize rightly. They could not economize and live well at the same time and I was so eager to help the good Miss Anne Morgan came to us, I saw all of this, too, and asked me to help her start club work in France. It will be wonderful to exchange ideas and be of service to one another. Later we are hoping to exchange workers and demonstrations thru nationalizing with Canada, England, Holland and even Germany as well as many other countries. England has started a little club work and Canada is advancing more as you people are.

"When I go back two of your girls who have stood highest in your state in club work are going back with me at the expense of your state as a reward for their excellent efforts. They are Katherine Bolibaugh and Beulah Rogers of Eddyville, Iowa. Both of them live on farms in Mahaska county. They are now being given a few weeks special training here at Ames preparatory to leaving with me for France in May. They will demonstrate canning and other things while I explain it and talk. Thus they will be directly helping to build the first of these organizations. These American girls will get to see at first hand the conditions under which we labor and will come back and tell you all about us, just as I shall go back and tell all about you from the standpoint of having worked right with you. Ah, can you not see that when this kind of work goes back and forth from country to country and our economic problems are studied at first hand nations will begin to understand each other better? We will, in truth, begin to get acquainted with each other and an internationalism will develop which will live because it will be based upon an intelligent understanding of the needs and limits and possibilities of all concerned."

Ah, truly, if we could all see the world's problems with the vision of Anne Morgan and Madeline Aydat perhaps we would come to the necessity of believing that the welfare of the other fellow lies at the roots of our economic situation. We can no longer live unto ourselves alone. We outgrew the Monroe Doctrine when we outgrew the conditions upon which it was based. We can not move backward nor hold too long to a past however pleasant. We left it far behind when we stretched our dominions from the equator to the pole and built up our industries on a world commerce. We...
laid it gently away with dear forgotten things when we pointed our ships into every known port of the civilized world and reinforced the acquaintance with consul and missionary. We have helped to clear the way for democracy. We can not stop now. The world must be made all over, a safe place in which to have born little children who have a right to food and shelter and a decent existence.

Internationalism is not coming, it is here waiting to be recognized, and only when we wake up as a nation to the fact that the world is small after all and that today every one's problems have become fundamental to our own will we be able to promote the agencies which shall bring order out of chaos.

Whether or not we shall have future wars depends upon how soon we are willing to help with these world problems for we are now living in a new epoch in which the brotherhood of man must be recognized.

What Shall We Take?

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ones to wear with our informal dresses—but don't get two toned ones for they clash with about everything one wears,” explained Margaret.

“I'm going to wear wool hose and those ribbed cotton ones when it gets cold. In the first place, they're warmer, and in the second, I'm always getting runners in my silk ones and I do hate to mend them.”

“I should think four pair of silk, two of wool and two of cotton should suffice,” said Eileen.

“I never realized our wardrobe was so extensive. Haven't we listed about everything?" questioned Veronica.

“Here's what we have down so far:

1 evening dress
2 woolen dresses
1 plaited skirt
2 or 3 sweaters
3 blouses
1 plaidy
1 suit
1 winter coat
1 dress cape
2 hats
2 pair gloves
3 pair slippers
8 pair of hose
Margaret, who had found a list of undergarments a prospective freshman would need, added to the list:

6 chemise, 2 silk, 4 cotton
5 night gowns or pajamas
6 vests
6 brassiers
6 bloomers, 2 silk, 4 cotton.
1 silk suit
1 cotton suit
1 kimona
1 pair of bedroom slippers

As is stated in the college catalog, students entering college must furnish all bedding, linen, and curtains, which includes, of course, napkins, dresser scarfs, and towels.

Gingham is a popular material for curtains as it can easily be kept fresh by frequent laundering. As a general rule the girls send their laundry home, or have it done outside of the halls. However each floor of the dormitories contains a kitchenette with sinks for washing clothes and an iron and board to press them, not omitting of course, an electric grill on which the girls prepare their spreads.

It is especially nice if a girl can bring a few furnishings for her room such as a boudoir lamp and a few pictures. "The Garden of Allah" hung across the room from a dressing table mirror makes a beautiful reflection which any girl would love to watch as she rests her eyes a moment from those profound books one studies in college.

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