

WOMAN KIND

MISS REDPATH, COMMISSION MERCHANT

A Courageous Woman Who Has Built Up a Thriving Business With Only Pluck and Perseverance as Capital.



MISS VIOLET REDPATH, Woman Commission Merchant.

There is only one woman in Minneapolis engaged in the commission business, and she is Miss Violet Redpath or "Miss Violet" and "Violet," as she is more familiarly known to the habitués of the Central market. It is five years since Miss Redpath opened a little cigar store at the market, and now she sells on an average of \$1,000 worth of fruit a week. She has built up a thriving business with nothing but pluck and perseverance as a capital.

Miss Redpath was a clerk in a cigar store when she came to the conclusion that it would be nice to be her own proprietor. She looked around carefully and made her plans. She has always been interested in the commission business, and some instinct told her that she would be successful in handling fruit.

When she opened the little cigar stand in the heart of the commission district, it was a foregone conclusion that she would add fruits to cigars and she did, beginning with a few boxes and gradually increasing her variety and stock until now she is as busy as one woman would care to be.

A commission merchant's day is a long one. It begins about 3 a. m., when the vegetable growers and fruit farmers come into the city with their rumbly wagons piled high with the products of their farms. Miss Redpath is at the market almost as soon as they are and she goes among the overburdened wagons and selects her vegetables and fruits with the greatest care. Other commission merchants are there and sometimes competition over a few early vegetables or late fruits will create excitement. As a usual thing, each dealer has his own favored gardeners, from whom he buys his stocks, but an early squash in some other wagon will catch his eye and lead him astray.

There are few women who come to market with the vegetables they have helped to raise, and it is only when the farmer is ill or busy that he allows his wife or daughters to take the wagon to town. It is not always consideration for the women that make him cling to this custom, but the belief that he is a better salesman than they are sends him from his bed long before the sun has thought of rising.

The Central market is quite a busy place in town these fall mornings, and from 3 o'clock in the morning, when the first wagons rattle over the pavement, until noon, there is a throng of purchasers and sellers. The commission people are the first buyers and the grocers and hotel men tread closely on their heels, and after them comes the carriage trade, and then the small housekeepers pick their way among the baskets and bags to find some desirable vegetable for sale cheap.

As a general rule, the Park avenue and Lowry Hill women, who come with their carriages, and are dubbed the carriage trade by the sellers, do not buy direct from the gardeners, but select their vegetables from the commission merchant, whose store fronts the busy crowd and yet offers a place for a less-hurried choice. These housekeepers come every day while the home-grown vegetables are in the market, and drive away with luscious melons perched beside the coachman and tomatoes and cucumbers running riot over the carriage floor. When a woman once commences to go to market she will not stop until the frost makes it unprofitable for her to come. There is a fascination about the crisp green things just from the soil that is not felt for the half-witted specimens found in the average grocer's window a day later.

Miss Redpath has her regular customers whose carriages drive up before her modest establishment with the regularity of clock work. She knows whether they like long, slim cucumbers or short, fat ones, and the interest she takes in their purchases, however small, adds to her sales every day. Orders are left for a certain peach or tomato in the preserving and pickling season, and she scours the market until the right kind is secured.

The busy season for a commission merchant lasts from May until after frost, when the only fruit for sale comes from California and is delivered at the store instead of bought from the gardener in the hurly and burly of market morning.

There is an old German couple out near Minnetonka that make a specialty of late vegetables and fruits, and are always able to furnish peas long after every other

gardener has sold his last pod. For several years they have brought to town half a dozen or more boxes of Minnesota strawberries picked in November. They are a delicate berry, almost a pure white in color, for the November sun is not strong enough to burn them into a rich red, but the flavor and fragrance is more delicious than that of any berry grown under June sunshine. These half-dozen boxes are eagerly sought by the large grocers, and Miss Redpath's great trial is to make them go around.

It is the berry season that brings wrinkles to the dealer in fruits. They are the most perishable stock that she handles, and she will dispose of it at a loss rather than have even a small part left over for another day. Yesterday's berry is a pitiable object beside the plump, juicy one of today and the dealer wants her counter to be an object of admiration not of commiseration.

After the commission merchants, the grocers, hotel and restaurant keepers, the carriage trade and the housekeepers, the Jewish peddlers come with their push carts and buy what is left. They are deft at handling fruit and are able to show it so that the soft and broken portions are not observed and the amount they buy and sell grows larger every day.

Miss Redpath has quite a staff of assistants and they are nearly all women. Of course a man has to be employed to do the heavy lifting but young women do the selling and they take an interest in the selection of plums and enter into the possibilities of certain tomatoes keeping until to-morrow if the cook has not time to put them up to-day and all in a way a man never could.

In a few years Miss Redpath hopes to have a farm of her own, near the city, where she can raise special fruits and vegetables which she will put up in a certain distinctive style and sell to the private houses and hotels. One of the larger grocers, when he heard of her ambition, begged to be put on the list of customers and offered to take all she could raise and rather deplored the fact that she was not already sending out attractively packed baskets. "There's a demand for them," he said emphatically. But when Miss Redpath goes to the country to see that the demand is filled, Minneapolis will be without a woman commission merchant.

QUARTER CENTENNIAL OF MINNESOTA W. C. T. U.

Annual Convention Will Meet All of Next Week in Plymouth Church—Pioneers Will Speak in a "Quarter-Century Run."

Colorado Women's Record

One report given at the recent national suffrage association convention stood out from the others, for it was in a measure "the proof of the pudding." This was the answer made by Mrs. Meredith of Colorado to the oft-repeated question, "What have you done with the ballot in the hands of the women of your state?" She said: "The tale of bricks is soon delivered, and it may seem an insignificant story of accomplishment to anyone unacquainted with the tedious course of legislative work. Suffice it to say, it is longer than for any two decades prior to the enfranchisement of women, and it is also noticeable that some of the laws secured by women before they had the ballot have only become operative since."

"It goes without saying that women's work will always be largely altruistic. Not for herself first. All her training has been along this line. It is equally to be expected that women will be largely interested in all educational matters, and the results in Colorado show these things to be true.

To summarize briefly: Since 1893 the kindergarten has become a part of the regular school system; a manual training high school has been built in the largest district of Denver, and a law passed making the meetings of the school board public.

"While it is merely the reiteration of an old story to many, it is worth while to recapitulate legislation secured before the year 1901, and this includes:

"Raising the age of consent to 18.

"Establishing a home for dependent children.

"Establishing an industrial school for girls.

"Making the mother equal guardian of her children.

"The indeterminate sentence and parole system.

"Removal of emblems from ballots. (This comes tolerably near an educational qualification.)

"In the way of city improvement, one avenue has been parkered, more than 200 trees planted about different schools, drinking-fountains put on the corners of downtown streets, rubbish cans provided, and the hand street sweepers introduced.

"During the legislature which met this year the following measures which were indorsed and approved by the women were passed:

"Humane society bill for the better protection of children.

"Humane instruction in public schools.

"Parental or truancy schools.

"Establishment of schools for the feeble-minded.

Giving the state board of charities and corrections power to investigate private charitable and eleemosynary institutions.

An alteration in the ballot, making it impossible to decipher the number and thus learn by whom it was cast.

A bill compelling insurance companies, that have to be sued to recover, to stand the cost of such suits. It is said this bill was indorsed by every woman's organization in the state.

A bill for the preservation of forest trees.

Congress was memorialized in regard to the Cliff Dwellers' remains in the southern part of the state, and in favor of election of United States senators by direct vote.

Constitutional amendments are pending for the consolidation of elections, so that they shall occur biennially; for an eight-hour law; for home rule for Denver, and for the Australian land tax.

The legislature, in spite of its being the "unlucky thirteenth," is said by members of all parties to be the best Colorado had for more than twenty years, and has passed the most liberal appropriations for the conduct of the state institutions, educational and penal. In order to do this, it was obliged to spend over a third of its time in the consideration of a revenue bill. For this reason only, many bills that were generally indorsed and would have met no opposition failed of passage for lack of time.

The quarter centennial of the Minnesota Woman's Christian Temperance Union will be celebrated in Minneapolis next week at the annual convention of the organization which will be held in Plymouth Congregational church, beginning on Monday afternoon and lasting through the week. The applications for entertainment indicate a large attendance and the comfort of the guests are practically completed.

Luncheon will be served at the church at noon free to all delegates and for 10 cents to visitors; in the evening supper



MISS LOUISE E. HOLLISTER, Vice president and secretary of Young Women's Branch and the Loyal Temperance Legion of the Minnesota W. C. T. U.

will be served to all who care to remain for 10 cents each. The luncheon is in charge of Mrs. H. M. Powell. The church will be decorated under the supervision of Miss M. Rosette Hendrix. The convention committees include, besides those mentioned, Mrs. Frances Neal, the general chairman; Mrs. M. E. Hoover, entertainment and press reporter; Mrs. Alice N. Lansing, musical director; demonstration, Mrs. B. L. Fergusson.

The only meetings on Monday will be of the executive committee afternoon and evening. The chief topic of consideration will be the future of the official state paper. The delegates will arrive Tuesday morning and will be met at the stations by committees from the unions which will welcome them cordially. All will be sent to the church to meet the committee on entertainment to be assigned to places.

The most important business of the convention will be the consideration of a revision of the constitution which will be the order of the business on Thursday morning. The report on revision has been prepared by the general officers who are: President Mrs. Bessie Laythe Scovell; vice president, Miss Louise E. Hollister; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. C. McCurdy; recording secretary, Mrs. Belle M. Welch; and treasurer, Mrs. Ellen Ward Soule. Preceding the revision, two constitutional amendments will receive special consideration on Wednesday one whose purpose is to abolish the district organization of the state and the other to abolish the county organizations and re-district the state.

The program in full is as follows:

MONDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 23.

2—Executive committee meeting. Seating of delegates.

MONDAY EVENING.

8—Executive committee meeting.

TUESDAY MORNING.

9—Convention called to order by the president, Mrs. B. Laythe Scovell. Consolation service, conducted by Mrs. B. L. Scovell. Roll call of officers and superintendents, response by quotations from Miss Willard. Report of recording secretary, Mrs. B. M. Welch. Reading of minutes of executive committee meeting, conducted by Mrs. B. L. Scovell. Appointment of committees, credentials, contracts. Piling receptacles of standing committees. State hymn. Report of editor of White Ribboner. Reports from district presidents (five minutes each).

11:30—Evangelistic service, led by Miss Helen Hitchcock, topic, "Victory."

12—Noontide prayer. Miscellaneous business. Adjournment.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

2—Convention called to order by the president. Devotionals led by Mrs. Margaret Kelly, St. Paul.

2:10—Quarter century run: Mrs. A. T. Anderson, Mrs. Frances Neal, Dr. Chauncey Hobart, Mrs. A. C. Blaisdell, Mrs. E. S. Wright, Miss Ella J. Cook, Mrs. M. A. Dockstader, Mrs. E. C. Stacy, Mrs. H. J. Moffett, Mrs. C. S. Winchell, Mrs. E. L. Condit, Mrs. Ruth M. Barnes. Solo.

2:10—President's address, Mrs. B. Laythe Scovell. Solo. Introduction of fraternal and visiting delegates and distinguished guests. Miscellaneous business. Adjournment. Reception to state officers and delegates by Minneapolis hostesses.

TUESDAY EVENING.

8—Organ prelude. Music: Devotionals. The Hallelujah chorus (Handel), Bethlehem Choral Union, H. B. Chamberlain, director. Addresses of welcome: For the Commercial Club, J. H. Kerrick; for the ministers, Rev. Stanley Roberts; for the prohibition party, W. G. Calderwood; for the women's clubs, Mrs. Amanda Tuttle; for the Woman's Medical Club, Dr. A. Hutchinson; for the W. C. T. U. of the city, Mrs. Mary E. Hoover. Music. Response, state president. Music. Program arranged by the presidents of districts having made a net gain of 100 members during the year. Collection. Benediction.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

9—Convention called to order by the president. Devotionals led by Mrs. A. B. McLaurie, Salvation Army, Minneapolis. Reading of minutes, Mrs. Belle M. Welch. Report of credential committee.

9:30—Amendment to state constitution to abolish districts, Mrs. Frances Neal. Amendment to state constitution to abolish the county organization and re-district the state, Mrs. Julia B. Nelson. Solo. Memorial service, Mrs. Excene Bonwell.

11:30—Evangelistic service, led by Mrs. Callie H. Howe, topic, "Power for Effective Service."

12—Noontide prayer. Miscellaneous business. Adjournment.

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2:10—Report of state corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. C. McCurdy. Report of secre-

2:10—Report of treasurer, Mrs. Ellen Ward Soule. Report of auditing committee, Mrs. E. P. Nelson, Minneapolis; Mrs. W. E. Rodgers, St. Paul. Pledges for state work. Solo.

2:30—Reports of organizers: Mrs. B. L. Scovell, Miss Louise E. Hollister, Mrs. Josephine Princeall, Mrs. A. C. Bayrell.

2:45—Paper, "Evangelistic Work," Miss



MRS. BELLE M. WELCH, Recording Secretary Minnesota W. C. T. U.

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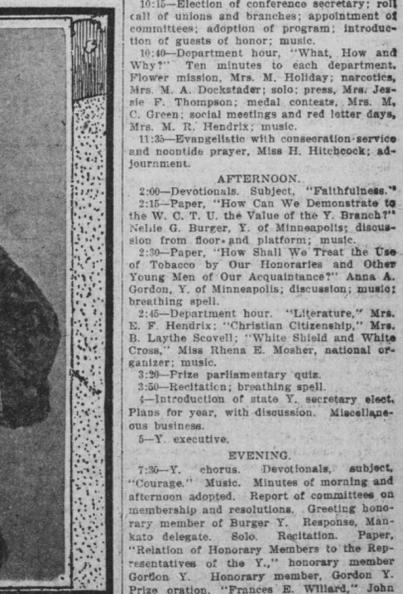
A beautiful shirt waist model has the upper part of tucked French flannel in any desired shade, the lower part formed of richly embroidered silk in the same color.



The most popular bodice for daily wear will be formed of the exquisite French flannels in the Persian designs which never have been brought to such perfection as this season.



The popular Louis XVth coat is shown in black astrakhan, elegantly decorated in white silk soutache braid and buttons.



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Young people's rally. Theme, "Preparing the Way of the Lord." Address by C. B. Ep. L. B. Y. P. U. and Y. W. C. T. U. representatives.