The Free Press' Short Story

Nothing Ever Happens Down on the Farm

Margaret e. Sangster

ATE ELLIS looked jealously at Kate shrugged and returned to her bisher cousin, Jeanette. "How I envy you!" she sighted. "You work in an office; you live in the centre of a busy city. As for me-I'm a-a hick! I'll never get much more than five steps from the farm."

"I don't see why you'd ever have the least desire to get five steps from a farm like this," Jeanette Carey echoed the sigh, while her eyes followed the line of the distant hills.

"That's all right for you to say .- You are here for only two weeks every fall, on a vacation. Any farm is pretty in the fall, especially to city eyes. I'll grant you that!' But for a steady diet,

day in and day out-year in, year out-" "What's wrong with it?" Jeanette interrupted.

"Nothing-from the standpoint of a farmer, I suppose. The land's fertile, the crops are good and the air is invigorating But from the standpoint of a young girl; it's dull. Nothing ever happens: You see life-you're surrounded by people. There's excitement every second in the city. I can't tell you how

much I envy you!" Jeanette started to say, "You mustn't envy me. I'd change places with you in a trice." Before the words had taken form on her lips, Kate's mother had come hurrying on the scene. Her face swered.

was flushed and apprehensive. "Kate," she exclaimed, "you'll have to jump into the car and hurry to your sister Carrie's place. She's been taken sick, and Ned's rushing her to the hospital-it's an appendix," (Ned Was the Ellis' son-in-law), "and the baby can't be left alone-and dinner must be got together for the hired hands."

Kate said, crossly, "Oh bother." Jeanette, she added, "You see how it

Jeanette asked, "Is Carrie very ill?" Mrs. Ellis said, "I hope not. Why don't you go along, Jeanette, and help your cousin?" "Of course - I was going to offer."

In less time than it takes to tell, the two girls were speeding down the country road in the farm car.

boarding house.

"This is charming." she murmured. day, you and I!"

The girls hurried into the neat, white farmhouse. The baby, sitting in a pen, them, Miss Carey!" with his tows, was indeed crying. Jeanette leaned over and lifted him with

"There, little lamb," she comforted, as she kissed his chubby neck, "every-

thing's okeh, now!" "You must be fond of youngsters. The baby's smiling already -- he takes to you

Jeanette looked up and saw a young

in his eyes. "I heard that Carrie was ill." he said

brother. What relation does that make tumbled him on a spread blanket. him to me-my brother-in-law's broth-

"Oh, no, we're not! Cousins aren't that he was a minister. supposed to marry!" Burton said. A' flush dyed Jeanette's cheeks.

little joke" Burton turned on his heel and walked believe I know you?" away, but at the door he paused. "We

"there are five of us!" Kate. "And like it!" she added.

sulkily, "goodness, I wish we were in the say to a person who is dying when the livery, within the next few-months. They city. Jeanne. We'd be having lunch in world is so lovely-"

a swe'l tea room, about now."

a steady diet." The telephone was ringing, Kate went | - going?" answer it. She turned back from it, to The old minister said, softly: "Thank The 30-day period spent in training with 66,414 pounds came fourth." The

"It's not Carrie's appendix. It was an than you can guess. I wish that you joyment thrown in with the business of The order is the same for receipts of able to bring her home tonight. If you . When the men came in to supper both routine will be brightened with sports. 12,565 pounds; Toronto, 8,774 pounds; "Oh. Kate, what a way to talk-" napped, but Jeanette had met with drills, lectures and target practices.

from the fields, dinner was ready-a fricassee with potatoes and rice and a longer. great basin of vegetables, a huge bowl of lettuce with old-fashioned dressing. Biscuits with jam, a cake salvaged from the pantry, and the berries that Jeanette had prepared completed the meal. The men ate with rare

appetite, and little conversation was in

dulged in. Burton Lake did most of the

"We found a nest of kittens," he tol Jeanette, "where we were plowing. of the barn cats, I suppose. And saw a blue jay as big, almost, as a hawk. tion that I'm all enthused. This will

be a fine year-" Kate said, "Ugh-I despise cats. And I'm tired of hearing about good ground." "I never saw a baby barn kitten in my

life," Jeanette said, softly. "You poor little fresh air kid! Want a week and a half will be long enough. to walk down to the lot with me, after lunch? I'll show the kittles to you," Burton said.

Jeanette said, doubtfully, "There are

"Don't worry about the dishes-they'll wait until you come back," Kate an-

After the berries and cake had been consumed. Jeanette and Burton strolled out of the house and toward the lower

Jeanette Carey never forgot that walk, get a job." under the warm noon sun, with Burton Lake. The very soil was fragrant, the plained easily, about his plans - the a trifle tired, too." adjoining farm he was going to buy, the

to you, Miss Carey, but it isn't. We ed to be smiling. farmers deal with fundamental things -we raise food; food for the world. We Canada Ranks are not merely buying and selling-we're producing. Do you understand?"

"I understand," murmured Jeanette. Carrie's home was but a few miles She was thinking of the flurry of the from her mother's. As the girls entered famous street upon which she worked. the pretty lane, leading to it, Jeanette a street that was dedicated to buying thought of the drab entrance to her city and selling. She was contrasting the city's hurry and bustle and dust with this calm sky and the green fields Kate, without answering said, "I can the sweet sunshine. They had reached hear the baby crying. We'll have a busy the lower meadow. Burton Lake stop- duction of gold in the Dominion totalled adians. ped suddenly:

"Here's the nest." he said, "look a

"Oh, they're dear!" Jeanette leaned down and peered at the soft mass of

"You like little things, don't you?" cloes? Miss Carey sounds so formal and an increase of 1 per cent, over the cor-

him a bit and maybe he'll doze off." son. "That sounds very attractive," said a Was it the reflection of the sunlight that British Columbia, 626,970 fine ounces voice from the doorway. "I wish I were made her cheeks so warmly pink? "Yes, and Manitoba, 180,875 fine ounces, Lessyou may call me anything you wish!"

man in overalls. He was strong and ton Lake, "Maybe you've let yourself in west Territories, and Alberta. sunburned and a gleam of laughter was for something."

While she and Kate were finishing recorded. "Ned stopped by, at the lower meadow, the dishes the baby wakened, cooing. The Northwest Territories completed where I was working-and told me. He from his map. Under Kate's direction, its second year of steady lode gold proasked me to come to the house and Jeanette bathed him and bundled him duction in 1939, with an output of 51.into a fresh romper and gave him his 914 fine ounces, valued at \$1,876:224. Kate came forward. She said, "This dinner of cereal and strained spinach, In 1938 production from the Territories is Burton Lake, Jeanne - he's Ned's She carried him out to the lawn and totalled 6,800 fine ounces, valued at

"There, Sonny," she said, 'you can er? Burt, this is Jeanne Carey, my roll around and have an elegant time." · A car rattled up and came to a stop Jeanette's glance was bent upon the almost in front of Jeanette. The door face of the drowsy baby. "That makes opened and an old man stepped from it 'us related too. Marbe we're sort of because of his costume and the saintliness of his face, the girl could tell "I saw you sitting on the grass,"

said, "and you were so pretty and peace-Kate said, easily, "Burt must have his ful that I couldn't resist stopping in, to call. I'm Pastor Smallwood. I don't Jeanette had risen to her feet. She

will be for dinner in an hour," he said, said, "I'm Jeanette Carey. I'm Carrie Lake's cousin and Kate Ellis' cousin. I "You'll probably get hash," warned live in the city and I'm visiting here." The minister seated himself on the After the baby was asleep Jeanette blanket, and tickled the baby's bare toes. haid him on the sofa, put a chair along- "Sometimes." he said, "one gets tired side for safety, and joined Kate in the and needs a rest. I'm tired to-day. I'm kitchen. Kate was cutting out about a on my way to see a woman who is dying. There will be 14 passenger seats in "The men'll be hungry," she said, minister doesn't always know what to by the Trans-Canada Air Lines for de-

"We never see such berries in town," tuous, making- suggestions," Jeanette steamship companies, hotels and apart-Jeanette sat down in a chair and reach- said, "but maybe if you told her that ment houses, skip number 13 in defered for a bowl of berries, and started to she's going to a place as lovely as an ence to the ancient superstition. hull them. "You'd soon be tired of all eternal fall, that heaven is much more the tearoom food, Kate, if you had it as beautiful than her own beloved country- TRAINING TO BE side, she wouldn't feel so lonesome about

you, my dear. You've helped me more camps by Canadians will have much en- standing was the same in May and June.

stion Ned'll be were a member of my flock!" Kate and Jeanette were gay Kate had sing-songs and recreations; after squad Winnipeg. 7,727 pounds, and Montreal

several forms of inspiration. The supper was enticing.

The men ate their fill, and relaxed upon the porch to discuss the morrow's work Jeanette and Kate dragged Burton into the kitchen, trussed him into an apron and set him over the dish pan. He was splashing noisily when his brother walked into the house, leading a wan Carrie:

"Well, we're home-again!" said Ned. And all in one piece.'

"How is my baby?" asked Carrie. to bed, too."

When the five farm hands came in cent. by morning. You girls, have been meeting of the Canadian Club in Monwonders-but I won't need you any treal:

from this place and Ned's pest of a points of the year's review are summar-

Ned's pest of a brother said, eagerly 'I'll drive you back!"

"You will not!" So Burton Lake had to content himelf with walking to the gate with them. He helped Kate into the car, but instead of assisting Jeanette in, after her, he pulled the city cousin aside.

"How much longer will you be here?"

he asked in a whisper. Jeanette whispered in reply: "I'm allotted two weeks, and half of the first

week is gone-" Burton said, "That leaves me a week and a half. Well, I'm a fast worker-

Are you doing anything to-morrow Jeanette murmured, "Certainly not."

as Kale called from the car. In a moment the girls were off again. rolling along the road that they had travelled that morning They were halfway home before Kate spoke.

"Gracious," she said, "I'm a wreck! | 10.000. If this isn't a typical farm day, I'll eat my hat, and I need my hat. Nothing ever happens here, Jeanne. I wish I' could return to the city with you, and

Jeanette said, deep in her heart, "Maybe I won't be going back to thre trees cast restful shadows. Burton ex- city." Aloud she said, very softly, "I'm

The yellow harvest moon, rising above stock he would raise, the crops he would the fringe of hills, peered at the two girls, riding along. To Jeanette the face "Farming," he said, "may seem dull in the moon was very clear and it seem-

Second as Gold Producer

Excluding Russia, no reliable figures for which are available, Canada ranks fighting side by side with the R.A.F. in second among the gold producing coun- Great Britain, with a fourth squadron tries of the world in 1939, when the pro- in the R.A.E. composed entirely of Can-5.094,379 fine ounces compared with 4.- The R.C.A.F. is doing a difficult job wee, fuzzy bodies. "They're such little the gold output is estimated somewhere nery schools, wireless schools and ad-

ounces a year. The gross value of the Canadian pro- airdremes to match. may I call you Jeanne, same as Kate duction in 1939 amounted to \$184,115,951 "He's sleepy, poor dear - I'll cuddle, you're not in the least at formal per- responding value for 1938. Of the 1939 output. Ontario contributed 3.086.076 "Indeed, I'm not," smiled Jeanette, fine ounces; Quebec: 953.377 fine ounces; er quantities were recovered in Yukon. "I'll remember that," exclaimed Bur- Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, the Northquantity and value of gold produced in Canada in 1939 were the greatest ever

> \$239,190. Nearly all the 1939 output came from the Con and Negus mines on Yel'owknife Bay on the north arm of Great Slave Lake. Most prospecting was done in the Yellowknife Bay area, in the adjacent Beautlieu River area, and near Wray Lake, 120 miles northwest of Yellowknife. Many new gold deposits were found in 1939, nearly all of them in areas mappped by the Geological Survey. River transportation between the end of steel in Alberta, and Yellowknife was facilitated by improvements of river and channels and docks. The first overland winter freight to reach. Yellowknife arrived there in the spring of 1939 by tractor train over a road from Grimshaw, Alberta.

THIRTEEN SKIPPED BY NEW TCA PLANE

-she has but a few days left. Even a each of the six new Lodestars ordered . . . will-be numbered from on to 15 inclu-"I hope you don't think I'm presump- siv. Air lines, in common with many

learning how to be a soldier. The daily air mail. In July, Vancouver received

Huge Expansion Seen in Canada

in First War Year

Twelve_months ago Canada went to war. During these months a peaceloving people forgot about its peacetime pursuits to concentrate on the war task at hand, a task that was accelerated tremendously as shocking events Jeanette said, "He's asleep-his eyes overseas brought home to Canadians the are tight as buttons. You'd better get stark realizations of modern warfare. This expansion in Canada's fighting Carrie said, "I'm completely cured, forces and in her industrial life was now. But I must have had a touch of strikingly brought out by Col. the Hon. ptomaine. I went to a picnic yesterday, J. L. Ralston, Minister of National Deworse luck, but I'll feel a hundred per fence, speaking recently at a luncheon

Kate said, affectionately, "You're an Col. Raiston described in detail the great" your dishes we'll go back to Mother the Air Force, the Navy and Industry Jeanne and I will be glad to get away during the first year of war. Salient ized as follows:

THE ARMY Then Canada had 4,500 tre-ops available for service in Canada and overseas. Now the Canadian Active Service Force numbers over 155,000. Then there were no troops outside.

Now the C.A.S.F. is in England, in numbers equal to nearly three divisions. or about 40,000; in Iceland, Newfoundland and in the Caribbean. Over 100,000 available in Canada for service anywhere. In addition 60,000 will train with the Non-Permanent Active Militia. About 300,000 men will receive 30 days of training each year in 13 militia training centres.

Then no provisions had been made for home guard. Now the Veterans' Guard of Canada counts 29 companies.

THE NAVY Last September the Navy had 1,700 officers and men. Now it has about

Then the Navy Irad 15 ships. Now it has 113, with 100 more being built. Four destrdoyers of the Canadian Navy are in service with the British

The Canadian Navy is doing most useful and effective service in connection with convoys. These are organized by the Canadian Naval Service and their ships form a substantial part of the escort. About 2,300 ships have been convoved during the year, bringing troops, food and munitions to the British Isles, without the loss of a man, a gun or any part of the munitions.

THE AIR FORCE

Last September there were 4,000 officers and men in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Now there are about 25,000. Then no units of the R.C.A.F. were

serving overseas. Now three R.C.A.F. squadrons are

725,117 fine ounces in 1938. The other well in administering the British Comleading gold producing countries were monwealth Air Training Plan. At pre-Union of South Africa with 12,819,000 sent at about 75 different locations fine ounces, the United States with across Canada, initial 'training schools, 4,603,425 fine ounces, and Russia, where elementary schools, bombing and gunbetween 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 fine vanced training schools are in operation. or springing up almost overnight with

Now Canada has a production of 4 000 planes a year in sight and plans for increasing that figure. Five thousand airplane engines have

been purchased in the United States. Nine Canadian firms have been put into production of components and assembly of 'planes, with Federal Aircraft Limited formed by the Government to co-ordinate their work. Production was stepped up or initiated on six types of training planes and five types of fighting 'planes

Then Canada had no tank production. Now this production has been intiated to a total of orders of \$63,000,000. Bren gun production has been doub-

Plants are under construction for the Browning aircraft machine guns, submachine guns, 2-pounder anti-aircraft guns, and carriages. Bofors anti-aircraft guns, 3" anti-aircraft guns, anti-tank rifles and aircraft cannons. Twentyfive hounder guns go into production almost at once.

Fourteen plants are producing shells and orders for components of these munitions are being filled, \$76,000,000 worth of orders have been placed for ammunition and \$33,000,000 will be placed shortly. Expenditures totalling more than

\$165,000,000 are being made to construct or enlarge 100 major plants. Annual value of output is expected to run to some \$800,000,000.

VANCOUVER HOLDS LEAD AS AIR MAIL CENTRE

Vantouver maintains its lead as the air mail centre of Canada, according to the latest statistics released by the Trans-Canada Air Lines. In July this city sent out 13,962 pounds of mail by T.C.A. planes. Second was Toronto. MOORE LIKE VACATION with 8,413 pounds. Winnipeg took third place with 8,036 pounds, and Montreal,

How Big Are You Out of Your Car?

Some day, my ill-mannered friend, you are going too far. Some day when you swerve around a street corner, you are going to clip the buttons on the

wrong pedestrian's vest, and he is going to catch up with you, haul you off your comfy upholstery and deal you the smacking-down you deserve. You're a veritable Titan of self-assurance, aren't you, when you're behind an

eight-cyclinder engine? But how do you look on your feet? Are you the same dashing, imposing, self-assertive personage for whom the rest of the world must make room? Would you dare shove another pedestrian aside; would you jostle a six-footer? You would not, for you're Adopting a THEN and NOW theme, just a grubby little inferiority complex who's been sublimated by a shot of gaso-

And what's the reason for this breakneck rush of yours, anyway? You're in an automobile. You'll arrive 'at your destination 10, 15 or 20 times quicker than the pedestrian you're crowding back on the curb. The best he can do is five or six miles an hour. You are going 25 or 30, perhaps 40 miles an hour. Is your business ten times more-urgent than his, My, my, what an important fellow you are! What vast designs, what momentous projects must occupy your waking

hours to justify such impatience. The automobile, it seems, is the devil's gift to the Little Man. Put him in control of a motor car and he's cock o' the cross-walks. But if you suddenly yanked that ton or two of iron and steel out from under him, you'd find him just a measly nonenity with the mental setup of a public school bully.

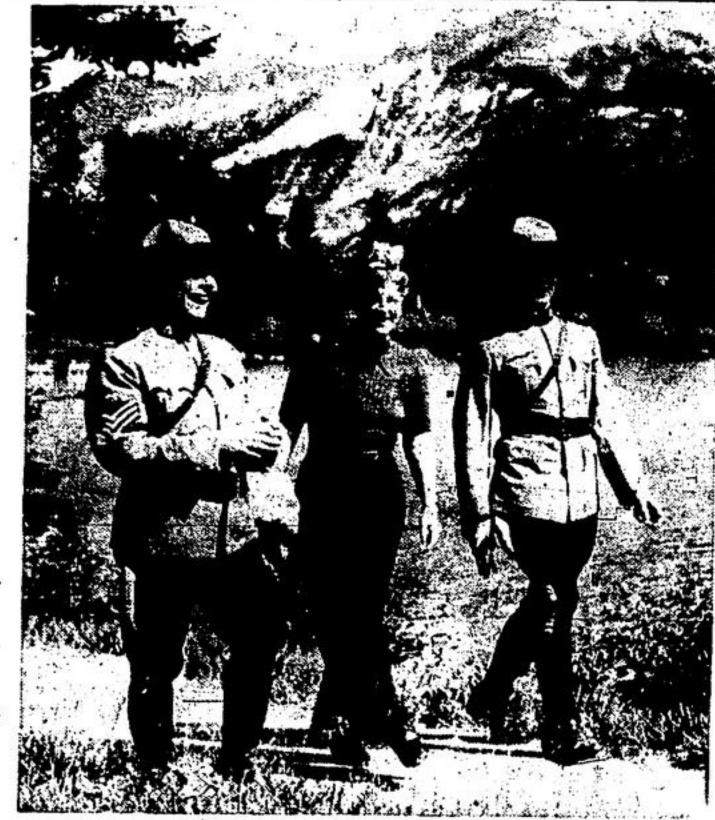
You may say I'm in a bad frame of mind. You're right. And I'll get over it when fellows like you begin to use a little care, caution, courtesy and commonsense when you're driving on the streets and highways of this province.-Stratford Beacon-Herald.

DEVELOP "MINAKI" SLEDDER

After years of experimenting with cross breeds to develop the "perfect lead sled dog, Jim Donnelly, veteran guide at Minaki Lodge, reports success. Donnelly have developed an exclusive "Minaki strain," a cross between an Irish wolf hound and husky. "Although not much to look at," Jim says, "it is a natural and perfect leader, gentle and intelligent, with great pulling power."

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ESCORT FOR-GRACIE AT JASPER



two of Canada's famous Royat Canadian Mounted Police while strolling in the environs of Out'ook Cabin, where King George and Queen Elizabeth stayed during their visit a year ago. Walking with the popular comedienne are Sgt. J. W. Faulkner, at Gracie's right, and Const. E. C. R. Woods.

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њ. **19**с

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