

Chronicles of... Ginger Farm

Written Specially for
The Acton Free Press by
GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Having separated the skins and the pulp from three baskets of grapes, and having set the same on the stove to simmer, I may, perchance, snatch a few moments to have a chat with you.

When I was leaving the kitchen now, son Bob called out "Come quickly, Mom, before it's late. See what's on the window sill!" I came and on the dining-room sill what did I see but a real live hen-pheasant. Unfortunately our movements scared the bird and it flew down and away.

Feathered fowl around here seem to be fond of finding queer places in which to roost. We keep an egg pail hanging from a beam in the hen-pen and yesterday what should I find but a pullet making her nest in that same pail. How she ever got to it I will never know. And every night in the big chestnut tree at the back of the house there are about twenty-five chickens, some perched on the highest branches, perched on the highest branches of the tree. We are not afraid of chickens getting them because before anyone could climb the tree the birds would be squawking and fluttering to the ground.

Naturally birds that are fond of the high spots are not too particular where they lay their eggs so that we find nests in the most inaccessible places. A favorite place is in the straw nose chairs to reach them one must either sit and slide, getting one's hair and shoes full of little prickly bits of straw, often so small they are almost impossible to find... but brother, can they scratch!

What a day this is... In fact what a fall. Rain, and then more rain, and after that more rain again. Farmers with wheat sown are worrying for fear the rain will drown it out. Farmers without wheat sown are worrying for fear they won't get it in. And on many farms there is red clover left for seed and in various stages—some cut, some half cut, and some not cut at all. And it is anyone's guess which condition is best for the clover. Not that it makes any difference because there is nothing that can be done about it. One just wonders, that's all.

Well, how does everybody like being back on standard time? Personally we haven't noticed any difference at all. We get up at the same time as before irrespective of clocks, only it just means waiting an hour longer for our dinner.

Which just reminds me of something I was thinking about the other day. Circumstances drove me to the conclusion that it doesn't pay to be out of step with the rest of the world. It was like this: For the first time in I don't know how many years, we didn't put in an appearance at our local fair. Partly it is still in the hospital and I didn't feel much like going. But still I had to go down town some time so I thought it might be a good idea to get my shopping done while the rest of the folks were fairing. But it didn't work out that way. You see every store I went to had a notice tacked up "Closed until 5 p.m." So you see what I mean when I say it doesn't pay to be out of step with the rest of the world, particularly in one's own community.

Now I must fly my ears and nose. Tell me that my grapes are no longer simmering, they're boiling over. Bob says it smells like a still in the house. I must make a note of that and ask him what he knows about a still. And now the telephone is ringing...

The grapes have been pushed to one side. I don't feel much like attending to them now because the telephone call was from Daughter. She had just come from the hospital and left her Dad just coming but from an anaesthetic an anaesthetic which was necessary for an examination that had to be made. Now I'm wondering whether I should be there. I was at the hospital yesterday and shall be to-morrow, but right now I am here and wishing I was there. Oh dear.

TREE FRUIT PROSPECT

According to an official report, the total production of tree-fruits in Canada this season will be much below normal. Despite excellent prospects in British Columbia, the poor crops in eastern Canada (the result of adverse weather during the critical period) have brought anticipated supplies to an unusually low level. The first estimate of the apple crop indicates a reduction from the very large crop of 1944 of 52 per cent, or 8,183,000 bushels compared with 16,879,000 bushels in 1944. The pear crop, estimated at 357,000 bushels is expected to be the smallest since 1935, and it is anticipated that plum and prune and peaches will show a reduction of 24 per cent, owing to the small crops in eastern Canada. Cherries, despite a large crop in British Columbia, will also show a decline. Unlike tree fruits, the small fruit crops are all above the 1944 level.

The Circus Comes Again to the Maple Leaf Gardens

Toronto, Oct. 2—All the laughs, thrills and glamour of the circus will be on again at Maple Leaf Gardens this fall when Col. Bob Morton opens on Oct. 15 for a week's run of afternoon and evening performances with the pick of the continent's clowns, tumblers, high wire artists, equestrians, wild animal acts and everything that makes a circus the event of the year.

One of the world's largest and most sensational indoor shows, this big three-ring circus will appear again under the auspices of Ramona Shrine Temple. Every year the Shrine's Shrine Col. Morton's Show to Toronto and thousands of crippled and underprivileged children are guests of the Shrine. Proceeds of the show benefit crippled children and other charities. Reports show that nearly 100,000 crippled children have been cured through the efforts of this organization. This year, however, in addition to their usual benevolences, the Shrine's will donate 40% of their proceeds to the Sick Children's Hospital instead of the war charities to which their funds were donated during wartime years.

As a special treat, Col. Morton has booked Al Robbins, the famous "Hissana Man," for a full 15-minute act during which he produces more than a hundred bananas from the folds of his voluminous costume. Alfred Court's trained wild animal act will present a sensational mixed group of savage headliners, which is only one of many trained animal acts including horses, bears, elephants and monkeys.

Featured on the program is Miss Victoria, who appears for the first time in Toronto. She is the only girl in the world to be shot from the mouth of a large cannon. Another starring newcomer is La Paoca, a beautiful and daring young lady who doublesomeraults on a bounding rope high in the air.

Noteworthy attractions will be Miss Vera Orton on the high trapeze, The Herosinis on a high wire, Torrelli's Animal Circus, a show within a show, and the famous Peaches Aerial Ballet.

Rice Projects In Australia Amaze Experts

Scientific System of Rotational Cropping and Controlled Water Has Made Industry a Success

CANBERRA, Australia. (CP) Agricultural experts visited the irrigation areas in southern New South Wales and were impressed at what has been achieved in rice growing.

"They saw rice grown in a near-desert; world record rice yields; wheat combines adapted to cut, thresh and stack rice, a 5,000-acre rice farm that is entirely mechanized, a cannery that operates 52 weeks in the year."

The experts were F. W. South of Great Britain, Glen Briggs and Owen L. Dawson of the United States and Lieut. A. M. Westerhout of the Netherlands. They are all members of UNRRA's technical sub-committee on agriculture.

After travelling through the drought area, the 15,000-acre Government rice projects at Wakool, a green oasis in brown barrenness, fired their imagination.

"What you people can do when you put water to work," said Mr. Briggs. Success of the Australian industry the experts attribute to the scientific system of rotational cropping and controlled water.

Interests Divided
Irrigation farmers are each dividing their interests between rice, wheat and sheep pasturing, rotating the land on four-year periods. Pigs and poultry are a sideline.

At 11 pounds, 10 shillings (\$40) a ton, rice is proving a profitable crop. Rice cultivation, however, demands a great deal of water, and to make the existing supply go round, farmers are each limited to planting 80 acres in rice.

"We have learned a lot from you," said Briggs. "Australia is making a very useful contribution by providing rice for her own needs, for that of the natives in her Pacific territories, and a little for the Philippines."

Mr. South said: "Your yields, at 18 to 20 ton an acre, are roughly double the yield per acre in tropical countries." Briggs was greatly impressed by Leeton Co-operative Cannery.

"For the first time I saw a cannery that operates 52 weeks in the year," he said. "In the States, our canneries only work seasonally. But at Leeton, by co-operative farming and planning, you are drawing all kinds of fruit and vegetables throughout the year—getting produce direct from the farms into the cans and up to the troops."

HOUSING MEASURE

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask. (CP) — As a housing relief measure, the Saskatchewan government will construct 54 suites in two buildings previously part of the R.C.A.F. airport near Swift Current.

December Cherries For Canada Market

Australian Suggests Fruit Exports from Down Under During the Winter

CANBERRA (CP) The fact that the world is round and divided into two hemispheres, northern and southern, with reversed seasons plays a large part in the private post-war planning of D. W. Shand of Armidale, New South Wales, Australia, who has been having a look at soya bean culture and other rural matters in Canada.

He sees no reason why, with modern refrigeration, Australia should not send the finest fresh blackheart cherries to North America in December and grapes a little later in the winter. When he took a look at the New York fruit market, he found that Argentina is already doing this with grapes and Argentina is quite as far from New York as Australia is from San Francisco.

Mr. Shand has already tried soya beans on his Armidale farm and they did well. He wants Australia to have a million acres of them after the war.

He has already pioneered successfully the production in Australia of pyrethrum, opium poppies and navy beans. Pyrethrum, a daisy-like plant, is used in the making of insecticide. Australia's supplies used to come

from Kenya, East Africa, until war cut them off.

The war also cut off supplies of opium for medical use. Mr. Shand put in 30 acres of poppies for a start. The plants ran up to six feet, with blooms 10 inches round. Navy beans were grown in great quantities to supply the U.S. troops. Australians liked them as they grew used to them.

Another of Mr. Shand's ideas is to have an interchange of personnel, as well as practices, in farming between Australia and America. He wants to see 200 Canadian youths and 200 United States youths spending a year or two farming under the best conditions in Australia.

BRITAIN ANNOUNCES FARM TRAINING PLAN

LONDON (CP) Aimed at placing 100,000 ex-service personnel in jobs on farms, Britain has announced a "back-to-the-land" training scheme which applies to all non-disabled men and women returned from the three forces and the merchant navy.

The program will supply a year's training on farms, including specialized farming, with selected committees instructing those who have no previous land experience. For those who successfully complete the year's practical training, courses in agricultural institutes will be made available.

Trainees will be accommodated on farms or in hostels nearby and will receive an unstated salary augmented by dependants and traveling allowances.

TOBACCO GROWING

The primary aim of the Tobacco Division, Dominion Experimental Farms Service, is to make tobacco growing in Canada a remunerative farm enterprise. Special attention is given to such production problems as breeding of new varieties; testing and introducing promising strains from other countries; soils and fertilizers; cultural methods; harvesting, curing and warehousing; control of diseases and insects; rotations, crop effects and cover crops. The four Experimental Stations associated with the Division are strategically located in the principal commercial tobacco-growing areas of the Dominion: Harrow and Delhi in Ontario; Lacompton in Quebec; and Summerland in British Columbia.

GO 'WAY MAN

GOBERGEL, Ont. (CP)—A trapper who captured a skunk in the local court house recently found claiming just a matter of perseverance. Police refuse this claim to the bounty so the trapper headed back to the court house where the county treasurer paid the trapper out of his own pocket to take himself and the skunk elsewhere.

PACIFIC AIR SERVICE

VANCOUVER (CP) Air service between Vancouver and Sydney will become a reality as soon as airfields and equipment in the south Pacific are released by military authorities, according to Daniel McVey, Australian aircraft production minister.

Quality You'll Enjoy
"SALADA"
TEA



A GOOD FARMER IS A GOOD PLANNER

It's the man who looks ahead who gets ahead.

GOOD management... essential to successful farming, as to any business enterprise... is largely a matter of timely marketing and careful spending... waiting for the time when it is most favourable to buy.

We all want things now... things we have not been able to get for the past several years. Some of these things are necessities... some are things that will contribute to our comforts and pleasures.

Eventually, these things will be more plentiful. By waiting a little longer we will help to keep prices of things we need at lower levels and we will buy at better advantage when we do buy.

Meantime we can invest our savings in the safest securities obtainable... Victory Bonds. More Victory Bonds will be offered this Fall. They pay 3% interest... double bank interest... and they are "liquid capital".

If we need cash in an emergency any bank will buy Victory Bonds at any time. And any bank will loan money on Victory Bonds.

The Ninth Victory Loan will be our last opportunity to buy Victory Bonds for a whole year, so buy double this time—the same rate of savings as in previous loans will pay for twice as many bonds over the 12-month period.

FARMERS CAN BUY VICTORY BONDS ON CONVENIENT DEFERRED PAYMENTS THROUGH ANY BANK
... just sign a short form letter which Victory Loan Salesmen carry (banks have copies) ordering the bank to buy Victory Bonds for you. Pay 5% when ordering and the balance at any time during the next 12 months. The interest the bonds earn pays the interest on the bank loan.