

Chronicles of... Ginger Farm

Written Specially for
The Acton Free Press by
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At I write it is the week before Christmas and what weather! The wind is so cold it seems utterly impossible to keep the house warm for the first time since we had the furnace installed. That is because the wind is in the south west and all our storm windows are on the north and north-west of the house. But at any rate it isn't knowing so we have much to be thankful for, especially with coal in the cellar and a recently cut woodpile in the yard. I wish I could be sure that everyone else was equally fortunate. I feel the cold so much myself that it just makes me wonder how people can suffer lack of heat, clothes, food and bedding and still survive.

Well, I have just turned on the radio and judging from the storm news from Buffalo, we, by comparison, certainly have little to complain about on this side of the border at least not at present. And then as if to convey the impression that Old Man Winter is not always in a harsh mood I saw from the kitchen window the most glorious sunrise I have seen in weeks. Flame-tipped purple clouds against a background of the palest green. A typical Turneresque sky, except that Turner's pictures are mostly of sunsets, are they not? When I said something to son Bob about the beautiful sunrise, he told me I should have seen the moon! He said that when he went to the barn it was like walking out on to a great beam of light. So now I suppose I should get up to see the moon and I thought I was doing pretty well about the sun.

Excuse me a minute. I think it is light enough now for the hens to feed so I had better go and feed 'em.

Br-r-r. It's good to be back in the warm again! I wish I were as anxious to get down to business for a thing in the morning as our busy biddies. Barely light enough for them to see and yet they were up and doing and had laid exactly one dozen eggs just to start the day right, I suppose. In fact one of them couldn't wait for the dawn so she dropped her egg in the night.

And now, having listened to Geoffrey Ford pinch-hitting for Jim Hunter, it is time to get breakfast for Partner. You see we have breakfast in relays here. Bob is generally up and out to the barn before Partner gets up. That way we can be sure of Partner getting a little extra rest. But then Bob is naturally through first—hence the two breakfasts.

Partner, like nearly all men, is just about as stubborn as he can be. I want him to sell some of his cows and he insists on keeping them. Oh yes, he does say this one and that one will be shipped out "when they are dry." But I'm beginning to think he means "dry" after the next time they have come in fresh. I "threatened" this morning to go down and help with the milking later on if he still kept so many milk cows. "Well," said Partner, "if it ever becomes necessary to help with the milking that will be the time to call the truck in and ship them all out!" You see, Partner has the idea that milking is no job for a woman which will strike many farm people as a queer notion.

Taking it all in all this milk business is quite a job. I often think that when a farmer starts shipping milk it's like a man taking to drink. The more he has the more he wants. A farmer who separates his milk and sells the cream doesn't worry particularly when his milk supply falls off. He has his pigs and his poultry to utilize the skim milk and, generally speaking, he has something coming in most of the time from his by-products. But a farmer selling milk well, he probably starts by shipping two cans. Then maybe he ships half a can over and he thinks if only he had a little more milk he could ship three cans. So he scurries around and buys another cow. By this time he has reached the early stages of milk-drunkness. Later he imbibes still further. He thinks if twelve cows bring in so-and-so, he might as well get a milking machine and milk twenty-four. That is just fine for an up and coming young dairy farmer that is the way it should be. But there are too many older men also, trying the same stunt—overtaxing their strength for the sake of selling milk and still more milk and more than likely the women, who in all probability have reached the age when they should be taking things easy, must still go to the barn to help milk the cows that keep the milk cheque rolling in.

But maybe I had better quit before I say too much—if I haven't already done so!

OBLIGING

"Jane, did I hear you kiss someone in the kitchen?"
"Sure, madam, the junk man said he came for a little 'oven."

The Week at — OTTAWA

BY H. L. JONES
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—A weary House of Commons, with prorogation on its mind, experienced one of the most prolonged one-party fights against legislation in many a session last week. It was a fight conducted for eight days and nights by the 13-man Social Credit Party against passage of a bill ratifying Canada's adherence to the Bretton Woods monetary agreements.

It was carried on despite heckling, despite desk-banging and frequent interruptions. It followed the bill from the Commons floor to the banking and commerce committee and back again. Social Credit members took up hours expressing their deep-seated convictions against the agreements, which will establish an international monetary fund and an international bank of reconstruction.

The Social Crediters from Alberta, where they first came into prominence as a party under the late Premier Albert, advanced numerous points. They said the agreements would lead to "dissolution" of the British Empire, would mean a re-introduction of the gold standard with all the consequences which they claimed cause wars and suffering, would mean Canada's loss of control of her currency. They advocated the bill be given a six-months' hold in the traditional parliamentary way of consigning a bill to the wastebasket, and when that failed, urged a royal commission to study the agreements. There was tricky phrasing in the agreements, they said, phrases which "confuse the mind, cloud the issues and conceal the real purposes behind the document."

Save the Commonwealth
Other members of the House spoke only briefly compared to the Social Crediters. Finance Minister Giesey stressed the necessity of getting the measure through so organization could go ahead. Progressive Conservative Leader Bracken said despite the Social Credit arguments his group was convinced the balance of arguments was in favor of the agreements and his party would support the government. M. J. Coldwell, C. C. F. leader, looked on the measure as another step in establishment of government on the international level. That was something which must come and the sooner the better.

Finally the arguing, pleading and criticism ended. Third and final reading was reached Friday night and the Social Crediters there were only 9 in the House at the time—forced a vote. And every member who had heckled them during the long debate applauded the monetary reformers as they stood 9 against 169 other members. It was a salute to a stubborn fight for their convictions.

After the voting Social Credit Leader Solon Low, who once was Alberta's finance minister, told the Commons that the next few years would vindicate the judgment of the Social Credit Party. He prophesied:

"One day the Social Credit Group in this House will be credited with having done something during this week that might eventually save the British Commonwealth of Nations. I hope it will."

The week brought a United States invitation to Canada and 13 other countries to join in a round-table discussion on tariffs and trade, something of vital interest to the Dominion. The idea of the conference, which might be held in Europe, would be to reduce tariff barriers and to expand trading among the nations of the world. Into that picture would fit world employment, for healthy trade makes for good, steady employment levels.

The invitation was well received in Ottawa. Observers could see from the impressive invitation list that whatever agreements and arrangements might come out of the talks, they would have global significance. Countries invited besides Canada were Britain, Russia, France, China, Brazil, Australia, Cuba, New Zealand, Belgium, Holland, Czechoslovakia, South Africa and India. In fact, all of the globe's major traders.

The round-table discussions would be timed to conclude when the full-dress United Nations trade and employment conference begins, possibly next spring.

The U. S. View
In the Commons a white paper was tabled containing United States proposals for expansion of world trade and employment which will be put in the full-dress meeting. And it just about touched all the bases on those phases of world economy: tariffs, import licenses, currency exchange re-



It DOES taste good in a pipe

structions, operation of cartels and last but not least, trade preferences. It was clear that the British Empire trade preference scheme something the United States would like to see remodelled if not discarded—would come in for a lot of discussion around the trade and employment conference table as well as probably in the preceding talks.

Canada's slowly-forming labor picture was becoming more clear this week, but it wasn't exactly bright. In fact, Veterans Minister Mackenzie himself termed the situation "more serious," so far as discharged veterans were concerned. He urged employers to make provision for adding discharged vets to their staffs wherever possible.

Mr. Mackenzie's statement showed that of 37,436 veterans interviewed during October, only 54,789 had definite places for whom provision must be made. He expected though, that 50 per cent of the latter group would be taken care of through vocational and university education but the fact remained that more than 23,000 had absolutely no definite plans. They were helping flood Canada's already overbalanced labor line-up.

There was one bright spot. The national employment service made 760, 122 placements between May 1 and Nov. 30 for a battling average of more than 100,000 a month.

WAR VETERANS TAKE TO SHELburne, ONT.

SHELburne, Ont. (CP)—Several Great War veterans have a great future in Ontario towns if this community is any indication.

With a population of 1,000, Shelburne has approximately four dozen business places which to date have given employment to 24 veterans. More than half of the ex-servicemen are new to Shelburne or did not work here before the war.

The veterans, seven of whom are starting businesses of their own, are engaging in 16 different lines of occupation. Some have returned to their old jobs in bank tellers' cages, behind butcher counters, in electric shops, florist shops, milk creameries, service stations. Others, however, are building their civilian lives on knowledge gained in wartime trades. Typical of new businesses set up here is an "all air force" photo supplies organization with a Shelburne native, Jack Stoddart, as president.

COMMERCIAL PEPPER

Peppercorns and black and white peppers which made up the bulk of the pepper of commerce are all derived from one species of climbing plant which originally was a native of the Malay Archipelago, Indo-China, and southern India. The peppercorns are the berries. The black and white peppers are the same when ground, with the difference that to make white pepper, the peppercorns are first deprived of their outer skin by steeping them in water for several days. The biggest supplies of pepper come from Java, Siam and French Indo-China, hence the recent scarcity in Canada and other countries as a result of the war.

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