

Of Interest to Women

Chronicles of... Ginger Farm

Written Specialty for
The Acton Free Press by
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We have just said good-bye to the last of our young cockerels—that is, the last of the first hatch. We still have plenty of small birds running around—so we won't be lonesome for a little while yet.

We are also enjoying our first shower for about three weeks—and, oh dear, how we needed it. (By the way, I am referring to a shower of rain—not of bath water). The ground is terribly dry. There doesn't seem to be any moisture anywhere—even the leaves on the trees are withering. But it has been marvellous haying weather. To date, not one cutting of hay has been spoiled. I can't remember anything like it before.

This year, for us, the summer seems to be mostly week-ends. I mean with the various members, and near members, of our family, coming along every week-end like homing pigeons. We have no sooner said "good-bye" than we are saying "hello, you're here again." And when they come there is a wild scramble for old clothes and shoes—overalls, shirts, slacks, anything at all that can be worn in the hayfield. Half the time nobody knows what belongs to whom and the result is often a general mix-up. Saturday afternoon Bert was turning the house upside down hunting for the overalls he had worn the week before. He insisted I must have washed and put them away. I was equally sure I hadn't for the simple reason that I had forgotten about them. While we were still arguing Joy and the men came in with a load of hay. Daughter exclaimed immediately, "Look, there's Bert's overalls. Joy's wearing them." And she was. She was also wearing a blouse belonging to Daughter, one of my hats and a pair of sneakers which Bob had rouled out from somewhere. Daughter is not quite so tramping. She generally has some kind of an outfit at home to change into. What there is of it!

The dress parade on Sunday morning is also quite characteristic. Partner and Bob shave, bathe and quite naturally get into something other than work clothes. Bert, the city slicker, absolutely refuses to shave and delights in wearing overalls and an old collarless shirt. He says he has to shave and wear a tie the nearly every day of his life. To do just the opposite is his idea of relaxation. Partner, on the other hand, cannot relax unless he first gets out of his work clothes.

Joy's pet method of escapism is to run around barefoot and Daughter's is to do exactly as she pleases. Bob's idea of rest is to stay not more than five minutes in one place at a time. And Partner's and mine well, we think it a good idea just to snatch a few odd winks whenever there happens to be a little quietness in the house. But not always, no, not always; sometimes I keep our family on the move. Sunday afternoon, for instance, I actually suggested a berry reconnoitring trip. And oh dear, what a disappointment—there was hardly a berry anywhere. Whether this is really another off season or whether the bushes were just killed out in that patch, I don't know. But won't it be a tragedy if there are no wild berries to pick again this year.

On the way home I thought of another patch that we might visit to find out but we stopped along the road for other reasons first to look over a very modern house under construction and then to visit a young mother and her toddling daughter. After that—well, you know how it is—time passes all too quickly with an attractive youngster, and so we didn't find any more berries.

Well, well, it must be thundering again—Tippy has just pushed the door open and gone to his hiding place under the kitchen table. I wonder why it is so many dogs are scared of thunder. To tell you the truth I am scared too but for the simple reason that a bad storm might result in our wheat crop being levelled to the ground. That is a tragedy at any time but this year we are growing registered wheat and that makes us doubly anxious.

Which reminds me, I have a binder canvas to patch. And that, my dear friends, is not exactly my idea of fancy work.

DISASTER AVERTED

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask. (CP) — Perfection of dress at an air cadet inspection was threatened recently when a youth appeared shortly before parade time wearing brown shoes rather than the regulation black. He was whisked into a fire hall where a generous application of black polish saved the day.



THE MIXING BOWL
BY MISS HODGSON

Hello Homemakers! You haven't much time to talk on the phone when the berries are ready to jam. Neither have I. Please mail any requests for information to me. I'll be glad to answer by return mail. Anyway, if you're taking down instructions they may be incomplete so clip this coupon and paste it on the filing cards of your recipe box to-day.

Notes on Making Good Jelly

1. Blackberries, gooseberries, crab apples, tart apples, quinces and cranberries jelly easily.
2. Cherries, strawberries, plaches, pears and rhubarb require a pectin or jel-rich combination to give the best results. For example use one part of one of the fruits listed in No. 1 to 2 parts of one of fruits listed in No. 2 or a commercial pectin can be used.
3. Fruit should not be over-ripe and should be carefully cleaned. Measure all ingredients or weigh fruits and sugar.
4. Jelly should be boiled rapidly. Use a large preserving kettle to prevent boil-overs and stir constantly.
5. A jelly thermometer assures you of a good jelly or jam and prevents reduction of the amount by too much evaporation. This handy device is hung inside as liquid begins to boil and when it records 220 degrees, it is time to pour.
6. You always skim jelly as the liquid boils.
7. When you use commercial pectin follow the instructions on the package explicitly.

BLACKBERRY JAM

4 lbs. blackberries, 3 lbs. of granulated sugar, juice of one lemon.
Look over blackberries carefully, and wash if it seems advisable. Put blackberries and sugar together in a preserving kettle, mix and let stand for about 15 mins. or until the juice is partially extracted. Then cook gently, uncovered, stirring often, until a few drops of the jam will thicken on a cold plate. Add strained lemon juice and cook for 5 mins. longer. Let stand a few moments and skim, then stir before ladling into hot sterilized jars. Cover at once with a thin film of hot paraffin; when cold, pour more very hot paraffin around the edge of the top of jar, top and fill the jar, to seal carefully. When cold, cover the jars or tie down with paper.

BLUEBERRY CURRANT JAM

2 lbs. (about one and a half quarts) blueberries, 2 lbs. (about 4 cups) slightly crushed currants, 3 lbs. (or a little less) granulated sugar.
Combine prepared blueberries and currants. Add sugar. Cook mixture, with frequent stirring, until a few drops will thicken on a cold plate. Cool slightly, skim, then stir. Fill hot sterilized jars and seal.

CINNAMON APPLE JELLY

5 lbs. apples, sugar, red food coloring, cinnamon extract.
Wash apples; do not pare or core. Cut in eighths, removing seeds and blemishes. Barely cover with water; cover; simmer until soft. Strain through jelly bag. Measure juice; heat to boiling; skim; add 4 cup sugar for each cup juice. Stir until sugar dissolves. Cook until syrup sheets off spoon. Color with red food coloring. Flavor with a few drops cinnamon extract. Pour into hot sterilized glasses. Paraffin-seal. Makes four 6-ounce glasses.

CURRANT JAM, SPICED

For 6 lbs. of currants to be made into jam, allow 1 cup white vinegar and 2 tbsps. (each) whole cinnamon and cloves, tied in cheesecloth. Cook the spices with the currants and sugar.

PLUM JAM, SPICED

For 7 lbs. plums to be used for jam, allow 1 cup white vinegar and 1 1/2 tbsps. (each) whole cinnamon, cloves and allspice; tie the spices in cheesecloth and simmer with the fruit.

BIRDS HAVE A PART

Most lovers of the out-of-doors are ready to admit that birds are among nature's most beautiful creations. How many of us, I wonder, are aware that at one time in the history of the world, not so very long ago geologically speaking, the feathered creatures did not exist. In the Royal Ontario Museum you may see, among the mural decorations representing prehistoric landscapes, illustrations of the oldest birds. They appeared at first, as far as the fossil record shows, about the middle of the age of dinosaurs, which dates back over a hundred million years. Only three examples of these ancient birds have been discovered. They differ from modern birds very distinctly in that they possessed a full set of teeth. This characteristic links them with the flying reptiles. The remains of the skeletons indicate that the bird was about the size of a full grown crow.

The Week at OTTAWA

BY H. DENT HODGSON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) — The Canadian government has put its foot down.

Canadian economy, already widely divergent from that of the United States, is striking out on its own. Come what may in the U. S., here the price ceiling of the Office of Price Administration went by the board last week. Canada will attempt to cleave to the price controls she held during the war.

Actually, last week's outburst of price control developments, is not a sudden event. The situation, growing since the war ended, has been increasing in seriousness due to three factors:

1. Inflation pressures caused by higher wages and prices in foreign countries.
2. Inflationary tendencies within the Dominion, caused by higher consumer spending power, scarcity of goods and pressures for wage increases.
3. Depletion of the Price Board staff by a number of top administrative men who began to leave after the war ended.

During the war, Canada kept prices down, but the war was over and these three factors were hurrying stronger forces against price controls than were met during the conflict.

Labor Minister Mitchell, referring to the release of American emergency control legislation on all controls excepting sugar, moved in the Commons to state flatly the government intended to hold the price in rent, rationing and prices of household necessities.

While Canadians tried to picture the probable effect of the U. S. action in this country, Prime Minister Mackenzie King rose in the Commons to state flatly the government intended to hold the price in rent, rationing and prices of household necessities.

Controls existed in Canada before they were adopted in the U. S., Mr. King said, and Canadian regulations, while similar to those in the States, had often "differed quite widely in their form."

"In other words, we in Canada have followed our own course which we believe is well adapted to Canadian conditions and to the Canadian economy. We shall continue to follow policies which we believe to be in the general interest, making from time to time, such modifications as seem to be required in the light of internal and external conditions as they develop."

Prices Board Chairman Donald Gordon admitted the lifting of U. S. controls posed the biggest problem his administration has faced since its formation in 1941. But the U. S. situation was not set clear and would take time to crystallize.

Other sources said Canada had been moving gradually away from the U. S. in its price policy during the last six or eight months and had done things which had not been thought possible before the war. Possibly she could pull through the crisis on her own.

Amid this general atmosphere of anxiety, Finance Minister Islay announced four aggressive steps by which the government hoped to regain the Dominion's stabilization program. They were:

1. Adjustment of the Canadian dollar to parity with the U. S. dollar.
2. Issuing of a long but simple and clear list of goods and services on which price control definitely continues to apply. These include all articles of significance on the household budget.
3. Continuation of price control on imported articles. These will be prices on the basis of the importer's landed cost, plus a prescribed mark-up which will be somewhat less than the mark-up normally obtained by distributors of similar domestic goods.
4. Continuation of the policy of paying subsidies to prevent "undue increases" in prices of articles of major importance in the consumer's cost of living or in primary producers' cost of production.

Actual effect of the new moves — primarily the Canadian-U. S. dollar parity—awaited the acid test of time. However, it was pointed out the Canadian farmer buying U. S. farm machinery now would be freed of the 10 per cent. exchange. And while gold mines would find a drop in the value of gold, they too would be able to get machinery at 10 per cent. less. The average Canadian would be able to travel more cheaply in the U. S. and find American goods imported to Canada in many cases retailing for 10 per cent. less.

Mr. Islay attributed the balancing of the exchange to the need for cushioning the "immediate impact of higher United States prices" and added: "But whatever the United States

Alberta Woman Is Crack Shot

Mrs. Anne Savage Winner of Many Championships

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. (CP) — When it comes to handling a rifle, Mrs. Anne Savage of Lethbridge is close to being a Daniel Boon.

A crack shot, she won the 1945 Dominion women's outdoor shooting championship and now is getting ready for a repeat performance this year.

In the 1945 championship Mrs. Savage outscored some of the best shots in Canada with a score of 760 out of a possible 800. In the open class which required the contestant to fire 10 shots at each of two targets in the prone, sitting, kneeling and standing positions, she shot eight targets with a possible 100 for each.

The Savages are a shooting family. Mr. Savage won the Dominion grand aggregate "B" class last year but has since become too interested in amateur radio to continue shooting.

The 1945 championship was not the first shooting award to enter their household. Thirty-five year old Mrs. Savage was one of the 1942-43 Manitoba ladies championship team, the 1944-45 ladies championship team and the mixed Manitoba championship team the same year.

In 1942, a year after her husband first persuaded her to try competitive shooting, she won the "D" class ladies Dominion championship and since then has been bringing home awards.

Mrs. Savage does little practicing. "I just shoot and hope for the best," she says.

RUBY WEARER CAREFREE

"No trouble to their brows adorn, If they this glowing gem have worn — the ruby."

Ruby, the July birthstone, is the gem variety of the mineral corundum. Corundum ranks next to diamond in hardness, a quality which makes it particularly desirable as a stone for ring settings. The Royal Ontario Museum has several examples of corundum in its cases, among them a ruby.

Rubies come essentially from the Oriental countries. The famous mines at Mogok in Upper Burma produce the finest quality. Here rubies occur in a granular limestone that forms the sides of the hills. These limestone outcrops erode in time through weathering, and quantities of rubies are washed down with deposits of clay and gravel into the adjacent river beds. A handful of pebbles from the river gravel shows all colors of the rainbow, because among them are to be found not only fragments of the many colored corundum gems, but also spinels and tourmalines. Generation after generation of natives have sorted these gravels, being rewarded with an occasional deep colored ruby. The highest standard of color is a true pigeon blood quality which is a shade of red with a slight mixture of purple.

URGES MODERATION IN TREE PLANTING

WINNIPEG (CP) — There should be moderation in tree planting, as in all things, says Alderman James Black of Winnipeg and he doesn't hesitate to defend his opinion at city council meetings.

It all started when a petition for tree planting on Winnipeg's thoroughfares came before a council committee. Alderman Black said there were too many trees already on the streets and said Garfield, which runs about two miles "is one of the nicest streets in the city and hasn't got a tree on it."

"We should have moderation" in trees," he told the committee at a later meeting. "Trees are becoming quite a problem."

Citizens were being "plagued" by tree roots spreading under their property. Trees were planted so close together on some narrow streets that they were crowding out the grass and light and women were afraid to walk alone on them after dark.

PLAYING SAFE

ARCHYDAL, Sask. (CP) — The drummer in a local dance orchestra doesn't approve of customers playing his bass and snare drums during intermissions. He hauls the instruments to the ceiling on a special pulley when they are not in use.

may do in the future to revive the Office of Price Administration and restore price ceilings in the United States, the divergence of the price levels of our two countries had already gone too far to permit the continuation of what had become an unrealistic exchange rate.

The Bureau of Statistics was not without a significant word on the proceedings. It reported the cost-of-living index hit a new peak at 123.6 — highest it has been since price ceilings came into effect and 22.6 per cent higher than in August, 1939. During May it rose 1.5 per cent.

Canadians, and price control authorities, watched the index with anxiety. Would it skyrocket, or would government controls hold it within a reasonable bracket?

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