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Chronicles of... Ginger Farm

Written Specially for
The Acton Free Press
GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

Last Sunday morning three of us went to Milton airport. Two of us came back. At 8.40 a.m. Cicely took to the air, on the first lap of her Trans-Atlantic flight. By noon next day she would be in England, even though she had six hours to wait in Montreal. As I watched her plane disappear into the blue it seemed impossible that she should be here one day and at home the next. But so it is—and her visit, like all good things has come to an end. Now the hens and chickens; cats and kittens, all look at me in surprise when I feed them because Cicely had taken them over completely. What her pet cow, Jane, will think of her desertion I don't know, and I am not likely to find out because it is Partner, not I, who has taken over Jane again.

Last week we really had quite a hectic time, crowding in as much as we could in the little time that was left, and of course there was regular work to be done as well. We managed to get a bushel of tomatoes into jars between gadding and entertaining.

One day we went to the "Ex" and, as far as I know, it was the only thing in Canada that Cicely didn't like. She said it was too noisy, too commercial, too untidy and too colossal. I was disappointed at her reaction—and she certainly didn't see anything worthwhile because the noise and the crowds worried her so much that she couldn't stay in any one building long enough to find out what there was to see. So we came home by train—a lot earlier than had been our original intention.

Of course there is no denying the fact that the Exhibition is terribly noisy and the litter all over the grounds simply appalling, but still the fact remains there is plenty to see and much to learn if we can but shut our eyes and ears to what is undesirable. Next Wednesday some of us hope to go again although Partner is showing signs of backing out already. He says he is afraid to leave the farm for very long because the horses, and cattle need so much watching and watering with the confined dry weather—and there is always the danger of fire of unknown origin. A neighbour had a grass fire start in his farm the other day and no one knew how it started. Fortunately they soon had it under control. But supposing everyone on that farm had been away to the Exhibition!

Cicely and I had one day in Toronto that she enjoyed. It was partly business, to check on her plane reservation. When that was done we had tea at the Arcadian Court because I wanted her to see that Toronto could put up something better than a hot-dog luncheon counter! Then we went to Loew's to see "A Date With Judy." It was quite light but good and we enjoyed it. Then we were shown over the Toronto Conservatory of Music and listened to several violin solos. We also visited with my sister and nephew until late and then, because we still had time to kill we looked over the Royal York. I wanted to show Cicely what Toronto had to offer in the way of first class hotel accommodation and if my memory can be relied upon, I believe the Royal York can match or surpass the Ritz, the Cecil or the Carlton in London.

Finally we wended our weary way to the railroad station and at 2 a.m. we arrived here at our local station. I had told Bob not to meet us as we did not know how or when we should get home. That sounded all right by daylight but at 2 a.m. the fact that if no taxi showed up we would have to walk over a mile didn't seem such a good idea. But we were lucky. A taxi driver passing by saw the train pull in and on the chance he might pick up a fare he waited. He got his fare all right.

Partner just informed me that a light sprinkling of rain is making itself felt. We hope it pours and pours. The drought is awfully hard on both beasts and birds. Yesterday I noticed two pairs of bitterns circling and circling around here, obviously looking for water. As for the cows they have dropped off in their milk tremendously. Farmers on a milk quota naturally have to feed their cows in the barn or buy more cows. And water—there is a trucker in this district who is busy all the time trucking water. We bought a thousand gallons ourselves last week and dumped it into the cistern. For what's the good of a bathroom if the waterworks runs dry?

The most comfortable temperature for the kitchen is about 66 degrees F. during the winter.

NEWS and VIEWS

Of Halton Farm Interest

Milk Producers to Toronto Market Disappointed with Present Marketing Conditions

The lack of adequate rainfall, coupled with the heat wave the last week in August has created a serious situation in many sections of Halton. In South Halton in particular, no rain of any account has fallen during July and August. As a result pastures are non-existent on a large percentage of farms and winter feeding has prevailed in a great many dairy herds for some little time. Corn too has been hit hard and is a disappointing crop. In some cases it has been pastured off and on a large percentage of Halton dairy farms will fall far short of filling the silo. Added to the dairyman's pasture and corn problems is the unsatisfactory condition existing in the Toronto Milk Market. Many shippers report that they have received payment at the top price of \$4.05 per cwt. for only a fraction of their shipments and the balance at manufacturing price. According to reports this has varied in some cases from a low of 45% at top price and 55% at the secondary price to around 70% at the top price of \$4.05 and 30% at \$2.90 per cwt. While the new Milk Control Act provides for collective bargaining between producer and distributor representatives, it would appear that when the negotiations for the last price increase took place the producer representatives overlooked including in his bargain anything pertaining to sale conditions. Needless to add, conditions of sale are equally as important to the milk producer as the price factor. As we understand it the new Milk Control Act no longer permits the Ontario Government or officials of the Milk Control Board to play any part in establishing price or conditions of sale. Those are the responsibilities of the producer and distributor. The Act does however make provision for collective bargaining, for arbitration, etc., and once an agreement has been reached between producer and distributor representatives or a finding has been made by the Board of Arbitration it is then the duty of the Milk Control Board to enforce the agreement or finding. It would therefore seem that when now negotiations take place this fall between producer and distributor representatives, that not only will price receive consideration but also the question of the basis of establishing quotas and other conditions of sale in short, once bit, twice shy.

Halton Dairy Cattle Breeders Achieve Honors at C.N.E.

The judging of Ayrshires, Holsteins, Guernseys, and Jerseys took place at the C.N.E. on Thursday last, Friday last. We were present only for a portion of Thursday's program of judging, and consequently cannot give a complete picture of the awards. While the entries were far short of pre-war standards, nevertheless there was a good showing in all four breeds and each had their quota of a large interested ringside. In so far as we could determine Halton was represented only in the Holstein ring, where entries of Hays Limited, R. C. Given, F. Pelletier & Sons, and J. F. Trimble, made an excellent showing. The highlight from a Halton standpoint was the junior championship for male won by the junior yearling herd sire of F. Pelletier & Sons, of Milton. This animal, M. G. Sovereign Ormsby, will be recalled as the reserve junior champion at the 1947 Royal and All Canadian bull calf for 1947. This animal was bred by Max Greenberg of Freeman and to Messrs Pelletier and Greenberg we extend heartfelt congratulations. Hays Limited were strong contenders throughout and won their quota of firsts, seconds and other top awards.

In the Jersey ring another Halton breeder was in the limelight. We refer to Maurice C. Beatty, well known Jersey breeder of Milton, who was assistant judge in the strong Jersey show. It is indeed no small honor to be selected to act in this capacity at a show like the C.N.E. and to Mr Beatty too we extend our sincere congratulations on this recognition of his ability as an authority on Jerseys. Needless to add his ability as a breeder of Jerseys has been recognized in Halton for some time, and at last year's Royal his cattle too ka number of the top awards, which focused attention from the Jersey enthusiasts all across Canada on this popular son of Halton.

Halton Dairy Show Promises to Establish a Record

During the past ten or eleven years the Milton Fair has become noted for its outstanding Holstein and Jersey Shows. This year's County Guernsey Show has been added so all in all we can expect the best all round dairy show yet

held. Prize lists are now available from E. M. Readhead, Milton, R.R. No. 2, who is the able Secretary of the Halton Agricultural Society. Three high class authorities have been secured to officiate in the ring, in the persons of Prof. M. W. Staples, of the Ontario Agricultural College, on Jerseys; E. A. Innis, well known Holstein breeder, of Brantford, on Holsteins; and Wm. Brooks, of Paris, outstanding breeder and exhibitor of Guernseys, on the latter breed.

Col. Kennedy to Open New Barn

From an abandoned pig pen to a palatial new barn in three years of operation is the story of success of the Maple Cattle Breeders' Association which is having the official opening of its new barn and the administration building at Maple on Thursday next, September 16th when the guest speaker will be Col. the Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario. Visiting the unit recently the Minister expressed surprise and delight in the phenomenal growth of this artificial breeding unit which started out to serve one township and now serves seven counties and parts of two others.

The Directors in planning this opening ceremony decided to hold a house and invite anyone interested whether members or not, regardless of breed affiliations. The formal program will commence at 2 p.m. but some of the members in some counties are planning a bus trip so lunches will be available on the grounds through the co-operation of the local ladies organizations. It is suggested that those who can should come early. A large tent has been secured for an auditorium and this will be seated with chairs. The new barn to replace the pig pen is 126 feet long and 38 feet wide with sixteen box stalls, a hospital or isolation stall, feed room and breeding room. Located in front of this is the administration building 30 ft. x 40 ft. where the management handles the affairs of the unit and the processing, checking and shipping of semen is done. This is regarded as one of the main industries of the village of Maple, 4 miles west of Richmond Hill. The membership has increased from 87 in June of 1945 to approximately 1260 at the present time including owners of Holstein, Jersey and Ayrshire herds, about half of which are grades.

W. P. Watson, Ontario Livestock Commissioner will also speak and as stock men know, "Bill" has always a very appropriate message and Secretary-Manager G. W. Kefauver states that Mr. Watson has a most important proposition to present to the members at this function. President Norman Porter, of Thornhill, has sent invitations to a large number of livestock officials and friends of the dairy cow so this promises to be a red letter when the cars and buses from seven counties converge upon the 17 acre "farm" of the Maple Cattle Breeders at the northern limits of the village. It is interesting to note that to date visitors have come from several of the states, Alberta, Jamaica and Palestine.

The buildings and bulls will be on display all afternoon as well as representatives of the get of these bulls.

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