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Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by Gwendolene F. Clarke

The great need of the moment is for rain—rain and still more rain. Rain for the berries and gardens; rain for the wheat and spring crops; rain for the pastures—yes, rain for everything is needed—except the hay. And that is where we look out. Our first field of hay was cut and most of it raked, ready for the coming of the baler next day. During the night it rained—just enough to do good to the thirty fields and gardens, but enough to toughen the hay so that it could not be baled.

That was on the 21st of June—and the wind was in the east. Old-timers tell us that the weather on the official opening day of summer determines the weather for the next three months. East winds and rain mean unsettled weather for that length of time. That is not a very encouraging forecast for the haying and harvest season. On the other hand who wants it to be hot and dry? However, I suppose it is foolish to waste time worrying about it—wet or dry, we have to take what comes and make the best of it.

Right now, drought is more to be feared than excess moisture. In Australia drought has already killed more cattle than we, in Canada, lost by foot and mouth disease. One hates to think of the poor animals literally dying from thirst—and the ranchers powerless to cope with the situation.

Well, we are losing more neighbors—comparatively new ones this time. The man went back to a government job some months ago, now his wife is joining him in Ottawa. The farm land has been rented to one man and the house to another. And again I have fallen heir to an average house plan—this time an asparagus fern. And books! Enough books to keep me busy all summer if I wanted to spend half of every day reading—which I am not likely to do. We can find room for the fern; we are only too happy to look after the books; we don't mind adopting "Alcatraz" but we are thankful we were not asked to take over the seven dogs—registered Irish setters at that, with cups and ribbons galore to their credit.

Fortunately the dogs are also moving to Ottawa to the cottage their owners have rented. If the accommodation is not sufficient for them—that is, for humans and dogs—then the dogs will be sent to a boarding kennel. Truly a canine family can become a problem—and an expensive one at that.

Actually the same applies to books. Many of these are Book-of-the-Month selections for the past five years. However, they are more easily taken care of than dogs—some have already gone to convalescents—the books, I mean—others are destined for the public library, so there will only remain a few that I am keeping for myself—all of which are non-fiction.

One that I have already started reading is "Saints and Strangers" by George T. Wilson—a history of the Pilgrim Fathers and their families. Another good book is "A Thousand Things to Know," a collection of odd and interesting items. For instance, this will be news to most of us—next year is the Sparrow Centennial—my own description. That is to say, it was in 1853 that the first successful liberation of emigrant sparrows took place. (Successful, is right?)

It was Nicholas Pika, a director of the Brooklyn Institute, who had sparrows—about one hundred to start with—imported from England for the purpose of destroying leaf-eating caterpillars. Altogether there were 15 importations of sparrows between 1852 and 1881. Of course, it wasn't long before people realized that the sparrow was fast-becoming a public nuisance—multiplying and spreading to other districts, including Canada, in great numbers. But the item ends on a hopeful note: It says nature has taken the problem of the sparrow population in hand and that their number is said to be on the decrease in both urban and rural areas. Can't say that I have noticed it, have you?

Admittedly there are too many sparrows and they can be an awful nuisance but yet our farms and buildings would seem kind of lonesome without them, don't you think? After all, a "sparrow in a tree-top" can be a cheerful little buddy.

And now, to celebrate the beginning of summer, I am going down to put a few stacks of wood in the furnace.

FASHION HINT



With the first issue of the paper since Summer '52 has actually begun, what else can we show but a swim suit? This shirred and ruffled suit is made of sleek fabric. But even better than the bathing suit we like that floppy beach hat! Read just a week or so ago in a fashion article in a magazine that one place where the most high-fashion beach hats could be bought was in a general store in Chinatown, in Toronto. If your old swim suit is going "beaching it" again this year, dress it up with a gaudy, inexpensive straw hat, and a big bright towel.

CECIL A. CARR

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Special Sale

Each year, at this time, the canning companies make a special effort to move out all the canned goods they have carried over from the previous summer. Prices to the wholesalers are cut drastically and the canners' warehouses are cleared to make way for the new season's pack. In our canned goods sale we are passing these savings on to you. Buy by the case for summer camps and cottages.

SPECIAL — AYLMEER TOMATO CATSUP 11-OZ. BTL. **19c**

SPECIAL — BOSTON BRAND CORNED BEEF LOAF 12-OZ. TIN **35c**

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These have all the tenderness and flavor and even the color of fresh peas—you just skip the nuisance of taking them out of the pods.

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WHO PAYS FOR THE ROADS?

In the last 50 years owners of automotive vehicles have been taxed hundreds of millions of dollars, probably much more, in fact than the total amount of money spent on highways in the same period. From one quarter to one third of what these people pay for gasoline is provincial tax or, for an average car, about half a cent for every mile traveled.

Without the car and truck owner and the special taxes they pay on the fuel to operate these vehicles, says the Financial Post, there would be no modern highways in Canada.

CLEARING AUCTION SALE

OF FURNITURE, ETC.

The undersigned have received instructions from

DAVIDSON BROS.

To sell by public auction at their residence, 132 Bower Ave., Acton, on

SATURDAY EVENING JUNE 28

At 7:30 o'clock, the following:

3-piece chesterfield set; 9-piece dining room set; trilight lamp; combination radio and phonograph; vacuum cleaner; sewing machine; hassock; medium size coal range; white enamel; Porce rangette; hot plate; large "Coldwall" Frigidaire; kitchen table and 4 chairs; large pressure cooker; grill; dishes and utensils; double bed, spring and mattress; dresser; chest of drawers; cardboard wardrobe; lamp; bath-room scales; Hawaiian guitar; boy's C.C.M. bicycle; book stand; children's table and chairs; 50 ft. garden hose; garden cultivator and tools; vise, awl and miscellaneous tools; 3 sleighs; baby's jumping tender.

TERMS: CASH.

HINDLEY AND ELLIOTT,
Auctioneers.

How to Protect YOUR Savings?

As a good family man, or as a good citizen, you save some part of what you earn. You save it either through putting money in the bank, or through the purchase of insurance or securities.

There is little chance of those savings being lost. But there is grave danger that their value will be destroyed.

The value of savings is progressively destroyed every time the buying power of the dollar is reduced. Buying power of the dollar inevitably goes down as prices go up.

Prices go up every time there is a wage increase without a corresponding increase in man-hour production. It is just as simple as that.

So to protect your savings, wages and production must be kept in balance.

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Plants at
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Q

At what age do most women retire?

A

Ten years earlier than men... usually at 55.

They also live longer. Business women, therefore, require retirement income for a much longer period of time than men. Many women find Mutual Life of Canada policies, with their absolute safety, their steady increase in values and their long record of generous dividend payments, the best possible way of providing adequate income for the future. Discuss your problem today with a Mutual Life of Canada representative.

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