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Chronicles of Ginger Farm

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

We shall soon be living on the outskirts of our county town—close to a new industrial plant. That is, unless present plans are drastically changed. Not our plans—I don't mean we are moving off the farm, far from it—it just is that the town is stretching its boundaries and coming out to meet us. Not immediately, of course, things like that don't happen overnight. There will be arguments and counter-arguments; annexation by-laws and all that sort of thing. But the change will come eventually—you can't stop progress, even if you happen to be "agin it."

Our small county town of Milton has been practically at a standstill for years and years, and now suddenly it looks as if we might see a bit of mushroom growth. And why not? The huge Ford plant is only about 20 miles away; Malton airport and its industries 15 miles; two rail-ways by-pass the town; a big factory, which, until now, was Milton's main industry, can supply every type of screw-nail likely to be called for; and there is all kinds of farm land that can probably be bought for industrial sites and building projects.

One of our neighbors recently sold his farm to a steel company, to be the site of a new factory. No doubt there will be more farm land going the same way. And there will certainly be plenty of farms "sliced up" like this—new industrial to Windsor highway goes through this district, crossing No. 25 at an, at present, undetermined point.

Perhaps you think it is a shame so much good farm land should be taken up that way. I quite agree. It seems like economic suicide to thus undermine one of its most productive areas, what it has been generally agreed is Canada's basic industry—agriculture.

But perhaps it is just as well. I guess we have reached the stage when many farmers think the proverbial worm knew what it was doing when it turned.

So, when farmers in this, and other industrial areas, are given a good offer for their property, it is usually accepted. Of course, any farmer worthy of the name hates to see the old place go; to have factories and storage sheds built on his fertile fields, but then on the one hand he remembers the price of cattle and hogs; the glut of milk on the market; the threatened decrease in the price of that same milk to the farmer—to say nothing about margarine and the possible inroads of synthetic dairy products. Very few farmers, however, want to see a ban on edible oils.

On the other hand the farmer thinks of the fellows who work in industry; of the returns for their labor, and short working day as compared with his own and he figures he might just as well be getting a share of the big wages himself instead of making a bare living, and, by his hard work adding to the surplus that already exists. Many farmers' sons have already got on the industrial band wagon so that the greater number of farms are now owned and operated by older men, and it is these same men that we find only too glad to dispose of their farms if the price offered is good enough.

What will be the result? Maybe 10 or 15 years from now a middle-aged couple—Mr. and Mrs. Rip Van Winkle—will decide to take a run out to the country "to get away from it all." They will drive for miles and all they will see is huge chimney stacks and flat-top factories. Mrs. Van Winkle will turn to her husband and exclaim in distress—"But, Rip, I thought we were to take a drive through the country! Where is the country, Rip... where are all the lovely farm places we used to know; the contented cows grazing on tree-shaded pastures? I was even hoping we might find a farmhouse where we could buy some real milk, or perhaps a little cream. I am so tired of synthetic products. Why is it so hard to get real dairy produce now, Rip?"

"Well, now—that's a long story. A story of supply and demand. Synthetic products caused many farmers to go out of business. There are still dairy farms farther out in the country but dairy products are now in the luxury class. The general public has to be content with synthetics. They wanted them in the first place because they were cheaper. Now they have what they asked for and don't like what they have got too well."

"Well, then, we might as well go home, Rip—we haven't time to drive any farther. And I was so hoping we could have gone home with some real milk," said Mrs. Van Winkle with a sigh. "And, oh my, wouldn't it have been a treat!" she added.

Fashion Hint



The model is holding Easter lilies, and we get the point. She recommends her stunning, Empire-waisted dress for an Easter outfit. The dress is in sheer wool crepe, detailed to bring out the very best in you. The matching stole is still a high fashion favourite, provided you can manage it! Stoles are often worn in winter when we have to wear coats, too, but they definitely have advantages in other people's houses, where we never can tell about draughts and the favorite heat level. And of course, they're attractive, too!

Poet's Corner

THREE GATES

If you are tempted to reveal A tale to you someone has told About another, make it pass, Before you speak—three gates of gold.

These narrow gates: First, "Is it true?" Then, "Is it needful?" In your mind Give fruitful answer. And the next Is last and narrowest, "Is it kind?" And if to reach your lips at last It passes through these gateways three, Then you may tell the tale, nor fear What the result of speech may be.

—From the Arabian.

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PHONE 230 ACTON, ONT.

Tomatoes picked for canning must be judged by their color to the right degree of ripeness. Women employed by tomato pickers, or graders, frequently paint their finger nails the color of the ripened tomato at its most perfect stage so that a high degree of uniformity may be maintained.



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We wonder how much finer you can get than the aluminum wire used in delicate apparatus which records the earth's tremors. Drawn out almost to the vanishing point, it is about one-twelfth the diameter of a human hair. One pound of aluminum would make enough of this unbelievably fine wire to stretch 20,000 miles!

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