

# At Home

Come in & Chat Awhile

—Ruth Raeburn.

## June

When summer finds itself at last,  
And boasts a cloudless moon,  
When drab and chilly dawns are past  
It's June.

When noontide sheds a silver glow  
That makes the trees a boon,  
When thinning brooks are singing low,  
It's June.

When bright spring birds have ceased  
Their song,  
And gone their way—too soon!  
When joys are fleet and thoughts are long,  
It's June.

When Autumn's distant knell is heard  
Though all the world's atone;  
When old-time memories are stirred,  
It's June.

—Thos. Curtis Clark.

## White Iris

White Iris was a princess  
In a kingdom long ago,  
Mysterious as moonlight  
And silent as the snow.  
She drew the world in wonder,  
And swayed it with desire,  
E'er Babylon was builded,  
Or a stone laid in Tyre.  
Yet here within my garden  
Her loveliness appears,  
Undimmed by any sorrow  
Of all the tragic years.  
How kind that earth should treasure  
So beautiful a thing—  
All mystical enchantment,  
To stir our hearts in spring.

—Bliss Carman.

## Lilacs

Part of old ways, their plummy heads  
Proud lifting,  
Knowing quaint garden nooks, serene  
and sweet,  
Greeting the spring with tiny flowers  
out-spreading,  
Wandering shyly down to meet the  
street.  
In violet clad, or like white clouds a-  
drifting,  
Ever their constant bloom the season  
cheers,  
Loving the homestead and its shine and  
shadow,  
Seeming to wistful hold the dreams of  
years.

—Alix Thorn.

## God's Garden

I found a garden but yesterday  
On the top of the highest hill  
Where blossoms that never yet  
Were grown by a gardener's skill;

As I softly parted the waving grass  
Where no foot as yet had trod,  
I said to my heart with reverent awe,  
"This is the garden of God."  
I thought He must come at the cool of  
day  
To see how His flowers fare,  
To touch with tender and loving hand  
Some blossom that needed His care.  
Then I touched His flowers after Him  
With my being all a-thrill,  
To know that my straying feet had  
found  
God's garden upon the hill.  
—Florence J. Hadley.

## Overnight, A Rose

That overnight a rose should come  
I one time did believe,  
For when the fairies live with one,  
They wilfully deceive.  
But now I know this perfect thing  
Under the frozen sod  
In cold and storm grew patiently  
Obedient to God.  
My wonder grows, since knowledge  
came  
Old fancies to dismiss;  
And courage comes. Was not the rose  
A winter doing this?  
Nor did it know the weary while  
What color or perfume  
With this completed loveliness  
Lay in that earthy tomb.  
So maybe I, who cannot see  
What God wills not to show,  
May, some day, bear a rose for Him  
It took my life to grow.  
—Caroline Gillinan.

## Bird Song

When I hear a bird song  
I thank my Heavenly Father;  
When I see a perfect flower  
I thank Him, too.  
I think a bird song  
And a perfect flower  
Are little bits of Heaven  
Given to me and you.  
—Jessie Findlay Brown.

## Secret

How lovely now are little things:  
Young maple leaves—a jet crow's  
wings.  
I have been lost these many spring;  
Now I can hear how silence sings.  
—Dorothy Livesay.

This is the season of the year we all  
have a share in the secret that Dorothy  
Livesay has suggested to us. Spring  
does bring a million of little things in  
which we may find joy and "hears how  
silence sings." Jessie Findlay Brown  
mentions two "little bits of Heaven,"  
the "bird song," and "a perfect flower,"  
and there is no season of the year that  
we can hear the happy, enthusiastic  
bird songs as we do in the spring. Af-  
ter the winter season the first flowers  
do seem more perfect and none are  
more welcome.

Roses appeal to almost everyone and  
it is usually in June that we get the  
first glimpse of its beauty and first scent  
of its fragrance. Caroline Gillinan com-  
pares us to a rose. It is a thought of  
courage: "So maybe, I, who cannot see  
What God wills not to show,  
May, some day, bear a rose for Him,  
It took my life to grow."  
What a joy it is to wander in field,  
and forest, and hillside and valley and  
find the little gardens. We can say  
"with reverent awe," as Florence J.  
Hadley says "This is the garden of God."  
Alix Thorn gives us a pretty picture  
of the lilacs "serene and sweet," "in  
quaint garden nooks," and "loving the  
homestead," they seem "to wistful hold  
the dreams of years."

Bliss Carman's descriptive thoughts  
one the Iris are beautiful.  
Thos. Curtis Clark brings to our  
minds a number of ways of knowing  
June and one of the finest for those in  
the prime of life is "When old-time  
memories are stirred, it's June."

# Chain Store To Push Products of Ontario

A. & P. Tea Company Launched Intensified Effort Monday.—Scheme Designed to Aid Producers, Manufacturers and Public.

After more than a month of careful planning that often kept company officials poring over extra work until early hours of the morning, the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, Limited, on Monday launched a plan designed to benefit simultaneously the primary producers of foodstuffs, the manufacturers who process them, and the consuming public of the province. H. C. Berkstresser, general manager of the company's Ontario headquarters, announced last Friday.

While the project is designed to stimulate activity and confer benefits within Ontario, it is also an intensive exemplification of the company's permanent policy of favoring not only products of the province, but also of the Dominion and the Empire, in its purchasing, Mr. Berkstresser said. The direct benefits of the plan that will be felt in Ontario will have repercussions also in the larger spheres, it is anticipated.

The scheme has been officially christened "Produced-in-Ontario Week," and will continue from Monday morning until Saturday evening. Throughout the week, the company will attempt to stimulate the purchase of Ontario products of all kinds, in its 174 stores throughout the province, through the mediums of heavy advertising, special window and counter displays, unusually enticing prices, and the enthusiasm of its all-Canadian personnel.

The plan is regarded by manufacturers as one of the greatest potential creators of increased production ever conceived during such a short period for all lines of Ontario foodstuffs. Further, it is hoped that the inherent quality of "Made-in-Ontario" goods revealed in this campaign, will result in a permanent benefit to all concerned, Mr. Berkstresser added.

The enterprise is in essence a "Prosperity Drive" made possible through the co-operative efforts of the A. and P. management, a number of manufacturers and food processors, and countless primary producers, it was explained by the general manager.

"It is a merchandising campaign designed to focus interest on Produced-in-Ontario goods, demonstrate their desirability and reasonable price to the public, and create an intensive but permanently steady demand for them. Everything featured in the campaign is produced in Ontario, including a broad line of groceries, canned goods, meats, fruits and vegetables.

"We hope it will prove a measure of assistance to manufacturers and farmers alike, and get the consumer interested in home-grown products. We have already received warm expressions of approbation of the plan from Hon. T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, the mayors or Reeves of numerous Ontario municipalities, and other provincial and civic officials, recognizing its value to industry and the producers.

"The manufacturers are co-operating closely with us, and have been preparing merchandise for the sale for some weeks past. This has resulted in increased production in many plants and a speeding up of employment and general activity."

## LIFE'S PRIME, THE YEARS BETWEEN YOUTH AND AGE

At what age is the average man or woman in his or her prime of life? is often asked, and what is the average length of life?

The prime of life, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer, is the period of full vigor and power, that which succeeds youth and precedes age.

The average length of life in the United States, according to estimates made by the United States public health service, is fifty-six years. Statistics indicating the expectation of life place Australia at the head of the list with an average length of sixty-one years. New Zealand comes second, with an average expectation of sixty years. The average expectation of life at birth in various countries, according to the United States bureau of the census, is as follows: Denmark, Norway and Sweden, fifty-seven years; England, fifty-three years; Holland, fifty-two; Switzerland, fifty-one; France, fifty; Germany, forty-six; Japan, forty-four and India, twenty-three. Statistics also show that females have a greater expectation of life at birth than males.

Whenever I see this ill-assorted conglomeration of hopeful youth (a class of incoming college freshmen), they call to my mind the young lady who said to her physician, "How soon will I know anything after I come out of the anesthetic?"

"Well," replied the doctor, "that's expecting a good deal from an anesthetic."

# Miss Macphail's Letter

A session almost four months in length has closed. The ceremony of prorogation was colorful; in the absence of the Governor-General, Chief Justice Anglin acted as his deputy. The King's representative remained seated and wore his feather-trimmed hat during the closing ceremony. The Prime Minister and the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen stood on the right and the left of him, gorgeously arrayed in Windsor uniforms. All three were supported by a flashy line-up of regiments. The members of the House of Commons stood in rows behind the bar of the Senate Chamber, in which the ceremony took place—they are not allowed within. The legislation of the session was reviewed both in French and English. It seemed endless as one stood to listen to it and then with much hat-tipping and bowing the ceremony was completed.

Most Parliaments start off energetically giving great promise, but gradually weaken until finally the vanishing point is reached. This is the second long session of the seventeenth Parliament.

It may be that the greatest gains of the session have been in preventing rather than in securing. The Canadian National which seemed earlier in the session to be a lamb surrounded by wolves was saved at least from utter destruction, but from the investigation, economies at least will follow on the salary structure. The higher officialdom needs paring down. Undoubtedly closer observation of expenditures will be exercised, the audit broadened and several other reformations effected here and there, but in the main the organization of the road will not be interfered with.

The Civil Service gave promise of up-setting the whole idea of appointment on the merit principle, but the temper of the House was against such a re-actionary step. It is true some concession was made to the re-actionary element by putting the post offices having a revenue up to \$3,000 a year on the patronage list. The Radio Committee resisted the effort of private companies to gain control of this important medium of communication.

Much has been said in the past about and against class legislation but the class character of the ruling power has been clearly manifested in several ways during this session. The Banking and Insurance companies were allowed to write in a valuation for their securities which they do not now possess.

While the Dominion Government would not support the Government of the Province of Manitoba in saving the Provincial Savings Bank of that province, they did come to the assistance of the banks and aided and abetted the banks in dictating to the Manitoba Government what action they were to take. Again, consideration for certain classes was clearly shown when the ten per cent. cut was introduced, by some favorites being exempt. This mistake was covered later by a special bill increasing the income tax on the "exempt classes" by ten per cent., but the first action showed the mind of the Administration. In income tax increases the heaviest increases were made on the lowest incomes. It may be said the percentage of increase was the same but a man on a \$50,000 salary or income can stand a 10 per cent. increase in taxes very much better than one whose salary is \$1,200.

The Government's determined refusal to consider the amending or repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code revealed a fear of the propertyless classes. This same fear was shown by the additions to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and a very much increased number of deportations. Health estimates, agricultural estimates and many other equally important estimates were cut but we still had \$260,000 to spend on cadets. Surely the control of social diseases is more important than military training in schools.

The last week is always crowded. Besides the business on the Order Paper members make use of their privilege of parading grievances on going into Supply. In this way the question of the Beauharnois Company was given an airing in the House, Mr. Gardiner, Leader of the Farm Group, claiming that the whole project should be carried through by the Dominion Government and not by a private company. Similarly the increasingly trying condition of agriculture was brought before the House and an amendment moved pointing out some of the things that might be done to improve the situation. In introducing the motion it was pointed out that the farmer is bearing more than his share of the depression; the price he gets for his products has fallen about 60 per cent. but what he buys has fallen only 14 per cent. below the level of 1928. Then too, the farmers' debts and interest charges, insurance premiums and taxes are fixed in terms of dollars but he can only get the dollars by selling commodities and when he changes commodities into dollars with which to pay his fixed charges

or overhead he finds that it requires two and three times the quantity needed three years ago. That is, when debts are measured in commodity prices we find they have doubled and trebled. Such a condition cannot continue. Either the price level of the farmers' commodities must rise or the debts must be lessened.

The farmers in Canada are at the moment on a buyers' strike, unorganized it is true but none the less effective. They cannot buy because their whole output is needed to meet fixed charges and when the agricultural people who constitute 47 per cent. of our total population, cannot buy, it follows logically that the commercial and industrial life of Canada is crippled.

In my opinion there will be no return to prosperity in this country until the purchasing power of the farmer has been restored.

The farm group in the House very carefully drew the amendment which follows, believing that such a policy would greatly assist agriculture and the whole economic life of Canada: "This House regrets that the Government has not made any pronouncement of policy calculated to meet the depressed conditions of the agricultural industry.

"Further this House is of the opinion that the Government should take into consideration the following suggestions as means calculated to improve the agricultural industry. (a) The national control and regulation of currency and credit; (b) a measure of controlled inflation having for its object increase in commodity prices and as a first step towards this end bringing our currency to par with the pound sterling; (c) a substantial reduction in farm indebtedness and interest rates; (d) financial assistance in creating processing plants under farmer control; (e) international agreements on tariff matters; (f) the creation of an export marketing board; (g) the farmer co-operative selling organizations be permitted to import goods received in other countries in exchange for Canadian agricultural products without the imposition of customs or dumping duty; (h) relieving the farmer of some of the indirect taxation and substituting heavier direct taxation based on ability to pay."

For the dying days of the session a varied and lengthy debate followed. Colonel Mullens of Marquette and the Hon. Motherwell supplying the amusing features.

We may or may not meet in the Fall.

It depends on what comes out of the Imperial Conference.

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