

CHRONICLES OF THE GINGER FARM

By Gwendoline P. Clark

Familiarity breeds contempt — as the old saying tells us, and it may be true — but of one thing I am sure — familiarity does breed indifference.

We hear so much about various things — the housing shortage, juvenile delinquency, inflation and subsequent depression, the inadequacy of old age pensions and re-education problems, and so do we realize the seriousness of what we hear? I am afraid few of us do. We listen to the radio, hear instances of this and that, as told by the announcer, and for a minute or two it registers and we say "Oh, isn't that dreadful?" or "That is just too bad—why doesn't the government do something about it?" Poor old government—what a Federal or Provincial—what would we do without it for a scape-goat? And then we go on with our work, our book, or our card game, and the incident is forgotten.

Take the farm labour shortage. We know it exists but I am afraid both town and country people alike just shrug their shoulders. Town people because they don't know what hardships result as the direct outcome of a labour shortage, and farm people because they are always hopefully expecting that something will turn up and that someone or other will get it? And he it said to their credit, they generally do. But when the unforeseen occurs, then they are really up against it. As you know we had a sample of that when Partner fell on the ice. What would we have done without Bob to take over the chores I actually don't know.

But last week I came across a much worse incident. Our telephone "trouble-man" — who also runs a farm—was out working on the lines after that terrible ice storm and as might be expected he fell. No hours were broken and it was not thought he was seriously hurt. But complications set in and now he is in hospital. His wife is left without any help on the farm and there are cows to milk and young cattle to look after, and perhaps that doesn't sound too much but let me tell those who don't know, that cattle must be fed and stables cleaned, and feeding hay out of the mow and pushing a loaded wheelbarrow out of the stable is work far beyond the average woman's strength. Yet that is what the farmer's wife is up against unless she can get help. Imagine all that work and worry in addition to her natural anxiety over her husband's condition — and not a man to be found anywhere! Even our local "Rep" apparently has far more applications for help than men to fill the jobs.

Very often some such instance as I have given you proves to be the straw that breaks the camel's back; the climax to a fight against almost impossible odds. At the end of the next thing we know another farm is up for sale.

Maybe that sounds like a gloomy picture of agriculture. Maybe it will yet through the gloom it give a glimmer of light. It may be just a hunch but I certainly have a feeling there is a great future for agriculture—how soon and to what extent I wouldn't like to hazard a guess, but yet I have a hunch it is coming and I think it will come about through those who are not farming, becoming farm-conscious with a better realization of the work that is required before eggs are put on the market, milk into bottles and meat in the butcher's window. This realization may, in turn, be the result of an acute short supply of farm products — on the aftermath of farm labour shortage.

Wouldn't it be a grand idea if there were a compulsory land army which required that every able-bodied youth should serve for one year on some kind of farm, board free but wages paid by the government. Then, at the end of the year, if he showed any liking for, and had any aptitude for farm work, he could hire out at current wages. That, my dear friends, would really wake 'em up. That would definitely put an end to any indifference to farm problems once and for all.

Honorable Minister of Agriculture, please take note.

Co-operation

When all sections of the community realize that we cannot live off each other, but that prosperity is based on a co-operative economy in which all contribute in accordance with their ability and resources, then there is no reason why good times should not continue. Grasp and greed can lead only to grief. —Financial Times

British General

56 Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (ab.)

1 Pictured commander of British Forces in Greece. 58 Even (contn) Maj.-Gen. R. M.

6 Royal Air Force (ab.)

9 Seed container

12 Make a mistake

13 Company (ab.)

14 Excitement

15 Australian bird

16 Beverage

17 Upon

18 By

19 Metal

20 And/or

22 Street (ab.)

23 Price

25 Island

27 Us

28 Diamond

31 Sidelong look

32 Container

33 Man's name

35 Majesty

37 Meadow

39 Fowl

41 Manufactured

43 Myself

44 Eject

47 Male

48 Fish egg

50 Average (ab.)

51 Father

53 Exact

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
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1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115
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1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136			