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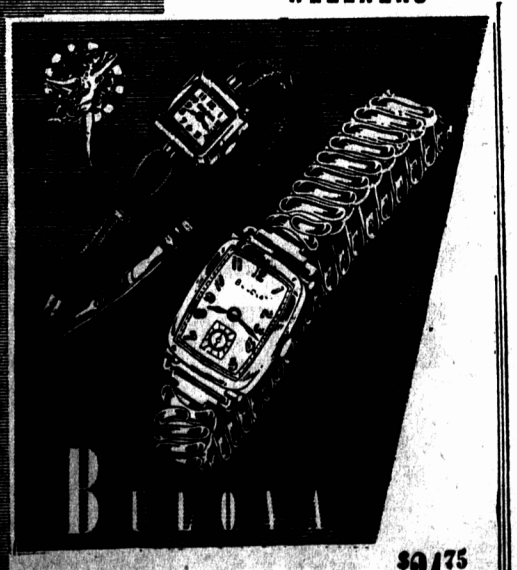

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NO MORE GOOD-BYES

By Margaret Mair

TERENCE SPEAKS HIS MIND

It was pleasant indeed to be able to look once again without interruption at Terence Blackburne's so-well remembered face. In the intervals of eating cold roast beef, potatoes in their jackets, and sherry trifle, and making suitably bright conversation, she found herself studying him.

He had not changed very much. Perhaps he looked a little older, but then probably she herself looked a little older too. Time did not stand still.

After supper they played bridge. Susan, through much practice at Gibraltar, had become an experienced played, and Dick, shrewd and imperturable, was obviously above the average. Nancy, keeping strictly to text-book instructions, managed to keep her head above water. Terence, only, was outclassed. He kept his mind on the game with an obvious effort and relapsed at intervals into a total absentmindedness.

"I'm afraid," he said, smiling apologetically across the table at Dick whom he had just failed to raise to an obvious slam bid, "that I am lacking in a card sense. In other words, I am not properly civilized."

Dick, grinned his resignation and wrote down the score. He appeared to be quite unruffled and to bear no malice.

The telephone bell rang at that moment and Dick went away to answer it. Nancy looked distressed. "Oh, I do hope that isn't an SOS from a patient. It probably is, all the same....I ask you, Susie, who would be a doctor's wife?"

Dick put his head round the door. "Sorry, you people, a confinement case. Why the wretched woman must go and choose just this moment...I'm afraid there'll be no more bridge to-night for me."

Nancy got up quickly. "I'll help you get your things." She turned in the doorway. "Excuse me, you two, won't you? Help yourselves to cigarettes and keep the fire going. I shan't be long." She went out, shutting the door behind her. Susan and Terence looked at each other. Terence grinned. "Well," he said, "it's an ill wind....It's lucky something happened to create a diversion. The moment was rapidly arriving when I should have revoked or trumped Rawlinson's best ace."

She could feel that Terence was only talking, joking to cover up the emotional constraint between them of which they were both aware. She got up and moved over to the fireplace. "Why shouldn't we sit over here? I don't expect we shall be playing any more.... I'm not a cut-throat fan and I don't suppose you are. It's much warmer by the fire."

Terence came and stood beside her. She did turn round. "It's nice to see you again, Terence. How's the farm?"

"The farm's all right." He did not speak for a minute. "Tell me about yourself, Susan. You're looking a little better than when I last saw you, not quite so thin. How are you?"

"Oh, I'm very well."

Terence seemed to be examining her face with a curiously intent preoccupation. "I've been worried about you."

She felt herself flushing. It was strange, she thought how much of her self-confidence she had lost. "Why?"

"Nancy told me that you didn't seem very happy. Are you happy Susan?"

She avoided looking at him, but looked instead into the fire. There was a sound of footsteps crossing the room in the nursery overhead. The baby's voice was raised in a thin far-away wail which a second or so later stopped as abruptly as it had begun.

Suddenly Susan began to talk. "I think, perhaps, Nancy was right, Terence. I haven't told anybody about it, but I'm faced with the most awful problems. You know I left Gibraltar over two months ago and came home because my little girl was ill....But there was other reasons besides that for leaving. And I'm not at all sure that I'm ever going back."

"I'm sorry," Terence said. His voice sounded moved.

She pressed her hands together. "I wonder why I've made such a mess of my life, Terence. I didn't mean to. It all seemed such plain sailing at one time. But now, looking back, it seems that I messed up everything, chose all the wrong things, followed all the wrong standards ..And yet, and yet—I had to do as I did, Terence. I had to. At the time it was right. I couldn't have chosen anything different."

"I suppose you mean that your marriage has gone wrong. It is that, that had made you unhappy?"

"Yes," she said. "But I can't bear to be defeated. I shall feel that, if only I knew how, there must be some way of putting things right again. I can't tell you all the details, Terence. It's all so hackneyed, so stupid and miserable. I daresay, it's been my fault too, perhaps I've been partly to blame. These things happen so gradually, you don't know how they happen ...."

Terence sat forward in his chair. "But you can't go like that, Susan. You'll make yourself ill. You are ill. Why were your hands shaking so?....You'll have to make up your mind one way or the other. Indecision does no good to anybody. Why not make a clean break now? It may be the best thing in the end."

She shook her head. "Not yet."

He looked at her questioningly. "Why do you say that—'not yet'?"

"There's somebody I've got to see first—somebody who knows Martin, who knows what's been happening out in Gib since I left. He may be able to tell me, to help me..."

Terence glanced at the door. The house was unnaturally quiet. There were no sounds now of movement in the room overhead.

Terence leaned forward urgently. "There's so little time to talk to you, Susan. Nancy will be coming back..."

Susan looked up at the clock on the mantlepiece. "I don't think she'll be feeding the baby."

"You're leaving here to-morrow morning?"

(To be continued)

GRAVESEND, Kent, England — (CP) — A woman who bought an executioner's axe for 16s. ($3.60) at an auction will use it for wood-chopping.

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CANADIAN GARDEN 1946

By Gordon Lindsay Smith

(Continued from Page 7)

to 2 feet between hills or plants, and if one is to have enough green peas for a meal from each picking then at least 30 feet of row, and preferably 50, will be necessary.

Those gardeners with only a plot 20 feet or so each way usually decide after some experience to abandon potato growing altogether. There are other things that take up less room and yield far more. The other three vegetables mentioned, however, should not be given up without more consideration. The quality of peas and corn right out of the garden cannot be deplicated. A distinct change takes place in both vegetables in from two to four hours after picking, the sugars changing to starches.

Each year sees scores of new flowers and vegetables offered to the Canadian public. Sometimes these are brand new varieties entirely, especially in the flowers, but more often it is an improvement over or an addition to one already well known.

Flowers that were formerly tall can now be secured in dwarf style suitable for edging, or doubles are available where previously only singles were known. In vegetables, plant breeders have been concentrating on earliness, better flavor, elimination of hard cores or stringiness*.

Not so long ago only a few varieties of corn could be grown in Canada and these only in the milder areas. Now, thanks to the plant breeders, there is not a province in which good garden corn cannot be produced. A few days lopped off the maturity period for any vegetable or the time it takes to bring flowers to the blooming stage, pushes varieties farther North.

Then again, thanks to the plant breeders, several different types in most vegetables and flowers are now available, thus increasing the chances of success in Northern gardens and adding variety everywhere.

Beginners are advised to look over the new Canadian seed catalogues carefully and keep in mind these new additions. The old corns, beets, carrots and beans of ten years ago, while still available, are not to be compared with the earlier, hardier and more flavorful types offered today.

New Lawns and Old

One of the very first on-the-land-jobs in the spring is lawn work, especially the patching and general cleaning up of established lawns. One can start this job almost as soon as the last snow is gone. Grass seed makes its best growth in cool weather. For patching and new lawns, too, experts advise getting a good grade of lawn grass, which will be a mixture of various sorts of grasses designed to make growth quickly and stay green year after year. For patching, the bare spots should be thoroughly stirred with a rake, then seeded rather heavily. Covering with brush or wire will protect from the birds.

Fairly early in the spring is the best time to apply commercial fertilizer, which should be spread according to directions and preferably just before a rain which will wash it in and prevent burning. Too often the average lawn is regarded as some permanent fixture which should take care of itself. As a result it soon shows wear and tear and eventually may produce more plantain, dandelion, and other weeds than grass. Good lawns are fed regularly with fertilizer, are rolled early in the spring when the ground is soft.

Growing your own Plants

Rather than purchasing started plants—in many sections of Canada this may be impossible or inconvenient anyway—many gardeners start their own in hot beds or shallow window boxes. The former are merely glass protected outdoor beds, where additional heat is provided by an underlying bed of fresh horse manure or hot water pipes or electric cable. The window boxes are shallow affairs, a couple of inches deep, placed in a bright window. The soil used should be fine and loose, preferably a mixture of sand and leaf mould. Seeds are planted in March and in rows about an inch apart. When the plants develop their second set of leaves they are transplanted to larger and cooler quarters and a few weeks later they are set outside. Ventilate and keep soil moist.

Make Sure They Will Grow in Canada

There are a lot of beautiful flowers and shrubs that will grow well in the Southern States or in the mild climate of England that will not do well in Canada. One wastes money, time and work in trying them here. Our climate, soil and other conditions are not suitable, just as their conditions do not suit certain things that thrive abundantly here. To guard against the discouraging efforts to produce these tender plants here one is advised to stick to those flowers, shrubs and vegetables that are specially recommended for Canadian conditions. The latter are the varieties and types listed in the Canadian seed catalogues. These have all been tested under Canadian conditions and they are the only ones recommended by the Canadian authorities.

Columnists have poked some good-natured fun at the glowing pictures and descriptions in the seed catalogues, but as a matter of fact those listed and pictured in Canadian publications are based on actual fact. The pictures are invariably actual photographs and any gardener of reasonable experience can reproduce them faithfully in his own backyard. In addition, there will be found in most Canadian catalogues a lot of useful information regarding season, time of flowering or, in the case of maturity, time of reaching maturity. Experts advise all beginners to get a good Canadian seed catalogue and possibly some of the government bulletins covering local conditions. Armed with this literature and good seed, satisfaction is guaranteed.

Gardening According to Plan

Seeds and shrubs or plants from the nursery are such little things that it is hard to realize just what will happen when full-growth has been developed. The beginner almost invariably plants far too close together. Certain things like the small annual flowers and vegetables like lettuce, beets or carrots take up little room—two or three inches between and rows about a foot apart are all that are necessary. But there are other things that will need much more room. Tall, bushy flowers like cosmos, or zinnias for instance, need a food or two each way. In the vegetable line, corn, potatoes, melons, cucumbers and such require plenty of room If crowded there will be little space for the gardener to wield the hoe or cultivator.

With scrubs, ornamental trees and vines, space is even more important because these keep on growing year after year. The average shade tree will grow 25 to 60 feet high, and for proper, full development will need from 20 to 40 feet each way at maturity. Shrubs that have a mature height of ten feet need at least five feet between.

Building up the Soil

Ideal garden soil is loose, open and on the light side, a mixture of sand, clay and rotted vegetable material. That combination is rather rare under natural conditions. However, even poor soil can be gradually changed into something more suitable. The best general corrective is plenty of rotted manure or vegetable refuse such as rotted sods, green crops, turned in. Cultivation alone will work wonders after a year or two. All weeds, vegetable tops, grass clippings, etc., should be dug in and if possible a load or two of manure.

Commercial fertilizer should be used carefully, according to directions. During the war some marvellous new fertilizers and beneficial bacteria have been developed.

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Cornwall

Miss Irene Parish, Brookfield, has taken a position as clerk in the store owned by R. MacKinnon.

Mrs. A. E. Wilkinson of Charlottetown has come to reside in Meadow Bank with her daughter Mrs. Stanley Hyde.

Mrs. Eddie Thompson, left for Toronto last week to join her husband who has accepted work in a factory in that city.

Mrs. Bert Miller has returned to Toronto. She has been home with her mother Mrs. Robert Frizzell, who was seriously ill, but now has greatly improved in health.

Cornwall church service was a continuation of the Easter message by Rev. J. R. Skinner. Beautiful flowers were placed on the altar by Mrs. Gordon MacMillan. This act is much appreciated by all.

Mr. Albert Thompson, recently home from overseas, spent a week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs Gordon Thompson, East Wiltshire and has gone to Belleville, Ont., to meet his wife where he intends to reside.

Property in Cornwall continues to change owners, Mr. Harry Pethick sold his farm to Mr. Allison MacPhail and purchased the property of Mr. Arthur Howard.

A very pleasant evening was spent at the home of Mrs. G. Dowling, Queen St., on Wednesday when she and Miss Erma MacPhail entertained. The out of town guests were: Mrs. Arthur Howard, Mrs. Ford Wilson and Mrs. Jack MacMillan.

CORNWALL, YORK POINT INSTITUTE

The April meeting of the Cornwall-York Point Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Hazen Howard. Eighteen members answered the roll call. Sick committees reported activities during the month, and $5 was voted for Cornwall School committee. It was decided to invite Murray River Players to present their play in Cornwall Hall at the earliest date possible. It was also decided at the next meeting which is to be held at Mrs. Heber Horne's, York Point, to hold a debate, subject of which is "That the farmer's wife has fewer opportunities to enjoy life than the farmer". Pro: Miss Marion Bell, Mrs. A P. MacEachern, Mrs. Jack MacPhail. Con: Miss Aletha MacDonald, Mrs. Hazen Howard, Mrs. Colin A. MacPhail.

The roll call to be answered at this meeting by naming a spring flower. The programme consisted of two papers on the history of the Institute by Mrs Bert Warren, and Mrs. Hazen Howard. A birthday cake with thirty-three candles was cut by Mrs. G. R. Bain, who was present at the organization. The members unable to be present were remembered with a slice of this cake, viz: Mrs David White, Mrs. Wesley Bell, Mrs. Fred MacLaren, Mrs Leslie MacEwen, Mrs. Bert Warren and Mrs Gordon MacMillan. During these years much work has been done for home and country by faithful members, and today a large Institute of young women are carrying on the good work begun by their mothers. The first president was the late Mrs. George MacDonald and the secretary the late Mrs. David Scott.

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Ellen's Diary

By an Island Farmer's Wife

(Continued from Page 2)

with Mattie the mother duck. Nights, we had, when we sat cosily in the kitchen and then there were evenings when James' footsteps wandered. Perchance to get away from our cleaning, which daily seems to add to the general upheavel that obtains indoors whenever this season returns. Polly has been busy at certain indoor decorating, which included traceries here and there about herself and times were when Mr. D. brushed a clever brush as well. He was possessed with a misery, the cause of much concern to every member of the family at Alderlea. James carried favorite and tried remedies to him in the house across the lane and Jeanie ministered to him as well. In the darkness, I went on a second trip when James insisted I "come and see what you think of him, Ellen". Well pleased, we were when the aches left his limbs and we heard him sing again at his work.

* * *

So day by day we come nearer to the seed-time—each day as interesting to us as was the one before. It is perhaps the best season of the year to farm folk—this season, that sees the arrival of young stock. A squeal from the piggery—small and new; a lonely bawl from a stable—a mother separated from her brand new calf; and a clear Ma-a-a! from the fold in the shed—the baby black sheep has for the moment strayed from his mother. The one that was lost on the hills of the world was a black one they say,—once as pretty and innocent as this one of Jamie's. And now a gentle rain on the roof, is here to usher in the Sabbath. The sun westered in a cloud of grey. But on the ede of twilight and before the clouds lowered I heard the most exquisite music. "Isn't that wonderful?" I said to James, for I had waited more than half a year to hear it, and could scarcely believe my ears, when the familiar refrain of it trembled on the evening air. "Huh" he replied absently, "Oh, the frogs. I heard them last night, Ellen—up along the creek—in April, Ellen—it's not too good a sign." "The stars are coming out now" Jock looks in to say. Well, the star-shine will lead in His Day.

Until tomorrow
Good-night.

Diary.

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