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AUSTIN G. L. TRIBUTE, EDITOR AND PROP.

CLEAN-UP WEEK

Clean-up week days for the village will occur next week. House-cleaning and town-cleaning days are perhaps the saddest of the year but they are a wonderful aid to cleanliness, which is next to godliness. We venture to say that no other town in Ontario presents a more spic-and-span appearance than does Athens after the departure of the municipal wagons on their last trip to the dump-heap. There is no room in anyone's back yard for old stove pipes, tomato cans, and pickle bottles. Clean them out and raise turnips.

PENALTY THE PROPER THING

A number of new books have been added to the Public Library. The board intimates that members are not returning books promptly within the allotted two weeks, and that in order to have books on the shelves for lending, this matter must be given consideration or a penalty imposed. Conducting a library with out a penalty for non-return of books is not good business, and the sooner the board adopts a new policy in regard to this, the more satisfaction will there be among the members at a whole.

SIGNS POSTS THAT MIGHT PASS IN THE NIGHT

Even a sign post will create enough unfavorable comment to drive municipal officials to distraction. Last week a post was erected at the intersection of Elgin street and the Charleston road, bearing the sign "Charleston Road." Later a speed-limit sign was tacked up on the same post and artistically braced with two pieces of natural finish wood. The sign could be read with ease by motorists driving out of the town but not by incomers. Citizens of the south end paused daily to inspect this monstrosity in their midst and utter words sarcastic. To dig it up some dark night was one of the many suggestions. Feeling rose so high over these bits of wood and paint that the Reeve was importuned and promised to look into the matter.

As we happen to live in the south end, we come in for the esthetic temperament prevalent on the sunny slope, and in great issues of this kind, adopt with our neighbors the American slogan, "E Pluribus Unum."

WE MUST FACE THE ISSUE.

The fear of famine is gripping us all. Its dark wings are beginning to cloud the sunshine from our eyes. The menace has become so real that the dread of it has awakened a land, a world, to the awfulness of a future. Many of us know nothing of hunger—we have lived in a land of plenty—yet, even imagination forces a shudder.  
Famine—does it seem ridiculous to Canadians? The highest authorities of the allied nations know every phase of the situation. They tell us that we shall not have enough to eat next year if we do not produce in vast proportions. They are no alarmists. Anglo Saxons are not of this breed. The men who were spoken of as alarmists in connection with a possible German war—were they wrong? Time has shown. And what is the German war compared with famine?

Even now, Britain is on rations. Canada, not being in the war zone, is apt to feel that this does not concern them much. The Balkan countries once supplied the European powers with a great portion of their foodstuffs. Today they are producing practically nothing, and the production of other belligerents and neutrals has fallen off to an alarming extent. Canada is the country to which all eyes are turned for relief. Without food, the allies can not hope to win the war, and Germany has staked her all on the submarine blockade. This is pinching Britain, and the sooner we realize it the better.

The organization of Resources Committee in this province is putting every effort into a patriotic campaign for more production. We of the rural districts must plant every available foot of ground. Every garden must be worked to capacity. Farmers are being enabled to connect with farm help, and should cooperate in the old-fashioned "bees" of pioneer times. Helping a farmer neighbor is an act of patriotism, and it is patriotic production that will pull us through.

That Great Britain has placed orders with Canadian shipyards for 22 steel vessels with a total tonnage of 175,000 was announced in the commons.

CROP TO PLANT LATER

Provide for Winter as Well as Immediate Needs.

CABBAGE AND OTHER THINGS

Good Food Products Can Be Secured by the Amateur by a Little Labor and a Small Expenditure.

(By S. C. JOHNSTON, Vegetable Specialist, Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Besides growing many vegetables for immediate use the backyard garden should produce some vegetables which can be stored for consumption during winter months. Some, of course, do not need to be planted as early as the plants which were described last week. Possibly a week should elapse from the time the lettuce is planted before these should be sown.

**BEETS, CARROTS, PARSNIPS, AND SALSIFY.** These include the most important members of the root vegetables. They are usually grown for winter purposes, though beets and carrots are relished by many in their earlier stages of growth. All these demand practically the same attention. The seeds should be sown in straight rows at a depth of about three-quarters of an inch. When the plants have reached a height of two inches they should be carefully thinned out so that they stand, beets and parsnips three to four inches apart, carrots and salsify two or three inches apart. It will be found that the parsnips are very slow growers, and for this reason it is sometimes advisable to plant a few seeds of lettuce with the parsnip seeds so that they will serve as a marker. The young beet plants may be used as spring greens. It is necessary that the soil be cultivated at intervals during the summer months so that a general rule regarding other vegetables is to water as heavy as you can. In the fall the beets should be pulled up and the tops twisted off close to the head, not cut off with a knife as in the case of carrots, parsnips, or salsify, which should have the tops cut about one-half inch from the roots preparatory to storing for winter use.

**CORN.** In planting corn holes about two or three inches deep should be made with a hoe. Five or six kernels of corn should be dropped in this and covered with soil, which should be gently firmed by tramping on it. When the shoots are about three inches high all excepting the three sturdiest should be pulled out. The soil should be drawn up around the stalks as they grow, to give them support. When the kernels on the cob appear full of milk they are ready to use. It is also a good practice to cultivate the soil often around the corn, for expert growers claim that the crops corn and cabbage faster and better when plenty of cultivation is given.

**CABBAGE.** Cabbage is one of the most widely grown vegetables. The cabbage plant requires a supply of moisture, and yet if the cabbage soil is too wet the plant will be injured. Cabbage does particularly well on new land, and some growers claim that the cabbage grows without an abundant supply of manure in the soil better than many other vegetables. It is considered a good practice for backyard gardeners to purchase plants which have been grown in hot-beds or hot-houses and transplant them directly into the permanent bed. This saves considerable trouble. It is necessary when setting cabbage plants to set them fairly deep so that they will not be whipped about by the wind. They may be set eighteen inches apart, and there should be quite a good deal of soil around the roots. When they are ready to be set out a hole may be made with a dibber or a sharp-edged stick. The roots may be watered after they have been set. One of the most important features of growing cabbage consists in the attention given to cultivation of the soil. There may be some occasions when the head will split, this may be stopped or prevented if the head is taken in the hands and turned forcibly from one side to another.

**CAULIFLOWER.** The cauliflower is treated in much the same way as cabbage, the plants being grown and set out in the same manner outside. They are treated practically the same as cabbage until it is noticed that a little white flower has commenced to grow. The dry leaves of the plant should be brought together at the top and tied with a piece of string so that these little white flowers are protected from the rays of the sun and the rain. All cauliflower heads should be treated in this manner when they are about two inches in diameter.

**BRUSSELS SPROUTS.** Brussels sprouts are perhaps the most hardy of the cabbage family. If it is impossible to secure brussels sprouts plants a few seeds may be planted about May 15 at a depth of about one inch. These should be transplanted to the permanent bed about the 15th of June. They should be set eighteen inches in the row and two feet between the rows. It is well to keep the patch clean, and the surface soil should be stirred frequently. It is unnecessary to trim off the leaves as the plants grow in the garden.

**SWISS CHARD.** Swiss chard can be grown easily from seed, in rows twelve inches apart, the young plants being thinned to six or eight inches apart. The advantage of this plant is that the leaves may be pulled off close to the root and new leaves shoot up, which may be consumed during the season. The roots are used for greens and the stem of the leaf as asparagus. A few plants should be sufficient for a small family.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY IN COUNTY TOWN

James Clarke, in Apparent Fit of Mental Aberration, Shot His Wife in Cold Blood in Cellar of Church Street Residence and Then Turned Gun on Himself—Son Makes Discovery.

(Recorder)

Brockville, April 26.—This morning shortly after 8 o'clock a terrible tragedy was enacted in Brockville and one that caused deep and unfeigned sorrow not only in a once happy home but throughout the whole town. The circumstances point to the fact that James Clarke, a most highly respected resident, while suffering from mental aberration, took the life of his devoted wife and then ended his own existence.

**Mrs. Clarke the First Victim**  
The conjecture is that this morning at the hour mentioned Mrs. Clarke, who is now lying dead, left the lower floor of the house and proceeded to the cellar. She was followed apparently by her husband, who carried a new Victor breech-loading gun. From the position of Mrs. Clarke's body, it is thought that she was in a stooping position and was shot from behind. The charge entered her body at the back and towards the right side. She died soon after. The body when viewed by Corner W. E. Harding was cold, indicating that she had been dead for a few hours.

**Second Deed**  
Mr. Clarke after shooting his wife returned to the first floor and then went into a back room at the head of the upper stairs where he placed the gun over his body in the region of the heart. He was lying on his back when discovered with his head to the door and a gaping in his breast.

**Discoveries Made by Son**  
The gruesome discovery was made by his son, James Clarke, on returning from work at the National Mfg. Co. just after 12 o'clock. He entered the house and not seeing his parents went upstairs where he found his father dead and lying on the floor with the discharged gun beside him. He gave the alarm and calling neighbors his mother's body was found in the cellar. She had bled profusely from the wound made by the gun and the body showed evidence that she had been dead some time previously. This belief is confirmed by the statement of a milk vender who was passing along the street at 8.15 or 8.30 this morning. A young lady living next door to the Clarke home also heard a shot at that time.

**Highly Respected Citizens.**  
Mrs. Clarke before her marriage was Miss Annie Buchanan, a daughter of Mr. Malcolm Buchanan, of Brockville. She was born in the township of Kitley 56 years ago. She spent her early life there and was married to Mr. Clarke at Toledo. She moved with her husband to Brockville some years ago. He accepted a position in the moulding department of the James Smart Mfg. Co., which he held until ill-health forced him to relinquish. The family consists of two daughters and two sons. They are Mrs. Bryce Heaslip, Miss Kathleen Clarke and Messrs James Clarke jr., and Patrick Clarke. She also leaves two brothers and five sisters. They are Mrs. B. O'Connor, Brockville; Mrs. M. J. Burns, South Hammond, N. Y.; Mrs. John Derrig, Toledo; Mrs. F. Campbell and Mrs. M. Kelly, Toronto, and Mr. Malcolm Buchanan in the Canadian west, and Mr. Daniel Buchanan, of Duluth, Minn. She was a woman of exceptional virtues and noble character. She was a Catholic in religion and a devout member of St. Xavier church. Her death at any time would be greatly lamented, but under the unfortunate conditions is particularly sorrowful.

**Husband in Ill Health**  
The late James Clarke was a native of Ireland. He came to Canada while in his teens and located in Kitley, where, as stated, he married and came to Brockville later and took up residence. He was a hard-working man and most industrious. He contracted a spinal affection a few years ago which shattered his nervous system. Last winter he entered the Eastern Hospital for special treatment, but did not long remain. Of late he had not been doing any kind of work, but his health seemed about the same. Last evening he was down street and at 10.30 o'clock called on a friend in the west end and stated he was going to Montreal. The friend persuaded him not to go, and he went home. This morning he appeared in good spirits. The terrible deed was committed so soon as the members of the family left home for work, Miss Clarke proceeding to the office of the James Smart Mfg. Co., where she is a stenographer, and the sons to their occupations. Previous to his contracting a neurotic malady, James Clarke was a most respected resident. He was honest, upright,

and industrious. He was a man who would not say word defamatory of a neighbor or injure any person. His mind from spinal disease had become unbalanced and his irresponsible act is the result. The double bereaved family have the sympathy of the entire community.

An Inquest Ordered

Chief Burke was called by telephone just after 12 o'clock, but he was in the east end of the town on official business. He returned to his office, and on hearing of the tragedy, notified Coroner Harding, and with Constable Ferguson, proceeded to the scene. It was a vastly sight that met the officials. Coroner Harding made an examination of both bodies, first of Mrs. Clarke and later of her husband. Both were dead and beyond medical or surgical aid. He ordered an inquest and a jury was summoned.

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