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MT. SALEM.

Farmers are getting discouraged on account of so much rain, which makes the land too wet to work.
Mrs. Dell and Miss I. Cartwright were in the village last week.
Mr. Lyman Tansley called here on Sunday.
Mrs. Philmore is very low, and is not expected to last very many days.
Mrs. A. Boyd is with her now.
Miss Viola Boyd is visiting Mrs. Powers on Talbot Street.

BAYHAM.

Mrs. Prichard, of our village, is very poorly. Dr. McEwen was called in on Sunday to see her.
Mr. R. Procnier returned home from Toronto last week, looking fine after his winter's sojourn in the city with his daughter, Mrs. Keast.
Mrs. Mary Matthews is visiting her daughter, Mrs. A. Andrews, at St. Thomas.
Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Laing visited friends at Sparta and St. Thomas on Sunday and Monday.
Miss Clara Procnier returned last week to her school at Toronto.
A goodly number attended quarterly service at Summers' Corners last Sunday.

LUTON.

Mrs. J. Harper, of Toronto, is visiting Mrs. A. E. Richardson.
Mr. and Mrs. Van Velzer, of Union, and Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Smith, of Sparta, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dunn.
Mrs. J. C. Steele and Marion spent several days last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hill.
Mrs. H. Raymond and Miss Ethel spent Thursday in London.
At the time of writing, Mr. John Richardson is in an unconscious condition, with no hope of recovery.
Miss Jean Richardson, who has been seriously ill, is convalescent.

JAFFA.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Bowen, of Aylmer, spent Tuesday last at the home of Mr. R. E. Bowen.
The Ladies' Aid of the Baptist Church met at the home of Mrs. I. Davidson.
Mr. and Mrs. George Parker, of Dunboine, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. G. Butler.
Mrs. W. Benwell is slowly improving.
Mr. and Mrs. Archie Ryckman have returned home to Ithaca, Mich., after spending a part of their wedding trip with their cousin, Mr. Willard Stafford, Jaffa, and a flying visit with friends at Sparta, also with Messrs. S. and E. Swartz, at Aylmer.

CALTON.

Mr. and Mrs. John Timpany and Miss Ettie spent Sunday with their son, Irving, at Dereham.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Abell spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. Chalk.
Mr. C. Marr has purchased what is known as the Cohoon Farm.
The young friends of Estes James gave her a party on her birthday. They spent the afternoon playing games, and after a dainty lunch, they went to their homes, wishing Estes many more birthdays.
Miss Alma Van Velzer returned to her school at Toronto after spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Van Velzer.
Miss Edna Chalk and Mr. Lorne Herriot called on friends on Sunday evening.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Cheeseman called on the latter's sister, Mrs. Bart Timpany on Sunday.

FAIRVIEW.

The farmers on low land are having difficulty in getting their seedling done on account of wet weather.
Mrs. W. Z. Hawley, of Aylmer, is visiting friends here.
There were no services here last Sunday on account of the quarterly services at Summers' Corners.
Mr. Harley Evert, Mrs. Charles Evert, Mrs. John Campbell, and Mrs. John Davis went to Courtland last Friday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Mabey.
Everyone should hear the men's choir sing at the Methodist Church here at 11 o'clock next Sunday, the 14th inst.
Mr. and Mrs. William Campbell, of Vienna, spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell.
Mr. Walter Ellis, of Port Rowan, is visiting his son Clifford.
Mr. George Vail, of St. Thomas, spent a few days here last week visiting friends.

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LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

Captured Germans Pitiable Sight,
Writes Gunner H. C. Sinclair to His Mother, Mrs. David Britton.

Roland Gatward Tells More of His Experiences in a Letter to His Former Employers, Messrs. Youell & Wrong.

Flanders, March 22, 1916.
Dear Mother and All,
Received your welcome letter to-night, and was very glad to hear from you again. Also received a dandy box from John Pearson and Sandford Woolley and wife, and Mr. and Mrs. James Corless. It was just the ticket, and came right through without a stop, I guess. Nothing was broken in it, and everything just fine, even to the cake, which was excellent. It is good to get a real home-made cake out here.

Well, I am still O.K. and well as usual. The boys say I am getting fat, but my clothes are not any smaller for me. We are having some very fine weather here now, and the farmers are out working on the land. It makes a fellow feel as though spring was here, and may be it is. The fine sunny days freshen a fellow up out here. Can't say I need anything just now. A fellow doesn't need so very much out here, only clothes and tobacco. Of course, a nice fruit cake like the one Laurene sent over is all right any old time; but then, we are not really suffering for anything.

Say, I am not sure but that the battalion like Williams is in is here. He will be a good soldier out here—just the right kind of a chap for the job. Haven't heard from Clinton Leman yet. Guess he is too busy to write, but Will Bates told me all about how he got wounded, and everything. It is nothing serious, but one's knee is a bad place to get a bullet, for it might make him have a stiff knee. Hope it doesn't result that way. He was a jolly fellow.

We certainly have been going some lately on the firing line, and doing very good work, too. We captured quite a few Germans the other day, and I saw some of them, too. They looked a pitiable sight—clothes all mud and ragged—quite a comparison to us. Some of them looked as though they hadn't shaved for more than a week, and there was one who looked to be sixty years old or more. I didn't see them all, just a few. The 16th Battery had a hand in getting them, of course.

We have had some more rain lately, but to-night it has cleared away, and it is just like a real Canadian spring evening. Hope we do have good weather now for a while—think we deserve some. Received a parcel from the Women's Institute in Aylmer yesterday. Must try and drop them a line thanking them for it. Guess all the Aylmer boys received one. It was all right, too—contained just what I happened to need. Sorry to hear of Hazel Gillett's death.

The battalion like is in is over here, all right, and I know where it is, but haven't had time to look him up, but will do so the first chance I get. Am looking for some letters to-morrow on the big Canadian mail. Don't know of anything more to write about to-night, so I guess I will close this letter. Write soon.

Your ever loving son,
H. C. Sinclair,
84245, 16th Battery.

France, April 16, 1916.
Messrs. Youell & Wrong,
Aylmer, Ont.

Dear Sirs,
I received an Aylmer Express from you some time ago. We can always read more war news in a Canadian paper than in the papers here. I have been unable to do any writing for some time, as we have been so busy, and have been shifting about, too. We have had quite a hot time. I am dandy in health. We are at a big farm now; I have a big loft all to myself to sleep in. I made a bed yesterday, and after sleeping on the floor I found it very comfortable. I have to keep very still while sleeping on it, for I have bricks at each corner for legs, and the least knock, over it goes. I suppose now that you have a son coming out here you will take more interest than ever in what is going on here. We were in quite a big affair three weeks ago, but you would never see us mentioned in the papers, as we are only a small unit among so many.
The brighter days are here now, and it is fine to be a soldier. I still have the same old job, but I don't get such long trips now, as we are all closer together. I went to a place the other day, and they were shelling it with shrapnel and gas shells. Several fellows were wounded. I was on a wheel, and I went for all I was worth. A big barn was hit and burned down. There were horses, cattle, and pigs in it, and the building fell in on them. I was attached to a British Brigade last week for a few days. Our headquarters have moved and we are up among the shells. There is a road

leading up to us that is shelled every day regularly, and we know about what time to expect them. This place has been hit by shells in lots of places, and the fields on either side are full of shell holes. It has always had a bad name—we knew that before we came in. I saw Charlie Dingle last week. I hadn't seen him for months. Next Sunday is Easter—last Easter I was at Aylmer. It is nearly a year since I left Canada, and believe me, Canada is a far better country than this is. I have several more letters to write, so I will have to close. I shall be very glad to hear from you again. There is more excitement here when the mail comes than when it is pay-day. Hope you are all well. Remember me to all.—I remain,
Yours sincerely,
Roland Gatward.

POULTRY NOTES.

Laid to-day, marketed to-morrow, and consumed the next day is the slogan for every live poultry man to preach.

Select eggs with a hard, firm shell, that will not be easily broken. Often the breaking of one egg in the nest will spoil a whole setting of eggs. Try to select eggs from the hens that have begun their laying period in late winter or early spring.

Don't try to raise chicks in a dark cellar without sunshine. Sunshine acts as a tonic to the little ones, and it is absolutely necessary that they have it. Bright surroundings don't cost much, and sunshine is a disinfectant.

If you use an old brooder, it is advisable to disinfect it thoroughly before putting the chicks therein. Also sprinkle a little air-slacked lime on the floor and then sweep it out. This will make the brooder sanitary.

Heed the oft-repeated advice not to feed the chicks too soon after they are hatched. Some people feel sorry for the newly-hatched chicks and imagine they are doing them a great good by giving them something to eat at once. Instead, they are doing the chicks an injury. Don't feed for from thirty-six to forty-eight hours.

Even though the weather is cold, don't house the chicks too closely. A tight brooder without the proper ventilation will raise havoc with the brood.

Don't use sawdust as a litter for chicks. Chicks are very apt to eat some of the sawdust, and some may get into their eyes. Fine sawdust also helps to breed lice.

Use drinking fountains for the chicks which can be easily cleaned. They should be so arranged that the chicks cannot get into them.

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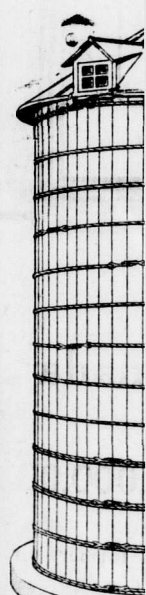
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