

Young Canada Club

By DIXIE PATTON

A HAPPY LIFE

This is the subject of a new story contest which is to begin at once and continue until April 10, and on which I want every one of our boy and girl readers to write me a story. I hope you will all take me into your confidence and tell me in this story just exactly the sort of life you would like to live when you grow up. Never mind how unlikely it is that you will ever have the chance to live this sort of a life. Since we are dreaming dreams we might as well dream just what we please, regardless.

Sit down then, and tell me exactly the sort of life that would seem to you to be the happiest, just the kind of things that you would like to have and do. Try not to think of the things you ought to like. Please just tell me about the things you really do like.

Write this down in pen and ink and on one side of the paper only.

Write it as entertainingly as you can, and if you don't happen to know what entertainingly means, ask mother or father.

Get your teacher or one of your parents to certify that the story is your own work and that the age given is correct.

Be careful to address the letter to Dixie Patton, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

And be sure to write today, in case the folk might not be going to town when you are ready to post your letter if you put it off.

DIXIE PATTON.

A TRIP TO HOLLAND

After visiting Belgium, we went on to Holland. Holland is called the Netherlands, which means lowlands. The land is very low and a fight is going on night and day between the Dutch and the sea. It is chiefly made of the mud carried down by the Rhine, the Scheldt, and the Maas rivers. Along the sea coasts we see great dikes. The dikes are to keep out the sea. The last time it got thru it flooded the land for many miles and drowned thousands of people. Men are watching day and night to see that no holes appear in these dikes, and if they do they ring alarm bells for assistance. These huge walls are made by first taking trees, trimming them off and driving them deep down in the sand in two rows facing the sea. Next, large blocks of granite or other kinds of stone fill up the space between the two rows of trees. Soil is thrown on the blocks of stone and gradually the dikes grow in height and thickness. To keep the soil in place basketwork is thrown over and grass sown. When finished they are about as high as a three story house and so wide that two carriages could easily be drawn along abreast. After visiting the canals and learning how they were made, we went on to the canal nearby. Canals are used to drain off the water and some are very beautiful. There are so many that they serve as fences between the fields, and the bridges as gates. One canal we came across was bordered by willow bushes which bent over nearly touching the water. There was a man loading some vegetables into a boat, evidently to sell in the city nearest his village. Over at the other side we saw a woman, a boy, and a dog, pulling a boatful of hay. They were all harnessed together. We saw storks on tops of houses, standing on one leg over nests in the chimneys. The stork is a friend of the Dutchman, as it eats insects, worms and frogs, which injure the dikes. Windmills line the canals. Sometimes we could count one hundred all in a line along one of the canals. Nearly every farmer has one. They are used for pumping, sawing, grinding corn, etc. They have long arms from about fifty to one hundred feet in length. As we passed on we noticed how clean and comfortable-looking the cattle were. They are kept in the same houses as their masters in the wintertime. There was a girl milking a cow and over there was a man with a wagon full of brass cans. As we came to one of the houses we noticed that they had low walls and

high roofs. The walls were white-washed and the roof made of red tiles, and so steep that the rain runs off very quickly after a shower. Inside they were spotlessly clean. The floors fairly shone and the front door was washed every day. We walked on our tip-toes for fear of dirtying the floors.

The Dutch farmers grow rye, wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, nearly all kinds of vegetables, and flowers, such as tulips and gladioli. We hired a boat and as we sailed down the canal we noticed some men, women and children standing on the banks. The children were hanging on to their mothers' skirts and gazing at us open-mouthed as we moved slowly along. The men were dressed in their best clothes, also the women and children, as it was a holiday. The men wore long loose trousers, fastened up by a wide leather belt, with a large silver buckle. The trousers were made of black velvet. The women and children were dressed much alike. They wore short skirts and helmets of gold or silver, or metal, in imitation, covered by a lace cap. They all wore thick wooden shoes.

Three of the principal cities are: Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague. Most of the houses we saw were very beautiful and so close to the edge of the canals which line the streets that the boys can lean out of the window and fish. They can also put on their skates inside the house, drop out of the window and skate off to school in the wintertime. The many canals make the Dutch good skaters. In Holland there are about twice as many people as in Ontario, and Ontario is about twenty times as large. We visited the Hague and saw many of the beautiful drawings and paintings of Van Dyke in the art galleries. The Hague is where the Royal family reside, altho they are crowned in Amsterdam. We visited the palace and gardens and found them very beautiful.

KATHLEEN ARTHUR.
Shoal Lake, Man., age 10.

A TRIP TO HAMBURG

On May 16, last year, we sailed on the Imperator from New York, on a trip to Hamburg, where my grandparents are living. We had a nice trip going over, and nobody was seasick. It was a very fast boat and made the trip across in seven days. There were four thousand passengers on board and we children had lots of fun. I shall never forget the first night out on the sea. There was not a wave on the water, only what was caused by the ship, and about sunset any person would think the whole ocean was on fire. It looked so nice, we were really sorry when it got too dark and we could see no more. We passed two or three ships every day. On the sixth day we landed at Cherbourg (France), where some passengers went off and some came on, and also they exchanged the mail. From there we sailed across the English Channel and stopped at Southampton, where lots of passengers went off and a lot came on again. We could see land very plainly, the shore of England on one side and the Isle of Wight on the other side and the trees were all green. The coast of England looks so nice from the channel; one sees the high, white-looking cliffs, some hundred feet high, and on top the green grass and trees and big castles. I shall never forget these sights and when I am big I am going to see them again.

We landed in Hamburg on the 23rd of May. From there we had about a one-hour ride in the train, to our grandparents. They were very glad when we came, as they had never seen me nor my brother and two sisters. They have very nice roads there, as level as a floor, and papa got a bicycle for me and my sister and we learned to ride very quickly. We also went to the Zoo and saw all the wild animals and birds, and reptiles and monkeys. I can't name them all. I think we saw everything that lives and grows in this world. With your permission I will tell you some more next week.

JOHN HACHMANN.

Age 11 years.



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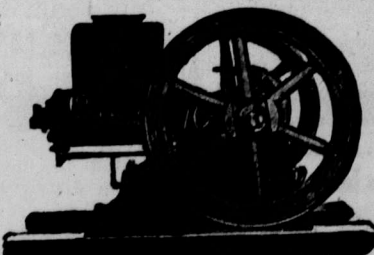
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