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APRIL 23, 1914

Senior Beavers' Letter Box.

My dear Puck and Beavers,—Spring is here again, though it does not look so very much like it at present. With it comes maple-syrup making, and sugaring off. I am just going to tell you how I used to amuse myself about this time, after the snow was all gone, and it had begun to get warm. I have not always lived here, but at a place near Watford with my father and mother, on a farm adjoining my grandfather's home. There was a large currant bush behind the house, nearly grown into a tree. Under it were old cans, and sometimes dishes, which, though useless, might not be broken. There was a creek running not far from the house, and just between it and the house was a garden with a trench running through it. In the spring it would be filled with clear water. As there were currant and berry bushes right around it, we played that it was our sugar bush. We would take whole packs of cans and fill them up, then bring them to the boards by the cellar windows, where we poured the make-believe syrup into smaller cans and dishes. So absorbed was I one day, I did not hear anything behind me. But all at once I heard the low "chirk, chirk," of my one enemy, the gobbler. Hastily jumping up, I dodged him, ran past him, and ran screaming into the house. Of course, when I dodged him, he had to turn around before coming after me. But how my uncles and aunts did tease me! There were four or five of them there at that time.

One of my uncles I seemed to like especially well. He was never too tired to play with me, draw pictures for me, or read or tell me stories. Now it is all different. The two old homes are both sold; we have moved to this place; three of my uncles have gone to Saskatchewan, one of them being the above-mentioned favorite. He has two little daughters now. Then, two of my aunts have gone to Alberta, one near the Rockies, another in Calgary. Two others are trained nurses in Toledo, and one still stays with grandfather in Watford. So you see how times change.

We have a rural-mail delivery. It is so handy. Before, one of our neighbors who owned a farm near the station, though he lives just across the road, always brought our mail, and we had to call for it.

As I was looking over "The Farmer's Advocate," I saw a letter from Vera St. Clair. I am glad she has joined the Circle, and congratulate her on her interesting letter.

Well, Puck, this is my fourth letter, and you have published every one. Thank you for it. I remain your loving little curly-headed Beaver.

LUCILE GLASS.
(Age 12, Class Sr. IV.)
R. R. No. 3, Thorndale, Ont.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—I thought I would write and let you know I received my prize, which I like very much. Many thanks for it, Puck. Well, Beavers, spring will soon be here, and we will have to think about our seeds and garden. I should like to join the Garden Competition again this year. May I, Puck? I think Alice Sexsmith made a mistake when she said I was a smart girl, for I am not, but I hope to do better this year.

Well, I must be going, and make room for someone else. With best wishes to the Beavers.

RUBY BREADNER (age 13).
Fort Erie, Ont., Box 88.

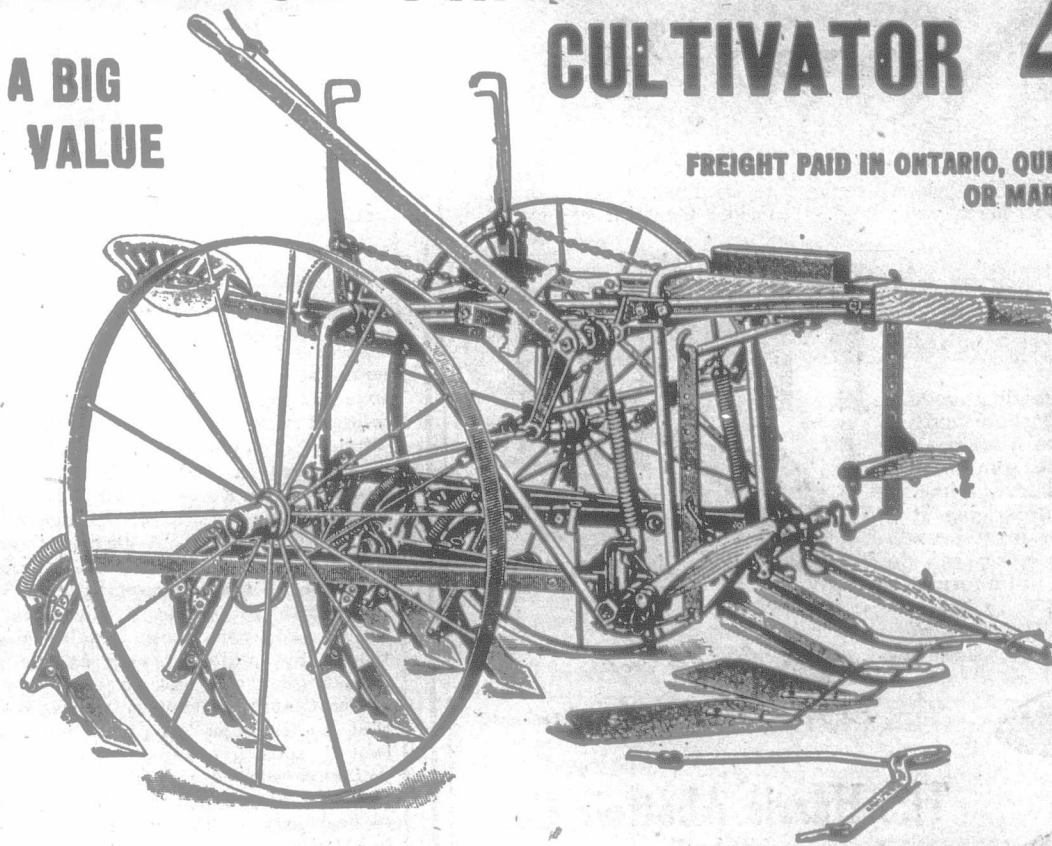
Certainly you may join in the Garden Competition again, Ruby. Will all Beavers who intend to take part in it, kindly send in their applications not later than May 24th. Send application on a slip of paper by itself, not embodied in a letter.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—I have just been reading over some of the Beavers' letters, and thought I would like to see my own in print. Will you be kind enough to publish it, Puck? I wish you did not have a w.-p. b., Puck, as my former letter did not escape it. I live on a 225-acre farm. We have ten horses. My favorite one is "Jummye." She is about eighteen years old, but can trot very fast. I had a school garden last year which consisted of potatoes, mangels, corn, and sweet peas. On September

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L. O. CLIFFORD, :: :: :: :: Oshawa, Ont.

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