

of a birthday celebration for the old Dame but she seemed to think we did. Mary made her a little cake and put 3 candles in it and she got a beautiful dress from Vernon some socks from Sam & me. Mary got her dress finished and got Frank to bring her out a new pair of rubber boots. Cloudy & raw. Freezing & windy.

Friday March 16th

Spent most of the forenoon doing chores but left about eleven and walked down to Auntys for dinner. Frank was there and he and I went to Simcoe this afternoon and took in the meeting of the Fruit Growers. Dick was in Simcoe later so we rode home with him. Ina was back on the job to day feeling better. She is taking treatments from some fellow in Kitchener who I fear is more or less of a quack and the seventh son of a seventh son of a seventh son but she has faith in him which I suppose is the main thing. He tells her the lump on her breast is nothing to worry about. Mrs. Lampkin was also in selling stockings & stuff & qualify for some good puzzle she has tried. It seems to us rather amazing that a woman of her age & condition and ordinary horse sense would fall for such a thing. Mary bought something cloudy cold.

Saturday March 17th

Aunt Alice invited us down to dinner in day if we could get there & Mary had promised Johnnie Johnson Thompson to go to a party she was having this afternoon and through the beneficence of good St Patrick or some other agency it was a beautiful day all of which conditions disposed us to make the attempt in spite of the off setting facts that all reports say the roads are very rough though frozen Mary feels tough with a cold and is in no condition to travel over rough roads. but the features that set weighed all others and decided us to make the attempt. As that all three of us had new clothes to wear and they & their mother were most anxious to exhibit them. Accordingly then I went out to start the car but there I struck a real obstacle. She would not start. I tried cranking & pouring on hot water but I could not get a pick. The starter would turn her over but she would not fire. After about half an hour's trying Mary called up Jack Walker and in spite of a lame back he & Gubbie came out. They diagnosed the case as short circuiting owing to water around the spark plugs and thought that by towing it far a way on the road they could get the engine running so I cut a piece of my hay rope for a tow rope and after a good deal of spinning Jack got her towed out onto the