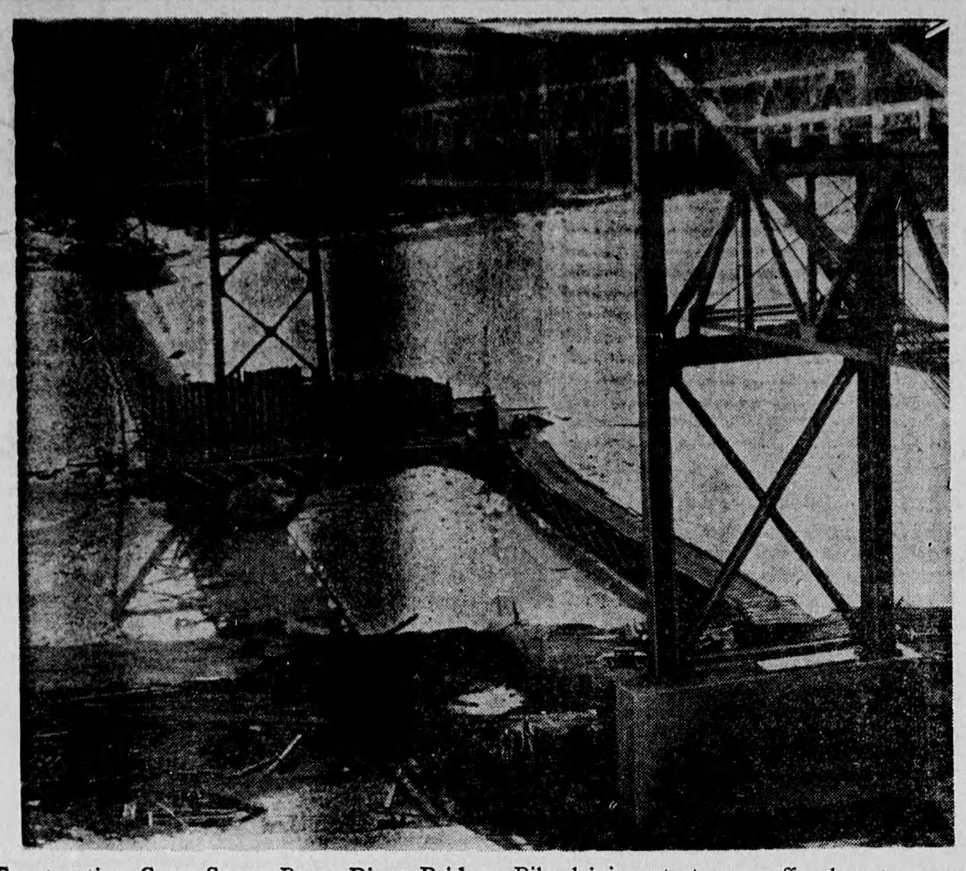

Construction Crew Saves Peace River Bridge—Pile driving starts on coffer-dam to prevent collapse of Peace River bridge, vital link in the Alaska Highway. This was opening round of fight to prevent north pier from sinking into gravel on which it was built in wartime emergency move, rather than on shale 15 feet further down.

"Show-Off" Pilots Big Air Problem

The report of civil aircraft accidents in Canada during 1947 has just come to hand. It makes sad reading. There were 279 accidents involving Canadian aircraft, an increase of 101 from the previous year! Of the 279 big and little crackups, 19 were fatal. In most cases, show-off pilots in light planes were the culprits. In 74 cases the aircraft was written off, in 152 instances, major damage was sustained, in 15 accidents there was serious injury to personnel.

There is, furthermore, the unhappy knowledge that the foolhardy aviator is still at large, Canadian Aviation goes on to say and that the record has not been improving during 1948.

* * *

If club, school and private flying are to survive as popular activities in this country, certain drastic and effective measures must be taken. Education will help. Flying instructors can aid the cause by giving increased emphasis to the dangers of mishandling the airplane.

But, unfortunately, the careless pilot seldom listens to warnings or advice. He figures he's different. He presents a case for discipline. In the cases where a serious breach of air regulations can be established, the severest penalties available under the Aeronautics Act should be sought by civil aviation inspectors and police. The harsh glare of publicity on such trials might have a deterrent effect as well as informing the public that behind most crashes there is usually a criminally careless pilot rather than a faulty aircraft.

* * *

Meantime, there is certain preventive action open to every club or school management. When a pilot deliberately breaks a regulation he should be grounded by his club or school for a period depending on the seriousness of the infraction. At the same time, notice of this grounding should be circulated to all flying establishments in the area, to ensure that the offender stays on the ground during his period of penance. The deterrent effect of such discipline would be increased further by posting full details on the flight room bulletin board.

★

A Modest Man

Doctor: "The best thing for you to do is to give up drinking and smoking, get up early every morning and go to bed early every night."

Patient: "Somehow, doctor, I don't deserve the best. What's the second best?"

★

For Safety's Sake

Make all turns from the proper lane and use arm signals for right and left turns and for stopping and starting.

THE FARM FRONT

In spite of the development of new and powerful weed killers, weeds still remain one of our greatest rural problems; and the chief reason for this is that so many more of them are put back into the soil every year through the agency of improperly cleaned seed.

Some weeds are so prolific in seed production that a relatively clean field may become badly contaminated in just two or three years if the weeds are allowed to go to seed, or if poorly cleaned crop seed is sown.

* * *

This is not surprising when you consider that a single plant of wild mustard, stinkweed, pigweed, foxtail or campion will produce from 10,000 to 20,000 seeds; shepherd's purse about 50,000, and tumbling mustard as many as 1,500,000. And most of these seeds are so inconspicuous that their presence can hardly be noticed.

To paraphrase an old saying "Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom from weeds." Even when victory seems won, a little carelessness in allowing weeds to grow unchecked, or in planting "dirty" crop seed, can quickly bring things back to worse than their original state.

* * *

Fall wheat, in addition to its cash crop value, is an important crop for spring-seeded clovers and grasses. Even when wheat prices were much lower than now, wise farmers grew it for no other reason than its aid in starting new meadows in the spring.

The main advantage is that clover and grass seed can be broadcast much earlier in the year. This provides earlier growth and makes better use of the soil moisture than is obtained with spring - seeded grains.

Of course little control is possible over soil and climatic conditions; but adequate supplies of essential plant foods go a long way toward guaranteeing a good meadow. So most growers of fall wheat are so aware of the importance of applying fertilizer to this crop that it is probably the most widely enriched of all cereals.

To obtain the greatest benefit from fertilizer, a soil test should be made before ordering your season's requirements. If the soil chemist is told that the fall wheat is to be seeded to clover and grass in the spring he will be able to make proper recommendations as to the correct amounts of plant food. The proportion of plant nutrients is almost as important as the amount. For example, if too much nitrogen is applied in proportion to potash and phosphate, you may have a rank growth of wheat appearing in the fall which is more subject to winter killing.

* * *

If your sheep lack appetite for hay or grass, it may be that they need a little cobalt. Just a few cents worth a year can make all the difference in the world.

★

Doctor's Duty

Patient: "I say, doctor, don't you think it would be a good idea if I packed up and went to a place where the climate is warmer?"

Doctor: "But that's the very thing I've been trying to prevent!"

★

Sheep don't need much cobalt—but they must have some. This is also true of other four-stomached animals, such as cattle.

If cobalt is short in the soil, which leads to a similar shortage in the feed, it shows up quickly in the sheep. They start losing interest in the feed rack and soon begin losing weight as well. In their weakened condition they're extra susceptible to diseases or parasites.

Some sheep raisers have found that just one ounce of cobalt sulfate mixed in 100 pounds of salt will do great things. It steps up appetite and may even keep the sheep from starving to death on apparently good feed.

It is only in recent years that the importance of this mineral for sheep and cattle has become known. Cobalt deficient areas have been found in widely scattered areas of America, and new sections lacking cobalt are being discovered each year.

* * *

Back in March and April we were talking about the disastrous western floods which did millions of dollars of damage. Crops were ruined. Lifetime savings were lost. And the papers were filled with pictures of families being rescued from flooded homes and of dead animals trapped and drowned.

So it is rather puzzling, but at the same time cheering, to learn that those same floods were the best thing that had happened to many parts of the West in half a century. The immediate loss was small compared to the ultimate gain.

The brighter side of the picture is shown in an article in Farm and Ranch Review which says, in part:

"Water supplies in the so-called Drought Area of the Prairie Provinces were restored to record levels . . . Hundreds of lakes and streams which were remembered only by the very early settlers came to life again. Districts which have been recognized for 20 years as being part of Canada's potential Dust Bowl are now dotted with marshes and lakes, and traversed by running streams . . . While many farmers are naturally discouraged by the damage and delays caused by the spring floods, in general they make no complaint . . . They much prefer the flooded lands to the black blizzards of the 1930's. To many of them the so-called floods have restored confidence."

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Three Minute Fiction Fun

SHORT STORY

Make Mine Missus

By ERNIE RYDBERG

Slim McDermott dropped in at the post office before heading back to the cabin. There was a letter for him and the camp newspaper. The letter was from the main office.

"Mr. Francis W. McDermott,

Silver Pine Camp.

"Dear Francis: Sorry to interrupt anything so important as a honeymoon—even a delayed honeymoon—with anything as trivial as business. However, the Santa Ruiz deal broke sooner than expected. Fred Lang is having to take his wife to a higher altitude. You have been appointed district manager for that area. Instead of reporting here Monday, please go directly there. Fred has arranged for you to take over their place. You're a lucky dog. It's a nice, two-bedroom house, furnished. Best regards,

TOM."

Slim grabbed the groceries and legged the trail to their cabin. District manager! Oh, man. How he could use that pay increase.

"Honey," he called, nearing the cabin, "where are you?"

"Got a letter from the boss," said Slim. "The Santa Ruiz deal's gone through."

"Really!" cried Bill. An instant later she was out on the porch. "Let's see!"

Slim handed it to her. When she reached the part about the house, her face shone.

"Oh, Darling, I'm so tickled."

"My big, sweet District Manager!" said Bill, softly. "A real house! Let's celebrate."

"Okeh," grinned Slim. "How about dinner at the Lodge?"

"Wonderful," said Bill. "I'll finish dressing."

Slim sat down in the rocker again; stretched out his legs. Life was pretty wonderful. He sat there thinking about his new job, then picked up the camp paper. His eyes caught a news item.

"Well, I'll be done-gone!" he growled.

"Oh, this darned newspaper," grumbled Slim. He read sarcastically. 'After a two weeks stay in Silver Pines, Mr. and Mrs. Bill McDermott leave Sunday for San Francisco.' Mr. and Mrs. BILL McDermott!"

Among those present were "the Bill McDermotts." Never "the Francis McDermotts." The man from the city directory had become very

Slim seethed. Things like that did something to a man.

confused when he interviewed them. In the directory, it said quite plainly, "William McDermott (Frances)."

Now she was back again on the porch. Slim stared at her in amazement.

She had on a pair of Slim's slacks. She'd folded up the pant legs and they bulged in wads at her ankles. His flannel shirt hung clear to her knees; his tennis sneakers stuck out like snowshoes. His big hat came down to her eyes.

"How do I look?" she asked, her face perfectly sober.

"What's the idea?"

"Don't fit so good, do they?" asked Bill, twisting around, lifting her shirt tail and tugging at the baggy seat.

Bill came over to Slim. She grinned at him, tweaked his nose, sat in his lap.

"This is going to be a new life for us. A new town. New friends."

Bill squirmed around on Slim's lap. She took an envelope from a pocket, handed it to him. He opened it with some difficulty. It was a legal document.

"What's this?" asked Slim.

"Read it," said Bill. "Read the last paragraph."

Slim read aloud.

"This court hereby stipulates that in the future Willa Weatherford McDermott will be legally known as Violet Willa Weatherford McDermott . . . "

"Violet!" snorted Slim.

"It's not so bad, Slim," whispered Bill, "if you just say 'Vi'."

"Vi," ventured Slim carefully.

He took her in his arms and kissed her. He paused once to whisper, "Vi, Darling."

Even the Worms Must Speed Up

Greatly disturbed by the inroads nylon has made on the pure silk industry the Japanese have now worked out a method by which they get greater production out of the silk worm.

The silk worm had a habit of knocking off work four times a month for a few days and having a long sleep. The practice used to be to literally bake the worm until he could stand it no longer. He was overcome by the heat and went to sleep. In the long run he simply shrivelled up and died.

The new method is to warm him less severely, with the result that he only takes three naps per month instead of four. He lives longer and produces more.

In addition to that the Japanese people as a whole are working longer hours for less pay. They are out to rehabilitate their country by increasing their exports. Textile producers will learn in the near future that the Japs can sell more goods and at smaller prices than before.

Postman Braves Fumes, Rescues Stricken Woman

WINS DOW AWARD

WILLIAM CAIRNS OF TORONTO, ONTARIO, *carries young housewife from gas-filled house, then applies artificial respiration*

Postman William Cairns was anxious to finish his rounds. Ordinarily he would have been through around noon but the heavy Easter mail made his task more difficult. When he came to the Sparks home on Westmoreland Avenue he opened the front door slightly, threw a parcel in and then started to rush on. But something stopped him. Opening the door again, he staggered back from the heavy smell of illuminating gas.

FINDS UNCONSCIOUS WOMAN

Taking a big gulp of air he entered the house. Heading for the kitchen he found 19-year-old Mrs. Sparks on the floor — unconscious! He tried to pick her up but the gas began to make him feel sick . . . and he had to rush to the veranda for air. Entering the house again he managed to carry Mrs. Sparks almost to the door . . . but again he felt dizzy and had to go out to refill his lungs.

The third time he was successful in getting the woman outside. He placed her on the veranda floor, ran to tell the neighbours to phone for help . . . and then returned to the victim and applied artificial respiration until firemen arrived to relieve him. 50 minutes later the young woman regained consciousness.

For his unselfish and gallant actions we are proud to pay tribute to William Cairns of Toronto through the presentation of The Dow Award.

THE DOW AWARD is a citation for outstanding heroism and includes, as a tangible expression of appreciation, a $100 Canada Savings Bond. Winners are selected by the Dow Award Committee, a group of editors of leading Canadian newspapers.

The gas fumes were too much for the brave 27-year-old postman. Twice he staggered to the door, sick and dizzy, and filled his lungs with fresh air.

Finally he got the unconscious young woman out to the veranda. There he applied artificial respiration until firemen arrived to take over the task.

The DOW AWARD
DOW BREWERY • MONTREAL

ARCHIE

By Montana