THE FARM FRONT
by John Russell

Here's a timely warning which might be worth passing along to some of you at this time. Ice or snow which plugs the PLUMBING VENT PIPE projecting above the roof of a home can be a real source of peril, and possibly endanger the health of an entire family.

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"The plumbing system must be able to breathe," says a spokesman for the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating. "The vent pipes connect with all the waste lines in a home, letting in fresh air and preventing any accumulation of gas caused by the decay of waste material."

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In addition to this, he goes on to say, these vent pipes also let air into the waste lines to prevent waste water from creating a vacuum as it drains downward and thus siphoning your water traps dry. Sufficient water must always remain in the U-bend beneath each plumbing fixture to stop obnoxious gases from backing up into the home.

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So, every once in a while, it might be an idea to pay a few moments attention to that plumbing vent pipe on the roof, and make sure that it hasn't become clogged with ice, snow or some of last autumn's dead leaves.

* * *

Just what do farm folks worry about most? is the $64 question this week. Of course, many city people think that those living on farms have practically no worries at all, their idea of rural life being something like that of the little boy who said, "All that farmers have to do is stick things in the ground, and then wait for them to come up again."

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Anyway the editor of an agricultural journal south of the border thought it might be interesting to get an answer to that particular question, so he asked several hundred farm people what was mostly on their minds. And here are the answers—which are probably much the same as would be given to a similar quiz here.

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The younger people—from 20 to 30 years of age — are principally worried about where the money is coming from. Many of them started farming at a period when everything was high and even if their returns are good their costs are away up.

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Older farmers, especially those who have paid for their land and equipment, weren't worried so much about money as regarding their health. Rheumatism, heart trouble and other ailments occupy a lot of their thinking.

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Men who answered the questions put farm management problems in first place. Women were more concerned with family problems. And —this is rather striking—just twice as many men as women said that they had no problems at all. But perhaps that just proves that the ladies are just twice as truthful as we males. What do you think?

* * *

The Ontario Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. C. D. Graham, recently spoke about the advisability of more clover growing in this Province—a matter about which we had something to say quite recently. "Clover is most important," he stated, "and yet there are half a million fewer acres in Ontario producing such legume forage than there were 20 years ago."

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The Deputy Minister went on to say that the yield per acre is hardly being maintained either. "This is a condition which should not be allowed to exist. In the interest of our soils we should certainly be growing more legumes. Furthermore, the production of more clovers and palatable grasses will provide more home-grown proteins."

* * *

Questioned about hay and pasture mixtures, Mr. Graham said that since 1944 more than 2,000 acres of long-term demonstration plots had been laid down and that most of these are still in production. "Last year a program of problem soils was started, and in 1949 there will be two additional plots—three to five acres each—to each county."

* * *

Seems like a queer time of year, perhaps, for me to be talking about hay, pasture and other crops. Still —it won't be long now; although, as the fellow said, it might seem that way, especially when the side roads are buried under a few feet of "beautiful" snow.

On The Wrong Scent

During the North African campaign, Arab camp followers and merchants were as persistent as they were annoying. One of them, selling Oriental carpets, was particularly anxious and at last offended an officer who, losing his patience, said: "No, I tell you—No! Take the stinking thing away!"

The Arab now was offended and drew himself up in a dignified manner. "Sahib, it is not carpet that stinks—it is me."

All I Want For Christmas Is—Little Patricia Ann O'Brien was born during the holiday season equipped with—perhaps the popular song had something to do with it—two front teeth.

ANNE HIRST
Your Family Counselor

When a husband is incurably ill and demands that his wife divorce him to free herself of the burden, how is she to convince him she will not consider it?

If she will not consent, he threatens to kill himself.

A frightened wife writes me, in part: "My husband is a disabled veteran, whose malady will only become worse. For almost a year he worked fine, but all at once the pain hit him hard. Now he has not worked in two months.

"Our bills are adding up, and there is no income. I am looking for a job, but every place I go they say, 'No hiring sorry.'

TWO FINE PEOPLE

"But here is the real problem, and I'm scared to death! He loves me and wants me to leave or even divorce him, so I won't be tied down to a cripple! If I don't, he threatens to go away and commit suicide.

"Even if I find work, I'll be worried each day until I can get back home to him.

"Anne Hirst what shall I do? Sometimes I think I want to kill him and myself, too. Please help me!"

Sit down by your husband and talk to him quietly. Ask him how he would feel if the facts were reversed. If you had become an invalid, could not be a wife to him or give him children, feel yourself only an increasing burden he must carry for the rest of your life—

What would he say if you made the same threat?

I can guess his answer.

He must stop bemoaning his fate, and think of you. He must believe you when you say that you can face any hardship, and anxiety, bravely and without a whimper, so long as you two are together. Without him, your life would lose its meaning. You would wander through the year alone, hurt beyond tears that he did not trust you enough to accept whatever vicissitudes attended you.

It is hard to make sacrifices, yes. But often it is harder to accept them. It takes a spirit of humility which not many of us have. But if we put ourselves in another's place and view the whole picture through his eyes, we know the truth as it is, and bow our heads in gratitude.

Your husband has not yet come out of the shock of realizing his helplessness and his dependency. He is appalled by the idea, and naturally. But he will learn to accept the inevitable, as other soldiers have, and to relax in the knowledge of your deep love and eagerness to serve him.—As, indeed, he would lovingly serve you to the end of your days.

Don't worry about being away from him when you get that job. It will be hard on both of you at first, but these situations adjust themselves, emotionally and practically.

Calm your fears. You, and he, will come through, once you recover from the paralysis of this blow. Faith, and courage beyond your dreams, will come to you, and you will carry on like the fine people you are. (Write me later on, please, and let me know how things go.)

When tragedy attacks us, and we shudder under its shock, prayer and faith can keep us going. If you need courage, write Anne Hirst and let her help you find it. Address her at Box 1, 123 Eighteenth St., New Toronto, Ontario.

Modern Etiquette
by Roberta Lee

Q. Are two envelopes proper for a wedding invitation, and how are they used?

A. Yes; the first, or inner, envelope is used as a protection for the invitation and remains unsealed and written-upon. The second or outer envelope, is heavier, and large enough to contain the invitation and inner envelope. . . . . .

Q. When a man and a girl meet often, but have never been introduced, is it all right for the girl to begin speaking to him?

A. Yes, if she is interested, and is courageous enough to run the risk of making an undesirable acquaintance.

Q. When place cards are not used at an informal dinner, how should the guests be seated?

A. The hostess stands at her place at the foot of the table and designates the places.

Q. When one is taking a meal alone in a hotel dining room, is it all right to read a book while waiting to be served?

A. Yes; there is no reason why one should not read if alone. However, it would be extremely rude to do so if accompanied by another person.

Q. Under what circumstances is a man obligated to pay a womans streetcar or bus fare?

A. Only when he is her escort, never otherwise.

Merry Menagerie—By Walt Disney

"Okay, wise guy—if the chicken DIDN'T come first, then WHO sat on the egg?"

Modern Parent

Angelo Patri, the noted child psychologist, tells about the righteous parent who was being annoyed in her work by the noisy antics of her seven-year-old child. "Be quiet!" she shrieked. "Sit down and be quiet!" "No, I won't!" retorted the impudent youngster. Whereupon the resourceful mother commanded: "Stand up, then—I will be obeyed!"

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The SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Jesus' Early Teaching And Healing

Mark 1:14-15, 32-39; Luke 4:16-21.

Golden Text: And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.—Matt. 4:23.

The Foreign Missions Conference has called for the church to be pro-Christian rather than anti-Communist, implying that Christianity, really practised, will meet the needs of our age. When Jesus first spoke in the synagogue in his home town he read the Scripture which outlined His policy toward the down-trodden. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Jesus proposes to do more for men than provide financial security. Indeed much of our financial insecurity is due to the fact that men are spending their money for that which is not bread and their labour for that which satisfieth not. It is not more money that is needed so much as Christian principles to enable us to use money properly.

Jesus Christ was not making promises merely to secure favor. He fulfilled His word. He cast the devils out of men and healed the sick. No one was turned away because of race, social rank or poverty. His was a universal Gospel. Some have complained that Christianity has not done more. It has not failed but we have failed to receive it and apply it.

The teaching and healing ministry of our Lord was effective because it was supported by a life of prayer. He knew the strength and joy derived from private communion with His Father. If we are going to carry on the ministry of our Lord, we too must pray.

Elementary

Needing a new secretary, the firm's president decided to have applicants judged by a psychologist. Three girls were interviewed together.

"What do two and two make?" the psychologist asked the first.

"Four," was the prompt answer. To the same question the second girl replied: "It might be 22." The third girl answered: "It might be 22 and it might be four."

When the girls had left the room, the psychologist turned triumphantly to the president. "There," he said, "that's what psychology does. The first girl said the obvious thing. The second smelled a rat. The third was going to have it both ways. Now, which girl will you have?"

The president did not hesitate. "I'll have the blonde with the blue eyes," he said.

Efficiency

A minister of Scotch descent, rather noted for his close calculations also operated a small farm in Vermont.

One day he observed his hired man sitting idly by the plow, as the horses took a needed rest. This rather shocked the good man's sense of economy. After all, he was paying the man 25 cents an hour. So he said gently but reproachfully, "John, wouldn't it be a good plan for you to have a pair of shears and be trimming these bushes while the horses are resting?"

"That it would," replied John agreeably. "And might I suggest, your reverence, that you take a peck of potatoes into the pulpit and peel 'em during the anthem."

Close Friends

The little old lady had just returned from a trip to Europe and was busy impressing her friends with the beautiful things she had seen and the wonderful places she had visited, when a woman asked, "Did you by any chance see the Dardanelles?"

"See them?" the traveler replied impressively, "why, my dear, I had lunch with them!"

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