THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

The Toronto Anglers' and Hunters' Association has just started something which sounds like a really good idea—a predator control campaign lasting from June 1 to December 1. It is designed to interest hunters in helping to rid the country of harmful pests.

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Prizes are being offered for individuals and for five-man teams who do the best in the proposed clean-up; with foxes being rated at 50 points each; crows 20 points; skunks 15 points; starlings 10 points, and groundhogs 5 points.

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A special note on the entry blank is rather interesting. It reads: "Our predator control campaign is of considerable value and benefit to the farmer in the saving of crops and other farm products. However, it is recommended that members first obtain permission from the farmer before entering his land. The development of good farmer relations is in the interest of all."

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Just in case any of my readers are interested in hearing more about the proposed campaign, the address of the Toronto Anglers' and Hunters' Association is 16 Gould Street, Toronto. I am sure that if you write to that address, you will receive full details.

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Not long ago, I was re-reading a poem of Kipling's—I forget the title, but some of you will probably remember the verses I refer to. They tell of how, down through the centuries, native Britons—Hobden was their name—kept giving advice on the management of a certain piece of land to the different "conquerors" who temporarily possessed it . Among them was a Roman, a Dane, a Norman and so on.

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To one of them who was complaining that this field "didn't look no good," this particular Hobden answered, "Have it jest as you've a mind to, but I've proved it time on time, if you want to change her nature, you have GOT to give her lime."

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That line came back to me on looking over a release from the Ottawa Department of Agriculture, one item on which was headed, "Lime Will Correct Soil Activity." The article goes on to say "It is not generally known, but in some areas, even virgin soils require liming."

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Canada is now using lime at a rate of 450,000 tons a year, but much more than this should be employed if our soil is to be kept at a satisfactory level. Before lime is applied, the soil should be tested to determine if it is required, as high alkaline soils may be just as harmful to certain crops as acid soils are to others.

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Just in case some of you don't already know it, the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture have a joint lime subsidy policy, so that lime can be delivered very cheaply on the farm. The Provincial Governments operate this policy through their agricultural extension staffs, and farmers interested in purchasing agricultural lime should contact their local agricultural representative.

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From many parts of Canada come questions about the growing of beans for human consumption. While about 80 per cent. of the commercial crop is grown in Southwestern Ontario, field beans are grown successfully in a great variety of soils. They require about the same climatic conditions as corn.

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But great care is required to produce a crop of A1 quality. Planting should not take place till all danger of damage from spring frosts is past. Harvesting should aim at getting the crop in as clean and dry as possible. And in threshing, no matter whether you use a combine or an ordinary machine, care must be taken that as few beans as possible are broken or split.

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The small white pea bean is the type in greatest demand for commercial canning, and in Southwestern Ontario, the Michelite, because of its yield and superior quality, has largely replaced the Robust variety, once extensively grown. The Corvette variety has a little larger seed that Michelite, and occupies a much smaller acreage.

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In some areas, where earlier maturity is required, the Burbank variety is frequently grown—it is very popular, for example, in the irrigation districts in Alberta. The brown seeded Norwegian variety is earlier than any of the white seeded kinds. It bakes well and can be recommended for areas where really early maturity is essential.

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Several varieties with colored seed are grown, and of these, the Yellow Eye is the most popular. It is highly regarded as a baking bean bean. Unfortunately, the yields are low as compared to the common white pea type. Which will be enough of beans—and of this column—for a week.

An Idea Many Places Might Copy

"The joint committee," writes G. Y. Clement, which sponsored the Wallaceburg Water Safety Drive, have desired me to write to you to express our appreciation of the assistance given by the Red Cross in our campaign. This campaign was instituted due to a tragic series of child drownings extending over the years, probably due to the dangerous situation in our town. We have a very deep river here, and the town is built around its forks, and it seems to constitute a regular trap for young children.

"When the last drowning occurred, in January, the local Kinsmen Club, Rotarians, Optimists, and Junior Chamber of Commerce, formed a joint committee to deal with the problem, and worked closely with the town council and school boards. This has been done, and an inhaler has been purchased, and 25 life-saving posts, complete with ring buoys and gaff poles, have been erected at strategic points along the river banks, and the town has purchased an aluminum boat and a fast pick-up truck. Classes in the Schaefer method of artificial respiration have been set on foot, through every organization in the town, as well as the factories, and we hope that several hundred people will receive instructions within the next week or ten days." — From the Salvation Army "News Bulletin".

It now becomes a race for towns to increase their trade territory and at the same time to know what to do with the cars when they come.—Knoxville Empress.

Home Made Lie-Detector—Chicago's Crime Laboratory wanted a new lie detector, but learned that a factory-made machine would cost the city $1295. Policeman Joe, left, and John Price, economy-minded brothers, thought they could do better than that. With an O.K. from the commissioner, they built the detector above, using some old parts and some new ones. Cost: $100.

Is It The Lost Loot of Lima?

An American expedition equipped with the most up-to-date treasure-hunting instruments that science can provide, claims to have found the long-lost treasure of Cocos Island, said to be worth $750,000,000. The expedition, led by Mr. Ellis Patterson, used electric metal detectors and high explosive.

The real-life treasure island of Cocos (not to be confused with the Cocos or Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean) lies in the Eastern Pacific in latitude 5° 32' North, longitude 87° 2' West. Owned by the Central American republic of Costa Rica, but uninhabited, it is four miles long and two miles wide

For over a century, adventurers have been looking for three separate treasure hoards, said to lie hidden on Cocos Island. For it served as a remote safe-deposit for the men of the skull and crossbones who pillaged and plundered up and down the west coast of the Americas during the seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Pirate loot was landed there from the crammed holds of marauding ships, to be "deposited" by bloodthirsty crews who wished to sail away once more to pillage and kill.

The Welshman, Captain Edward Davis, was one of the first pirates to "invest" in Cocos Island. His ship, the Bachelor's Delight, a captured Danish gunboat, terrorised the seaboard towns of the Caribbean for four years.

He buried this loot in Cocos and for 14 years lay low. Then he set out in a 36-gun ship, named The Blessing, to return and collect the treasure. He never got to Cocos. On the way, he turned pirate again, sacked the City of Tolu on the Spanish Main, and was killed by a Spanish musket ball.

Cocos was also the favorite deposit box of Benito Bonito. A Portuguese pirate, he had earned for himself the unenviable title of "Benito the Bloody Hand."

Just how many hoards Bonito buried on Cocos will never be known, but in 1819 he landed the entire contents of two Mexican treasure ships. On the beach he divided the spoil into four separate heaps, then hid each in a separate place. This loot included 40 tons of silver dollars, eight hundred gold bars, hundreds of gem-studded weapons, and caskets of jewelry.

Harried by pursuing ships, Bonito left Cocos and headed south to round the Horn. Off Tierra del Fuego he was intercepted by H.M.S. Espiegle and with the exception of one man named Chappelle, he and his crew were killed in the fighting.

Fate of the "Mary Dear"

Chappelle never returned to Cocos, but before he died, he drew a rough chart to show where the treasure had been buried. But it was never found.

In 1820, while fleeing from the liberating armies of Bolivar, the Spanish Viceroy placed on board the Bristol brigatine Mary Dear all Peru's gold reserves and valuables worth several millions of pounds which had been taken from Lima. Captain Thompson, in command of the Mary Dear, was ordered to stand well out to sea until Spanish warships could convoy him to Spain.

Instead, Thompson seized the treasure and headed for Cocos Island. There he and his crew placed it in a cave which they had excavated from the cliff-side.

Then Thompson turned traitor. While his companions were inside the cave, gloating over the treasure, he exploded a charge in the entrance and sealed them all in.

Half a dozen well-equipped expeditions have since been to the island to find that cave, including one led by Sir Malcolm Campbell. All came back empty-handed.

Perhaps the American expedition has had better luck, though it may be one of the other buried hoards that has been discovered. For no mention has been made of the grisly guardians of Thompson's treasure.

Perhaps they are still waiting . . .

Broken Leg or New Ladder

How can a fellow tell when a rung on his ladder is going to break? On the list of farm injuries are a number of broken legs, arms, shoulders, heads that came when a rung broke.

It makes a difference whether you're on the third rung from the bottom or the third from the top.

Maybe every farmer ought to figure out the life of each ladder, and throw it away a couple of years before the breaking point.

But how do you tell?

All we are sure of is that most farmers keep ladders around too long. A new ladder is cheaper than a hospital bill for a broken leg.

How It Was Done

English society was agog when a duke married a blonde from the Music Hall chorus. It was even more agog when a Bond Street art gallery exhibited a life-sized portrait of her in the altogether. The duke was furious. "I don't know what's biting you," said the wife. "Believe me, there's nothing wrong. He did it from memory."

If You're Asked To Make A Speech

Offhand, you may never have considered extemporaneous speaking as a particular skill you needed to acquire. You may have been a head table guest, but not the principal speaker. You may have received a gift or a special recognition in public and have accepted it with having only to say thank you. You may have been seated on the platform because you accompanied the honor guest.

None of these occasions called for a speech, but there may be another time when you will find it necessary to speak extemporaneously. It is important that you be able to speak well, even though you are not the main attraction. There is no special technique to learn, for the manner in which you talk informally is definitely yours and not one for another person to imitate writes Carol Biba in the Christian Science Monitor.

But there are a few guideposts to follow along the speaker's road. Once you securely stake them down, you will find that speaking without preparation can be an interesting and sometimes delightful experience, provided always, of course, that you have something to say!

Your attitude has much to do with putting yourself and your audience at ease, once you stand before them. You may be able to give this a variety of names; we shall call it poise.

There are easier jobs than standing up before a group and speaking intelligently as well as amusingly, especially when you have had no previous notice. Nothing is so disconverting to an audience as to have a speaker obviously unprepared, not in words, but in how to get them out! Here's a tip from an experienced head-table guest, who is often called upon for the well-known "few words." He picks out one person in his audience and imagines that he is talking with him alone. The rest of the crowd fades into the background. He forgets that he has many listeners; they become just one.

That is one way to gain poise. You may figure out a device that will serve you equally well.

Keep your head up—and chin, too—when you are talking before an audience. This goes for talking over the radio, also, as any of you know who have ever broadcast. You have all seen the speaker who grasps the back of a chair with his hands and talks into the tablecloth or to the platform floor, completely oblivious of the people out front. Look your audience in the eye. They will immediately decide that you have something to say. Note also the value of a smile and a pleasant expression. That counts more than anything else, when you are measuring favorable audience reaction.

Once you have risen to your feet and have, we hope, your audience with you, remember to be brief. Extemporaneous speeches sometimes assume the major proportions or a reasonable facsimile of a full-fledged speech. If you are asked to say a few words, remember the definition of few. It is, according to the dictionary, not many.

Some speakers like to put in a plug for a favorite idea of theirs, which may or may not have a point for what is being discussed at the meeting.

Your third guidepost then is Stick to the Subject. Neither spend your time telling several funny stories. For a short speech, one story well told is sufficient.

Choose your words carefully. There are many persons who spend several minutes telling how unaccustomed they are to making speeches or how they happened to be at the meeting and at what hour they were asked to speak. Explanations of this sort are usually boring to one's audience unless there is an excellent reason for going into such detail. If you have been asked to speak on short notice, the chairman or master of ceremonies will probably say so in his introduction. If then you make a good speech, your audience will not have to be reminded that you were unprepared. That will be so much to yor credit.

Sometimes you are called on to speak from the floor. This is indeed a test of your ability for extemporaneous speaking. Remember to acknowledge courteously the request that you speak. Try to speak loudly and clearly, so that no one is unable to hear you.

And, above all, never refuse an opportunity to speak even though it be for only a few minutes. Extemporaneous speaking is best described that it is being yourself. And if you can become skilled in this kind of public appearance, you will discover that you have a most useful talent.

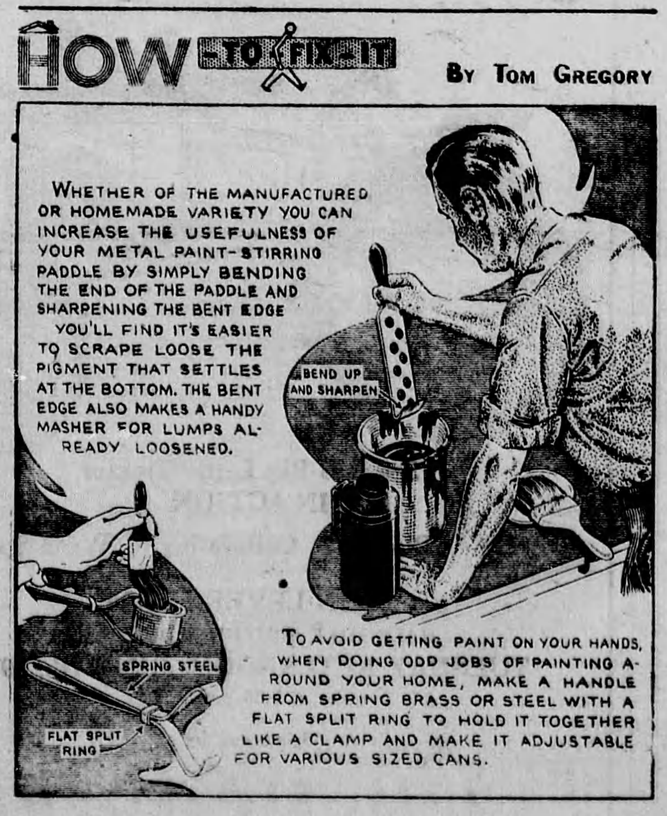
Where He Learned

Four young heroes whose ages ranged from ten to 15 years were being honored by the local Lions Club for rescuing a comrade who had fallen through the ice. One of the Club members asked, "Did the idea of making a human chain to pull your friend out come to you intuitively or did you learn the method in Boy Scout or YMCA work?"

"Naw," replied one of the heroes. "I saw that in a Comic."

Strike Leader — Carrying a strike sign, Tommy Thompson, president of the UAW-CIO Local 600, takes a place in the picket line surrounding the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant in Detroit. More than 62,000 workers walked out over an alleged assembly line "speedup."

Three New Faces at Paris Parley—Three new faces will appear at the conference table in Paris when the Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers tries again to unsnarl the German problem. Left to right in this photo montage are U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson; British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin; French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Vishinsky. Only Bevin was present in London in December, 1947, when the Big Four last considered Germany.



LITTLE REGGIE

By Margarita