THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

The Spring cleanup season is here again, and it's time for burning dried grass, leaves, trash, brush and all the other odds and ends that gather around a place during the winter. But before you start, give a thought to this—HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL MEET DEATH BECAUSE OF SUCH CLEAN-UPS?

* * *

I haven't the full statistics for Canada, or the United States either. But I did see recently that last spring, in the State of Iowa alone, no less than fifteen people met death through these Spring bonfires; also, that most of such victims were children under ten years old, or adults over sixty.

* * *

To get the trash burned up without undue risk of life or limb, it will pay to follow these simple rules.

* * *

ONE: Don't leave bonfires or brush fires unattended.

* * *

TWO: Burn trash or rubbish in covered wire enclosures, or in incinerators.

* * *

THREE: Start open fires ONLY in the center of large cleared areas.

* * *

FOUR: Keep your fires small by adding only small amounts of trash at a time.

* * *

FIVE: Don't start grass or rubbish fires on a windy day.

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SIX: Don't start bonfires late in the day, or around mealtime, when you can't be there to watch them.

* * *

SEVEN: Never use coal oil, gasoline, or any other infiammable liquid either to start a fire or to help keep it going.

* * *

EIGHT: Always stand on the upwind side of a fire. If your clothing should happen to catch fire, DON'T START TO RUN. Instead, roll on the ground and keep your head upwind. A blanket, sack or coat may be used to smother flames.

* * *

And now, something of interest—I hope— to those of you who raise chickens. Last year, out in the middle west, demonstration flock owners were divided into two groups; those that crowded chicks by allowing less than half a square foot per chick up to eight weeks old, and those who allowed that much or more.

* * *

The crowded group averaged 15 per cent mortality; the uncrowded group lost only 6 per cent. Cost of production in the first group was 39½ cents a pound; in the second it was only 31 cents. Comment is unnecessary; the facts speak for themselves.

* * *

If your chicks show a tendency to pile or crowd at night, your brooder house may be to blame. W. R. Whitfield, writing in Wallaces Farmer, has some worthwhile comments and suggestions regarding this.

* * *

Improper temperature conditions cause most crowding o· piling. The trouble usually shows up when chicks are from a few weeks old up to roosting time. And the dangerous time of day is about sundown, or when chicks no longer can see to eat.

* * *

If all your brooder house windows are in the south wall, you are more likely to have crowding trouble. The old-fashioned string of south windows make that side of the house cooler and keep it lighted longer. The light encourages chicks to collect near the windows for late-in-the-day eating. Then the coolness causes them to pile up when darkness falls.

* * *

The trouble is worse under warm-room brooder conditions—when oil or coal brooders are used.

* * *

Crowding doesn't often happen with electric brooding, probably because lights usually are used with that kind of brooder. The brooder light seems to cut down on crowding, even when housing conditions aren't so good.

* * *

Piling seldom is reported in a brooder house which has the right number of windows in the right places. In one up-to-date experimental brooder house, for instance, there is just one window in each of three walls—east, south, west. That means there is little difference in either light or temperature over the entire floor area.

* * *

So chicks don't crowd to one side to eat just before sundown. They're scattered over the house to finish their eating; so when darkness comes they can sense the hover's heat and find their way back to a warm spot for their night's sleep.

* * *

If you have piling-up trouble because your brooder house is old-fashioned, you can fix things up in a hurry. Just remove all but one window on the south side (and cover roof windows), then add one to both east and west walls. Your house will be a lot safer for brooding in any kind of weather.

* * *

If you're suspicious of this idea, try this test: Cover the extra south windows with cardboard. If you have four, five or six windows on the south, cover the middle ones and leave just those on each end in use. If that improves the situation—as it probably will—then you can go ahead with a mor permanent rearrangement of windows.

Present Iowa State College recommendations call for not more than one window for each 10 linear feet of wall space in brooder houses.

At the church children's party: Oh, Vicar, will you sing your song to the children now, or shall we let them enjoy themselves for another half-hour?

Look, No Hands—Tony Rocca, one of the grunt-and-groan set's more versatile performers, disdains the use of commonplace headlocks and toeholds, preferring to flatten his opponent with an indelicate flying kick to the jaw. Victim of the unorthodox treatment in this match is Ali Baba, who would have done better with the aid of his Forty Thieves—he lost the bout.

SPORTS

by A Sixbit Critic

A favorite occupation of baseball and hockey fans, when they have nothing better to do and sometimes when they have is picking the order of finish before the season begins. Most of us are satisfied to pick the teams we think will finish on top or, at the most, those that will be first, second and third.

* * *

However, there are some real sporting bugs who go right down the line from first to eighth—in baseball, that it. And if you imagine this is an easy thing to do we might say that the odds against predicting the exact order of finish in either major league are 40,400 to 1. The odds against picking both of them correctly 1,625,702,400.

* * *

(If you doubt the correctness of either of the above figures, get out your slide rule and dope it out yourself—or else put in a beef to Arthur Daley of The New York Times, from whom we swiped them.)

* * *

All this serves as notice that we are about to make our annual National and American League predictions, and if they come to you a little bit late we apologize and hope you'll be able to catch up on any sleep you may have lost awaiting them. We shall not try and pick more than one in each loop, finding it hard enough to get two into the correct slots, let alone a dozen or more. (Last year we picked Boston Red Sox and Brooklyn Dodgers, but had the first mentioned knocked off in a last-minute photo finish, as some of you may recall.)

* * *

In the American League our sentimental choice would be either the Philadelphia Athletics or the Detroit Tigers; and when we first began peering into our much battered crystal ball, it appeared as though the latter must get the call. But the more we studied the respective strengths of the respectice clubs, the more it looked as though we would have to settle, once again, for the Boston Red Sox.

* * *

On paper they looked invincible, in spite of the sneaking feeling that some of their key men show a slight tendency to choke up when the chips are down and the going tough. In fact if they should happen to get away to a good start—something they have failed to do in the past seasons—they might win the Junior League by as far as that proverbial strong country boy can throw the proverbial red apple.

* * *

Yes, as we said before, we had definitely decided on Mr. McCarthy's Red Sox. And then—and then—we happened to read about some doings which kicked our carefully compounded dope every whichway, and then some.

* * *

These doings concerned a gentleman of the name of Joseph DiMaggio, who will be 36 years of old age come November—which is plenty of age to be carrying on one's shoulders in big league circles. In addition, Mr. DiMaggio has been so troubled with aching gams that it was uncertain that he would even get to the barrier in this season's race. So here are just a couple of things which that poor over-aged cripple did in his first Yankee Stadium appearance—an Exhibition game with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

* * *

"In the fifth inning he raced some 100 feet and robbed Brooklyn's Roy Campanella of a triple, and possibly of an inside-the-park-homer, with the most amazing catch witnessed in the Stadium since DiMaggio's job on a drive by Hank Greenburg a decade ago. —DiMag, stationed in dead center, broke toward his right when Campanella's bat contacted the ball. It was 100 to 1 and no takers that the blow would be for extra bases. But DiMaggio never gave up. With characteristic grace he headed for the bleacher fence in left-center some thirty or forty feet short of the 457-foot sign. Joe, going like the wind, his back to home plate, stuck out his gloved hand and made the catch."

* * *

That should have been enough for a fugitive from the hospital, but not for Joe. "The cheers, which were deafening, had hardly died away when DiMaggio came up to the plate a minute or two later and, after working Roe to a 3-and-2 count, propelled a terrific drive into the lower left field stands. The ball landed about twenty rows up and, needless to report, the reception which accompanied his leisurely trot around the paths was at least equal to the one he got for his incredible catch."

* * *

Well, when we read those lines—and we only wish we had been there instead of trying to find excuses for not starting to do a little gardening—we smashed the crystal ball, chucked out the tea-leaves, and started over. We know that the New York Yankees don't figure to beat the Boston Red Sox; or, for that matter, to much more than squeeze past Philadelphia Athletics for third place. We know that they pulled a miracle last season, and that miracles, like lightning, seldom strike twice in the same place. Still—they're our pick. We're going to hunt up a nice liberal bookie and invest all our worldly wealth on the New York Yankees to take the American League pennant. And if they shouldn't chance to come through—well, we'll just charge the two dollars up to sentiment.

* * *

What about the National League, you say? Well, if the Brooklyn Dodgers don't win by at least ten to fifteen games, there just isn't any justice. They should outclass all the others by so much that the race might be all over by July the Fourth. Philadelphia Phils might be second, and St. Louis Cardinals are third. But the Dodgers appear to be the biggest cinch to appear in sports since the days of Man O'War. He was the horse, you might remember, who once appeared to be home free, and finished second to a thing called Upset.

Lost Liberty

Much human suffering is due to the failure of early diagnosis—and this is no less true in economics and politics than in medicine. Early symptoms often go unheeded. They may pass; they may mean any one of many things; they do not substantially impair—these are typical human reactions to early warnings.

But it is a fact that for countless millions of people, liberty has been lost—lost for the rest of their lives and perhaps for the lives of their children. These people have often failed to recognize the early symptoms. The promises of statism, of more government intervention, of more planning, are alluring.

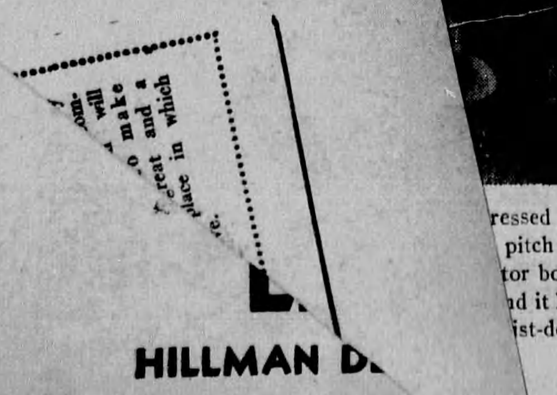
The struggle for security through government action is a struggle to avoid risks and uncertainties. But government can make our lives free from risk only if it has the power and authority to control our actions. With the responsibility we impose upon government must go the power to implement that responsibility. This is elemental.

The struggle between controlism and socialism on the one hand, and individualism and liberalism on the other, is one in which each of us must make his individual choice—a choice which, fortunately, is still ours to make.

—From "Socialism in America."

AT THE BROOKFIELD ZOO an orangutan baby went on an eating binge. It consumed five bananas, four apples, five chocolate bars, then finished off with a full can of cleansing powder.

THE RADIO SPONSORS of Gene Autry, the crooning cowboy, signed a contract to pay him $500 a week extra for not appearing on any television program for a year. Autry commented with a smile. "I figure I've got the best deal in television today."



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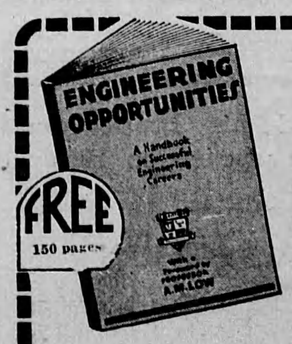

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