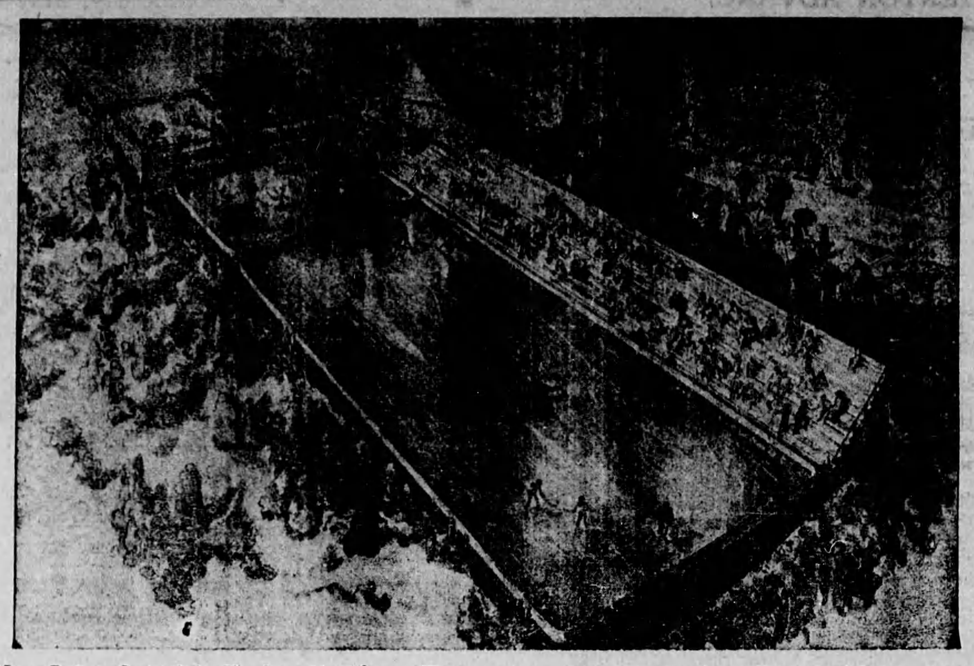

May Solve Ontario's Hockey Problem—The outdoor rink shown above is an architects drawing f the kind of outdoor, artificial ice rinks which have become so popular in recent years, all over the United States, especially in New York City where the Rockefeller Plaza is a skating surface of this kind. The building at the end is a dressing room, refreshment booth, and refrigeration plant. Ten of these rinks are being built in Toronto and there will be two of them in Hamilton. The refrigerating pipes are embedded in the polished composition floor so that it makes a splendid surface for roller skating and summer dancing.

THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

Canadian farmers, and especially those in the poultry business, owe a real debt of gratitude to W. A. Brown, C.B.E., who recently retired to private life after 39 years with the Dominion Department of Agriculture. For many of those years he directed the activities of the Poultry Marketing and Production Service, and it was under his guidance that the poultry industry developed from something of a sideline to farming, into the highly efficient and widespread organization it is today.

* * *

An Ontario man, Mr. Brown, was born 65 years ago in Meaford and attended the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph aad the University of Maine. He turned down several promising offers of academic work to join the Department of Agriculture, in 1911, as a poultry specialist.

* * *

He pioneered in national poultry breeding policies, and had the satisfaction of seeing them established in Canada long before they became common in any other country. (Of course, there is still Russia to be heard from. Probably they'll be telling us that one of their scientists did all that Brown did, and more, several hundred years ago. But that's by the way).

* * *

Other projects sponsored by this leader in our poultry industry were national grading standards for eggs and poultry. When they were established in Canada in 1915 they were unknown in other countries. A refinement of this basic principle of national grading is shown in the establishment of registered egg grading stations, all operated on the same method, from coast to coast.

* * *

As chief of the poultry services, the procuring and marketing of the tremendous quantity of eggs and egg powder shipped to Britain during the Second World War were largely Mr. Brown's responsibility. That the job was well done is shown by the fact that over 505,000,000 dozen eggs were shipped in fresh, dried or frozen form, valued at $191,000,000. In addition, $45,000,000 worth of dressed poultry was sold to the United Kingdom and the United States.

* * *

The high regard with which Canadian egg products were received on the British market is a fitting tribute to Mr Brown's untiring efforts. That they met with such praise goes back, in large measure, to his pioneer work in establishing national grading standards a generation ago. And I am sure every reader of this column will join with me in wishing Mr. Brown many years in which to enjoy a well-earned rest.

* * *

Thousands of farmers—and other folk, too—have gone about mixing their own concrete, and then wondered why the job didn't prove any too satisfactory. The Experimental Farm at Swift Current hands out some valuable advice on this important matter, and starts off by saying—DON'T use too much water in mixing concrete, and DON'T FORGET to screen pit-run gravel.

* * *

Think of a brick wall. Here large pieces of baked clay (bricks) are held together with mortar. A mortar that is too "sloppy" oozes out, and a weak wall will result. In many ways, concrete is similar to a brick wall. Coarse material is held together by mortar. The mortar in this case is a mixture of sand, Portland cement and water. This is mixed along with the coarse material all in the one operation.

* * *

The strength of the mixture when it has "set" will depend upon the amount of water used in relation to the cement. Note this point. It is the amount of water used in relation to the cement that is so important.

* * *

The dealer from whom you buy your cement will be able to get useful bulletins on mixing and using concrete for you. Ask for "Quality Concrete" and "What the Farmer Can Do With Concrete." These are published by the Portland Cement Association.

* * *

It pays to screen pit-run gravel. Then use the coarse and fine material according to the directions. If too much fine material is used in relation to the coarse material, more cement will be required. At the Swift Current station, most pit-run gravel contains too much sand. It was found that a man's wages could be paid screening the gravel. A good workman would handle enough material in an hour to save nearly one sack of cement.

* * *

Properly graded aggregates (sand and gravel), the right amount of water and cement, will give a dense and strong concrete at a minimum cost.

He Wrestles With His Daughter's Killer

Every day, Captain Jim Roose, late of the Foreign Legion, wrestles with the lioness which caused the death of his ten-year-old daughter —and his brother.

As well as grappling with the lioness, as part of his act at a French circus, he puts his head in her mouth, persuades her mate to take a piece of meat from between his lips and lick his face.

During the war Jim Roose was a prisoner. His brother managed the show for him, and his daughter used to come and go in the cages and play happily with the lioness, who returned her affection.

But one day the little girl's hair was bleached. She entered the cage as confidently as ever—but the lioness failed to recognize her. Mistaking her for a stranger, the beast leapt . . . and within a few moments the little girl was dead.

Some time later the lioness savaged Jim's brother, who also died from his injuries. When Jim came back from the war he grimly resolved to carry on the show in the true circus tradition. He re-trained the lions and now tries to forget that the lioness was the killer of his loved ones.

The rum-and-brandy method of catching is being used in New South Wales, where rabbits are made drunk and then gathered up.

SPORTS-&

by A Sixbit Critic

Amateur hockey in Southern Ontario is in a rather bad way, and it isn't—as some allege—because the rising generation prefers to take its physical exercise via radio or television. The condition is caused simply by the scarcity of proper playing surfaces.

* * *

We recall one "crooshial" game down in Ottawa many years ago when the Toronto St. Pats upset the highly favored Senators with the players practically skating on bare boards, and a weird hockey spectacle it was, at that. But, by and large, a certain amount of ice is necessary if the "world's fastest sport" is to be a success.

* * *

And, of recent years, the weatherman has been clean neglecting to provide natural ice in reasonable quantities over a very large section of this fair province of ours. The result is that the kids in such sections don't get the necessary practice, so that big-league scouts—out to get the replacement material—now head north and west, and pay little attention to what was once the greatest breeding-ground on earth for hockey stars.

* * *

Many Ontario centres have been attempting to combat this condition by building covered-in artificial ice arenas. But this appears to be a rather risky proposition. With building costs what they are today, the "nut," or original investment, is pretty steep, especially when the home team that is expected to bring in the necessary dough for carrying charges is liable to get knocked out of competition before the season is well started.

* * *

Elsewhere on this page will be seen an architect's drawing of something which may turn out to be the solution of this problem—the problem of a small or medium-size community providing the kids with ice for skating and hockey without going into hock for the next three generations or so. It is the outdoor artificial rink.

* * *

Although new to Canada, this type of rink is by no means a Johnny-come-lately. As far back as 1889, there was one built in that dear Paris, although you can't prove this by us, and the much publicized and photographed one at Rockefeller Plaza, New York, is also of this nature.

* * *

The rink—that is to say the playing surface—consists of a polished concrete slab, and the ice-making is done once a week or so by a booster freezing unit, then kept in skating condition by auxiliary units that are part of the plant. Of course, if the mercury drops low enough, natural freezing takes the place of artificial at a considerable saving.

* * *

We are not able to say—except approximately—just what the actual cost would be, as compared to a regular type enclosed artificial ice arena. However, a committee from one Southern Ontario community recently went into the matter, and this is what it found out.

* * *

To build a complete, covered arena would cost them anywhere from $80,000 to $125,000—figures far too high for them even to consider at this stage. But they could have an outdoor affair of the kind we have been discussing for around $30,000—with the "booster freezing unit" setting them back about $35,000.

* * *

Even this would appear to be pretty steep, but it isn't as bad as it looks at first sight. That's because the aforementioned committee found that there is a strong possibility that they wouldn't have to buy the booster freezing unit at all. As we understand it, these units are portable, and can be travelled around the country, visiting a number of places to do the necessary "new" freezing—the permanent auxiliary units keeping the ice in proper condition between visits.

* * *

Now we wouldn't like anybody to get the notion that we're trying to peddle this idea in any way, shape or form. We don't even know the name of the people who make the rinks, or the freezing units. Our entire knowledge consists of what we have been told, or have read in the papers. Still, when it is said that no less than 10 of these outfits are going to be built in Toronto, and two in Hamilton, it would seem that they must have some merit. And we think there are many places in Ontario that would do well to look into them before committing themselves to expenses they might later regret—or sitting back and grousing, "Aw, heck, the kids around here are just too lazy to take an interest in playing hockey; they'd sooner go to the movies."

Sitting Bull—El toro took a tumble during this bullfight in Mexico City, and landed in what appeared to be a sitting position. Whirling his cape as he gracefully avoids the bull's sharp horns is Antonio Valesquez, one of Mexico's top matadors. Bullfighting was a feature of the recent Spring Festival in Mexico City.

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