THE FARM FRONT
by John Russell

With the disastrous Manitoba floods still vivid in most people's minds a few words about water control and drainage might not be amiss. The control of water has long been recognized as a responsibility of not only the state but the individual as well. Almost four hundred years before the birth of Christ the great Greek philosopher Plato wrote in his "Laws" the following:

* * *

"If there be a heavy rain and one of those on the lower ground injures some tiller of the upper ground or some one who has a common wall refuses to give his neighbour an outlet for water; or, again, if some one living on the higher ground recklessly lets off the water on his lower neighbour, and they cannot come to terms with one another let him, if he will, summon the offender, if he be in the city before the warden of the city and if he be in the country before the warden of the country, and let him obtain a decision determining what each of them is to do. And he who will not abide by the decision shall suffer for his morose and malignant temper, and pay a fine equivalent to double the value of the injury, because he was unwilling to submit to the magistrates."

* * *

Most countries at some time or another have assisted farmers in the drainage of low land; or the government itself has undertaken the drainage of certain areas so that they could be developed for agricultural purposes. Here in Canada all the provinces have one or more acts on the statutes designed to assist farmers by one method or another in the drainage of agricultural land; and several Departments of Agriculture have additional policies that provide even further assistance to the individual farmer.

* * *

Most of the Canadian drainage acts now in effect reseumble those of our own province. While Ontario has five acts, the purposes of them are two-fold. The first is to enable a group of farmers to secure an outlet; and the second is to provide loans, at low interest rates, for the construction of drains.

* * *

1. Municipal Drainage Act—Makes it possible to secure outlets for large areas. The work is generally carried on by the municipal council when they are petitioned to do so by a group of farmers. An engineer is appointed who makes a survey and estimates cost. The cost is assessed to all benefiting from the project.

* * *

2. The Ditches and Watercourses Act—Applies to smaller areas with definite limitations as to size.

* * *

3. The Municipal Drainage Act—for the construction of drainage Permits councils to borrow money for the construction of drainage works.

* * *

4. Main Outlets—An act of the Legislature permits a municipal council to borrow money for the construction of outlet ditches and under the Provincial Aid to Drainage Act a free grant of 20 per cent of the cost of the work up to a maximum of $20,000 may be granted to a municipality.

* * *

5. Tile Drainage—Assistance is given for the installation of tile underdrainage by the provision of surveys at a very nominal cost; and under the Tile Drainage Act a farmer may borrow up to $2,000 per 100 acres at 3 per cent interest but not more than 75 per cent of the cost of the work.

* * *

Unlike similar acts in the Maritime Provinces, money has been borrowed under this Act for tile drainage work every year since it was originally passed in 1879. Naturally, the amounts borrowed have varied widely but in 65 years approximately $4,600,000 has been borrowed by farmers. The municipal councils who administer these loans and who must take the first step in making the money available for farmers deserve a great deal of credit for their progressive attitude.

* * *

Which will be about enough, for just now, about drainage; and I realize that the foregoing, although it's about a "wet" subject, is liable to prove pretty dry reading. Still, it's surprising how many there are—folks who consider themselves well-informed too—who know little or nothing about these matters. We're all to apt to say "the Government should do this" or "the Government should do that" instead of finding out what the Government actually is ready and willing to do.

Sock With A Sock!—Anna Hughes Patteson registers real surprise as she checks the size of one of the socks to be presented to Gov. James E. Folsom of Alabama at the 42nd annual governors' conference. The socks, size 18, measure 18 inches from heel to toe. A dozen socks for each governor will be among the forty gifts from West Virginia industries to be presented to governors and their wives.

Beaver Checks In — Sheilagh Neale models something new in fur coats, displayed at the recent British Fur Trade Manufacturers' showing. Beaver furs are dyed in contrasting colors and sewn together in this bold check pattern.

Passed The Bucks — A teen-age couple, William and Helen Zoerndt, were arrested in Amsterdam, N.Y., after a successful counterfeiting career. The 18-year-old ex-grocery clerk made fake $5, $10 and $20 bills and his read-headed 17-year-old wife passed them.

Modern Etiquette
By Roberta Lee

Q. What is the proper procedure of a best man in regarding to the wedding ring?

A. He carries it in a righthand pocket, and is sure to remember the exact pocket. He joins the bridegroom in the room set aside for their use and walks with him to the spot where the marriage is to take place. The best man stands one pace behind the bridegroom. Anticipating the moment that the ring is to be used, he advances and places it in his friend's hand.

Q. When an invitation is accepted by letter, is it considered good taste to repeat the exact date and hour mentioned in the invitation?

A. It is not only good taste to do so, but it also helps avoid any misunderstanding as to the date and time.

Q. I have seen people chewing ice cream. Is that good form?

A. Chewing ice cream is neither necessary, nor is it good form.

Q. Is it proper for the bridegroom to mail some of the wedding invitations to his circle of intimate friends?

A. No; all the invitations should be mailed from the bride's home. The bride's fiance should, of course, furnish a list of his relatives and friends to whom he wishes invitations sent.

Q. It it all right to lay a slice of bread on the plate or table in order to butter it?

A. Never. Bread should always be broken into small pieces, which are held between the fingers while being buttered.

Q. Should a young man rise when an elderly or distinguished man enters the room?

A. This is always the well-bred thing to do.

Q. What is the correct wording for a letter inviting someone to pay a visit in your home?

A. There is no exact rule of etiquette governing this, other than that the letter should be friendly and sincere—and the reason for the invitation is usually stated.

Q. After returning home from her honeymoon, should a bride wait for her friends to call on her before she calls on them?

A. Yes; usually she is not expected to make any calls until her friends have come to see her.

Q. Should a young girl offer her hand when she is being introduced to an elderly woman?

A. Not unless the elderly woman offers her hand first.

Q. If the person making an introduction does not pronounce a name distinctly, is it all right for me to ask him to repeat the name?

A. Never. Direct your question to the person to whom you are being introduced. The correct procedure is, "How do you do? I am very sorry I did not hear your name."

GRASS SILAGE SOLVES WINTER FEED PROBLEM

"Grass silage will be the savior of Canada's winter feed problem," Melvin Shuh, Kitchener, Ontario dairyman, told a meeting of 1,000 district farmers at the Waterloo County annual seed fair recently. He said that grass silage brought his herd of 75 Jerseys through the last few winters with no loss of production and in better condition than had been his experience with hay and corn feed.

"It takes courage to go into this program," he warned. "You have to keep after the land at all times, fertilize every year for greater yields and plow your fields under and re-seed every two years." In Shuh's opinion the younger grass left lying for an hour after cutting made the best feed. It is much cheaper than corn and involves less trouble in growing and handling.

SPORTS &
by A Sixbit Critic

We had thought that our neighbors to the immediate south took their national sport seriously enough—but it would appear that the folks "Down Under" go in for baseball in an even more thorough and intensive manner. Evidently—not satisfied with just playing the game—they also indulge in something known as "baseball field games," with records made and broken, records carefully kept, and all the rest of it.

* * *

But you'll no doubt understand what we're getting at if we pass along a few quotes taken from a recent Melbourne, Australia, dispatch regarding the matter.

* * *

"Robert G. Jones of the University of California recently drove a baseball 511 feet 9 inches and bettered the previous world record by 8 feet 6inches, becoming the second baseballer ever to better 500 feet. The first to top 500 was Australian Wally Driver, who accomplished this prodigious feat when he drove the baseball clean out of the St. Kilda Football Ground into the crowd. Where the ball landed on the full was noted by an official and the amazing distance of 503 feet 3 ins. was reported."

* * *

(We take it that "on the full" means where the ball lights, and doesn't allow for any bounce or roll. Also, in passing, we would say that the Aussie bleacheriites can't be such avid ball-glommers as we have on this side of the Pacific. But let us on with the tale.)

* * *

"It was unbelievable that a man could hit a ball so far, especially as the best professional effort was 70-odd feet short of this record. The mighty Babe Ruth had once driven a ball 421 feet 8 inches, and this was acclaimed a sensational effort—and now a schoolboy has driven a baseball 511 feet 9 inches."

* * *

(Here we pause to hope that the great Babe Ruth isn't turning in the grave over the thought that his record has been so disgraced. Still, we doubt that he is. Over here, "fungo-hitting"—which is all that the great drives above mentioned actually consist of—isn't taken seriously; and some of the finest fungo artists we ever saw couldn't hit the size of their collars in a real game. But we must return to Australia, for you haven't heard the half of it yet.)

* * *

"Let those who may call the drive a "freak" effort on the part of the fungo-hitter, but a glance back over Robert's previous record surely gives indication that he was the one man likely to achieve some sensational figures given the most favorable opportunities. We in Australia were given the bare figures of the University of California results of their annual baseball field games test with the Victorian Baseball Association, in which Jones topped a record-breaking team of three—they also set a new world team total of 1,378ft. 7in.—but this writer visualizes perfect atmospheric conditions to enable the propelled baseball to attain and maintain maximum velocity."

* * *

(We warned you in advance that those Aussie baseball writers put the rest of us to shame in their attitude toward the sport. Now, maybe you'll believe us. But don't go away yet. The story continues! And we'll try not ot mention shr thrilling yarn so much.)

* * *

"We have noted that Robert Jones has been the world's most consistent hitter in baseball field games events over the past three years, scoring a hat-trick in first placings for California, winning the All-American in 1948 and second to Edward F. Sobczak in 1949. Of course, he will once again be the top All-American in 1950."

* * *

"Wally Driver, the "ex-champ," was also a consistent hitter in these games, winning the junior Australian title before twice taking the senior event. Somewhat offsetting my reasoning that high-rating consistency is the lead up to sensational achievement, Driver's next best fungo to his topping 500ft. was 388ft., which brings an improvement of over 100 feet into the "freak" category."

* * *

"However, Jones sets us back on our feet, for in successive years he hit 459.7ft., 443.3 and 511.9—all of which bettered the professional record. Sobczak, who beat Jones last year, registered 449.11ft."

* * *

"Australians — and maybe the world—thought Wally Driver's record would never be broken. But it has, and by a student at the University of California, the first American academy to set "international baseball field games" in motion. Cliton W. Evans' baseballers initiated the series in 1939 and our good friend Clint is still head coach of U. of C."

* * *

"There is still a baseball field games record held by an Australian that has defied the best efforts of American and other amateurs. That is the long distance baseball throw held by Tom Geegan (Sydney, New South Wales), who just failed to reach the best professional throw of 426ft. 9½in. by Sheldon Lejeune (at Evansville way back in 1910). In 1948, Geegan threw 425ft 11in. His team-mates that year also created a world record of 1,192ft. 9in. Jack Rowley topped the "400" with 401.9 and Henry Brown completed the trio with 365.2ft."

* * *

"Will some baseballer some day propel a baseball (without artificial aid, such as a baseball club) over 500 feet? Given the man, the time and the opportunity—maybe."

* * *

(Which will have to be the end of our story of baseball field games as played—by correspondence we imagine—between students in California and those in Ausralia and New Zealand. We can only say that we wish the writer had seen fit to end on a slightly more hopeful note regarding the possibilities of a baseballer some day propelling a baseball (without artificial aid such as a baseball club) over 500 feet. "Given the man, the time, and the opportunity," he says—and then ends up with a quite discouraging "MAYBE." Personally we're almost certain it's bound to happen. In fact we can hardly wait.

HEALTH HINT—Vacationists remember that sunburn has ruined many a holiday. Sunburn is a real burn, it is painful and can be serious enough to cause hospitalization. Take it easy, particularly during initial exposures. Also, use of a good suntan lotion before exposure is helpful.

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