OPERATION MUSK-OX

Starting out from Churchill, Manitoba, on Feb. 14, a force of Canadian army personnel will begin a 3,100-mile-long journey into the frozen and, for the most part, treeless Western Arctic. The expedition, known as "Exercise Musk-Ox," will test new equipment specially designed for winter travel under extreme conditions, and is expected to unearth, as well, information that will be invaluable in the future development of the Arctic's mining, trapping and fishing possibilities. The above map, prepared by the official cartographer of The Canadian Geographical Society, shows the route to be followed.

"Exercise Musk-Ox" will test three new techniques which, if found suitable, will greatly affect future travel in the Arctic. These will be the long-range performance of snowmobiles, transportation of supplies by air, and the use of radar and astro-navigation devices in the hitherto unnavigable areas around the magnetic pole.

Previous army expeditions already have resulted in improving methods of travel and living in the north and, in addition, much valuable data will be made available for future military operations should they become necessary.

From Baker Lake, where an advance meteorological and air base has already been established for the expedition to the Arctic Ocean, the route will cross some of the least-known parts of Canada, all of which are unmapped, with the exception of Back River. This 500-mile long river has been travelled but twice—by Captain Back in 1834 and by two Hudson's Bay Company men in 1855.

"Exercise Musk-Ox" will reach the Arctic Coast at Perry River, where an Eskimo operates a trading-post, will then cross 100 miles of frozen ocean to reach Cambridge Bay, where the R.C.M.P. schooner "St. Roch" is now wintering, and subsequently follow the south coast from Victoria Island for 250 miles to Coppermine. From there it will travel overland to strike the first trees near Port Radium. Early in May it is scheduled to reach the Alaska Highway and then follow the 700-mile stretch from Fort Nelson to Edmonton.

THE INSIDE ON HOCKEY

By ED. FITKIN

The hockey world was Maurice Richard's oyster last season when the roust Montreal Canadien scor was shattering all previous pro hockey scoring records with his amazing total of 50 goals. But just recently, Maurice sadly sighed: "The worst thing I ever did was to score those 50 goals."

* * *

What he meant by that, of course, is that he has become a marked man, that rival clubs put their toughest checkers on his tail, and that tht road to the goal no longer is a path of glory. Under this incessant hounding, Richard seems to have developed a pettiness that is proving costly to Canadiens in the way of penalties. Recently one Montreal writer asked this question: "Mhen is Richard goinp to quit beinv a chump drawinp those sucker penalties?"

* * *

The moral to this, of course, is that fame is fleeting. Richard was a champ last year and a chump this season. No longer do those avid Habitant rooters couple his name with the great Morenz. Even among the hockey men who guide the N. H. L. teams there seems to have developed a change of heart regarding Richard. "After all," one coach told me recently, "Richard scored all those goals against wartime hockey players who certainly weren't up to N. H. L. standards. Now that the good players are back from the services, he is just an ordinary player."

* * *

When Doug Bentley was injured, one Chicago writer went facetious on his public and worried that the stadium would be filled for a hockey game and the Hawks wouldn't put in an appearance—because they had no one to lead them onto the ice . Doug, as you may know, succeeded Mush March as the leader of the Hawk parade into battle this season . . . The Chi scribe's problem was solved, however, when Max Bentley took over the leadership job.

Babe Pratt, always popular with the sportswriters, is getting plenty of what the hockey players call "favorable ink" from the men who pound typewriters. Public sentiment is also on Pratt's side. His appeal will likely be heard at the Board of Governors' meeting in New York on Feb. 15, and unless there is more evidence in the case than has been presented, the feeling is that Pratt still has a chance to evade such a drastic sentence.

While big Babe is the first pro hockey player to be expelled for gambling, he is not the first to be banished from the game. Billy Coutu, a star with Boston Bruins, was expelled from hockey for life for an after-game attack on Referee Jerry Laflamme back in 1927.

* * *

Don Gallinger, the Port Colborne product who is doing such consistent sniping for Boston, scored ruins' first goal of the seaon and also the 100th. Speaking of the B'ars, little Kenny Smith has done a capable pinch-hitting chore for Bill Cowley and Art Ross says: "If that kid only had 20 more pounds, he'd be a corker." Turk Broda, back with the Leafs, is in splendid physical shape, played over 30 game in England before he came back and looks exceptionally sharp for a goalie who has been out of big time competition for so long.

(Editor's Note: Ed Fitkin, conductor of this column, can be heard each Sunday afternoon at 4.35 over C-H-U-M (1050) dispensing breezy, dramatic and entertaining stories on "The Inside on Sports." Mr. Fitkin-address, Maple Leaf Gardens Toronto — will be glad to answers questions about the players and the game).

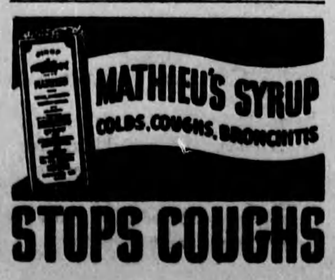
Hobby Develops Into Business

A hobby of bee-keeping has been turned into thriving, profitable business by C. Murden Johnson, a local resident, and his example suggests that others might turn their hobbies into a business and get good financial returns, says The Niagara Falls Review. From a single swarm of bees, Mr. Johnson, a nature student, has developed the biggest bee-keeping business in the Niagara Peninsula with splendid financial returns. The original colony now has expanded into 675 colonies of bees and a honey business worth $30,000. Many people likewise have hobbies that could be converted into profitable business ventures.

Ratepayers Vote Cash For Veterans

By a vote of 337 to 219 ratepayers of Brooke Township gave war veterans $100 each for five years, with $100 down right now in addition. It made one mill on the dollar extra in taxation for the farming community. There is something pretty fine about that vote. The council did not do it on its own: it left the idea to the taxpayers and they did not welch.

—St. Catherines Standard.



STOPS COUGHS

Costs of Strikes In Relationship To Rewards

Worker, Employer, Consumer —All Groups Suffer Loss

Strikes are costly to all groups in the community, says the New York Times. The worker suffers a loss of income. The employer has reduced profits. The consumer suffers inconvenience and must forego products urgently desired. This is all so obvious that it scarcely needs repetition. What is less obvious is that the cost involved is often excessively great in relationship, to the rewards to be won.

* * *

An illustration is found in the cost of the present steel strike to the workers. The companies have offered an increase of 15 cents an hour, which would be the largest increase ever received by these workers. This strike has been called to obtain an additional 3½ cents an hour. If the 15-cent offer were accepted, steel workers would earn about $1.29 an hour. On the basis of their own demands they would earn $1.32½ an hour.

* * *

Every hour's work that is lost because of the insistence upon an additional 3½ cents an hour costs the steel worker at least $1.29. It would take him thirty-seven hours of work at the additional 3½ cents an hour to make up for the loss of one hour's pay of $1.29. In other words, if the steel worker is unemployed for one forty-hour week it will take him thirty-seven full weeks at the higher rate to make up for the lost time. If the strike lasts for two weeks it will take seventy-four weeks to make up for the time lost. If the strikers were out for a month, it would take 148 weeks, or almost three full years, before the earnings lost during the strike were recouped.

* * *

These figures, of course, do not in themselves establish the merit of the offer made by the steel companies. They do not in themselves disprove Mr. Murray's claim that more could have been paid. But they do call attention to a factor which is frequently lost sight of, when union labor rejects a major gain in favor of a strike.

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60,000 Repats May Return This Month

The 60,000 Canadian troops still overseas, exclusive of the Occupation Force, may be back in Canada by the end of February if shipping allocations for the remainder of this month and next are maintained, Defence Minister Abbott said last week.

Mr. Abbott expressed hope all would be able to return home, but said some might have to remain because a sizeable staff still must b maintained at Canadian military headquarters in London in addition to small specialized installations for maintaining the occupation force.

There also was some doubt whether the few remaining repatriation depots in Britain would be able to shut up shop in time to catch the last February sailings.

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