JAPS PREPARE FOR HISTORIC ELECTION

Japanese carpenters are pictured above putting the finishing touches to some of the 200 ballot boxes Tokyo will use in the national elections April 10, the first in history in which the newly enfranchised Nipponese women will take part.

THE INSIDE ON HOCKEY

By ED. FITKIN

There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip — especially the Stanley Cup.

Going into the post-session playoff whirl, Montreal Canadiens are almost unanimously installed as favorites. On their record they deserve such acclaim but past performances count for little in Stanley Cupping when the style of play boils down to a man-for-man basis.

* * *

Toronto Maple Leafs emphasized that point last year when they utilized a dozen men to upset Canadiens and then Detroit to take the championship. Great netminding is a must in these playoff jousts, too. In this respect, Canadiens are well served by Bill Durnan, Vezina Trophy winner for the third successive season. But Boston (with Frank Brimsek) and Detroit (with young Harry Lumley) are also aces in netminding. And the Hawks have old Mike Karakas who usually rises to remarkable heights in cup warfare.

* * *

Dick Irvin is perturbed this spring by his club's inability to beat Detroit in regular competition. Much to his relief the Wings finished fourth and the Habs drew Chicago as their first-round opponents. Detroit tackles Boston and Dick is hoping that the Bruins dust off the Wings while his Canadiens are bopping the Hawks. Another factor disturbing Irvin is the loss of Leo Lamoureux, who suffered a shoulder separation, and may see little action. Butch Bouchard, Dick's rock-of-Gibraltar defenseman, is also on the limp. It is expected that Bouchard will be okay —and Frankie Eddolls, who was recently brought up from Buffalo, will fill in for Lamoureux.

* * *

If there is any big upset this spring, it wouldn't surprise us if the Boston Bruins are the perpetrators. With the return of Bill Cowley and Roy Conacher, Bruins now can ice three solid lines — and with Brimsek to back up a fairly rugged defense, Art Ross and his merry men may be tough to take.

Jack Adams is pessimistic about Detroit's chances because of the loss of Syd Abel and Eddie Bruneteam and he isn't saving much. Chicago hopes are high but the Hawks are weak defensively and that may produce their collapse.

But as we said before, there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip — so get ready for anything to happen. It usually does.

* * *

One of our young readers in Woodstock wonders if farmer boys have just as good a chance as city boys to become hockey players. Well, Lester, the answer to that is: It all depends on the boy himself. If he is ambitious enough to become a hockey player, then nothing will stop him. There are three major requisites a boy must have—Head, Heart and Legs. The first thing he must do is to learn to skate — and keep on skating until he has really perfected style and speed. That's one of the first things a hockey scout looks for in a youngster is skating ability because if a boy can't skate, then he has little chance to get anywhere. Then he must learn to use his head —to size up a situation at a glance and to make smart moves at the right time. On top of that he must have heart—and by that we mean courage to keep on battling even when a game appears to be hopelessly lost.

This column terminates our contributions for this season. It has been a pleasure to keep you posted on the hockey gossip and perhaps next year, we'll be back at this same old stand. Until then, best of luck to all.

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Britain Needs Oil From Iran Wells

—The significance to Great Britain of Russia's present interest in Iran — in terms of oil—is indicated in reliable though partly unofficial estimates of the world's 1945 oil production.

Four countries, the United States, Venezuela, the Soviet Union, and Iran produced seven eighths of the world's crude oil last year, in the following respective amounts, supplied by the "Petroleum Press Service": 231,000,000 tons; 46,000,000 tons; 25,000,000 tons, and 17,000,000 tons.

Britain's aggregate production last year was about 12,000,000 tons, including the following principal supplies: 4,700,000 from Iraq; 3,000,000 from Trinidad; 1,000,000 from Bahrein; 1,000,000 from Canada, and 300,000 from India.

With Iran's output, British Empire production would reach approximately 30,000,000 tons which would practically equal the Russian and Rumanian totals. If Iran's production should be added to Russia's, however, Russia would control four times the British output, though only one sixth that of the United States.

Keep Cool

The London Daily Express in an editorial called on the people of Britain to keep cool and moderate "while clouds hang darkly over the international scene". "The cause of world peace is better served by patience and restraint than by excited words or noisy disputation" it said.

Triple-Threat Spray

A grass spray combining a weed killer, fertilizer and fungicide is being tried out with good results thus far. The spray is still in the experimental stage at the Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Md.

Artificial Fog Puts Damper On Fires

Artificial fog, newest weapon against fire, will save annually millions of dollars' worth of property from fire and water damage, according to Fred Shepperd of New York, Engineer-Manager of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

A blanket of artificial fog spread over a fire cools the zone of combustion, and the steam produced aids in smothering the flames. Firemen approaching a fire behind the fog are protected against heat and smoke, he explained. The fog is generated by forcing water under high pressure through a specially designed nozzle.