Young Canadian Farmers—Among the 1948-49 directors of the Simcoe Junior Farmers' Association are, from left: John Fennell of Newton Robinson; George McCague, Alliston; Bob Brown, vice-president, Bradford; and Belle Warnica, Barrie; director and executive member.

Sports – And One Thing or Another

By FRANK MANN HARRIS

("A Sixbit Critic")

All this talk about widespread gambling on sports events recalls an incident which actually happened some years ago in a certain city which, for reasons of our own, we shall leave nameless. A bunch of fellows were stitting around in a hotel lobby, when they were approached by a stranger.

"I dont know this town," he said, "and I've got a tip on a horse running at Pimlico today. Can any of you guys tell me where I can make a bet?"

* * *

Thinking to play a joke on the out-of-towner one of the group gravely answered, "Nothing easier. Just walk along the street and ask the first policeman you meet. He'll fix you up." With profuse thanks the stranger left, and the bunch sat back, laughing their heads off at the thought of what a going-over the poor simpleton was going to get.

* * *

They didn't see the stranger again till evening, when he appeared in the lobby again. "Well, did you go an' ask a copper where to make your bet, like we told you?" he was asked. "Sure thing I did, was the reply. "And did he tell you?" "Tell me — why he booked the bet himself, and what's more he paid off on the dot after the horse won!"

* * *

And while we are on the subject, the attitude of some of the "higher brass" of hockey into recent gambling disclosures rather reminds us of another tale — although we won't vouch for the veracity of this one. It's the story of Rastus, who had just been found guilty of carving a friend with a razor, with fatal results.

Asked by the judge if he had anything to say for himself before sentence was passed Rastus made the classic answer — "Well Your Honor, far as I'm pussonally concerned, I'd be just as well satisfied to let the whole matter drop.

* * *

With the Spring training season in fool bloom among the baseball boys the old question is being asked as to whether or not these long conditioning grinds are really necessary. Lots of people still think that no athlete needs six to eight weeks to get into playing shape, and that the whole thing is mostly ballyhoo — with the chance of picking up a little additional revenue by means of exhibition games.

* * *

The fact is however, that most baseball players take things pretty easy during the winter months — especially now, when their bosses look with disfavor on them playing football or hockey. Left to themselves, they'd show up for the opening of the season overweight and slow, and spend the first month of the schedule playing themselves into shape. By that time, some team that was really in condition from the start would have a lead that could never be overhauled. With few exceptions these Spring training sessions cost the owners real money — and owners of baseball teams are by no means noted for spending money unnecessarily.

* * *

Older readers and theatre-goers will no doubt remember the best-selling novel of a bygone day entitled "The Virginian" and the highly successful drama that was made from it.One of the big scenes came when the villain calls the hero a most insulting name — the sort of name that was indicated by dashes or stars in those times, but would probably be printed in capital letters today. Anyway, the hero, on hearing this, pulls his gat and grimly tells the villain, "When you call me that — SMILE!"

In the highly unlikely event of our ever becoming a hockey magnate, we think we'd be inclined to issue to our hired help instructions of exactly a reverse nature. We shall say to them, "Men, when you get into a fight on the ice — for Heaven's sake DON'T SMILE." Perhaps the camera lenses are getting better, or the press photographers more skilled at their work. But we notice in the papers more and more of these action-pictures showing players engaged in what looks like a battle-royal, but in which the expressions on the faces are anything but grim. We know we've mentioned this before — but still one does hate to have those cherished illusions all shattered to bits, day after day.

* * *

To the surprise of practically nobody Jersey Joe Walcott has accepted the terms offered him for a return bout with Louis, all the talk about his intention of holding out for the "champion's cut" — on the grounds that he actually won the first fight — being so much bunk. Now Mr. Walcott is loudly proclaiming his confidence of scoring a knockout over Louis when they meet again in June; and probably he is just as sincere in this as he was in declaring he wouldn't accept any smaller percentage than his opponent.

* * *

That Louis is far from being the fighter he was of old, goes without saying. As boxers go he's an elderly man, and he isn't fighting "from hunger" any longer, which removes one of the greatest of all incentives. Still, we have an idea that his sorry showing last time hurt his pride more than somewhat, and that unless Walcott can run away and hide for fifteen straight heats, he hasn't got a chance. And Walcott discovered, at Madison Square Garden, that it's hard to win a Championship in reverse gear.

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ISSUE 11 — 1948

★

Not So Funny

The boss returned in a good humor from lunch and called the whole staff in to listen to a couple of jokes he had picked up. Everybody but one girl laughed uproariously. "What's the matter?" grumbled the boss, "Haven't you got a sense of humour?"

"I don't have to laugh," said the girl. "I'm leaving Friday anyhow."

★

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

"This is the ol' swimmin' hole I was telling you about!"

The National Rifle Association of Britain announced it will enter a team for the Olympic Games being held in London, July, 1948.

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