# WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

### Newfoundland

Some time ago, speaking of a possible union between Newfoundland and Canada, Prime Minister MacKenzie King said that, in order for such a thing to succeed, the people of Newfoundland would have to approve of the union "clearly and beyond the possibility of a misunderstanding."

But this is just what the Newfoundlanders failed to do in the balloting which took place late in July. The vote, in round figures, showed 75,000 in favor of Confederation as against 70,000 for Responsible Government.

Thus, if the proposed Union goes through—as it seems at this writing almost certain to do—it will appear to be against the wishes of almost 49 per cent of the people of Newfoundland—and as one editorial writer puts it, "the seeds of future discontent might be sown if a large number of Newfoundlanders could claim, with any justice, that they were hurried or railroaded into union."

In view of this the question now arises as to whether Canada should take the view that the recent vote DID NOT express Newfoundland's will "clearly and beyond the possibility of misunderstanding." This is not necessarily so, for it is almost certain that many who voted for Responsible Government regarded it as a first step toward union. They think that a Newfoundland with its own Legislature and Government would be in a position to bargain for better terms than Canada has yet offered; and it is possible—even probable—that in their hearts as many as two-thirds of the islanders really desire union.

It is almost certain that union between Canada and Newfoundland will come sooner or later, and that when it does, most Canadians will welcome it. But events of the past few years in Europe and elsewhere clearly show that it is far too serious a matter for the use of anything even approaching "high pressure" methods. Most of us think it would be a fine thing, for both sides, if Newfoundland should become Canada's tenth Province—but only if it does so willingly, and with the unmistakable and wide-spread approval of the islanders.

### Great Britain

Most of the news coming out of Britain recently concerned the Olympic Games or the Gus Lesnevich-Freddie Mills prize fight and matters of similar import. So an item went almost unnoticed telling that the British Government at long last had been able to cancel the rationing of bread.

First imposed back in 1946, bread rationing seemed like the last straw to a people who had undergone so many hardships and privations during the war years, and who had been looking forward to an easier time and a greater abundance of the good things of life, as soon as peace came.

But it was not to be—and for a time bread rationing was strictly enforced, and was the means of saving countless bushels of badly-needed and hard-to-get wheat.

More recently supplies have become more plentiful and most housewives have been able to buy extra bread without the use of the official "tickets." Still, the official putting of bread on the "coupon-free" list is a rift—even if a small one—in the clouds, and will be welcomed by the British, even if every other staple food — except fish and fresh vegetables — is still strictly rationed.

### Germany

The situation in Berlin is complicated by the fact—not generally understood in Canada and the United States—that fear and distrust of Germany exists today on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

To the people of France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, on the one side, and to the people of Poland and Czechoslovakia on the other, an economically and politically strong Germany means exactly the same thing as an aggressive and military-minded Germany.

The British, although subjected to severe air attacks in the last war, escaped invasion and occupation, and so cannot fully appreciate this feeling of distrust. And in America, so many miles away from Europe, its terrible reality is not even glimpsed.

### Just For Fun

Fannie Brice, the comedienne, tells of how—during the war—a Marine came up and thanked her for the swell set of poker chips she had sent him.

"Poker chips!" raged Fannie. "Don't you know those were home-made cookies?"

"Have it any way you like," was the reply. "All I know is that I won ninety bucks with them in a game last night."

**They Soon Will Be Canadians?**—Most of the people of Newfoundland—who recently voted on the question of union with Canada—live nearby the sea from which their chief livelihood is drawn. This peaceful scene shows Plate Cove West in Bonavista Bay.

# SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Early one morning late in July—which rather sounds as if we'd been taking a course in song-writing or some such—we received the shock of our life; such a shock that we're only getting around to reporting it now. A junior member of the family had been giving that morning's paper the regular scrutiny, which customarily consists of a thorough study of the comics, a scanning of the sports page headlines, then tossing the journal aside as being of no further interest.

* * *

But on this occasion he came bouncing into the room where we were trying to persuade ourself that the alarm-clock had lied. "Just look at this" he exclaimed. "Look at what?" we wearily made answer, trying to pry our eyes open without the aid of a chisel. "Just look at the Big League standings," he said. "Gee, pop, it looks like you might be calling something right for once!"

* * *

Slowly it began to come to us. For as long as we've been connected with the sports writing dodge, it has been our custom to make three or four predictions per year—such as calling in advance the winner of the King's Plate, who will finish on top in the National Hockey League, and the like—and then advising our clients to go and wager heavily, on something else. For the quality of our selections both on the racetrack and elsewhere, is famous; or perhaps "notorious" would be more nearly correct.

* * *

**As an admirer once fondly put it, right after a steed we had made him bet on heavily finished a fast-fading last, "You couldn"t pick your old man out of an igloo-full of Eskimos .in .native .costume," — which will just go to show you.**

* * *

Be that as it may, before the present baseball season opened we said—right here in print—that we wouldn't be too much surprized if the 1948 Worlds Series turned out to be an all-Boston affaffir. And there, on this morning late in July we started out to speak of, were the Boston Braves leading the National loop by five full games, while in the American the Red Sox were in front by two.

* * *

We know right well that such a state of things cannot possibly last. Judging of the future by the past we are absolutely certain that, before playoff time rolls around, something dire and dreadful will have happened to either the Sox or the Braves, probably both. Still, if they can be in front even at the halfway mark, in spite of our calling them, they must be good game teams, and deserving of a whole heap of credit.

* * *

**But nothing's certain in sport except that the best of us can be mistaken. John Drebinger was recently recalling in The Times the day that the great Dazzy Vance looked into the clouded crystal ball and came up with the wrong answer. Dazzy at that time, was the highest paid pitcher in baseball, collecting for his efforts on behalf of the Brooklyn Dodgers something like 25 thousand a year, which was a whole lot of money then—and still is, if you ask our opinion.**

* * *

The Dodgers were on a Spring training trip and Dazzy — whose arm was feeling good and who was supremely confident of winning—had invited a young and admiring cousin to come along to the Atlanta Ball Park and watch him pitch back the ears of the New York Yankees in an exhibition game.

* * *

On the way there, Dazzy went to some pains explaining to the cousin just how he would pitch to the famous "Murderer's Row" of the Yankees. Leading the lad to a front-row pew in the grandstand he said, "Now just you sit there and watch closely how I do it."

* * *

**Earl Combs was the New Yorkers' lead-off man; and when Earl popped out weakly to shortstop, the lad was saying to himself, "Even if they pay Cousin Dazzy 25 thousand a year it isn't enough—he's handling those Yankees just like he told me he would."**

* * *

Then things began to happen. Mark Koenig, second man up, smacked out a two-bagger. Lou Gehrig saw one of Dazzy's slants he liked the look of, and blasted a triple. Babe Ruth swung from the heels at one that was high and outside—and that's just where it went—high over the right field wall and outside the ball-yard. A triple was the best Bob Meusel could do, but Tony Lazzeri "poosh-ed one up" over left field barrier for a full round trip.

That was sufficient for Vance; or rather it was sufficient for Uncle Wilbert Robinson, long suffering manager of the Dodgers, who promptly signalled Dazzy toward the showers. Dazzy stalked off the diamond with his head hanging low, in decided contrast to his dudgeon, which was high indeed over the shellacking he had taken.

* * *

**Later that evening, however, Dazzy had cooled out sufficiently to be able to talk to folks once more. Seeing the young cousin in the lobby of the hotel he said, "Well, kid, what did you think of it?" "Cousin Dazzy,'" was the lad's classic reply, "I never did see anybody make 25 thousand that easy."**

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Empty fruit jars should be kept lidded to keep them clean and protect the rims from chipping.

ISSUE 32 — 1948

## Time To Stop And Think !

What are said to be unreasonable wage demands on the part of Communist-led unions are bearing serious, and what might be disastrous results out on the Pacific coast.

A week or so ago one of British Columbia's oldest and most productive gold mines—Silbak Premier — put up the shutters and called it a day; and it is said that other mines in that Province may have to follow suit. At the same time one of the West Coast's biggest ship-building yards was sold to a lumber firm which will use it for drying and finishing wood.

The mine closing, according to the Financial Post, has the most significant implications for the rest of the nation as it threatens the livelihood of some 600 mining town inhabitants; and in both cases the unions are Communist-dominated.

So the words of A. L. Lawes, president of Montreal Shipping and vice-president of the Shipping Federation of Canada sounded with extra force in the ears of his Vancouver audience the other day.

"Unless some propaganda is forthcoming from the unions advising the men to knuckle down and work," said Mr. Lawes, "Canadian shipping will die a natural death."

There are those who think that such a statement applies in a far wider field than merely shipping.


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