WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

Great Britain

The Chancellor of the Exchequer touched off a storm of criticism when he divulged what the Government was proposing to do in order to bring about a still further revival of British industry. Sir Stafford Cripps' announcement told of the setting up of a joint Anglo-American Advisory Council for this purpose, and spoke of the possibility of bringing over United States experts to teach the British more modern methods of industrial production.

The proposed Council's capacity will in all probability be entirely advisory, and it seems entirely unlikely that British Government policies—such as the nationalization program—will be influenced in any way by American suggestions. Still, there are plenty of British who see—or profess to see— this as the thin edge of the wedge, and who predict that in return for Marshall Plan aid, the Americans will eventually try to overthrow Socialism in Britain and force a return to their own beloved "free enterprise" system.

But if he feels that American advice will help step-up production, Sir Stafford Cripps and most of the other members of the Cabinet are likely to disregard such suggestions, or any of the other harsh things now being heard about his proposal from all sides and from many classes.

For Cripps has consistently been telling the British unions that if they want improved conditions, they must pay for them by producing more goods—and even union leaders in the United States contend that workmen in Britain rely too much on political action, and not nearly enough on industrial ability and output, in order to attain their ends.

But in spite of Britain's present deplorable economic position, there are still far too many workmen there who have been adamant in refusing to accept up-to-date ideas and to modernize their production methods. Still haunting a large proportion of factories and mines is the ancient fear that labor-saving machinery and equipment sooner or later means workmen looking for jobs.

The Far East

Neutral observers in Japan and China can see evidences that the men in the Kremlin who plan Russian global strategy are making moves which may eventually result in an entirely new balance of power in the Far East.

This does not necessarily mean that Russia intends to take up the reins within the next couple of years. The new Soviet industrial empire in Siberia is still some distance from completion, although an imposing start has already been made in the development of light and heavy industries in half a dozen eastern Siberian areas. But those who watched what the Russians did in Manchuria during early 1946, and who see the steadily developing Soviet power in Korea this past couple of years, are pretty well agreed that the Kremlin's long-range objective is to achieve a decisive measure of control over Japan, China, and ultimately the whole of southeast Asia.

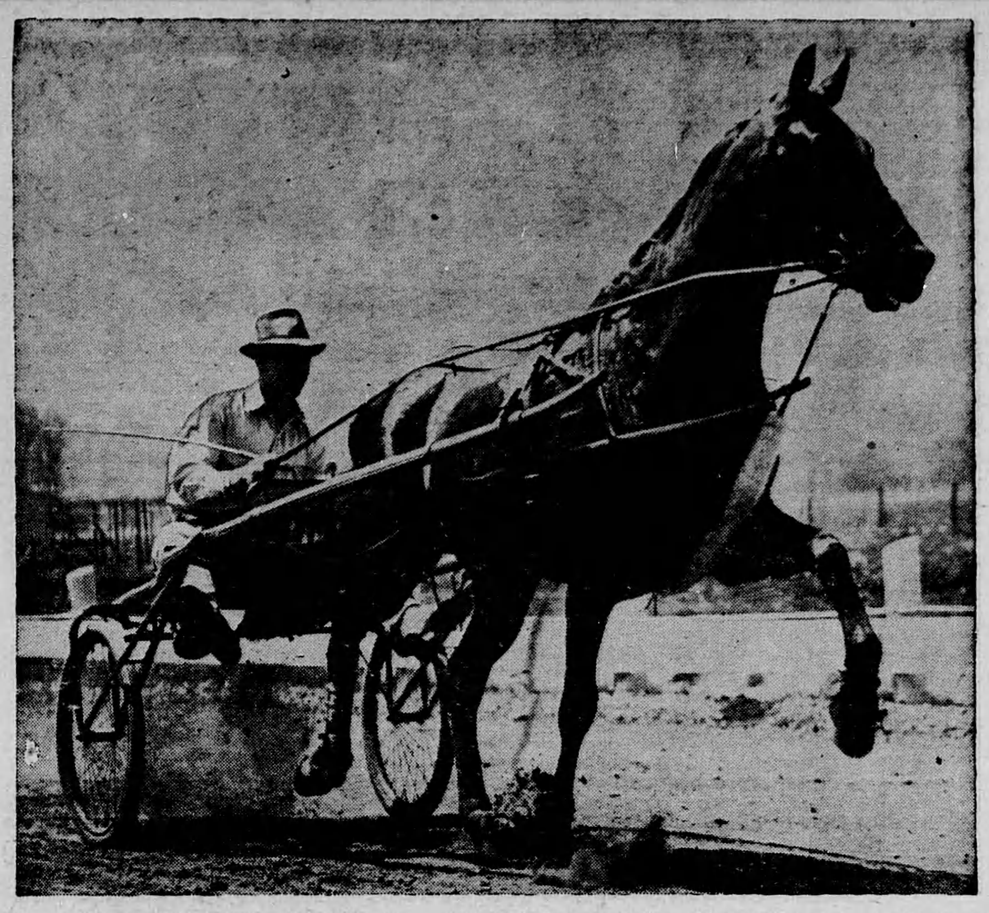
This, of course, presents the unwelcome and threatening prospect of an "iron curtain" encompassing the major portion of the Far East region, in addition to the one which now obscures from western eyes such a large area of Europe.

To those who can say that such things are nonsense, or "mere speculation" and who maintain that Russia has no great Asiatic designs, it might be well to point out some historical facts. One of these is that, ever since the days of the Czars Russia has actively tried to push its eastern boundaries farther to the east and to the south. Another—that the leading opposition to this Russian program has always been the presence of a militarily powerful Japan.

In 1905 it was Japan that blocked Russian efforts to penetrate Korea and Manchuria. Again, in 1931, it was Japan that forced Stalin to "sell" his half interest in the Chinese Eastern Railway and to give up Russia's preferred interests in the remainder of Manchuria.

Japan could do such things—then. But now Japan has collapsed as a power in the Orient, and the greatest barrier to Russian advances is gone. And the indications are clear that as soon as they think it is safe to make such a move, the Soviet powers intend to "take over."

Just when this will take place it would be rash even to try and predict. However, here is one fact worth noting. If Russia's present Five Year Plan can be completed successfully, her Siberian industrial empire will be very close to the point where it can match Japan's pre-war supremacy over Asia. That will be—if nothing interferes—in 1952, four years from now.



Watch His Dust!—Young Bill kicks up a cloud of dust and gives his trainer, Johnny Simpson a speedy sulky ride during a trial workout at Good Time Park, Goshen, N.Y., in preparation for the $60,000 Hambletonian classic to be held there in mid-August. Owned by W. G. Ross of Charlotte, N. C., Young Bill is a son of Bill Gallon, 1941 Hambletonian stake winner.

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Some story book character—we think it was one of Damon Runyon's—once told about the advice his father had given him as a lad. From memory, it ran something like this: "Son, as you travel through life, some day you will meet up with a guy who will produce a bran-new deck of cards, strip the wrapper off it, and then offer to bet you he can make the J c' of Spades pop up and spit cider. And son, don't you bet him; for if you do you'll wind up with no money and an earful of cider!"

* * *

We couldn't help thinking of this very sound advice while looking over a newly-published volume entitled "Yellow Kid" Weil—being the reasonably truthful confessions of a man who w nt through life and amassed considerable wealth by promoting suckers on what likewise appeared to be sure things, but which later turned out to be anything but that.

* * *

The "Yellow Kid" intimates here and there that he was the greatest all "confiden e men," which is the technical term for gentlemen who beguile you into reposing your entire confidence—and bankroll—with them, and then prove to be unworthy of the trust. Weil worked many angles; but possibly his greatest triumphs were along lines of persuading various citizens to ger heavily on horses that were supposed to have already won—this bein accomplished through alleged connivance of a crooked race-track telegraph operator, who would hold back the results of a race long ough for the bet to be placed.

* * *

The victim in such cases, of course, was supposed to be the foolish bookmaker who took the bet; and Weil, when he had a sufficiently well-heeled fish on the hook, would sometimes go to the extent of setting up a fake bookmaker's establishment, or "store," complete with staff, odds-board, telegraph ticker and supposed customers. By the time the sucker woke up to the fact that his "sure thing" hadn't won at all, and that he had been gypped, all these would have miraculously vanished, not to reappear until there was a fresh victim, with fresh money, in sight.

* * *

Should you ever take the time to glance through Mr. Weil's highly interesting pages you will probably be seized with a feeling of amazement regarding what a vast number there are in this world of incredibly simple-minded people—the sort who will invest their hard-earned bankrolls on the word of comparative strangers. Possibly the thought may come to you, "Well, at any rate, it could never happen to ME."

* * *

Well, we can tip you off to an easy and absolutely certain method of finding out whether it could or not. Just ask yourself this one simple question, then give yourself an honest answer. If you knew, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that a race was "fixed" for a certain horse to win, would you—honestly now—fall for the temptation to have a little bet on it?....If the answer is "Yes," then brother, watch your step—for you're potential pickings for the first confidence man, tout, hustler or what - have - you who pitches a sufficiently plausible tale.

* * *

However, don't worry too much about it, as you have plenty of company. As one smart operator—not the "Yellow Kid"—used to say, "Everybody living has at least a teeny mite of larceny in his heart—and the more they have the softer pushovers they are." He was the gentleman who once convinced us that his daughter's husband was one of eight jockeys riding in a race, who had made a secret pact to "shoo" a certain horse in. As we recall it the only reason for this steed finishing up as sixth was that two of the others fell down making the stretch turn.

* * *

In baseball, one of the season"s features is the difficulty Bobby Feller is having in getting by. There are probably still a whole lot of winning games in that right arm of his, but the years have taken their toll of it, just as they do of all things human except the characters in the soap operas.

* * *

Even his unpopularity — which he deliberately courted with his high-hat methods—is turning out to Feller's advantage. Where once the customers jammed the ball parks to see him blaze that fast one past the batters, they now turn out in just as big numbers hoping to see somebody clout him off the mound with a full-house homer.

* * *

All of which must cause Bobby to crack, occasionally, in secret, one of his infrequent smiles. For Feller, in addition to a huge salary, gets a percentage or bonus based on how his club does at the cash register—and Cleveland looks to be a cinch to go over the 2,000,000 mark in home attendance, and may even break the New York Yankees' record for a single season. And ever since he started out Bob Feller has gone on the principle, "Three cheers may make more noise than three bucks, but they don't buy as many steaks or groceries."

You can blame women's afternoon teas on the Duchess of Bedford who started the practice in the early 19th century.

Management Should Tell Labor More

In a recent speech the President of the great General Foods Corporation said some things which should be of real interest to every employer of labor—whether the employees number two, ten or ten thousand. His subject was how management gets along with employees in these restless times, and about how effectively or otherwise management performs that all-important job.

He was of the opinion, he said, that 35 million people in the United States are still unconvinced about the merits of our free-enterprise, profit-and-loss system; also that only one worker in five gets any information at all about profits, wages and his employer's financial condition.

When management does make an effort to talk things over frankly and regularly with its employees, he went on to say, there is too often a tendency to use technical, financial and economic language far over many of the listeners' heads.

"We are neither noblemen nor frock-coated fat cats. We are just human beings, with worries and problems like other human beings. We make mistakes but our intentions toward other people are generally good. **Management has left open a wide hole through which its adversaries are driving half truths and falsehoods."**

These are statements which are just as applicable in Canada as in the United States. The job of explaining itself to its workers, and to the general public, is about as vital a job as management faces today. If workers fail to understand the system which produces their pay envelopes, and why it is the most fruitful economic system yet devised in the world, can anybody justly blame some of them if they fall for the false doctrines of crackpot Communists and "fellow-travellers"? And a good portion of the blame can be charged to managements which fail to do an effective and persistent job of explaining what makes the wheels go round.

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