WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

Great Britain

Just a few months ago there was a feeling in the United States—also in certain sectors of Canada—that the "Old Country" was "down and out" and practically bankrupt. The "viewers with alarm" who took such a stand have had good reason lately to revise that estimate.

First there was the success of the Olympic games—at which the British people proved that they could come back from the battering of the wartime years and put this great sports event over in a manner which made any past efforts—even those of the United States at Los Angeles—look somewhat feeble.

Then, newly released figures are showing that the United Kingdom is in the midst of a business boom of astounding proportions.

In July its record in export of goods—taking 100 per cent as standard for the year before the war—was 138 per cent. The value of those goods was the equivalent of $536,000,000—the highest figure in 28 years and only 12 million dollars short of the all-time record made in July 1920, right after the First World War and when all the nations were calling loudly for British goods.

More than that, if prices in the "dollar countries"—the United States and Canada—had not risen so extravagantly, Great Britain would by now be in sight of balancing her overseas trade account, and thus showing the prophets of calamity how absurdly wrong they were. For the volume of British exports for the past six months is 30 per cent above pre-war—the volume of imports 20 per cent below it. Indeed, if times were normal, the United Kingdom would today be regarded as high up on a wave of prosperous production.

Rule Britannia! There's life in the old gal yet!

Spain

Spain is to a large extent politically isolated from the rest of the world, and does not bulk to any great extent in world news. But that does not mean that nothing is happening there behind the scenes—or that Generalissimo Francesco Franco can be considered a "back number," a leader who no longer matters very much.

Not long ago Franco—through the Spanish Minister to Egypt—signally honored the President of Lebanon by awarding him one of the highest of all Spanish decorations, the Grand Cross of Charles the Third. Ten days later General Franco was awarded the Lebanese Order of Merit.

Spain is the only European power that has no obligations toward the United Nations, and feels not the slightest duty to give even lip service to UN resolutions regarding Palestine and the Middle East. For years Franco has been pursuing a more-or-less secret pro-Arab policy; and it has been a matter of common report that Spain has sold considerable amounts of rifles and other war material to the Arab armies opposing Israel. Now this "friendship" may be coming out more openly.

There could be either or both of two motives for Franco's actions. Should a new war break out it is almost certain that the Mediterranean region will play an all-important part in it; and the more harmonious Spain's relations are with the Arabs, the better are Franco's chances for exercising a decisive influence in that region.

The second motive is the near approach of the United Nations fall meeting in Paris. Spain wants to have last year's anti-Spanish resolution rescinded and the road prepared for its own admission to the General Assembly. For that purpose Spain needs friends — and the Arab vote could be of good service. So there may be a lot more back of Generalissimo Franco's recent moves than appears on the surface.

★

Lucky Fellows

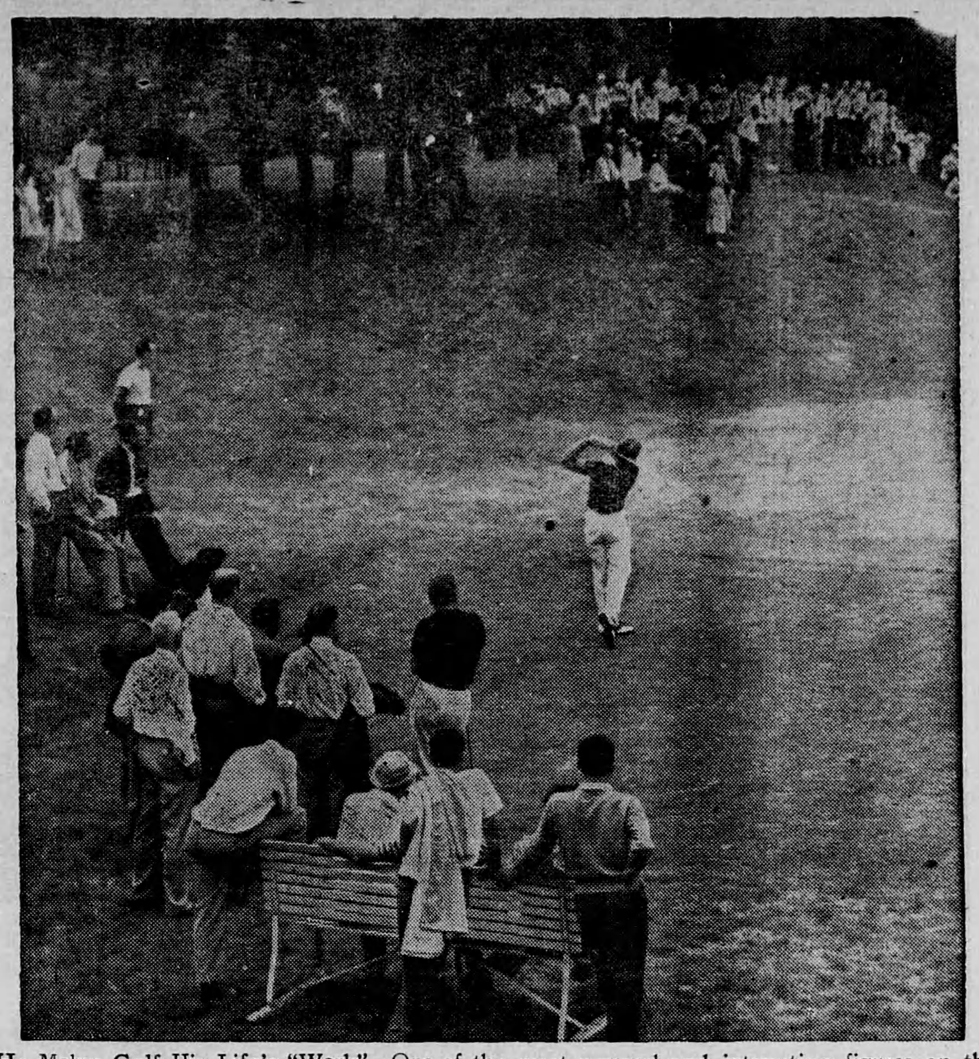
A couple of mosquitoes were attending a convention of insects and an old timer was sitting around reminiscing with a modern one. The old timer sighed:

"Things have changed a lot since my day. When I was a boy you could only bite a girl on the hands or the face, but look at the opportunities you young chaps have today".

★

SALLY'S SALLIES

"My husband's a fireman, too, so please spray our lawn when that fire's under control."



He Makes Golf His Life's "Work"—One of the most unusual and interesting figures on the sporting scene is Frank Stranahan, mightily-muscled golfer who, although he has no need to do so, works far harder at golf than many of those who make their living by it. Son of a very wealthy father—it is rumored that Frank has an "allowance" of more than $1000 per week—his chief ambition is to emulate the example of the illustrious Bobby Jones and hold, at the same time, the four major golfing titles — British Amateur and Open and American ditto. This exclusive picture shows Stranahan in action during the Canadian Open tournament at Ancaster, near Hamilton, which he won. It is said that he plays or practises golf 365 days a year, except during Leap Year when he makes it 366.

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

With humble apologies to any Turf addicts among our clients, we wish to confess to a very grave error. For years, like many other sports cobblers, we have been preaching to the text "you can't possibly beat the races". Now, at long last we learn that this is a mistake. It IS possible to make a profit betting on the horses; and to make up for misleading you in the past, we now disclose just how to go about it.

* * *

Well then, first of all you manage to pick out—right at the very beginning of its career—some such skate as the one called STYMIE. You might find this considerable of a chore seeing that STYMIE — when he was retired from racing a few weeks back—had amassed by far the largest winnings in the history of the sport, amounting to between 900 and 950 thousand dollars. However, even if you have to do a bit of searching, that's how you commence — find yourself a STYMIE to follow.

* * *

Once found, you then proceed to wager a flat sum to win each time he goes to the post. With STYMIE you'd have had to visit the mutual ticket windows—or phone your bookie—exactly 126 times over a matter of five and a half racing seasons. That would represent quiet a lot of time, to say nothing of wear and tear on the nervous system. But think nothing of it. What would you care, so long as you were bound to quit winner?

Do we hear you asking "How great would those winnings be?" Hold tight to your seat now! In his 126 starts STYMIE headed all opposition on exactly 35 occasions. (He finished second 32 times, third 26, and on 33 afternoons ended up what is crudely known as "in the can".) And with a two dollar bet on STYMIE'S distinguished snoot every time he entered the starting gate, you'd find yourself with profits totalling—believe it or not!—slightly over seven dollars.

* * *

So there now, our secret is out; and don't go around saying we failed to tell about our guaranteed, foolproof system. Five and a half years; a capital invesment of $252; and a tidy seven bucks profit. For piling up wealth that's almost as good as making a career of selling smoked glass for watching eclipses of the sun.

* * *

The question is occasionally asked as to why Canadian sports writers do not pay more attention to the noble game of cricket. The answers really fall into two categories. First, in the districts most of us haunt there really isn't very much cricket to which we could pay attention. But the real reason is that we simply haven't got the necessary vocabulary. Afer reading some of the things that have recently come out of Australia regarding Don Bradman, we realize more than ever that the sports writing dodge "down under" must be largely different from what it is around here.

* * *

Don Bradman, as you probably know, is widely acclaimed as the greatest cricketer of all time—although there are some who might still hold out for the late Dr. W. G. Grace who must have been a magnificent sight as he strode toward the wicket with, floating in the breeze, one of those beards that looked as though it might be concealing a couple of robins' nests.

* * *

At all events Bradman occupies, in cricket, a position similar to what Babe Ruth used to have in baseball. Now, like the afore-mentioned STYMIE, he's retiring from active competition. (Whether for the same reasons we really cannot tell you; we know that STYMIE has a chipped stifle-bone but haven't heard about Bradman's). Anyway, after 21 seasons, he's quitting. And as we previously hinted some of the things that are being written about him should cause sports columnists on this side of the water to blush for shame, and resolve to take a correspondence course in language. Here, for your enlightenment, are just a few samples.

* * *

" . . . none has approached the prolific scoring achievements of the mighty Don."——"Fastidious in all his actions on and off the field . . . he has been dubbed a 'clam' because of his reticence . . . "——"But none can deny the fulsome expression he gives to his magnificent ability . . . Intellectually the Don ranks with the greatest in cricket . . . " ——"The culmination of his genius was his remarkable captaincy of world championship teams."

* * *

Which should be enough to give you a general idea—and we take it that no Australian fan would think of delving into the sports page without a good dictionary beside him.

However, we manage to get just a notion that Mr. Bradman must have been quite a willow wielder—one writer says that he had a "broadcast bat", whatever that may be—and well worthy of the testimonial game which is being cooked up in his honor.

* * *

And Bradman will probably collect more than just a little honor and glory from that same game. It's being planned for Melbourne where the Crcket Grounds can accomodate a mere one hundred thousand cash customers. It will be a four day match, which means four different gates, each likely of the capacity" variety. Yes, indeed when it's all over, and the receipts tallied up, there should be quite a neat bit of take-home money for the man "whose name is writ largest of all in the annals of world cricket".

* * *

But we do wish that Ted Reeve, Jim Coleman and the rest of the boys woud get around to decorating their prose a bit with such phrases as "fulsome expression of magnificent ability" and the like. Hot dog! ! !

★

It All Depends . . .

A woman was putting her little girl to bed early one evening after a very trying day with the child. The girl had been in mischief all day and the mother was a bundle of nerves as the day ended. Rebuking the little girl for having been cross and ill-tempered, the mother received the following reply:

"All I've got to say, Mummy, is that it's temper when it's me and nerves when it's you."

★

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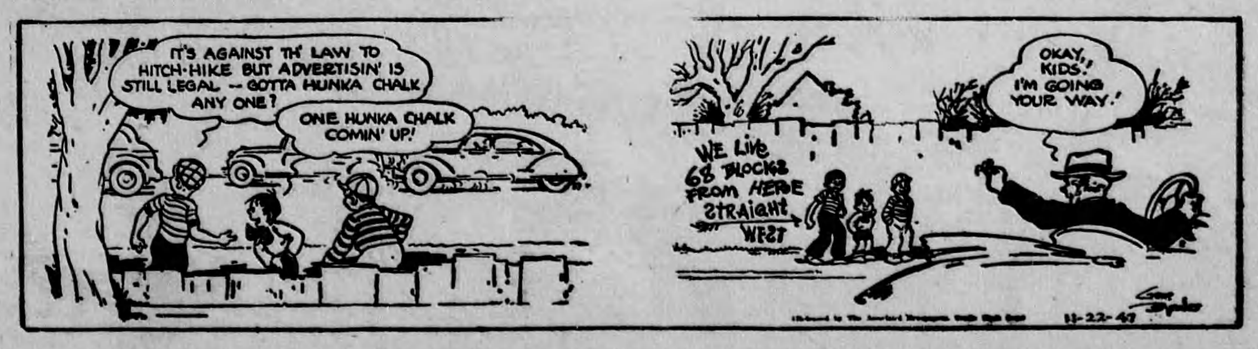
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