Not Quite so Tough and Cocky Now—The self-styled leader of the notorious "Beanery" gang, accused of making life miserable for residents at Ontario summer resorts, doesn't look at all happy about the whole thing as he is seen in custody of police officers at Barrie. Unable to raise bail on an assault charge, 21-year-old Frank Stothers sobbed, "My folks have deserted me—I don't want to go back to jail."

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

It would be a very modest estimate to say that the 21 speedboats registered as starters in the Gold Cup race on the Detroit River represented an investment of at least a million dollars. For one example, Guy Lombardo and Sammie Simmons, her former owner, have spent over two hundred thousand on TEMPO IV. alone.

* * *

Of the 21, only fifteen were able to get to the starting line, what with one thing and another. And of those fifteen only two could go the full ninety miles, which is the distance represented by the three heats. The balance fell, or dove, by the wayside.

* * *

Now there's no doubt that the racing of speedboats is a very thrilling sport; in fact we know of few, if any, which furnish a bigger kick to both contestants and spectators. Still, when you come to think it over, if a guy really wanted to go anywhere by water, he'd do it a whole lot cheaper and with a great deal more certainty by means of an old fashioned rowboat, or even a raft.

* * *

Last year we commented several times about Jackie Robinson—the first of his race to make the major leagues in baseball with praise for his brilliant play, also his gameness for sticking in there in spite of the rather rough passage he was given by some of his fellow-players and by a certain section of the fans.

* * *

This season Jackie's name hasn't been appearing in the sports headlines quite so frequently—a fact which was the probable cause of a reader of this column recently cracking—"What's the matter with your friend Robinson, that you used to be boosting so hard? Looks like he's just another of those fireworks players—up like a rocket and then down like the stick. I knew all the time he didn't have what it takes."

* * *

So just out of curiosity the other morning we took a look at the National League box scores, just to see to what depths the dusky-skinned Dodger had fallen. On the Saturday, we discovered, all Robinson had done was score both of Brooklyn's only two runs—they won 2 to 0—hit a home run and a triple, and taken part in a double play.

* * *

The next day it was even worse. Mr. Robinson's chore that afternoon consisted of merely four hits in six times at bat—including a double, a triple and a homer; two runs batted in; one stolen base; and a part in a double play. When we saw that, in addition to this, he had been guilty of committing an error, we couldn't help thinking that it's a wonder they don't charge him admission to the ball park. But maybe they make him help sweep out the grandstand after hours to earn his salary.

* * *

Also we cannot help thinking—for about the hundredth time— what a marvel it is that the colored boys, who are cutting such wide swathes in baseball, football, track-and-field and most every other sport you might mention, simply cannot seem to make the upper grades of a game called hockey. It just must be that they simply do not take to Canada's national game—for the idea that they could be under any other handicap, or that there might be anything even faintly resembling a color-line drawn, is simply unthinkable—we hope.

* *

"Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" is a well known Scriptural quotation with a wide range of application. One of these, in our opinion, is Canadian football, which we think will be eligible for an entirely new name, seeing that the "foot" has come to play so little part in it.

* * *

For several years we have been calling attention to the fact that when a bunch of kids get together on a corner lot with an inflated pigskin, about ninety per cent of their activities consists in practising tossing and catching forward passes. Back in the days when we could really enjoy watching a game either at 90 in the shade or ten below zero, it was just the other way around.

* * *

All the young squirts of that era wanted to be mughty punters, and that is what they spent their time learning. Now, this failure to "train up a child etc." is bearing fruit—and sorry fruit it is; and we older fans sit there and listen, in amazement, to the crowds cheering "mommoth" punts which, a few years back, wouldn't have been considered up to par in a prep-school game.

* * *

When you see a large proportion of the kicking here being done by ex-Americans, you know that the worst has happened—for our punters could always out-range those from the south of the border by anything from 15 to 30 yards. One of these days a smart Canadian coach, instead of importing his hired help from the U. S. A., will bring in a few of those English rugby boot artists. Give one of them a season to become acclimatized to our game, and he's probably kick his team to a Dominion championship without even getting the bosom of his britches muddied.

Just For Fun

There are many who no doubt still remember the fabulous Florida real estate boom of twenty-five or so years ago, when many an investor paid terrific sums—"sight unseen"—for land later discovered to be more adapted to swimming than farming.

One such victim ruefully surveyed his worthless acres, or as much of them as was visible under six feet of water, then made a bee-line for the promoter who had sold him the property.

"You faker," he yelled. "Didn't you tell me I could grow nuts on that property?"

"I said nothing of the kind," replied the promoter firmly. "What I said was that you could GO nuts on it."

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

South Arabia

It was only a very brief dispatch from Washington, and received but little attention or comment. Yet it brought news which, in times like these, was so unusual as to be almost unbelievable.

This piece of news told of the Government of Saudi Arabia deliberately refusing to accept a fifteen million dollar loan from the U.S.A. because of that nation's attitude on the Palestine problem.

"We feel we would like to get assistance from a friend and not from someone helping our enemy," was the way a spokesman phrased it.

As to the differences between the Arabs and the Jews no comment is intended, except to say that the latter have had greatly the best of it in the matter of publicity. But those South Arabians must be more backward — or more self-respecting—than was generally believed. Someone should really tell them that nobody turns down a "handout" these days just over such a paltry thing as national pride.

Central Europe

The Danube "conference" is over; and as everybody expected, even before it started, it was a conference in name only, merely serving to confirm the Russians in a position they had already seized. The voting at Belgrade proved not only Russia's ability to exert mastery over the greater part of the Danube River, but gave clear evidence of that country's tight control over the foreign policies of the six other members of the "eastern bloc."

The world's most famous waltz is the "Beautiful Blue Danube," written by Johann Strauss, an Austrian. But neither Austria or Germany, which has for centuries had a vital interest in Europe's most important river, will have a word to say in the matter of its control. Thatff will be in the hands of Russia alone—or technically of Russia and its satellite nations, which means exactly the same thing.

The United States Government's blast at the outcome of the conference pointed out that the Russian plan for Danube control upsets the traditions and usages of more than a century and a quarter. Mr. Vishinsky's come-back was typically modern - style Russian. "Certain changes have been made," he brusquely remarked, "and all appeals to the past, to dead traditions of obsolete organs, cannot halt the mighty upsurge of a new life."

British and French representatives at the conference refrained from voting. They knew they were beaten—so what was the use? There are those who profess to "poohpooh" the Russian danger by saying that Stalin and his buddies are "only bluffing." If that is the case, they're certainly managing to get away with it.

The Middle East

News from Damascus tells of a project which might have an immense effect on future world events. This is the new port to be built in Syria to serve as a terminal for a thirty-inch pipeline which, when completed, will boost Great Britain's oil supplies from Iraq from 4 million to 25 million tons annually.

After much inspection of possible sites the Iraq Petroleum Co. has asked for permission to buy the necessary land near the small town of Banias on the Mediterranean coast. The new port will probably be even bigger than Beirut—up to now the principal seaport of that area—and will be able to handle as many as 20 tankers at one time.

The new pipeline will be built along the most direct line from the big oilwells at Kirkuk to the sea. Just when the other new 16-inch line running to Haifa in Palestine will go into action is a matter of some doubt. It is almost complete, but cannot be used at present.

The United States

The case of the "kidnapped" Russian school teacher, and the consequent ousting of the Soviet Consul General, have been getting most of the front-page "play" in United States newspapers. But if it should reach the objective aimed at, a bill signed by President Truman—although receiving little public attention—might have a more direct effect on the lives of more Americans than anything the Kasenkina's, Samarin's and Lomakin's chance to do.

The people of the United States —like a good many Canadians— have the habit of buying things on the installment plan. Americans now owe something like 7 billion dollars "on time"—billions more than ever before. And one of the provisions of the new bill is intended to put somewhat of a curb on this practice.

Some of the new regulations call for down payments of one-third on automobiles and one-fifth on washing-machines and other household appliances. Payment for all purchases under $1000 must be completed within 15 months—over that amount in 18 months.

Whether or not the new law will act, as intended, as a curb against inflation, remains to be seen; but most observers doubt that it will. The "time purchase" habit seems too deeply ingrained to be so easily checked. As the vaudeville comedian used to say, "If it wasn't for the installment plan a lot of minks and other animals could wear their own furs in winter." Plenty of them will still probably be in danger of losing their pelts, act or no act.

Deer Don't Know What Fools Men Are

It has been observed that deer caught in a forest fire will sometimes run into the fire rather than away from it. An explanation is that fires are a comparatively new "natural enemy" of forest animals. At one time, forest fires were a rarity, started only by lightning a ranger tells reporter Ann Foster: "Today, for every fire started by lightning, a hundred are started by men . . . And that is why a deer will run into a fire instead of away from it sometimes — his instinct has not yet caught up with man's stupidity."

SALLY'S SALLIES

"I don't talk about people if I can't say good about them, and—this is GOOD about her."

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