Hiya, Joe, Where Did It Go?—One of the greatest of all-round, all-time ball players, Joe DiMaggio—after his customery post-season trip to the hospital—unlimbers his potent batting swing during a benefit game for a Children's Home. The scene is Florida, and from this angle there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with that swing, although Di Mag appears in no hurry to start heading for first.

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

GREAT BRITAIN

Although it never attained anything like the popularity of its predecessor of twenty years before, "Tipperary", one of the most widely sung ditties during the early part of World War Two was "Lili Marlene".

It is now almost forgotten. But memories of that song were revived by a recent anecdote regarding Winston Churchill.

Not long ago the great British War Leader had a vacation at Monte Carlo. One evening, while dining at the Hotel de Paris, he asked the orchestra leader to play "Lili Marlene".

The orchestra obliged. But next day Churchill issued new instructions. "Please never play that song again while I'm present—it made me dream all night of Rommel."

Rommel—El Alamein—and all the rest of it—how long ago it seems!

FRANCE

Although most of the French people fear—and with good reason—the idea of a revived Germany, with the possibility of further German aggression and perhaps another war, there are thinking people in the first-named country who are coming to take a different view of the matter.

These people believe that the further weakening of German industry and the dismantling of the great Ruhr Valley industrial system will be a real mistake. In their opinion the only way to make another Franco-German war impossible is to develop such strong bonds between those two, and other Western European nations, that another European conflict would be as unthinkable as one between—for example—France and Britain, or Britain and the United States.

This is the view taken in an article appearing in one of the greatest and most authoritative of French newspapers—Le Monde, Paris—and to onlookers in other countries it came as something of a shock. But to many of the more far-seeing among the French it represents a little noticed, but highly significant, change in public thinking in their country. And to the Germans it appeared as a glimpse of reason at a time when the dismantling of their great industrial system seemed like nothing but vindictive revenge on the part of the victors in the last World War.

The article in the Paris paper appeared late in November. It took on greater significance when the French Foreign Minister—Robert Schuman—gave out a semi-official statement just before leaving for a two-day conference in London with his British "opposite number" Foreign Minister Bevin. Schuman said that hatred and vengeance had been removed from French policy toward Germany with a speed that would have been impossible following World War One.

To many thoughtful observers—especially in Britain—Schuman's statement came as a real gleam of sunshine on a cloudy and troubled sky. They have been, as one reporter puts it, "for many weeks searching for some sort of basic formula that would bring Germany and Western Europe together." For with a strong and united Western Europe—which would have to, of course, include Germany—the threat of Russia on the westward march would become far less troublesome.

But whether anything will come out of such proposals remains a matter of considerable doubt. For in the minds of the majority of the French people, the name of Germany still stands for that of an enemy—an enemy always to be feared and kept, if possible, under strongest restraint.

SOUTH AMERICA

Latin America has long been known as a land of many revolutions. But recent happenings down that way make one wonder whether the latest of these represent just the keeping up of an old South American custom, or if, in those parts, there is a concerted movement against democracy and the democratic form of Government.

Last October a military revolt overthrew the popularly elected Government of Peru. In November a swift-moving group of army officials quietly but efficiently snatched the reins of Government from the elected President of Venezuela, Romulo Gallegos. During December a military clique in El Salvador tossed President Salvador Castro out on his ear, while exiled Costa Ricans staged an armed invasion of their homeland.

In Chile the government managed to break up a revolution before it was well started, and the President of Bolivia has been having his own troubles with plotters and schemers. And in other countries there were rumors of trouble.

To a casual looker on it almost resembles the old situation of the Irishman who—observing a brawl going on—politely inquired, "Is this a private fight or can anybody get into it?" But it may be far more important than that. In most South American countries, the masses are terribly unhappy, and with good reason. Why they should be so can be seen from the situation in Venezuela, whtre LESS THAN THREE PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE OWN MORE THAN SEVENTY PER CENT OF THE LAND.

Trouble—really serious trouble—seems to be a-making south of the equator. And the rulers—the exploiters of the masses—seem to be trying, through their military power, to squelch that trouble before it goes too far.

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Good baseball umpires are theoretically absolutely fair and unbiased in their decisions. Actually, they aren't, but lean just a trifle to the visiting club. As one veteran ball-and-strike caller—we think it was Tim Hurse—used to put it, "Yeez can do stuff in the gray that yeez can't get away with in the white."

* * *

By that he meant—as we have most likely explained before—that umpires tend to be a bit more strict with the white-uniformed home team players, and to take less sass and backtalk from them, than they do with the grey clad visiting team.

* * *

The reason for this is obvious, even though most umpires will strenuously deny that they do do anything of the sort. A home town players who argues with the umps, or shows signs of disgust at some of the arbiter's decisions, is far more likely to stir up trouble among the fans than a visitor. So, the home-towner often gets chucked out of the game for things which would get by with one of the opposition.

* * *

Continuing our unasked-for, and no doubt unwanted advice to the professional hockey folk, we would advise that the President—or whoever it is that's the real boss of the National Hockey League—should instruct the referees not to be so lenient about putting a player's cue in the rack for the balance of the game, or even for several games, when he's guilty of actions designed to set a boil the feelings of some of the morons who seem to attend hockey in such numbers these days.

* * *

Throwing, coins, and torn up pieces of paper is bad enough, but when it comes to bottles, sooner or later somebody is going to get hurt, and very badly. Yet practically all such ruhbarbs get their start with some home-town players giving the folks the idea that the referee is giving the local club all the worst of it.

* * *

A case in point—as the lawyers put it—is a recent game at which Ray Getliffe was making his first Toronto appearance as a whistle-tooter. Most of those we talked to afterwards—that is to say those whose opinions on hockey we rate worth listening to—agreed that Mr. Getliffe, although still somewhat green, had turned in a pretty fair chore.

* * *

Yet from the sounds and actions of a lot of Maple Leaf supporters, a casual visitor might very well have thought that Ray was a direct, although slightly illegitimate descendent of Jesse James and a whole line of bandits reaching right back to Attila the Hun, whoever he may have been.

* * *

Why did such a thing happen? Principally, perhaps almost wholly because certain Maple Leaf athletes were trying to cover up their inept—to give it as kindly a description as possible—play, by making the referee look bad. And the dumb fans—mentally dumb, that is—fell for it and fell for it hard in a manner which was a disgrace to a town where folks are supposed to know something about the game. . . . . .

* * *

So, in addition to the suggestion made at the start of this piece, we have another couple to make. One is that the Maple Leafs should have, in their dressing room, a phonograph continually playing nothing but that once-popular ditty entitled, "It Isn't What You Used to Be, But What You Are Today."

* * *

The other—that the Toronto papers should be ordered to cease and desist from running any more pictures showing Conn Smyth, with a beneficent look on his face, basking in that nice Florida sunshine. If they'd print pictures showing Mr. Smythe's face showing the expression it's liable to be wearing when he comes north, and starts telling the boys exactly what ails them, it would be far more liable to secure the desired results.

* * *

For what's been happening to our beloved Maple Leafs must stop, and the sooner the better. For already we know of several of their most ardent radio supporters who are forced to nerve themselves with three or four stiff shots of soda pop before they even dare to tune in of a Saturday night, and hear the Voice of Hockey tell of the dire things that are happening down around the corner of Church and Carlton Sts.

* * *

In conclusion we would just like to quote a few remarks regarding the game of hockey as played today, and the athletes who play it. "They have no guts and they don't know how to skate.—How can a man expect to play hockey when he strangles himself by skating bent over like a pretzel.—He isn't any good for more than two or three minutes unless you attach a spare skate to the seat of his pants.—In my days we played because we liked to. For the players today it's only plain hard work—and hard cash."

* * *

Now the gentleman who made those remarks is not any Johnny-come-lately or even a disgruntled sports writer. His name is Eddie Shore, who—if he isn't Old Man Hockey" in person—comes close to being that mythical being. Mr. Shore played hockey as well as—or possibly better than—any man before or since his time. When Mr. Shore opens his mouth and gives his views on hockey, his words are worthy of consideration. So, maybe some of the rest of us haven't been so far astray after all.

A New York fortune-teller employs white mice to pull horoscope envelopes out of a box.

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