Waiting for Joe—Although Joe DiMaggio is out of action "indefinitely" with an injured heel, the New York Yankee star's uniform is ready and waiting for him. Cleaned and pressed, the suit with the big number five hangs in the Yanks' dressing room at Yankee Stadium, as the Bronx Bombers prepared for a DiMaggio-less opening day.

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

The day after the late lamented Detroit Red Wings seeped out of the Stanley Cup picture we ran across a friend who is considerable of a hockey fan. We found him in a quandary, which is a tough spot to be in unless you are equipped with a map or compass, or else have a seeing eye dog.

* * *

(Which reminds us that the annual campaign for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is about due, and if there is any organization which better deserves your support, we personally have never run across it.)

* * *

But to get back to this friend of ours. When we asked him just what was biting him, he replied that he couldn't decide just what to do in regard to the Maple Leaf hockey team. "If that was the real Maple Leafs we just saw flatten the Detroits," he said, "I am thinking seriously of consulting my lawyer, and I will ask him if I cannot sue the club for the return of all the money I spent on tickets throughout the regular season on the ground of false pretences."

* * *

We tried to soothe his injured feelings as best we cound, telling him that maybe it was the real, blown-in-the-bottle Maple Leafs he had watched trying to untrack themselves during the months of October, November, January, February and March. "They wore the same uniforms," we said, "and they looked very much the same when posing for their pictures."

* * *

"Then in that case," he made answer, "I feel it is my bounden duty to go and report them to the stewards and demand a saliva test for every one connected with the outfit, with the exception, maybe, of Foster Hewitt and Wes McKnight, who gave their best at all times and didn't spare a tonsil." So we left him still wondering which course to take.

* * *

The International League season is just about to start as we write this and there is a long and dusty road to travel ere the pennant race is decided. But if the Toronto Baseball Club keeps up its present gait, we have no hesitation in predicting that ball fans of the Quince City and surrounding territory will have something more to draw them to the stadium than the prospect of watching a lot of noisy sure-thingers parked back of third base trying to chisel one another out of a few small bets.

* * *

For one thing, the club has made a real clean-up and paint-up job of the ball park. And we may inform you that it wasn't before it was time by any manner of means, in fact, they say that in their clean-up operations the workmen came across almost everything that has been missing around Toronto for ages, excepting the body of Ambrose Small.

* * *

Anyway, it promises to be a baseball layout with considerable class, and one to which a man need not be ashamed to take his wife, or lady friend—or both, for that matter, although maybe not both at the same time.

* * *

Then there is the matter of the dope book which the ball club has put out for the information of radio announcers, sports writers and similar trash. It is one of the most complete and well-gotten-up affairs of its kind we have ever seen, and a real credit to whoever compiled it. It—and the refurbishing of the stadium—have convinced us that the Toronto Baseball Club really means business, and intends to give the fans something more than promises of "Better things next summer."

* * *

Looking over the volume in question, we couldn't help marveling at how many different cities had been represented—or misrepresented—in the loop since Toronto first became part of it 'way back in 1884—also the different names the league itself had gone under.

* * *

First of all, it was the Eastern League. After that, for one season, the New York State League. Then the International League, the International Association, the Eastern Association, the Eastern League, again the International League, the New International League, and lastly—so far—the International League. For changing names, it could give Babs Hutton a real run for her money, and no fooling.

* * *

As for the cities taking part—well, to put it briefly, there were no less than 42 of them, all told—and if you think they are going to be all told in detail in this space, you are mistaken. But a hasty glance reveals such teams taking part as the Philadelphia Athletics, Hamilton, Ontario; Ottawa, Saginaw, Bay City, Wilkes-Barre, Lebanon, Long Island City, and a whole lot more that we had long forgotten were ever in there.

* * *

However, this will suffice regarding the Toronto ball team and the International League for the time being, but we hope to have more worth reporting at a later date. As a one-time resident of Toronto, and a long sojourner in its vicinity, we would hate to have outsiders get the idea that hockey and form-chart reading cover the full extent of its athletic addictions.

While engineers of the New York Power and Light Corp. pondered plans for a hydro-electric dam on the Cacandaga River, beavers moved in, built one 126 feet wide and 6 feet high, and flooded 15 acres. Confident it can be done, the engineers are completing their plans.

WES McKNIGHT

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

PALESTINE

If, as, and when Israel is admitted to the United Nations, 59 flags will fly from 59 flagpoles at the entrance to the U.N.'s General Assembly auditorium in New York. But it seems quite possible, at this writing, that one of those flagpoles will be bare during the current session. The obstacle, of course, is the vexed question of Jerusalem.

Lying in the central region of Palestine, the heart of Jerusalem, is the "old city," a one-mile-square area enclosed by ancient walls. There stand most of the holy places of Jerusalem — places sacred to Christian, Jew and Moslem. Normally the population of the Old City is around 27,500, including 2,500 Jews.

Outside those walls is New Jerusalem, with a population of around 103,000 Jews and 105,000 Arabs.

The United Nations, in its original plan of partition, proposed to establish Jerusalem and its environs as an international area of some 280 square miles. The objective was to assure free access to the holy places of the city for any and all religious groups.

During the war of partition about a year ago, the armies of Israel and of Trans-Jordan divided Jerusalem. Israel occupied the western sector, the modern business and residential quarters where most of the Jews lived. King Abdullah's Trans-Jordan Legion occupied the eastern sector, including the Old City. In the armistice of April 3, 1949, both sides recognized the other's holdings in Jerusalem for the present.

The Israeli Government has said that it will not relinquish its part of Jerusalem, nor the corridor leading from there to Tel Aviv—and it has also proposed that the Old City be internationalized. Actually, however, Israel has indicated that she is not interested in the status of the Old City so long as she retains her part of Jerusalem.

Trans-Jordan has shown equal determination to keep its section of Jerusalem as long as Israel retains its sector. King Abdullah has made it clear that he will not consent to internationalization of the Old City unless all Jerusalem is placed under international administration.

In the United Nations debate over Israel's application for U.N. membership, the future of the holy places was a central theme. One group argued for immediate approval of the application; another wanted it referred to a committee for further study.

The latter stand was suported by an encyclical of Pope Pius in which he urged "internationalization of Jerusalem and all other sacred places." Britain is generally sympathetic with the Arabs' position; and the Scandinavian states are disturbed over Israel's failure to find and punish the murderers of the U.N. mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte.

So it looks, at this moment, very much as though Israel will remain outside the United Nations, officially, for a while yet.

RUSSIA

For centuries there has been great speculation, from time to time, as to whether there is still anything of Noah's Ark remaining. According to the Book of Genesis, the Ark — a triple-decked vessel some 450 feet in length — "rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat."

These mountains are, at present, in Turkish territory, overlooking boundaries with Iran and Soviet Russia. Not long ago three Western archaeologists announced that they had the Turkish Government's permission to go and take a look for the Ark. One of the men is Egerton Sykes, a member of the British Geological Society and former British commercial attache at Warsaw. Another is Hans Roozen, a Dutch student; while the third is Dr. E. A. Smith, of North Carolina. They have been trying to raise money for the expedition and hope to start for Turkey early this summer.

But the Russians see in the proposal nothing more than a spy plot concocted by Anglo-American intelligence agents. Pravda, the Communist party paper, said, "It is quite enough to look at a map to understand the meaning of the Anglo-American imperialists. The true purpose of such an expedition is as far from archaeology as Egerton Sykes is from his great-grandfather Noah."

In London Mr. Sykes stated that the spy story was ridiculous. In North Carolina Dr. Smith said, "We are not going to change our plans."

And there, for the time being, the matter rests.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Quite a number of western diplomats and employees of foreign missions to Czechoslovakia have been "invited" to leave that country during the past year, on what appear to be very flimsy charges of "spying."

One case, which may have serious consequences, is that of Captain Philip Wildash, a British representative in the Allied Military Permit Office, which sanctions visits to and across the three western zones of Germany. He was expelled from Czechoslovakia last March, but the matter is by no means closed as yet.

The British Embassy held that the attitude of the Czech police showed clearly that Wildash's guilt had been prejudged and sent a letter of protest to the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry. The reply rejected the British protest and asserted that the Government had acted within its rights and in strict accord with diplomatic usage.

How far the three western Governments are prepared to go in pressing the Czech Government for guarantees that incidents like that of Wildash will not occur again is a matter for speculation. If they decide to go all out in support of the fundamental liberties involved, there may be grave trouble stirred up, not only in Czechoslovakia but throughout other "satellite" countries. Probably the whole thing depends on just how the big boys behind the walls of the Kremlin feel about it; although, of course, nothing like that can be said in any way officially.

TIP TO GARDENERS

Plants can fool the best of us. So often a stray seedling is saved as being a choice plant, only to turn out to be a weed. Stray tree seedlings are the worst offenders, coming up among our shrubs or along the foundation of the house, where we forget them until they are so big we have to ruin some good plant or shrub to get them out. Watch out for seedling trees coming up in the middle of a choice lilac or Japanese snowball.

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