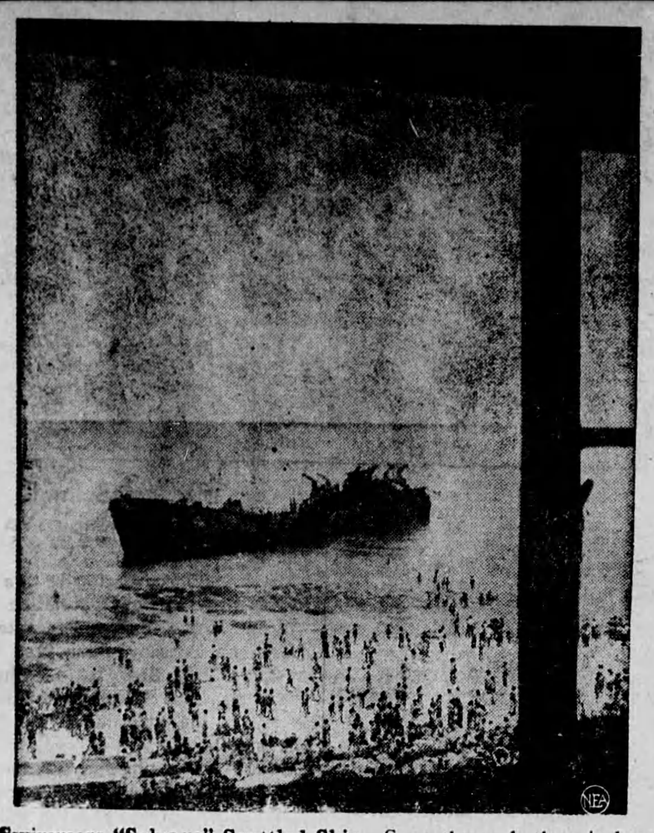

Swimmers "Salvage" Scuttled Ship—Seen through the window of a seaside apartment, residents of Tel Aviv, Israel, flock to this municipal bathing beach and use the ill-fated "Altalena" as their diving board. The munitions ship, which members of the now outlawed Irgun Zwai Leumi ran aground and tried to unload during a Palestine truce, was set on fire by members of Haganah last June.

SPORTS-&c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

We never had Joe Louis pegged as a very deep thinker. Still, we may be mistaken, at that. The sculptor Rodin once did a piece of statuary entitled "The Thinker" which won world-wide acclaim and which sent generations of art-lovers into conniption fits; yet, to our untutored mind the gent in the statue looked as though he never harbored a thought deeper than wondering whether to have his breakfast eggs scrambled or fried sunny-side-up. So we guess you never can tell.

* * *

Anyway, it is rather interesting to speculate on what thoughts, if any, sped through Joe Louis' brain as he contemplated the picture of the likes of Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott, battling for the crown which he, the Bomber, wore so long and with such modesty.

* * *

Maybe Joe was thinking of the time when he got his first crack at the title—then in the possession of the aging but game James J. Braddock—and Jimmy proceeded to dump him on the bosom of his britches in the very first round. (It was a right to the jaw that did it, of course, as Joe never could seem to guard that side of his chops).

* * *

From then on, it wasn't much of a fight. Everybody but Braddock knew that it was only a matter of time—but Jimmy's stark courage carried him through the storm which raged all through the fifth, sixth and seventh until — in the eighth—a right-hand smash proved too much for even gameness. That was on June 22, 1937 and a new champion — one of the greatest, if not the greatest — came into his own.

* * *

Or maybe Louis was thinking of the time when he received the only real setback of his career. That was against Maxie Schmeling who, after watching Louis in the ring, came away saying, "I see zomezing." That "zomezing," of course, was Joe's openness to right hands to the jaw, and when the two of them met, the haughty Nazi took full advantage of what he had seen.

* * *

Schmeling floored Joe with a right to the jaw in the fourth, and although the knockout didn't come until the twelfth, that was the punch which did the damage. Joe Louis had made the mistake of not training properly for Maxie. But the German also made a mistake. Instead of letting well enough alone, he returned to his native country shooting off his mouth about the superiority of the "Master race" over inferior folks such as colored people. And what a mistake that turned out to be!

* * *

The return Schmeling - Louis brawl was fought just a year, to the month, after Louis won the championship. And what a fight that was. For ever since Schmeling's remarks about Master races and inferior peoples had come to his ears, Louis had been waiting for a chance to get even.

* * *

The fight started off as though it was going to be one of those slow, sleepy affairs. For the first minute of the opening round there was nothing but cautious feinting and feeling-out. Then, all of a sudden all hades busted loose.

Schmeling took two or three lefts to the head — fairly stiff punches, but not really dangerous. Then Maxie threw his Sunday punch—the right aimed for the jaw. It missed. And Louis, swarming all over the Nazi, blasted a right that bounced Schmeling off the ropes—bounced him straight back into a machine-gun-like fire of hard, battering fists.

* * *

Louis never let up for even a split second. One terrific right caught the proud German so hard that Maxie screamed in agony — screamed so loudly that folks 20 rows away from the ringside could hear it. Three times he went down —and the white flag of surrender, a towel tossed by his seconds, hung across the ropes, ignored by Louis and referee alike.

* * *

But, towel or no towel, the end came quickly. Just two minutes and four seconds after the opening gong sounded, the conquering German was a dead pigeon, having thrown just two punches — one of which missed cleanly, and the other hardly more than a gesture.

* * *

The Brown Bomber had had his revenge. Maxie Schmeling had been made to eat the words which — swollen with Hitlerian pride — he had been foolish enough to utter. And that may have been the occasion Joe Louis was recalling as—to get back to our opening text—he contemplated the picture of the likes of Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott fighting for the throne he had vacated.

* * *

Still, on the other hand, Joe may have been thinking of nothing of the sort. He might have been contemplating the box office receipts of the Ezzard Charles thing and thinking — somewhat sadly — what a sucker method of amassing wealth fight promoting is, that is as compared to actually fighting. You never can tell about these thinkers!

PROFIT

A rather uncommunicative fellow settled out in Alberta a few years ago. He lived by himself and curious neighbours were not able to get much information about him. Finally one of them stopped him at the village store, asked how the recent comer liked farming.

"All right, I guess."

"Making any money?"

"Guess so. Bought a hog in the winter for $15. Sold him in the spring for $32.50. Of course, it cost me around 20 bucks to feed him."

"Then you lost on the deal?"

"Well, not exactly. You see I had the company of the hog for half a year."

IN ERROR

A man rushed into a drug store and asked the pharmacist what to do to stop hiccups. His answer was a slap in the face.

Shocked and angry, the man demanded an explanation for such action.

"Well," replied the pharmacist, grinning, "you haven't any hiccups now, have you?"

"No" replied the angry one "but my wife, out in the car, still has them."

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

GREAT BRITAIN

Britain's most important manufacture today — according to one American correspondent — seems to be good news. It continues to churn out such items in surprising quantity and variety, he says, and cites the following examples.

There were more jobs in Britain and more people in them during June — 89,000 more — than there had been in May.

There were fewer men and women out of work — 20,000 fewer.

Unemployment was the lowest in Europe and probably in the world. At 304,200 all told, it represented only 1.2 per cent of the working population; and those figures included folks who happened to be shifting jobs or were temporarily unemployed for some other reason.

And, contrary to general belief, there had been no general fall as yet apparent in over-all British exports. Exports in May were $50,000,000 better than in April; and according to the latest month's figures available, cars, trucks, tractors and airplanes are being exported at a rate more than three times as great as that before the war.

Somehow or other it should be a reassurance to a troubled world to know that — whatever the financial experts say — facts and figures still stubbornly insist on giving news about Britain which is, on the whole, good.

POLAND

Communist control and Communist methods are old stuff in Poland now. The Poles have had them for over four years now. But in spite of tales that the Polish worker is beginning to discover a bitter taste inside the sugar coating handed him with his "peoples' democracy" it is easy for the westerner to over-emphasize this, and to look for any immediate uprising among the Poles.

For Poland tends to compare its living conditions today NOT with those before the war, but rather with those during the German occupation. The big boss in a nationalized factory mey be a communist. He may even be a Moscow-trained Communist. But at least he is a Pole, and not a German!

Even Poles who detest the present regime have a tendency to say, "Well, at least we are among ourselves." The hatred of the German master during the occupation was so intense that the new Communist master still seems mild by comparison.

All of these are reasons why there has been no violence in Poland. But this has been going on for four years now, and the time has arrived when the Polish worker is beginning to notice some of his disadvantages—which may be one reason why production in Poland has slumped a bit during recent months.

On the farms, there has been a falling off of production too, but for a different reason. While collectivization has not been pushed, there have been published notices that it is coming. And the peasant has met this by cutting his production, even by slaughtering livestock.

As stated earlier, the rumblings of possible revolt still sound very far off. But the dilemma for the Polish Communist regime is likely to grow far more difficult as time goes on.

Fence Buster — Ed Sanicki, hardhitting center fielder, Toronto Maple Leafs.

RUSSIA

As the Paris conference drew to a close there were widespread speculations as to where it left relationships between East and West. The consensus was that no really fundamental shift of strength had taken place — but that whatever changes had been made were somewhat to Russia's advantage.

The world picture now looks somewhat like this; the Russians have got rid of the Berlin blockade without any great loss of "face". The economic outlook in the West is uncertain, and there is pressure for freer trade to open up Eastern markets to Western goods. And although United States Senate ratification of the Atlantic treaty appears likely, the arms program to implement that treaty is still in doubt. There are even moves in Washington aimed at cutting down the Marshall Plan appropriations.

Thus, according to some theories, it has not been in the Kremlin's interest to offer any important concessions at Paris. Instead, Russian strategy has apparently been to spar for time, in the hope that the West's economic position will take a decided turn for the worse.

At the same time, Vishinsky put the Western Foreign Ministers in the embarrassing position of having to negotiate on an issue they had not expected to consider — trade and transport for Berlin. Should a settlement of these matters be reached — then we can look for the Russians to claim that they were the ones who initiated the conference.

However, there has been this consoling note — the tone of the Paris conference on the whole has been polite, with little of the backbiting and ill-feeling which marked previous ones. It is expected that the Foreign Ministers will make some arrangement toward meeting again, possibly in New York in the early fall — and at least go through the motions of trying again.

But if there is any lesson to be learned from the Paris affair, it is this; a man who really knows where he wants to go, and never takes his eyes off that goal, is liable to make for more progress than those who have no definite objective, and just dawdle along hoping for the best. And you can say this about the Russians — they keep their sights always on the target, come hell or high water.

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