WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

THE FAR EAST

The Russian position, as regards the Orient, is about like this; the victories in China have aroused Communist hopes of sweeping on to engulf vast areas, populated by hundreds of millions.

During the Paris conference Vishinsky gave a hint regarding these Communist hopes. He proposed that a Japanese peace treaty be put before a four-power confernce — the four being the Soviet Union, China, Britain and the United States.

The purpose of such a line-up is fairly clear. The Russians would look for an alignment between themselves and the Chinese Communists, on one hand, against Britain and the U.S.A. on the other — and the major aim of the Kremlin would be to get a treaty which would end the American occupation of Japan.

Since the defeat of the Chinese Nationalists, the policy of the Western powers has been in doubt, and just what lines the new policy will take is by no means certain. It is thought, however, that the United States and other Western Powers with Far Eastern interests are inclined to extend limited recognition to Communist China, such as the retention of consulates and so on. But full diplomatic recognition would be certain to set off bitter controversy, especially in the United States, where 21 Senators—including both Republicans and Democrats — have demanded the President's assurance that the Chinese Communist regime will not be recognized, and that support for the Chinese Nationalists will not be abandoned.

In his message to Congress President Truman said that the proposed Far Eastern program is designed to help such areas lift themselves out of "grinding poverty" and to steer clear of "false doctrines."

Whatever else this may mean it seems clear that the West is in no mood to relax it vigilance over the Russian bear as yet — which is probably just as well from our point of view.

GREAT BRITAIN

The Conservatives have announced that Winston Churchill is soon to make a speech outlining his Party's policy. (Possibly it may have been made before this sees print.) As a result of that announcement, both the Socialists and the Conservatives were feeling somewhat nervous.

Although Mr. Churchill may be in close contact with his party leaders there is little doubt that he is further out of touch with the rank and file of his supporters at any time since the last election. And there is a strong feeling that if he merely blasted the Socialists, he would slow down the quickening pace of the Conservative revival.

"If he would only speak of the Socialists more in sorrow than in anger it would be effective," one Canadian observer puts it, "but the old warrior has always preferred the bludgeon to the poisoned flower. Everything about the Socialists angers him, and he sees no reason to dissemble his hate. However, the Conservatives are still hoping that he will mix adroitness with his pugnacity."

* * *

Following its Whitsuntide recess, the British House of Commons made its first job an examination of the tourist situation. In the course of discussion it was disclosed that the tourist industry is one of Britain"s chief dollar earners.

Last year 505,000 visitors came to Britain, of whom 140,000 were Americans or Canadians. They earned Britain something like $50,000,000.

This year, April visitors were 43 per cent above 1948. By 1952 or 1953 Britain expects to earn 65 million pounds from tourism, of which about half should be in dollars. And this is of utmost importance to British and European recovery which is balanced precariously over the "dollar gap."

This importance is thoroughly realized, and the House of Commons debated, towards the end of June, on just how Britain could be made more attractive and welcoming to overseas visitors. From now on big efforts will be put forth to improve services to visiting holiday-makers.

YUGOSLAVIA

It looks very much as though the latest Big Four meeting may have widened one of the cracks in the Russian Orbit — that is, judging from Vishinsky's abandonment, at the Paris conference, of Yugoslav claims to Austrian territory.

Of course, this Austrian agreement is "in principle" only, and the work on the treaty is only just starting and Vishinsky's last-minute attempt to attach additional conditions shows, once again, that one can never know what the Russians are liable to do between one minute and the next.

But as things stand for Tito as of now, he is without support from Moscow in the territorial dispute between Yugoslavia and Austria. This is noteworthy because this dispute is not simply between these two countries. It has been an East-West question. On East-West questions Yugoslav leaders have repeatedly proclaimed themselves loyal to the eastern bloc, even though they admitted having "family quarrels" with Moscow.

Evidently this feeling of solidarity in international affairs is not matched in the Kremlin, nor does the Politburo seem particularly grateful to Tito for sticking to the eastern bloc as against the West. So, will Tito feel that he has been in effect released from earlier pledges of loyalty to Moscow as against the West? Or will he read the news from Paris as handwriting on the Iron Curtain spelling out new warnings on the price of back talk?

SPORTS &c

by A Sixbit Critic

Our friends among the horsemen never did have a proper appreciation of our ability to pick winners. In fact, we recall, as we have doubtless told you before, one afternoon at Long Branch when, by some miracle, we had bet on a very long shot which managed to stagger home in front, and were chortling over the discomfiture of those around us who had gone, hook, line and sinker, for the hot favorite.

* * *

But we quickly got our comeuppance from the lips of Tom Bird, dean of Canadian clockers. "Even a blind pig," observed Mr. Bird sourly, is liable to pick up one acorn."

* * *

So now that we have selected, and predicted, another winner—although not on the race track this time—you will pardon us if we indulge in a spot of "I-told-you-so-ing." Shortly after the running of our great Canadian "classic" we published the following paragraphs, which you can check against what actually happened on June 27th, for accuracy.

* * *

Down at Woodbine Park on King's Plate Day, several prominent Progressive Conservatives were very much disgusted when a gentleman who had backed the winner, Epic, and who was feeling very gleeful about it, pointed out in tones that could be heard for half a block that what had just happened was the very finest sort of a hunch for the future.

* * *

"There," he said, "is an exact picture of what is going to come off on June 27. The George McCullagh entry gets away from the gate badly, is slow to get going, and although continuing with real courage through the stretch, is never able to seriously threaten the winner, who ran as though considerably the best."

* * *

Just in case you do not happen to catch the meaning of the allusion we shall merely inform you that the "George McCullagh entry" in the Dominion Stakes set for June 27 is a gentleman named George Drew—and let it go at that.

* * *

Now, on looking it over again, we see that we did something else that was worthy of note. That phrase "considerably the best" is probably one of the greatest pieces of understatement on record.

* * *

From far-away British Columbia sound loud wails of distress over the lacrosse situation out there. The West Coast Province has been one of the few remaining hotbeds of that once-great game; but now, even there, spectator and player-interest appear to be slipping badly.

* * *

Countless speeches have been made, reams upon reams of stuff have been written and published, outlining various views as to the real reason for the decline of lacrosse—for our money the grandest sport ever played on this continent. (And if this be treason, hockey, baseball and football bugs, make what you like out of it.)

* * *

Some will try and tell you that out-and-out professionalism—with the consequent flow of the best talent to the larger centers, where the getting was better—was the chief cause of its falling-off in popularity. Which seems rather queer, when you consider the fact that the boys take their pay regularly and out in the open it doesn't' seem to harm, for instance, baseball and hockey.

Johnny Welaj — Hitting and fielding star with the surprising Toronto Maple Leafs.

* * *

Others place the blame on—well, practically everything in the Alphabet, starting with Automobiles and continuing on down.

* * *

Personally, we would be inclined to split the blame three ways. First of all, Women. In the palmy days of the sport, a large percentage of lacrosse games ended up in mob scenes, with players and spectators alike taking part.

* * *

This was fair enough when the cash customers were largely of the male persuasion. But when the women-folk insisted on coming along—well, they just couldn't seem to appreciate the beauty of fists and sticks swinging wildly, and manly gore flowing freely from scores of faces.

* * *

So, when the ladies decided it was too brutal for them, they also came to the conclusion that it was equally insalubrious for the males under their sway. To put it briefly, Maw stayed away, and insisted on Paw staying with her.

* * *

Second, The Moving Pictures. Just as every girl conceals in her bosom the thought that, with any kind of a break, she could run Rita Hayworth out of the park, so modern youth has a feeling that, some day or other, he will be tapped for Hollywood to become a new thrill for the bobby-sox trade.

* * *

Now it is a well-known fact, that no lad, after indulging in a couple of seasons of lacrosse as she once was played, retained sufficient photogenic qualities to be anything more alluring than a cinema menace. And so the youngsters, instead of getting into the game, took to softer pastimes.

* * *

Third, and finally, we blame the Sports Writers. When the game was abbreviated, they insisted—and still continue to do so—on abbreviating its name from Lacrosse to Boxla. And this, we honestly believe, did Lacrosse more harm than any other single factor. "Let's go to the Boxla game" may sound like an alluring invitation to you. But to us it presents no more temptation—in fact not nearly as much—as a bid to go out for an evening of Bingo.

Marcia Evanson, of the WCCO radio station's publicity department in Minneapolis, unable to sleep one night, reached for a sleeping tablet in the dark, swallowed it, and promptly fell asleep.

Next morning she discovered no sleeping tablets missing. She had however, swallowed a rhinestone ear-ring.

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