"Milking" Clouds May Stir Up Big Argument in West

Experiments in artificial rainmaking — "milking the clouds" is what some call it — have attracted much attention in many parts of the world, especially in dry and semi-detert areas. Now a rancher out in the : tate of Nevada has actually filed r claim on the moisture above his ranch, with the idea of seeding the clouds with dry ice or silver iodide, for the purpose of filling his reservoirs with precious

water.
This claim — which at first was greeted with laughter and taken as a joke — actually may be the means of starting a big controversy; for water is so valuable in some sec-tions of the west that any hold on its possession is hotly defended. While in the Eastern States no one has a claim to ownership of the water that flows through the land. out west if is just the opposite, and a man who can establish a claim as "first beneficial user" is allowed to make use of al' the flowing water his claim calls for, even though a neighbor just below him thereby

goes entirely dry.

Much of the moisture which falls on interior votern states comes from the Pacific Ocean. Should people on the western side of the Pacific slope decide to go in for "milking" the clouds before they pass across the mountain ranges it night have a 'ecided effect on the entire econo by of the interior areas. Whatever the final result, it would seem as if both lawyers and engineers will have many problems to solve before the matter is definitely

STUFF AND THINGS



"Look who dropped in, on his way to the happy haunting ground!"

Magazine "Facts" Need a Recheck

In a recent issue FORTUNE the magazine that sells for a dollar a copy and seldom mentions; any-body lower down in the social scale than a millionaire — published somethi g of a "blart" at Canada. The article, among other things, said that "in an even race Kansas wheat growers might put Canadian growers out of business" - the reason being that our farm research was so greatly behind that in "God's c untry".

Canadians who pay any attention to this kind of thing are having a quiet smile to themselves over such nonsense. According to the C.P.R. "Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada" the world's wheat championship — decided annually at the Chicago International Grain Show — has been won by Canadians just 29 times out of 33 shows held since 1911. More than that, all four of the wins by non-Canadians were on wheat from Montana which lies along the Canadian border; and the prize-winning grains were all varieties either originated in this country, or from a decendant of Canadian strains.

It would seem as if FORTUNE do a little the much - publicized "fact - checking" staff.



Bachelor and Hockey Bobby, Soxers—Marlboros' Johnny Mc Cormack, leading scorer in the OHA senior race, has other worries besides bagging his quota of goals for Joe Primeau's team. They're obviously pleasant worries, however, as you might discover from this picture of Johnny instructing his St. Mike's (U of T) hockey team. Left to right (front row)! Vicky Boechler, Ann Malcolm, Betty Markle, the coach, Francis Conlin, Rita Bauer (sister of Bobby, ex-Boston Bruin), Helen Martel, Babe Coughlin and Barbara Smith. Back row: Nancy Gates, Jean Rutherford and Mamie Flynn.

Sports - And One Thing or Another

("A Sixbit Critic")

him for the past couple of seasons. Our personal feeling is just the same

as it has always been—that Ezinicki is a colorful and potentially great

hockey player who was being exploit-

ed, mostly by irresponsible sports

writers, to his own great disadvan-

Billing Ezinicki as a "killer" and all that sort of tripe might help swell

the box-office tally, and draw extra customers who came only to holler "Get Ezinicki" every time he stepped on the ice. That's very-fine, especial-

ly for the type of "sports" promoter whose idea of the greatest game of

the season is the one which broke the last attendance record.

One of our feminine readers-we quoted. "When you look at any promight say that the lady is a violent supporter of the Montreal Canadiens fessional sport, if you see a good game you've had your money's worth. game you're had your money's worth. If it's a poor game, even the fact that it might be for the champion-ship of the world doesn't make it any different. A mateur athletes, playing strictly for the fun of it, have no obligation to think too much about the spectators but it's differand not feeling any too good about the state of the world at present writes regarding a certain well-known member of the Toronto Maple Leafs. "I understand that many years ago there used to be a song entitled AND BIG BAD BILL IS ent with professionals, who if they put on a tame exhibition are cheat-SWEET WILLIAM NOW. 1 wonder if you could get a copy of it, ing those who make their living possible." and send it with my compliments to 'Bad Man' Ezinirki. Ever since one of our boys gave him a mild going-over in Montreal 'Big Bad Bill' seems Here, we seem to have got slightly off the trail of Bill Ezinicki — and to have lost a lot of that much adver-tised fight of his—just another of the whether or not he's lost some of the kind that loves to dish it out, but can't take it!" battling spirit that has characterized

Personally, we have no particular feeling either way regarding Mr. Ezinicki — or any other professional athlete, for that matter. There was a day when we could follow, with intense and even passionate interest, the progress—or lack of it—of some pro. team. But that day is in the dim and distant past. It goes back to the time when a great Canadian Sports Editor-Francis Nelson, by name-gave us a little advice which really opened our eyes.

We had been bewaiting to Mr. Nelson the fact that "Our" teamif memory serves aright it was the old Tecumseh's Lacrosse Team—was getting the worst of it from some hated rival, and appeared to be in great danger of losing its last

those two teams, they'd probably be battling one another just as hard

Then he added something we have always remembered, and frequently

But just suppose that Erfnickispurred to more intensive efforts by those hostile shouts, he being that great danger of losing its last chance for the Championship.

"Don't worry about it too much," advised Mr. Nelson, "Just remember this—if you were to go into those dressing-rooms, right now at half-time, and switch the uniforms on type of athlete—should by some mis-chance injure an opponent really seriously, perhaps even fatally. In less time than it takes for you to read this, he finds himself suspended, maybe banished for life. Inside a month all we writers who hammered out so many greatly-needed columns from his doings — to say notking of the promoters who when they came on the field again." cashed in on his drawing-powers would have practically forgotten him completely, or almost so. If Mr. inicki has pulled in his horns a trifle-is no longer letting himself be made the sacrificial goat for an entire club, we think he has been very well advised. Coaches and managers who stress the "fighting qualities" of

> out" a trifle. A week or so ago we wrote some-thing in praise of the British Boxing Association for its action in curbing the broadcasting and televising of fights in future. John Lardner—son of the great and only Ring W. and himself a smart and thoughtful sports observer - a couple of days

their teams have a lot to answer for.
If the penalties fell as heavily on them as on those they incite to such process, maybe they too would "cool

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impossible. Piles were considered one new Fynese treatment has brown it-self in cases. It gets results because It goes direct to the internal cause. Your first bottle (a liquid taken by mouth) shows you the difference, or that price refunded at once. All modern Druggists.

Lighter and Faster

later wrote along the same line, and speaks about how the increasing

popularity of television threatens the

very life of sport, not only in Britain,

"It appears" he says, "that the British fight fan is getting his enter-

tainment practically everywhere but at the place where fighters are fight-

ing and ticket sellers selling tickets. The boys might be fighting at the bottom of the Suez Canal for all they

are drawing at the gate. The big shows are playing to peanuts, and the small shows folding up."

Well, we can picture it as a very sweet thing indeed—to sit by your home television screen and, in a single Saturday afternoon, tune in and see a few innings of World Series Base-

ball, some scraps of American and Canadian football, the finish of some

of the most important horse races of

the day, and various other items of the sort—all without the slightest

exertion. If you have the only tele-

vision set in your vicinity and can

charge the neighbors a small ad-mission fee, it will be even sweeter.

But after a few years of it - just where the athletes are coming from,

to keep things going, is something we haven't yet been able to figure

One Too Many

A lad watching a house painter at work, said, "How many coats do you give it?"

"Two", said the painter.

"Then", said the lad, "if you would give it three coats, would the third one be an overcoat?"

"No, sonny", said the painter, "that would be a waste coat."

but on this Continent as well.

Britain has produced a new, streamlined ski, said to be lighter and 10 per cent faster than any

Streamlined Ski

The new ski, likely to prove the surprise of the 1948 Olympic win-ter games, is made of steel, plastic and wood, and may later be made unbreakable.

It was tried out secretly on the Jungfrau glacier during the sum-mer by James Palmer Thompkinson, captain of the British ski team for the Olympic games.

News of the invention is beginning to leak out among the other teams in Switzerland-and one of the new skis has disappeared mysteriously in the night.

A Bright Idea

Fond Mamma: "Wouldn't you like to give your hoop to that poor little boy who has no father?" Tommy: "Couldn't we give him father, instead?"

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