WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

France

On the 21st of this month the spotlight shifts to Paris, and the beautiful capital of France becomes, in a sense, the capital of the world. That's because, for the next six to ten weeks, the United Nations General Assembly will be holding its regular fall session there, and the consensus among experts is that this will constitute the most important international gathering since the end of the war.

As one of them says, "it is no exaggeration to say that in a large measure the hope and fate of the world may depend for a long time to come on what takes place in the Parisian palace that once graced the grounds of the 1937 World's Fair."

Western and eastern powers, the intermediate states, and even the "vestage stamp" nations have been getting ready for a real showdown—all of them convinced that this session may well determine whether there is to be a working agreement between East and West, or whether things are to develop into an all-out armaments race.

To say nothing of the German problem, among the issues probably to be decided are those of Greece, Czechoslovakia, Palestine, Indonesia, Kashmir, Egypt, Korea, Trieste, Spain, South Africa, the Italian colonies, the Italian peace treaties and the abuse of the veto in the Security Council—every one of them a hot spot. And behind every meeting, every discussion, there will be that one all-important matter—the struggle for power and advantage between East and West.

It is estimated that at least 6,000 persons will attend the Assembly as delegates, officials, secretaries, correspondents and consultants. The newspaper coverage will no doubt be one of the most extensive ever known as European publications, which have been only thinly represented at Lake Success will have correspondents by the score on the spot.

It is the hope and prayer of an overwhelming majority of the world's peoples that the Paris session will be such a success that it will lead to an easing of the fear and tension which now grips most of mankind. Whether those prayers are answered, whether those hopes are fulfilled is, of course, another matter. There are times when one can't help thinking of the man who said that this world is really the Nether Regions where we have been sent because of sins committed in some former existence.

India

Some years ago a favorite selection with concert and parlor tenors used to tell of singing to a loved one "songs of Araby and tales of old Kashmir." But there is little of that sort of sentiment in the news coming from the latter far off land these days—for the Kashmir natives, who lost homes, wives and families when fierce Pathan tribesmen swept thereugh their country looting, burning and slaying last Fall, have been formed into a militia said to be "the most fiendish fighters on earth."

Their commander is Colonel B. M. Kaul who, when he learned that his dearest friend had been killed in an engagement in Kashmir, immediately left his Embassy post at Washington and had himself transferred to active service. Using as his non-coms seasoned Indian Army veterans who had fought in the Middle East, Greece, Italy, Burma and France, he has recruited as his militia men who have nothing to live for but revenge upon the despoilers of their homes.

The Kashmiri are naturally gentle folk, and for centuries they have been content to bow before the swords and guns of numerous invaders of their beautiful homeland. Now, for the first time, they are striking back—and striking back wickedly. On one occasion, defending a 7,500-foot mountain ridge, they were attacked by double their number of enemy troops—yet in spite of their inexperience, they beat off the foe and inflicted casualties far better than five to one.

They are in all sorts of God-forsaken places. Their little garrison at Leh, in the eternally snow-clad Himalayas, receives its supplies by air; and to reach them, over the lofty foot peaks, Indian pilots have to reach an altitude of 21,600 feet—and that without either oxygen or de-icing equipment. Even "the roof of the world" it seems that there is no peace.

The Netherlands

More than sixty years ago, when she was a tiny girl, Princess Wilhelmina was taken for a drive through the streets of The Hague. When she saw the cheering thousands lining the streets, she asked her mother, "Do all those people belong to me?"

"No, my dear," the Queen answered, "you belong to them."

Now, after reigning for 50 years over The Netherlands, Queen Wilhelmina turns over her throne to her daughter; and it can truthfully said that she has never for a moment forgotten that long-ago motherly admonition. More than that she has made a place for herself, in the hearts of those people, such as few Sovereigns, in any country, could boast.

It was during the terrible years of German occupation, while reigning as an exile in London, that her true quality best made itself known.

Although sending her daughter and grandchildren to the safety of Canada she insisted on remaining in the British capital, and even when the house she lived in was badly damaged by bombs, resolutely refused to move. She sffs the same semi-starvation her people were getting from the Germans, and her encouraging words to them over the radio did much to stiffen their resistance and to encourage the underground movement.

On the occasion of her retirement a week or so ago the Netherlands folk paid her countless tributes of their affection and esteem. It can truthfully be said ex-Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands really earned every one of them—just as she has earned the real, which all people of good-will hope will be many happy and peaceful years of duration.

In 12 months, the family of one moth can eat 100 pounds of wool.

Birds Get Thirsty Too—Just like millions of people in Canada and the United States, this pet parrakeet felt the recent severe heat wave and seems to be really enjoying a fresh, cooling drink of running water. That's a neat job of balancing he—or maybe it's she—is doing on its owner's finger.

SPORTS-ᵈᵉ

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Those Argonauts seem to be at it again. Although the football season is hardly more than well begun, already you see creeping into the newspaper accounts of their games the old familiar phrases. And it might be interesting to look through the files of the past few years and see how often the Argos were "outplayed for the biggest part of the game but got the breaks" — how frequently they "got all the smiles from Lady Luck" — on how many occasions their opponents "should have won on the play, but finished on the wrong end of the score".

* * *

If you went only by what you saw in the papers—and believe all you read—you might think that the Argonauts were fortunate to be in a big league at all. Yet, somehow or other, when the end of the season comes, you generally find them up there in the finals and, more often than not, finishing on top of the heap. But, almost invariably, through a fluke, or because, as a team, they're festooned with horseshoes.

* * *

But if you have any notion that this in any way represents the true state of affairs—forget it! The Argonauts always remind us of the gentleman who, many long years ago, attempted to teach us the art of draw poker—a useless task because of our incredicable belief that two pair was a big hand coupled with a love for trying to fill inside straights.

* * *

In the opening session of our poker education we chanced somehow to hold—all at the same time —four queens; and when the showdown came we slapped the four royal ladies, face up, on the table and grabbed the stakes with a whoop of triumph. Our mentor looked at us dourly. "Listen, bud," he told us "Three of them there queens would be plenty to take that pot—so why show more of them than you got to? 'Tain't poker!"

And, as we said before, whenever we read about the Argonauts outlucking their adversaries, we cannot help recalling that incident of days long gone by. In other words we have a strong suspicion that the Argonauts are generally a trifle better coached—that they possess more and cleverer plays — and have a slight but definite edge in strength over rival teams. But, like a really good poker player, they seldom if ever show down more than enough to take that jackpot. Anyway, those who back them consistently usually collect in the long run, and who could ask more of a team—or a racehorse— than that?

* * *

We think it was Hedda Gabler—anyway, one of Mr. Isben's characters—who exclaimed "At last a noble deed—at last a beautiful action" or words to that effect. And the fact that she said them on receiving news that her boy-friend had knocked himself off with a revolver has nothing to do with the case, Ibsen's works being full of folks who perform in a slightly screwball manner.

* * *

What we are getting at is that similar sentiments rose in our mind on learning that the magnates of the National Hockey League had at last done something of which we hearty approved—or, rather, refrained from doing something which would have made professional hockey a laughing-stock to any but its most fanatical followers.

* * *

Before said magnates went into executive huddle there were widely spread and apparently well-grounded rumors to the effect that—acting on the principle of "get it while the getting's good"—they intended increasing their regular playing schedule by some twelve games or so per team. But when the meeting was over, such rumors proved to have been groundless. That is to say things were left just as they had been—and in our opinion, it's just as well they were.

* * *

Some claim that real, blown-in-the-bottle hockey fans, male or female, are people who will stand for anything—and that if they didn't see anything ridiculous in playing five months for the purpose of eliminating just two teams out of a total of six, they'd see nothing wrong in extending the elimination process for another month.

* * *

But there's no telling. Gluttons for punishment though they are, hockey fans might finally turn out to be like Cousin Egbert, in the book "Ruggles of Red Gap" who used to protest that he "could be pushed just so far and no farther." Just because big league hockey has been favored with sell-out crowds for several years back is no guarantee that such a condition will exist forever. Moving picutre shows and other forms of alleged entertainment are already feeling the pinch, and — perish the thought! — there might come a time when hockey box-offices would be welcoming cash customers, instead of dealing out tickets with the air of conferring a rare favor.

* * *

At all events hockey's top brass has decided—for the time being at least—not to make Canada's national game "a year-round business. 'Tis well. Slightly altering the words of another great dramatist—Shakespeare this time—we say "It is a far, far better thing you do than you have ever done." Enough is enough!

Every Forest Fire Is To Be Probed

From now on every forest fire in Ontario is to be thoroughly investigated, according to the Minister of Lands and Forests, and in cases where carelessness is provcd, those responsible will be assessed for the cost of fighting the fire and for loss of timber.

It is reported that while loss in the largest fires was heavy, salvage possibilities are good and operations have already started to save some of the scorched timber. In 1948 the Department has already fought, and extinguished, more than 800 fires. Two of-the fires, in the Chapleau and Sault Ste. Marie forest districts, raged for more than three weeks, despite the efforts of thousands of men and a million dollars' worth of fire fighting equipment.

Estimates of timber loss reached $35 million, a figure not entirely agreed with by the Department. In some places, fires jumped from one place to another, leaving large patches of untouched timber in between. These areas are now being surveyed and cutting operations will start as soon as possible. While a lot of trees were killed, they were not completely spoiled for timber-ing purposes.

In a survey flight, it was found that the west end of the province had been relatively untouched by fires, as well as the French River, Timagami, Parry Sound, Algonquin Park and clay belt districts.

The Department has commended the northern timber operators, tourist camp operators and mining companies for their work in checking the major blazes.

Longer Make-Ready

"Yes, sir," asserted Mr. Eklamer vehemently — perhaps a shade too vehemently, "my wife is just as beautiful today as she was when I married her twenty years ago." Then he added, "Of course, it takes her longer."

Car Takes Beating From Tree—When a violent "twister" swept into the town of Smith's Falls, Ont., the wind struck a smashing blow at houses, trees, cars and fences, and temporarily cut off the electrical power. This car took the full force of a storm-stricken tree. The town was entirely without electrical lights for one whole night causing police to stand-by to prevent looting.

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ISSUE 38 — 1948

With the Movie And Radio Folks

By Grace Sharp

There's no doubt that Oscar Wilde was a very personal young man; but most people were of the opinion that he had paid for his sins through his term in Reading Gaol, and the scorn and disgrace which followed. But it seems as though the movie folks think that he still deserves some punishment; and what they are doing to Wilde shouldn't happen to a dog, not even a Russian wolfhound.

* * *

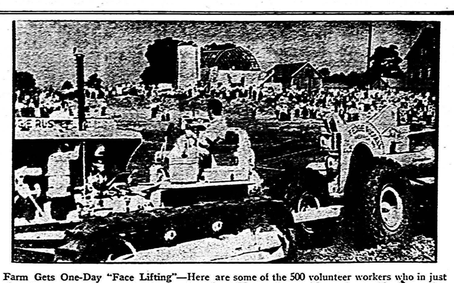
Which is by way of saying that an American movie company is planning to film a new version of Lady Windermie's Fan"—but it will be different from the way the author wrote it. Vastly different.

* * *

In the first place they're not going to run it under the title that it known in throughout the civilized, if there is such a thing, world. They're going to call it simply "The Fan" and they claim that the switch is because of certain changes in the structure of the piece. My personal opinion is that they either want to sear electric bulbs in the theatre marquees, or else are hoping that the fans will imagine they're going to see Sally Rand doing her stuff.

* * *

As to those changes — made to "strengthen the motivation", whatever that may mean—and they're drastic, to put it mildly. For one thing, the picture will start in the year 1948, instead of in the days of the dear departed. For one of the scenes there's to be a tele-



Farm Gets One-Day "Face Lifting"—Here are some of the 500 volunteer workers who in just eight hours more than doubled the value of a 175-acre farm. More about this interesting operation is told in our FARM FRONT column.

THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

How would you like to wake up in the morning on your farm, worth approximately $12,000 and then realize, the same evening, it had more than doubled in value? It actually happened recently to a woman farm owner in Maryland—and if you think that she struck oil, gold, uranium or any other precious substance, you're wrong.

* * *

The farm, owned by Mrs. Nelly Thrasher, is a hillside one of 175 acres. Some five hundred of her neighbors, using half a million dollars of equipment, put on a "face lifting" which represented five years work accomplished in less than eight hours time.

* * *

When they were through, instead of rain-cut gullies which carried the topsoil away with every storm, there were diversion ditches and terraces dotting the landscape. The house gleamed with a fresh coat of paint, and Mrs. Thrasher's thirty cows were in a new, modern barn. The whole farm, when the volunteer workers had finished, was representative of the latest methods of contouring and soil conservation.

One feature of the day's work—which was witnessed by an estimated 25,000 spectators—was the construction of an earthern dam between two hillocks. It held back a one-acre lake, well stocked with bass, and supplies surface water from the diversion terraces will now flow into the pond instead of cutting new gullies.

* * *

Still and moving pictures of the entire action were taken from the ground and from the air, and will be used to help stimulate soil conservation practices throughout the world. I haven't seen them as yet, but the whole thing sounds like a grand idea, and one well worth staying nearer to home. In fact I'd be willing to make a small bet that

Answer to Last Week's Puzzle

among the readers of this column there would be one or two willing to offer their farms as an "experimental station," just as Mrs. Thrasher did.

* * *

"Use 2,4-D With Caution" is the heading of an editorial in The Country Gentleman, which goes on to say that investigations made to determine where and how this weed killer can be safely used have shown that almost unbelievable small amounts will destroy plants that are especially susceptible. A picture is shown of a varied tomato plant which was hit by a 2,4-D spray of one - third normal weed - killing strength.

* * *

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture is increasing its investigations regarding 2,4-D which, while recognized as a most valuable weed-killer, can be dangerous when improperly used. Most of the serious trouble has been the result of dusting from airplanes, with the dust drifting onto areas where it was not intended to fall. Such dusting from planes has now been forbidden. The restriction, however, does not apply to 2,4-D sprays.

* * *

In some of the states boys and girls are trying out a new livestock feeding project, and people are enthusiastic about the results. The boy or girl buys an average lot of feeder steers or lambs from a uniform herd or band—the number depending on finances, equipment and feed supplies available.

* * *

These lots of animals, bought at a central market, are taken home and fattened. Careful records are kept of feed costs and rates of gain. At the end of the feeding period they are shipped back to market and sold on Junior Marketing Day.

The boys and girls consign their animals to commission firms of their own choice. On arrival, the animals are penned separately, according to ownership, and each lot is graded and weighed separately. Then all are assembled in pens according to grade— and are sold for slaughter in the usual manner. The boys and girls profit according to the market value of their animals.

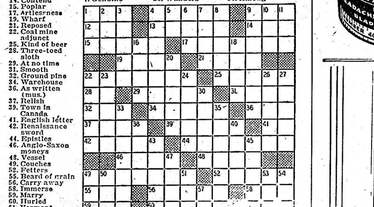
* * *

Benefits claimed for the plan are that it promotes better farm feeding methods; that boys and girls learn about market grades of livestock; that they learn about central markets and how they operate; and that it is thoroughly practical. Sounds interesting, to say the least.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS.
1. Swamp
2. Nasal sound
3. Everybody
4. Manner
5. Tall structure
14. Contend
15. Poplar
17. Artlessness
18. Shard
21. Resound
22. Coal mine adjunct
25. Kind of beer
28. Three-toed sloth
29. At no time
31. Smooth
32. Ground pine
34. Nefarious
36. Unwritten (mus.)
37. Relish
39. Town in Canada
41. English letter
42. Renaissance sword
44. Palette
46. Anglo-Saxon measure
47. Vessel
49. Couches
52. Potters
55. Heard of rennin
56. Carry away
58. Immerse
59. Marry
60. Hurled
61. Prominent village

DOWN
1. Meat
2. Lubricate
3. Lake
4. Kept on hand
5. Negative
6. Possess
7. Genuine
8. Treat
9. Zenets satisfaction
10. Jaunted
11. Shelter
16. Sound of pain
19. Small knife
20. Schoolworking hammer
22. Wool fabric
23. Splits
24. Drive off
26. Ode to
27. Paper measures
30. Wanders
33. Amass
35. Giving a tenth part
38. Pulled apart
40. Move
43. Pens
45. Pose
47. Deal in
48. Jurisprudence
50. Be under obligation
51. French coin
53. Nothing
54. Secret agent
57. Among



Answer to This Puzzle Will Appear Next Week

New — And All Of Them Useful

"Seweless" Buttons. Said to be a real improvement on the old "bachelor button" so popular 25 years or so ago. Made of plastic, this two-part button can be easily snapped into place, and should be a real improvement on its metal counterpart which was somewhat complicated, often rusted, and was too unattractive to be used except on work clothes. Makers claim it will withstand laundering, strong soaps, cleaning fluids, heat and the pressure of rollers of washing machines.

Aluminum Nails. Made for the building industry in six types and sixteen sizes these nails are said to have sufficient strength for any purpose and to be suitable for use with most types of building materials. Weigh only one-third as much as steel nails, giving three times as many per pound. Now in production in U.S.A. but no word as yet of their being available in Canada.

Sugar Substitute. Six hundred times as sweet as sugar these tablets are wholly non-nutritive, containing neither the calories which those seeking to reduce weight try to avoid, nor the carbohydrates harmful to diabetics.

For Tiny Travellers. Combination playpen and crib, weighs 37 pounds, folds into size 29 by 20 by 9 inches, looks and carries like a piece of luggage.

Pocket Stove. For campers, a portable stove that can be carried in pocket and burns either lighter fluid or gasoline without the use of a hand pump. Monel metal stove can grid fold into a compact package. Makers say tankful of fluid burns for an hour and a half.

Plastic-Faced Hammer. Specially compounded plastic striking face can be used without danger of marring such surfaces as aluminum, polished woodwork etc. Hammer has drop forged head to which face is fastened, and retains driving power of ordinary hammers of equal weight.

New Liquid Plastic. Renews surfaces of painted or varnished floors, linoleums, woodwork, cars, furniture, silverware and household appliances.

Manufacturers says glossy, long-wearing finish will not crack or flake off, and is obtained simply by wiping the liquid on with a clean cloth. Impervious to heat, cold, moisture, caustic soaps, alcohol, fruit juices and most chemicals, and can be cleaned with damp cloth. One gallon covers approximately 1600 square feet.

To Keep Basements Dry. Recently developed is an electric dehumidifier about the size of a large suitcase. It keeps basements dry by sucking in the damp air, then cooling it enough to condense the moisture.

The CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

by Gwendoline P. Clarke

Is there a cool breeze anywhere, I wonder—just one little spot where the thermometer doesn't register almost a hundred in the shade? Really, the heat this week has been terrific—' then you don't need me to tell y. you? The only thing to make it bearable is to remember that it can't last for ever. Even as I write clouds have actually appeared in the sky, breaking up the heavy heat haze that has hung over this poor scorched earth like a pall for the last six days. Who knows—maybe by the time this gets into print we may be donning our sweaters. Oh, happy thought!

Speaking of sweaters reminds me . . . A newcomer to this country, and speaking very little English, mopped her brow and asked hesitantly—Wet—what you say for wet?" Her employer smiled and said—"Well, if you are a lady, you say "perspire" but men quite often say "sweat." The girl was thoughtsay "sweat." The girl was thoughtful for a few minutes then she said —"Ah yes, you perspire and . . . perspire and sweat—same thing. Then you say cows perspire, bull, the sweat? That rights-ers?"

Here is another little story which doesn't belong to Ginger Farm but it did happen in this district.

Three men and a dog were working in a nearby bush, drawing logs, I believe, and of course, not paying very much attention to the dog, who was amusing himself as dogs will, chasing rabbits or sniffing around for other legitimate game. Suddenly the men heard the dog yelping piteously and he ran towards them obviously in terrible pain. The reason was soon discovered. The dog had found—and grabbed —a porcupine, no less! Between them the men tried to release some of the quills from the poor dog's hide but their attempts to help so plainly increased his agony that they soon gave it up. So they brought him home and called on a neighbour to bring his gun and put the poor thing out of its misery. Instead of that the neighbour suggested asking the "vet" if there was anything he could do. "Sure," was the answer, "bring him down and we'll fix him."

So the dog was rushed to the veterinary office where he was immediately given an anaesthetic and was soon mercifully unconscious of his pain. Then the "vet" went to work and pulled out over a hundred porcupine quills. They were everywhere, especially around the poor dog's mouth and throat. When it was thought all the quills had been removed the dog's master took him home, still unconscious, and thus he remained for almost eight hours. Yesterday I saw him—that was the day following his adventure —he was still very weak and quite evidently far from happy, but he was able to walk around slowly and would eat and drink when he felt like it. The "vet" thought that in a day or two he would be completely recovered. I wonder will he recognize a porcupine next time he sees one.

As I understand it a porcupine is quite harmless unless attacked when it has been provided with its quills, which probe the flesh of its victims and cannot be removed without great pain because the end of each quill is shaped like a sharp hook.

I wonder what we would do if Tippy got into such a mix-up? Maybe a painless death is really the kinder solution but then, if a family pet can be saved, it is only natural one should want to keep it alive.

Tippy, these days, is spending much of her time in the coal cellar where there is a dirt floor which she finds cool and comfortable. "Leading a dog's life" is surely a misnomer if ever there was one. It might better be called an ideal existence compared with my poor humans who work and sweter in this hundred-degree heat. Yesterday our men both had threshings to go to and today Bob is sweating it on on the tractor. As for Cicely and I, we are doing as little, wearing as little, and worrying as little as we possibly can. But it doesn't make any difference—even doing nothing at all would be hard work these days.

STOP PRESS NEWS: Sunday night and, glory be, it's cooler! Tomorrow we head for the Exhibition.

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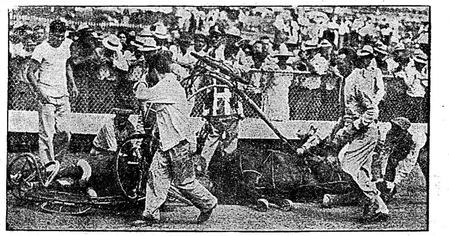
WHEN COST THE PENNY

If Three's A Crowd, What Are Five Threes?—When triplets were born to Mrs. Rene Gagne she decided that some day she'd give a party for other threesomes. After four years of planning the great day arrived—and with it came five sets of cake-and-ice-cream hungry triplets. Left to right, front, are seen the Doherty's and and the Grady's. In the rear, the Cardinale's, the Gagne's and the Follows trio. The giver of the party does not appear—we imagine because she'd be too busy right about then.



Trotting Horses "Hit The Dirt"—Handlers rush to the scene as two trotters and all their gear go down in a tangle during a race at Springfield. The big spill came when a sulky pulled by Popular Ann, left, collided with the one hauled by Miss Morris Chie.