Since Death Of her husband, a Hudson's Bay factor, Mrs. Watt has been establishing the J. S. C. Watt memorial recreation and community centre for natives of the Arctic area. Through donations and labor of Indians, $17,000 building now is two-thirds paid for

Three Minutes of Fiction Fun

SHORT STORY

The Dog and His Master

By FERN AUBLE

The dog stood motionless, soft brown eyes riveted on the small figure lying face down. Sebs racked the thin young shoulders as the boy's clenched fist pounded the hard earth.

Slowly, the dog moved toward the boy until he stood over him. Tentatively then, he nuzzled the youngster gently.

Thad Lacey lay motionless for a moment and then, slowly, almost fearfully, he rolled his head to one side, and stared up at the dog standing over him. For a space, time stood still as boy and dog took each other's measure. Then, the dog lowered his head and with a flick of his tongue on the boy's tear-stained cheek, lay down on the ground beside him, his nose buried between his forepaws.

Thad raised hisself on one elbow and stretched out a grubby brown hand.

"Aw, gee," he breathed softly "Gee, where'd you come from, boy!"

Thad's fingers gently fondled the silky ears. "You're just about the most handsomest dog I ever seen." Only a hint of the storm of tears lingered.

Then in a floodtide of remembrance, his eyes filled once more and he rubbed his knuckles into them angrily. His voice roughened as he said, "Spot wasn't nearly as pretty as you, but I loved him anyway. Old man Benton needn't have shot him. Spot never hurt nuthin' less it was rabbits or 'possums or varmints of some such kind."

* * *

A Twig snapped in the underbrush. Thad jumped to his feet and the dog rose quickly, a low, warning note deep in his throat.

The man's quick eye noted the tears-streaked face and then dropped to the clenched hands. "Hi, sonny," he said in a friendl voice. "Don't think I've seen you around here before, have I?"

"Guess not, Mister. Dad and me just moved here a couple of months ago. And Spot," he added forlornly.

"Spot? He your dog?" The man's voice was pleasantly interested.

Thad's ad came up and he made no effort to hide the heartache in his eyes as he said with a shaking, indrawn breath, "Uh-huh. He was my dog. Old man Benton shot him yesterday. Said Spot was runnin' his sheep." Chin not quite under control, he continued, "Spot never run nothin' but varmints. I trained him myself an' I know." He stared defiantly at the man who gazed back at him with troubled eyes.

"That's too bad, son. I'm sorry you lost your dog. Mr. Benton was probably too hasty, but there've been a number of sheep killed around here lately and the farmers are pretty touchy."

"I know, but Spot didn't hurt his old sheep none. Not ever."

* * *

The man was silent for a moment, watching the boy fondle the hound. I've never seen Bucky with such an idiotically happy look about him, he thought.

Suddenly, he made his decision and looking hard at the boy said, "Look here, son. You've lost your dog through a mistaken notion on the part of Mr. Benton. It looks like you and Bucky there understand each other pretty well.

"You take Bucky for your own dog. A boy needs a dog and all dogs need a boy for their master. You and Bucky belong together."

He stopped, smilling at the light in Thad's gray eyes and before e could repent of his offer, turned on his heel and started rapidly across the field.

Thad looked after him wordlessly. He sprang to his feet and raced after the man, Bucky loping at his heels.

"Hey, mister!" Thad's voice reached the man as he walked with downbent head. He stopped and turned slowly.

"Hey, what's your name, mister? I never seen you before neither."

There was a note of apology in the man's voice. "My name's Lawrence Benton." Not waiting for a reply he turned an strode on.

Typewriter Prints 90,000 Characters

Canadian stenographers who have been bothered with typewriters that do not spell very well might shudder at the thought of operating a new Chinese typewriter, invented by Dr. Lin Yutang, the distinguished philosopher and author. This machine can print 90,000 Chinese characters by the use of various combinations of its 72 symbol keys and eight printing keys. What scope for typographical errors!, exclaims The Edmonton Journal.

The typewriter, product of 30 years' work by Dr. Lin, measures only 14 by 18 by nine inches and weighs little more than 50 pounds. It is an enormous improvement on earlier efforts in the way of Chinese typewriters, one of which resembled a pipe organ in size and was sharply limited in the number of Chinese characters that it could print.

Dr. Lin's machine has 36 upper and 28 lower keys, representing the upper and lower parts of a Chinese character. The pressing of an upper and lower key brings into printing position a unit of eight words in the same category. The typist sees these eight words in the magic eye of the machine and chooses the one he wants by pressing one of the eight printing keys.

Chinese language and literature experts are enthusiastic over the possibilities of the machine, which will be mass-produced in the United States.

Chinese documents and letters at present are all written manually. Their books and newspapers are set by hand, and they must depend on a numerical code for sending telegrams, so enormous is the number of Chinese characters. The new typewriter opens the way for a great advance in Chinese writing, printing, filing and other associated fields.

It May Be Necessary To Curb Rainmakers

Most people figure that right now there are too many laws against too many different things —but obviously there will have to be a few more. Take, for instance, this recently developed business of rain-making—or call it recently improved, if you figure that some of the old formulas were effective.

At least, they were jealously guarded secrets. Now it's getting so that anyone who is really interested in producing a rainstorm can hire an airplane, scatter a few pounds of dry ice into a rain cloud and get results almost immediately. According to the Sault Daily Star, all the props he needs are in the rain cloud, the dry ice and the plane.

* * *

It's easy to forecast the difficulties which may develop if rainmaking becomes as simple—and as universally practised—as turning on the sprinkler every time the lawn looks in dry. One farmer, for instance might figure his corn in need of rain. But if when he turned on the water his neighbor happened to be haying, strained relations very likely would develop.

As a matter of fact, there has been trouble already. Ont in Oklahoma recently, residents of Chickasha hired a dry-icer to go up and make them a little moisture. But a wind came up with nice timing, and Chickasha's rain all fell in nearby Anadarko, which hadn't wanted to be drenched at all.

* * *

One case of legal action has developed. The manager of the Kansas State Fair not long ago asked for an injunction to restrain a potential rainmaker from making things moist while the fair was in progress.

Obviously, something will have to be done before all this goes too far. If a law isn't passed, the only alternative open to any area whose residents don't want to get wet will be to set up anti-aircraft defence systems.

It Makes Sense

In midsummer we took my four-year-old niece with us to the movies. Our summer heat is such that not even an air-cooling system reaches all parts of the theatre. Diana squirmed and wriggled. During the intermission I asked her what was the matter. She said: "I'm hot. I wish I had a sweater on."

"Why on earth a sweater?" I was surprised into asking.

"So I could take it off," she answered.

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MECCA OINTMENT

THIS CURIOUS WORLD By William Ferguson

LITTLE REGGIE By Margarita

Waters of Midland Bay receive in sideways launching the first vessel built for French registry by the Midland Shipyards, Ltd.—the motor vessel Midland, named after the town in which she was built as an expression of French gratitude for Canadian help in rehabilitating France.

Sports — And One Thing or Another

By FRANK MANN HARRIS

("A Sixbit Critic")

We have a feeling that one of these days what is known as "the sports element" is going to turn its batteries on the Ontario horse-racing game, and when the shooting is over a lot of folks who make a nice living by operating race-tracks are going to wonder just exactly what hit them. It has happened before, and can happen again. And if we personally happen to be on the scene at the time we will assume our favourite role of Job's Comforter by saying to the survivors, "Well, you certainly asked for what you got!"

* * *

Horse-racing is supposed to be a sport—or at least to have some of the elements of sport in it. But this year we have been treated to the spectacle of race-tracks cancelling meetings at a few hours notice, then opening up afresh, much in the manner of some gambling joint which operates when, if and as the cops are looking the other way. Old charters are dug up and revived, until they have made the biggest kind of a joke out of the racing law's original intention, which was that no track should have more than two seven-day meets in a single year.

* * *

Nor is it only the frankly commercial tracks that are to blame, as was the mighty Woodbine started its fall rolling this Spring by holding a cheap meeting, under a style of new people had ever heard of, a week in advance of its regular Sox-and-Quiz opening." It's a sorry mess indeed, and some day those responsible are going to regret that they abused the money angle of their racket to stick out so prominently.

* * *

There are a number of things we don't like about the average radio station—but above everything we detest the growing practice of inserting the audience laugh. Such a joke or gag fails to click, comes—by means of funny boxes unseen by the listening audience—pulls a roar of laughter from those in the studio. Maybe there are some of those sitting at home by their radios who enjoy such stuff—but to us, and to a number we have spoken to, it savors of the cheapest sort of shoddiness.

* * *

Much has been written about the Brooklyn Dodgers' great action in giving a chance to Jackie Robinson, a negro to play—openly that is—in the Major Leagues; and many credit to the back have been bestowed on Branch Rickey, boss of the Dodgers for his great-heartedness. Now, it would appear that Mr. Rickey didn't allow his generosity to run away with his sense of profit and loss.

* * *

It, including Robinson on his team, Rickey not only got the greatest box-office attraction— both at home and away—the team ever had. He also got a man who was probably more responsible than any other individual for the Brooklyns being able to win the pennant, and get into the World Series. Robinson, playing in a position where he is not at his best, hit, fielded and ran the bases in a manner thrilling to behold, or even read about, especially when you considered the terrific handicap he was under.

* * *

Now with the season over, comes the news that Rickey paid Robinson something under five thousand"— which is merely peanuts in those circles—and didn't even come near equalling with the tiniest sort of a dollar. Maybe the Dodgers think that Robinson should consider himself lucky that they didn't charge him admission to the park; and perhaps, all things considered, he was!

* * *

Latest triumph of science is a new wrist watch—of all things—has an alarm attachment which can be set to go off at any hour. As one who has trouble enough groping around in the darkness to choke off a regular-size alarm clock every morning, we can just imagine trying to find anything so tiny as a wrist watch when we are half asleep; and at the price of the new gadget is announced as from $150 to $300 apiece, we think we shall just wait till they come down to 98 cents or thereabouts. And they needn't hurry about going into mass-production either.

* * *

Of course the unseasonably warm weather during the first few weeks of the season may have something to do with it; but we have a notion the professional hockey addicts are due for some fairly dull games between now and play-off time. The rookies are out there slinging their weight around and trying to stir things up; but a lot of the veterans seem to be imbued with the "what's all the excitement about" spirit.

* * *

What happened to the Montreal Canadiens last year seems to have made quite an impression on many of the boys. They saw the Flying Frenchmen practically outclass their opposition for nine-tenths of the long journey—then blow most of the gold and glory to the Maple Leafs, who were lucky enough, or canny enough to arrive at top form just at the proper moment. Too great emphasis on getting into the playoffs— and not enough on the necessity of giving the customers a run for their money, can do hockey a whole lot of harm—just as it is already hurting football, where we find two or three weeks of games scheduled which, with playoff positions already cinched, mean little or nothing either to spectators or players.

* * *

It may not mean a thing; and then again it may be a sign of the times. Anyway, just a few days ago we happened to overhear a couple of small boys arguing. "I tell you it's true," said one. "The Russians were on OUR side in the last war." To which the other replied, in tones of deep disgust, "Aw, go on—you're nuts!" And, after reading much of what is published nowadays regarding the world situation, it's rather hard to realize that, not so long ago, we were hailing those same Russians as the saviors of the world.

★

A New Approach

"Darline" said George, as gently and as diplomatically as he could, "doesn't it seem to you there might be a little something—just a teeny-weeny little something—lacking in this puddings?"

"Yes, dear, I suppose there is," came the unexpected reply. "But it's your own fault. I told you we should have a better radio."

"What's the radio got to do with it?" demanded George.

"Everything," wailed the little woman. "That's as far as I got with the recipe before the dilapidated old thing broke down!"

★

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Forced Labor On Large Scale Found In Russia

(The following is a review in the Christian Science Monitor of a new book, "Forced Labor In Soviet Russia").

"Forced Labor in Soviet Russia", by David J. Dallin and Boris I. Nicolaevsky, is one of the saddest books that has recently appeared in any language. It describes in much detail a practice which the authors compare to human slavery at its worst. It is rather loosely thrown together, somewhat repetitious and not perfectly organized. But it contains much terrible material, the basic authenticity of which one cannot reasonably doubt.

What the book appears to show is that forced labor is found in Soviet Russia on a large scale, that it has become a basic part of Soviet economy, that it is accompanied by flagrant inhumanity, that it is not decreasing.

The number of such forced laborers is placed at from 10 to 12 million men by Mr. Dallin—in addition to a million or more women. This is said by the chief author to represent more than one in seven adult male inhabitants of the U.S.S.R.

* * *

One of the most impressive sections of the book is Chapter IV, entitled "How Many Camps and Prisoners?" It lists 125 forced-labor camps by name.

The camps themselves — some small, others enormous—resemble well-guarded penitentiaries. They contain professional criminals, unfaithful Soviet functionaries, and political offenders. The professional criminals are said to live the best and to play leading roles in the camps.

* * *

The authors consider forced labor an inevitable result of the Soviet system, evolving from political concentration camps and obligatory labor. They call the Soviet claim of "economic democracy" deceptive and ask: "If this is economic democracy, what is slavery?"

They say that the widespread, relentlessly applied forced labor shows how the Soviet system is reviving and augmenting the worst features of Czarist Russia.

The practice of forced labor on a large scale in Soviet Russia seems proved beyond question. It is one concomitant of the Communist experiment.

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