WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

RUSSIA

The bakers' dozen of men who rule the lives and destinies of almost 200 million Russians arrive at the Kremlin late in the day. But they frequently make up for it by burning the lights behind those yellow succoed walls far into the next morning; and often their most dramatic decisions are sprung on the world at midnight or later.

One such announcement was made at 11.45 p.m. Moscow time slightly less than ten years ago. For it was on May 3, 1939, that Molotov was made Russian Foreign Minister in place of Litvinov. Later that same year the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop pact was made public long after midnight.

A similar pattern was followed in regard to the latest move of the Kremlin boys—a move that still has the rest of the world guessing. At 1.58 a.m. (Moscow time) an announcer for the Russian radio read a terse 85 word communique over the air. Translated, it told of Molotov's having been "released from the duties of Minister of Foreign Affairs," and of A. Y. Vishinsky's appointment in his place.

Just what does this shift mean? In trying to answer this question, four great factors must be considered.

(1) Molotov and Stalin have been close friends ever since the "underground days" in Czarist Russia. For two decades Molotov has been known as "the voice of Stalin."

(2) On the other hand Molotov and Vishinsky have always been "twins" in their conduct of foreign affairs. Although Molotov is cold at meetings with foreign ministers while Vishinsky is fierce, there is nothing to choose between them when it comes to toughness.

(3) Some day—possibly soon—there must be a successor to Stalin. Now 69, he has carried a heavy burden for years, and there have been recurrent speculations that he is gravely ill.

(4) Russian foreign policy has not been working too well of late. The Berlin blockade failed to dislodge the Western powers. Attempts to wreck the Marshall Plan have got practically nowhere; and Soviet policy in Eastern Europe has brought about the "heresy" of Marshall Tito.

So, throughout the world there is much discussion as to whether the latest announcement means promotion for Mr. Molotov—or is it demotion? As a New York Times correspondent puts it, Factors 1, 2 and 3 support the promotion theory. Factor No. 4, that of demotion.

Only time can tell—and, at this writing, it hasn't said anything yet.

GREAT BRITAIN

The Conservative party seems to be in more of a quandary than ever. In an effort to win the Hammersmith bye-election the Tories "shot the works"; but even the personal campaigning of Winston Churchill failed to keep Labor from winning —by a reduced majority, it is true—but still winning decisively.

Now, in spite of reports of a "snap election" it seems unlikely that the Labor Government will call a general election before some time next year, as it is confident that it can retain or even increase its popular support by plugging away at the advantages of socialist welfare schemes, such as universal health insurance.

And the Conservatives are afraid to criticize such schemes too vigorously. Churchill called off his promised House of Commons attack on the tremendous expenditures for food subsidies, socialized medicine etc. for fear that it might be interpreted as an all-out assault on the highly popular principles of that same national health scheme.

The Laborites, quite naturally, have made tremendous capital of Churchill's retreat. More than that, as one commentator put it, "the Tories have so far been unable to devise any program to rival the 'something for nothing' Socialist appeal. This has proved particularly attractive to young working-class Britons, who have become used to the feeling that the state will take care of them, come what may. To them, Churchill is a reactionary old has-been."

In their enthusiasm for social welfare, few Government supporters have listened to the quiet warnings that British productivity has ceased to rise, that exports may soon drop, and that the vast expenditures on social service may soon eat up the entire national income. But then, optomistic prophets were always far more popular than those whose forecasts have a pessimistic tinge.

JOURNALISM

A country editor tried to persuade the local tycoon to give him a full-page advertisement for his Christmas supplement. "Where does your paper go?" inquired the dubious tycoon. The editor declared, "It goes from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, from the Great Lakes to Alaska and if you don't give me that ad pretty quick it is going straight to hell."

One Referee Who Packs A Punch.—The belligerent and portly-looking gentleman in the white shirt is none other than The Manassa Mauler in person. For although long retired from the fight game, Jack Dempsey still earns a comfortable living in the ring—refereeing wrestling bouts. Jack looks as though he meant business as he faces the Golden Terror—but we doubt if there will be any real damage done.

SPORTS &c

by A Sixbit Critic

In starting this week's opus we are reminded of a couple of stories whose age, at least, should make them worthy of respect. The first is about Clancy, who lay on his death bed, and who had been told by Father O'Reilley that before passing from the world, he must make peace with all his enemies, especially Grogan. After considerable argument Clancy consented, and Grogan was led in.

* * *

"Grogan," said Clancy feebly, "we've been enemies — and bitter enemies — for over forty years. But now the Reverend Father says that before I go to the place where the likes of you will never get, I must make my peace with you. And I do so, Grogan. I forgive ye for all the mean things you did to me, and all the dirty things you said about me; I forgive you, full and free. So now, goodbye to you Grogan."

* * *

Grogan, full of sorrow and remorse, turned to leave. But just as he got to the bedroom door the voice hailed him once again. "But remember, Grogan," said Clancy, "if by any miracle I should get better — THIS DOMMED NONSENSE IS ALL OFF."

* * *

Which will serve to introduce some exhaustive studies we have been making into the subject of just what it is that produces a winning hockey team — studies that took us a full five minutes. We must explain, however, that at the moment of writing it looks as though New York and Chicago have been eliminated from the N.H.L. playoffs. But if — between now and the time you read this — by some miracle Rangers and Black Hawks should happen to squeeze in, well— THIS DOMMED NONSENSE IS ALL OFF.

* * *

So now, just what is it that produces a winning hockey team, fellow students? Well, Lester Patrick is admitted — by Lester Patrick — to know more about the inside of hockey than any living human. So Lester once declared that a good goaltender is at least 75 per cent of any winning team. So we turn to the N.H.L. records and what to we find?

* * *

Here we are! Montreal Canadiens have had only 119 goals tallied against them — 15 less than the next lowest. Ergo — Montreal Canadiens must have the best goal tender. Double ergo — Montreal Canadiens must be leading the race by a large margin.

* * *

But there must be something slightly haywire here. Instead of Canadiens name being — like Abou Ben Adhem's — well in front, the Frenchmen are only in second position, and by a bare snoot, at that. While topping them by 10 full points in the right hand column are the Detroit Red Wings.

* * *

Well, maybe even Lester Patrick might be wrong for once. (There's got to be a first time for everything.) Perhaps, in modern hockey, stout defense is not as all-fired important as swift, hard-hitting offense. Let's take a peek at matters from that angle.

* * *

Ah, that's more like it. Sure enough Detroit Red Wings have twanged the twine more often than any of their contemporaries — and sure enough the speedy athletes from what we once laughingly termed "The Motor City" are out there winging, which is just as it should be.

* * *

But whoa, back up! What is this we see? Second in goal scoring, with a 27-tally advantage over the Canadiens, we have nobody else but the Chicago Black Hawks. But Chuck Conacher's pets aren't second — they aren't third — they aren't even fourth. In fact if it wasn't for those New York Rangers, would be trailing the procession, a lovely last.

* * *

Somehow or other it just doesn't seem to add up. And it was while trying to break out of the quandary we found ourselves in at this point, that we thought of the other ancient tale. This was about the village dignitary whose ignorance of the law was only equalled by his good opinion of himself and who, somehow or other, secured an appointment as Magistrate.

* * *

He was trying his first case, and the Prosecuting Attorney made a very telling opening speech. When he had finished, the new Magistrate spoke up. "That's enough," he said sharply. **"Prosecution wins!"**

* * *

The Attorney for the Defense quite naturally made a strong objection, saying that the Magistrate had no business deciding a case without hearing the other side. "Go ahead then," said the Magistarte. "Do your stuff — but I can tell you that it ain't going to do you a bit of good."

* * *

Whereupon the Defense Attorney proceeded to make a speech that was just about twice as eloquent and three times as persuasive as that of his opponent. When he was about half way through, the Magistrate halted him abruptly. "That's enough," he said. "This certainly does beat Aitch — but now **Defense wins.**"

* * *

So, as we said before, our hockey studies have put us in a somewhat similar predicament to that of the beginning magistrate. First, we thought that in hockey the best defense was bound to win. Then we thought that it must be the most effective offensive. Now, after looking things over, we just plain don't know. Maybe the secret of producing a winning hockey team is to own the one that gets into the most tie games. But we have delved into the records long enough for one session. You might look up which team did that yourself — then go take a ticket on them for the playdowns.

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The economic and moral questions raised by a cigarette have become portentous matters of state. Recently the government opened delicate diplomatic negotiations to "explore" the possibility of enlarging the tobacco import quota so that by summer Britons may indulge more freely in this whim.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer does not approve of more tobacco. A quiet, ascetic man with the good of the people at heart, he thinks Britons ought to change their smoking habits, voluntarily if possible, otherwise by judicious government regulation. He holds it both immoral and uneconomic for people to burn up their wages when they are in need of other things.

The political leaders of the government are more sympathetic to some change. There is an election coming up and the Labor Party wants to remain in power so that it can continue to look after the interests of the people. They want to allow a little more smoking. The government, even in Great Britain, cannot completely ignore the wishes of the people.

But, at most, there will be only a small relaxation of the regulations. In this new socialism, which we are told is the wave of future freedom, benevolent government kindly insists people do what's best for them.

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SHORT STORY

EVENING PAPER

By Matthew Weld

It was just an ordinary copy of an ordinary evening paper. But when the girl looked up from reading it she saw that the man sitting opposite her in the Underground railway was the murderer. There was the photo, and there was the man. Her whole tummy sort of gulped with shock.

What would be best to do?

She was a shy, pink girl, slim, figureless; you could talk to her dozens of times and still not know her next time you met. Oh, and fair, of course. But she was wearing a red plastic raincoat. She sat for a few seconds, thinking. Then the train began to slow down, and the man stood up and moved towards the door.

She leaped up to follow him. It wasn't till she also was at the door that she realized she had left the paper on the seat. But it didn't matter.

What did matter was that now he'd got his back to her, she wasn't absolutely sure that he was indeed the man. Her nerve failed her, and she knew she must see his face again before she dared enlist the help of strangers to accost him. Think what it would be like if she made a mistake!

If she could only get alongside him, or ahead, and get one more good look at his face—

They reached the top of the escalator, and the crowd bottlenecked at the exit.

Out in the street, the man paced fast through the electric light and the chill of a winter afternoon. The girl followed.

All at once, just ahead of them, appeared a shop with mirrors in it. He slowed and pulled at his tie and his hat. In the glass she saw him again clearly. It was the man.

But at the same moment he also looked past his own shoulder in the reflection and saw her, his eye, no doubt, caught by the splash of red in the glass. Did he remember this same transparent scarlet macintosh, this unmemorable pink blonde?

The man moved on. He did not look back.

The girl was now suddenly possessed of genius. She undid her raincoat, and in one spasm whipped it off and threw it into a doorway as she went by. Now she was no longer a scarlet plastic raincoat: she was a grey coat-and-skirt.

But now, as she hurried after the man, she looked breathlessly for help. Not a bobby in sight. But there was another girl walking along ahead of her, so she caught up with her—a plump girl in a satin blouse too small for her, as it turned out, and a moleskin coat. Their feet went plinkety-plonk in step, and then out of step, on the pavement.

"Look, help me! Don't think I'm mad, but that man in front there is Maitland, that murderer they're looking for. I've seen his face. Get help quick, and come after me."

* * *

The other girl didn't stop to reason. She was dark, and quick as a sparrow.

"How'll we know where you've gone?"

"Walk beside me, quickly, while I think."

"I know!" cried the dark girl. "Draw arrows on the pavement to show which way you've gone. Have you got a pencil?"

"Will a pencil show on the—No, look, my lipstick! Now fly."

The dark girl darted off, and the fair one walked on after the murderer.

The man turned off into a side street, so she chalked an arrow with her lipstick on the pavement, taking care not to bend valuable stockings at the knees. Then she hurried on.

Then he turned off again, three or four times, and each time she drew a red arrow and followed him.

Then he turned into a narrow alley, and again down a little funway into a dark court. She began to feel afraid. Up to now there had been no time for fear, but now suddenly fear was in her stomach.

Had he recognized her as the girl from the train who had sat opposite him, reading that fatal paper? If so, was he luring her purposely into this dark web of alleys?

She thought of her fiancé and her parents, and her little brother. But she knew she had to go on. She hoped very much that her stockings wouldn't get hurt.

A last look back. Was help coming? Or had the lipstick arrows got smudged out by feet?

Lurking back, so as not to be seen, she followed him into the dark court. From here he turned again into another archway, across which old doors leaned and creaked at each other, but no longer locked. She marked her last arrow and followed him.

Behind the door, the Strangler waited for her.

Booed By Brussels Communists. — Former Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in Brussels for the International Europe Movement meeting, was booed by a large crowd of Communists when he made an outdoor speech. Police arrested 60 Reds, including senators and deputies, during an organized attempt to break up the talk.

THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

Just which of the several methods of preparing the seed bed will give you the best yields of grain crops? is a question of interest to many farmers. Is it ordinary plowing, sub-surface plowing, or disking? Don't expect me to give you any hard-and-fast answer, but here are some figures that I believe might be worthy of your attention.

* * *

Tests made in the past have rainfall areas, straight plowing is generally shown that in heavier best. But where there's scarcity of rain, the other methods have shown up well as moisture saving devices.

* * *

Latest reports I've seen along this line come from Cornell University. Here two-year corn tests showed; plowing, 49 bushels to the acre; sub-surface plowing, 39 bushels; disking, 34 bushels.

* * *

Wheat yields over a similar period were; 30 bushels to the acre for plowing; 23 for sub-surface plowing; and 19 for disking.

* * *

Oats went 29 bushels on the plowed ground; 25.6 bushels on the sub-surface seed bed; and 25.4 on the disked soil.

* * *

According to the Cornell folks who made these tests, generally speaking plowing gives a looser, better aerated soil—and weeds are less of a problem.

* * *

If you keep your tractor oiled and greased properly, the worst enemy it has is dust. Dust that is even too small to see will cause wear. A new tractor runs smoothly and makes little noise, because the moving parts fit closely together; and the closer they fit together, the more damage dust can do.

Air always contains a certain amount of dust, no matter how clear it may seem. And your tractor uses plenty of air—about 9,000 gallons of it for every gallon of fuel. Every time your tractor burns 5 gallons of gasoline, it will use on the average enough air to fill a 90-ton silo.

* * *

The air cleaner on your tractor is built to keep that dust out of the engine. But the air cleaner cannot do everything by itself. It stops the dust by catching it in a bath of oil as the air passes through the cleaner; but there is a limit to how much dust the oil can hold. When the oil gets full of dust, the air cannot be cleaned; dust will go into the engine and wear out parts in a hurry. Your tractor will begin to lose power; it will use too much oil; and you will lose time and money having repairs made.

* * *

To help the air cleaner you must remove the dust that is caught. Under average air conditions, writes R. L. Patrick in The Progressive Farmer, this servicing should be done once a day—before the tractor is started in the morning. At that time all of the oil and dirt will be in the removable cup on the bottom of the cleaner.

* * *

This cup is easy to remove—usually a single screw is all that holds it on. Often this can be loosened by hand. Remove the cup and pour off the oil. In the bottom of the cup you will find a layer of dirt. Scrape out this dirt and rinse the cup with some clean fuel. Be sure and dry it out then, as any fuel left will thin the new oil placed in the cup. Most manufacturers recommend a certain weight oil for the air cleaner, and your owner's instruction book or your tractor **dealer will tell you what weight to** use. The same weight oil as in the engine is generally O.K.

* * *

There is a mark on the cup showing how full of oil it should be. Fill it to that point and replace the cup. The right amount of oil as well as the right weight is important. Not enough oil will cause the same trouble as too thin oil. With too much oil or oil that is too heavy the air will have a hard time getting through. That would be much the same as leaving the choke on the carburetor partly closed. Your tractor would use too much fuel, and the engine might not run right.

* * *

As I said before, servicing the air cleaner is a fairly easy job. After you've done it a few times, you'll be able to do it in five minutes or less. And when your tractor is running under very dusty conditions, it's a wise plan to service it twice a day. The second return to the field. Again this gives time can be after dinner, before you the oil and dirt a chance to settle while the engine isn't running.

* * *

Vibration can loosen the connections between the air cleaner and the carburetor. Check them daily. They will need tightening once in a while. With loose connections air may enter and not go through the cleaner—and the result will be the same as having no cleaner at all. And if the choke or the throttle shaft on the carburetor becomes worn and loose dusty air can enter.

Sometimes the intake manifold may get rust holes. And dust entering such places has been known to wear out tractor engines in a matter of just a few days.

* * *

Which will have to be all for a few days—seven of them, in fact.

STILL ANOTHER FIRST!

The first industrial transformer was invented by a Russian natural scientist, Ivan Ussagin, it was claimed in Moscow by Prof. Victor Danilevsky, a student of the history of Russian technical knowledge.

The first patent for a transformer was received by a Russian electrician, Peter Yablochkov, in France in November, 1876, the professor said.

According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, the first successful transformer was demonstrated by William Stanley in the United States and put in service in 1886.

In recent months Tass or official Soviet publications have claimed that Russians were the first to invent the airplane, the glider, submarines, helicopters, steam engines, and a wool-combing machine.

STUCK PIG

In Mobile, Ala., a housewife, short of cash, guiltily broke into her baby's piggy bank, found only a note inside: "IOU $5. (signed) Daddy."

The GREEN THUMB

by Gordon Smith

GARDEN NOTES

More seed is wasted by planting too deep than too shallow. A good rule is about three times the diameter of the seed. With tiny seeds like poppies, alyssum or turnips, this means merely pressing the seed in the soil. With big things like gladioli, bulbs, potatoes and dahlias it means from 4 to 8 nches, but with beets, beans, etc., only about an inch to cover is necessary.

* * *

BIG CROPPERS

It is really amazing what vegetable crops one can get out of even a tiny plot. A patch 10 feet by 20, with a little planning and double cropping will yield many meals.

Of course, in the very small vegetable garden one is wise to forget those bulky or spreading sort of things like potatoes, corn, squash or peas. One should concentrate on beans, carrots, beets, spinach, radish, lettuce, possibly a half-dozen staked tomatoes and perhaps a hill or two of cucumbers, trained over the boundary fence. None of these vegetables take up much room. Beans, beets and carrots, for instance, can be grown in rows only a foot apart, and 10 feet of any of them will produce many meals for the average family. With some of the very early things like lettuce, radish and spinach, double cropping can be practised. Plant these in rows, say, 18 inches apart, with rows of the later things—beets, beans, carrots, parsnips, etc., in between. Long before the last named are full-grown the first will be used and out of the way.

* * *

FOR AN EARLY START

Usually there is a corner of the garden which is dry before the rest. This is the spot to plant the very early things, hardy vegetables and flowers than can go in the ground just as soon as the soil is dry. Frost and snow later on will not hurt these, and some of them must make their first growth while soil and air are cool.

Among the vegetables in this category will be the first planting of radish, leaf lettuce, spinach, early onions and the hardiest of the garden peas. All the vegetables mentioned can be planted at least three times, a fortnight apart, and some like lettuce and radish, carrots, beets, beans, ets., can be planted at intervals right up to the first week in July.

Among the hardy flowers will be cosmos, marigolds, pansies, sweet peas and anything else listed as very hardy in a Canadian seed catalogue. Some of these are so resistant to frost that they sow themselves and come on as volunteer plants in the Spring.

NEW and USEFUL TOO--

ELECTRICALLY OPERATED ROBOT DOOR OPENER. Unlocks garage doors, opens them and turns on yard and garage lights while operator sits in car. Another button in garage or inside house closes and locks garage door and turns off light. Makers claim special safety feature eliminates possibility of accident to children or pets playing near doors.

LAWN SPRINKLER. This lawn sprinkler has relay valve with eight outlets, each connected to four sprinkler heads which take care of one section of lawn each. Relay valve sends water through one outlet at a time for about a minute, then shunts to next outlet. It is claimed that such intermittent spraying allows time for seepage between spray periods, so that no water runs off lawn.

PRE-SET HOUSE WARMER. Temperature control that gets rooms warm when you want them. It's installed outside building, adjusted for time when rooms inside should be fully warmed up. During night it automatically shifts time for the heat to go on as temperature changes. It is wired into regular room thermostat, which retains control during daytime.

PLASTIC IN PIGSKIN. That football you see kicked around next fall may have a plastic bladder. These new bladders for footballs, basketballs, etc., are said to be priced lower than usual kind and to keep at least 92% of original pressure for six months or more.

How To Salvage Old Paint Brushes

When you start to do a painting job around your place, as often as not he discovers that the old paint brush has developed a decided kink with hard turned-up bristles and is unworkable.

To salvage stiff old brushes soaking overnight, preferably in turpentine, is a well-known preliminary. Gasoline is also effective. After the old paint has been softened, it should be scraped off with a blunt knife or combed out with a steel comb or brush. If the first soaking fails to remove the paint, the process can be repeated. Shellac brushes should be cleaned with alcohol, and whitewash and calcimine brushes with water.

After most of the accumulation has been removed, the brush should be scrubbed in warm water with a mild laundry soap—never with a strong soap. The excess water should be shaken out and the brush left to dry. The bristles should be straightened out with a scrub brush or comb before completely dry, after which the brush should be wrapped—not too tightly—in heavy paper or cardboard to keep the bristles straight. If the brush is dipped in paint before being fully dried, the moisture will make the brush soft and listless.

When a brush is being used every day, it should be filled with paint and wrapped overnight in several thicknesses of paper, or suspended in a can of water. If used intermittenly, it may be suspended in raw linseed oil or kerosene. If stored in turpentine, the brush is likely to become hard. It should never be allowed to rest on the ends of the bristles for any length of time, because it will become warped and the flow of paint will be uneven. With a hole at the end of the handle, a brush may be suspended in the paint from a rod or stick across the edges of the can so that the bristles do not touch the bottom. When put away for a period of time, the brush should be cleaned, thoroughly dried, and stored with the bristles straight.

DOGTAG

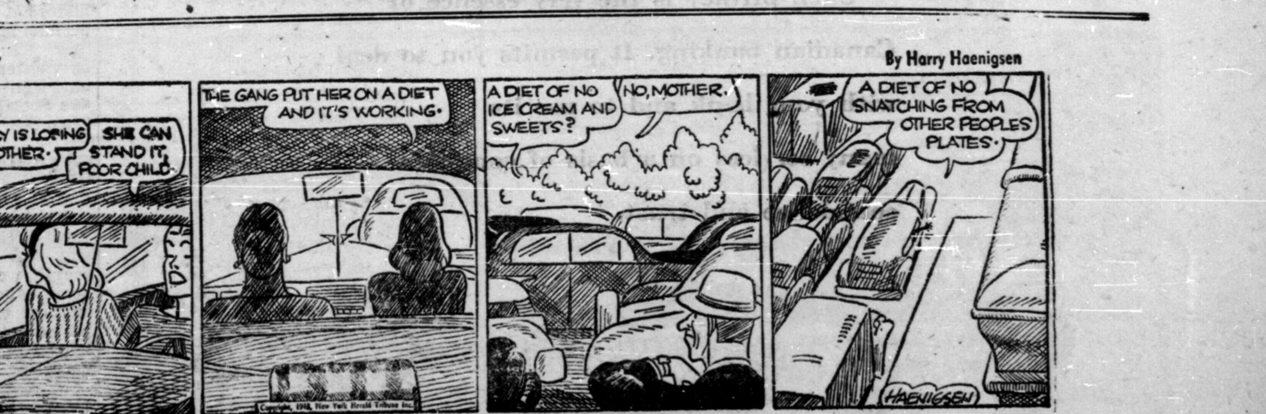
In Chicago, Dolores McCrossen lost her dog, asked police to find it. Identifying marks: red nail polish on its toenails.

THERE'S SCIENTIFIC METHOD IN HIS MADNESS

In the caws of science.

Merrily he rols along.

More than one string to his bow.

Some people may look with tests the I.Q. of crows, but John Alpin Graydon does just raised eyebrows at a man who that and confounds his critics by pointing out that he hasn't punched a timeclock in years. Graydon is a 72-year-old inventor, scientist and philosopher. At top left, Graydon talks with one of his crows as he gets the bird's reactions to words and sounds. Top right, he displays his tubeless tire, made from strips of od tire casings. Developed during the wartime tire shortage, he still uses it as a spare. At right he plays his violin with a bow—actually four bows together—which plays all four strings at once. A noted violinist will soon use the bow on a radio broadcast.

PENNY By Harry Haenigsen