

Fanning for the fans

By LLOYD M. YOUNG

GLANCING OVER THE M. H. L. "Big Four" many upsets have been prevalent in the past week with the Saint John Beavers showing up nicely and the Abbies turning on the heat. It is making the league interesting and the games are drawing larger crowds and are getting more satisfied customers. The league as it stands at the present time has the Hawks at the top of the list with 47 points, closely followed by the Wolves with 43; while the Abbies have crowded up to 28, and the Beavers are still in the cellar but have garnered 16 points.

GAMES PLAYED IN THE PAST week have shown many upsets, and teams being more progressive. In the game between the Hawks and Beavers last Wednesday night, the Hawks won by a score of 3-1, and at the same time the Wolverines were on a scoring bee, taking the Abbies by a score of 8-3. And on Friday night the Beavers showing nice combination work won over the Wolverines by a score of 7-3. And at the same time the Abbies were taking the Hawks under their wings to a score of 3-1. And again on Monday night the Hawks and Wolves were at it again, and this time the Hawks were victorious by a score of 4-2; while the Beavers and Abbies were playing in Charlottetown, this game ending 3-3 after ten minutes overtime.

BILL COWLEY, OF HALIFAX, has the highest number of points in the scoring honors and is followed closely by McManus and James of Moncton, while Gill, of Moncton, holds the first place in penalties and is followed in this by Lavigne, of Halifax.

MOUNT ALLISON OPENED THE New Brunswick Intercollegiate Hockey League in Sackville Saturday night by defeating St. Joseph's 5-0 in a fast and exciting game, and again on Tuesday night they turned back their old rivals, the University of New Brunswick, by a score of 2-1 in a 30-minute overtime struggle. Spec Peebles, Mount Allison star, returned to the game for the first time this year and turned in a great performance.

In the Central League Mount Allison and Amherst will play off for first place and the right to get in the playdowns for the Maritime title this year.

IN THE NATIONAL HOCKEY League, the Toronto Maple Leafs are holding on to first place with 46 points, while Maroons are second with 32 and are followed by Canadiens with 30 points. This in the Canadian section. And in the American section, the New York Rangers are first with 42 points and are followed by Chicago Black Hawks with Detroit in third place. Charlie Conacher, of the Toronto Maple Leafs is first in the scoring and is followed by Boucher of the Rangers and Primeau of the Leafs.

IN THE NEW BRUNSWICK Interscholastic Hockey League (first round), the Edmundston High School team won from Grand Falls by taking both of the home games, score for the series, 9-3. Edmundston will meet the Campbellton High School on February 16 to decide the Northern N. B. Interscholastic crown.

IT IS RUMORED THAT THERE will be a series of basketball games in the city between the Senior Trojans and the Trumps. This would no doubt be very interesting.

SUSSEX HIGH SCHOOL IS IN the lead in the Kings County Public School Hockey League by virtue of their win over Hampton and Rothesay in games played last week. Rothesay is in second place.

FRANK GRAHAM, HALIFAX defence player, will no doubt be out of the game for some time. He sustained a cut over the eye.

What Is the Matter with New Brunswick?

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Does anyone doubt the power of the people of this province, or of the Maritimes, to initiate and carry into effect any movement about which they feel deeply and upon which they exert the concerted influence and energy of a substantial majority?

I hope not. Anyhow, men and women of middle age will readily recall instances in which the power of an aroused and militant public opinion swept New Brunswick like a flame. Those older ones who can recall the Fenian Raid days and the pre-confederation excitement and controversies, know deeply and well what our people are like—and are capable of—when once general and profound feeling flowers in common action. Enough of illustration. Let's come back to today. I hope I shall not propose anything in essence unreasonable, or beyond the scope of public interest, or beyond the power of popular accomplishment, given the will to do.

As to that Petitcodiac tidal power enterprise—so full of real possibilities—let me add this word, in passing:

Let no straw men deceive you; no bogey men frighten you. Such are too commonly thrust before the eyes of the people by the predatory forces of society, or their paid tools, to deceive the public—which owns all natural resources and creates most of the wealth by work of hand or brain—lest they wake up and protect themselves from further plucking, or even retaliate savagely for past robbery under the cloak of law.

If or when New Brunswick, or the Maritimes, harness the tides, there will be no exploitation by private profiteers, blithe merchants of watered stock, groups of "public benefactors" burning to "save" the people from their own folly, or the ruin likely to be wrought (as these gentlemen are wont to say) by following reckless advice. Naturally, the only persons capable of speaking sensibly on public matters are they themselves. Their sun is setting.

No. New Brunswickers—all Canadians—have had more than enough—much more than enough—of the exploiters of them and their resources by the thieves and despoilers of our thrift and our heritage.

The public and its trusted servants can develop abundant power, and distribute it at reasonable rates—and pocket all the profit itself.

The loss? Why should there be any?

Hydro is our example. The exploiters damned the Musquash enterprise with bell, book and candle. They even tried to buy it, at length. And right valiantly have they and their mouthpieces lied about every angle and phase and aspect of it. Bad management by the province might imperil it, temporarily. The public men who fought it have ceased to defame it publicly, lacking the courage to continue—but not the will.

It has not cost the public a cent. It should not cost the taxpayers, as such, a cent, ever.

It pays for itself—capital, interest, sinking fund, maintenance—out of earnings.

Those who use the current—and they only—pay all—and under sound management and direction by any public-spirited administration, it could be expanded with profit to all concerned.

As for the Saint John end of it—Roy Willet, being dead, yet speaketh. All honor to him—a sterling citizen, quietly courageous, an example to his generation.

Public spirit, courage in action in advancing the public interest—and in protecting it unflinchingly—these never fail to command a following when the right standard is flung to the breeze. They never have, and they never will. Let us take comfort therein, and heart therefrom.

Those who have long urged drastic revision of banking powers and practices are told, pontifically, by spokesmen of special privilege, that such demands are sacrilegious, that they come from men who have vainly sought bank credit for unsound purposes.

That is mere impudent evasion. No public-spirited citizen expects a banker to lend the money of his shareholders and depositors without reasonable assurance that he will not lose it.

But what of the million upon millions loaned upon "collateral," and security, and prospects, and reputations, during the boom years by the eminent gentlemen in control of cash and credit—while their branch managers, either manacled by head office or with little real knowledge of the local business men and business enterprises at their doors, obeyed the orders which starved local business effort and paralyzed local initiative?

People everywhere today are awake to the fact that banking and many other branches of big business in Canada, the expansionists, the traffickers in public utilities, the exploiters of water powers and other sources of public wealth, the speculators in timber leases—and their allies and tools—must be compelled to abide by new rules.

To sneer at the Americans because Sam Insull looted Chicago public utility enterprises to the tune of uncounted millions and fled to Greece, is foolish. Insull at least was forced to flee—will even be brought back in time to stand his trial, if he does not die miserably in exile.

He operated on a grand scale in a vast and rich arena. But he did fly the wrath to come.

None of his prototypes has fled from Canada yet. To our shame be it said. Heaven knows they are numerous enough. But we do not yet see the beam in our own eye. Our public men, in this respect, in their failure to deal with such manifestations of greed and such forms of exploitation and even of robbery within the letter of the law, have been negligent or reactionary, and to a disgraceful degree, beyond all question.

It is conceded that in connection with our agriculture, the high cost of heavy feed in normal times is a big problem. Here is a Maritime need and enterprise that certainly is not beyond the scope of our powers to solve. With a million people, with co-operation by three Maritime governments, with the knowledge that we can grow most of the food elements required, and can bring in the rest in bulk through co-operative purchase—adding co-operative distribution—we should not hesitate to set about it, so in the case of fertilizer; and with many other things, where the price shackles individual agricultural enterprise; the same chance offers. Let us give the farmers a real chance. They will do the rest.

Further—and this is very important—we need a bureau for the collection and constant distribution, by radio and newspapers chiefly, of certain information, authoritative and accurate, and bearing constantly and directly upon our every day activities.

For example, we need such a daily broadcast of local and out-

side market prices for all our farming and forest products, and our fish. The prices quoted must be actual. The weather forecasts and reports would be included.

But much more is required. Our people should have frequent and accurate information as to the value of their dollar in goods and services—how much it will buy—what its real purchasing power is, at home and abroad. And constant information as to the cost of living today—from day to day—as compared with the standard year.

They must be protected against wildcat stocks and securities in the coming expansion of business, for the wolves will be numerous. It should be made clear beyond peradventure that those who have either looted for themselves, or abetted others in doing so, or protected such from exposure and punishment, are no longer to be rewarded by elevation to office, to positions of honor and trust, or even to have immunity through the suppression of public opinion, the stifling of news—or the laxity of the law officers of the Crown.

Of late years we Canadians, and particularly we Maritimers, have been greatly lacking in public courage—and dearly have we paid for it in the degradation of our public affairs, the exploitation of our weaknesses, and the cynicisms of far too many of our public men—some of whom the government will presently summon to the Senate, probably, or who will be otherwise rewarded at the expense of the common purse and the common reputation for common sense and virile citizenship.

The public has the power to fire, because it is the employer and paymaster—and has the power to hire. That is now being recalled—and it is time. If the hired man is useless, or dishonest, or irresponsible, or negligent—the farmer fires him, and gets a better man.

Most of our senators do little or nothing, year after year, for the Maritimes; though there is real opportunity for them to do much.

Few of them make any real effort; few have—on display—either independence or public courage. We pay them well, and get no return. It is in fact, a long notorious fact, clear in the Maritimes and not unknown elsewhere—that the Senate must be improved in quality, and conception of public duty—and the Commons, too—by enforcing a sharper sense of responsibility to the taxpayers and less for the party whip and the spur of selfish aggrandisement.

We lower stumpage rates in bad times "to stimulate the lumber industry."

What does that really mean?

The people own the Crown forests. When the stumpage is lowered, do the workers get a living wage—a decent wage—the men who do the real work in the forests, which are public property? The answer most common at the moment is that these folk ought to be glad to get any work at any wage.

That is not true in the first place; and it is the merest attempt to shift the issue, in the second.

Had the humble and industrious working men of the lumber woods got their fair share of the profit from the use of the Crown lands from the days of the "Northumberland Deal" down to the present time, they and their sons could have met even the last grave depression without distress or faltering.

They, like their woods, have been shamelessly exploited. No one with real and first-hand knowledge of the conditions and the history of 40 years past can honestly doubt it. None should hesitate to say it, in any company.

And what inspiring thought should we have in mind at this stage of our enquiring as to the present state of the future of New Brunswick?

Why, this one: that, careless and profligate as we have been,

and much as our hired men—our chosen representatives—have betrayed the great trust we gave them—again and again, with growing callousness and cynicism—there is still time to achieve both safety and a reasonable prosperity and contentment in life.

We may, if we are awake and resolute, enduring in public purpose, yet lock the door before—not after the horse is stolen. Not more than the harness is missing thus far, costly as it has been.

We must make things safe from now on. And fairly share opportunities and rewards for honest effort.

To do so will demand all our civic courage, all the intelligence and vigilance we can concentrate upon the work.

If we falter, and grow weary, or lose touch with actuality, or are deceived or diverted by red herrings, by the ballyhoo of partisans, or the more dangerous devices of the predatory and already well-entrenched selfish interests which have long reaped richly where we have sown, and which are already awake to the rich gains in sight unless their attack is exposed and beaten off—then surely shall we be plucked afresh in the coming period of "better times" ahead—and right richly we shall deserve it.

Intelligent and inspiring of the tremendous fact that we live in a new world, under new world conditions, under new pressures and stresses, and even new mass emotions, came earlier in Great Britain than in the United States or in Canada. It was in Britain that open-eyed and public-spirited leadership first measured the portents in the world sky, and the pace and progress of sweeping and complex developments such as would compel the employment of new methods—the adoption of a new way of national life.

Mr. Roosevelt has made more noise about it—a wholly benevolent noise in the main, we must think, thus far at least—because his 126,000,000 of people are of a more sanguine temperament than those of the British Isles, and younger, and demanding a psychology somewhat different from that to which the British respond. But—and let us make no mistake about it—the motives from which Mr. Roosevelt is acting as Chief Executive of the American branch of Anglo-Saxondom—are in no way different from those animating Ramsay MacDonald and the other great British leaders of the day.

We in Canada ignore, or fail to understand, the New Deal if we would. Our frontier marches with that of our neighbors from ocean to ocean. We, in New Brunswick, have the Americans at our door. They outnumbered by some 11 or 12 to one.

They have \$4,000,000,000 invested in Canadian enterprises—or rather, in enterprises in Canada—which is somewhat different. The force of the material impact in this association is enormous; because, in addition to contiguity, many of their states swarm with exiled Canadians. But yesterday we were the greatest of all their world customers. But yesterday they afforded a rich market for our goods—and one day they will do so again.

London is watching them more keenly than we are, and more knowingly. In international matters the British are far-sighted and long-headed. Their leaders realize fully the terrific issues at stake in the new world of today, how greatly the success or the failure of the vast American experiment will inevitably affect the Commonwealth, whose stake on the board is so vast; how closely the two are interlocked in the matter of world peace or of world conflict; how much may be done through co-operation between London and Washington in stabilizing currencies, in rationalizing world commerce and trade—in steadying a world still rocking from the explosion of 1914 and the calamitous events it brought in its train.

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