The writer as representative of the Maritimes attended the annual meeting of the United States Trotting Association held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, March 10th to 13th inclusive. Twenty-eight of the 33 Directors were present and a lot of the Association's business was disposed of. It was very interesting to meet the various representatives, all of whom were horsemen, either owners or breeders, and thoroughly familiar with all the aspects of the sport. They were most cordial to me and glad to have a representative from Canada to sit in with them.

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The rules committee went over the rules very thoroughly and some changes were made which will appear in the new rule book that will be available in April. At the annual meeting of the Maritime association some tracks stated they would like to have the distance rule in force, so it was decided that any track could put the distance rule in its published conditions. The matter of holding the annual meeting for the Maritimes in the early fall at Truro was taken up and it was explained that this would not be in accordance with the constitution but that the meeting in Truro could nominate one or more persons to act as director and these could be voted on at the regular annual meeting and their names would go on the proxy cards which will be sent out.

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Quite a few changes in the management were arranged for because of the tremendous number of new tracks which are opening up and the long periods of racing given at many of them. This necessitates far more work than formerly and is well exemplified in the larger size of the new Year Book. An application from Florida for a big new track at Palm Beach was considered and one of the best equipped race tracks in America will open up near Chicago in the early summer. While these large tracks near the big cities are signs of greater interest in the sport yet the directors felt that it is also even more encouraging to see new tracks built or old ones re-vamped in the smaller centres. To cope with the increasing clerical work it was decided to move the office at Bellefontaine, Ohio, which served the western states with eligibility certificates, drivers' licenses, etc., to Hartford, and also to move the Goshen office where registrations and transfers were made, to Hartford.

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A change was made in the officers and the President will now be a full time official with headquarters at Hartford. He is Henry Knauf of Ladd, Illinois, a man with a splendid personality, who has raced horses successfully, is a leading breeder of trotters and pacers and one of the most popular men in his state. It is planned to give the sport a great deal more publicity by movies, radio and newspapers and to that end a director of publicity will likely be appointed. If newsprint is available Hoof Beats will be published twice monthly and will carry summaries of all races and matters of interest to all members.

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It was the first time we had the opportunity of contacting the Honorary President, E. Roland Harriman of Arden, New York, owner of Titan Hanover 3, 1.58, world's champion two-year-old and three-year-old trotter over both mile and half-mile tracks. Mr. Harriman is identified with many of the largest enterprises in the United States and is a brother of W. Averill Harriman, who recently resigned as Ambassador to Russia, has a most pleasing personality, is an indefatigable worker and contributed very materially to all the discussions. Another man that impressed me very much was Frank L. Wiswall, the Secretary and Counsel. He is over six feet in height, a most striking figure of a man and possesses an intellect of the highest order. Everyone was on good terms with Mr. Wiswall who radiates happiness and good sense. Then there was our good friend, Executive Vice President Roger Duncan, whose report was highly commended. Mr. Duncan's work with the Association is most appreciated and his courtesy to all members is a valuable asset to the U.S.T.A.

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The President, Judge G. W. Rittenour of Piketon, Ohio, is of middle age, well educated, being a graduate of Yale, and one of the most friendly persons we have ever met. He never tries to force his opinions on anyone and makes an ideal presiding officer. Under the change of setup for the future he will become Chairman of the Board. Many of us have read in The Harness Horse and other turf publications of the great race meetings at Duquoin, Illinois, and have wondered what kind of a man the spark plug responsible for them was. He is E. G. Hayes and represents District 5. A young man, probably not more than 37, a six-footer weighing over 200, with a very pleasant countenance, in fact nearly always wearing a smile, he just seems the ideal man for a big show and Duquoin does put one on.

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Then there is Joe Neville whose Delaware, Ohio, track is probably the fastest half-mile track in America, and Andy Adams, Litchfield, Michigan, Dr. G. E. Van Tuyle of Iowa, Cliff Thro of Minnesota, Sep Palin, Indianapolis, Leo C. McNamara, Indianapolis, owner of Two Gaits Farm, Lt.-Col. Dunbar Bostwick, New York, W. H. Dickinson, Hatfield, Mass., Gage B. Ellis, Village Farm, Langhorne, Pa., J. C. Newton, Hamburg, N. Y., Robert B. Jewell, Wilmore, Kentucky, Ben Mayo, Tarboro, N. C., owner of Captain January 200½, T. A. Billingsly of Greenville, Ohio, manager of one of the most popular race tracks in America, E. C. Moriarity, Kansas, R. A. Jewell, Fort Fairfield, Maine, and last but very important, Lawrence B. Sheppard, Hanover, Pa., proprietor of Hanover Shoe Farms, one of the greatest breeding establishments in the U. S. A.

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I had the pleasure of a short conversation with Mr. Sheppard, stating to him that I had always been of the opinion that Kentucky offered many more advantages for the breeding of trotters and pacers, or thoroughbreds for that matter, than any other state in the Union. He said that that was not the case. It was true that many Kentucky farms were very successful but that was due to good soil and good management. "Good grass can be grown almost anywhere," said Mr. Sheppard, "if one uses the right methods. We test our pasture land and if it is found to be acid we cover it with ground limestone." Asked as to the method of testing he said it was quite simple, merely to take a solution of the soil and a piece of blue litmus paper. If the litmus paper turned red there was acidity in the soil. Another very important ingredient for soil is phosphorus and a 400 pound 20% acid phosphoric fertilizer is used per acre. He said the ground limestone need only be applied once in five years.

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Given good pasturage with nutritious grass, good drinking water and good feed and care colts will mature very rapidly. "One has only to look at the representatives of Hanover Shoe Farms that you have down in your country," said Mr. Sheppard, to realize that our pasturage, our soil and our methods must be good." I told him I thought he had certainly developed a breed of horses that were almost incomparable and that established so many years after Walnut Hall Farm he had carved for himself a tremendous niche in the breeders' Hall of Fame. "You must remember," said Mr. Sheppard, "that we had some good luck in that we were fortunate enough to purchase the brood mare band and stallions of the late A. B. Coxe, whose skill as a breeder was unquestioned. The Peter Volo 2.02 was a golden one and that together with the purchase year after year of high class brood mares and an occasional outstanding sire has kept us well on the upward trend."

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We have received from F. C. McCurdy, Truro, N. S., the nominations for the 2.22 Stake to be raced at Truro, July 1st, 1946. The second payment is due April 5th These are:—

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Nomination:
1—Richard Jabalee, North Sydney, C. B.
1—C. & H. Weisner, New Glasgow, N. S.
1—O'Brien Stables, Alberton, P.E.I.
1—Urban Ellis, Miscouche, P. E. I.
1—Edward Haley, Antigonish, N.S.
1—Charles Craig, Halifax, N. S.
2—M. D. & T. E. Haskinson, Middleton, N. S.
2—C. B. Nicholson, 179 Budd St., Halifax.
1—Robert Baxter, Truro, N. S.
1—Joe O'Brien, New Glasgow, N.S.
1—B. S. Howatt, Charlottetown, P. E. I.
2—W. G. Stewart, New Glasgow, N. S.
2—H. M. Sweeney, Bridgewater, N. S.
1—John Scott, Halifax, N. S.
1—J. A. Kerr (re-sold to G. A. Fraser, Truro, N. S.
1—F. C. McCurdy, Truro.
Total—20.

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Our friend F. D. J. Graham of St. Stephen, N. B., writes us that he has been up to see Allison Langille's new purchase, Pine Ridge Alec 2.06¼ and that he is a fine looking horse. He is sired by Ora Grattan 11, took part in eight events last season, winning two and is eligible to the 2.09 class. Mr. Graham states they are having a Free For All with $800.00 added to the stake money on August 22nd in connection with their regular race meet.

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Our congratulations to Lt.-Col. J. P. Hooper, M.C., President, and F. J. E. Wright, Secretary of the Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Club for the record success which has attended the second payment in the two, three and four-year-old futurity stakes. Twenty-two have nominated for the two-year-old, 36 for the three-year-old and 25 for the four-year-old. This is a splendid encouragement for the future of racing in the Maritimes.

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S. Thane Belyea writes us from Fredericton that Earle Avery sent two men to Sydney, N. S., a few days ago and they brought back with them Marylin Chief 3, 2.06, by Chief Abbedale 2.00¾. This mare was sold at the York, Pa., sale last October to Harry Hirsch, Sydney, N. S. She took part in 12 events last season, had winning brackets in eight of them and is eligible to the 2.17 class. On arrival at Woodstock she was crated and shipped to Longwood, Florida, to Thomas Berry. The purchaser is Leo C. McNamara, proprietor of Two Gaits Farm, Indianapolis, Indiana, where she was bred. She is a beautiful mare, clean limbed, perfect mannered and Mr. McNamara expects to give her a record of two minutes this year and then retire her to the brood ranks. Jimmie Smith and three other men are very busy jogging 17 head for Earle at the Woodstock track and six more are expected from L. M. Page of Ashland, Maine, next weeek. This will mean lots of hard work around the training barn until the mud dries up, but according to Earle and which all agree, Jimmie Smith is a most capable assistant and has been with him ten years. Earle is very high on a two-year-old pacer by Pegasus Pointer, dam by Argot Hal. The youngster is learning fast and despite the season of the year shows a lot of step. Among the tops he is getting ready may be mentioned Hollyrood Cochato 2.06, Bona Beau 2.12¾, Top Hanover 2.08½ and Argot Pointer. These four are staked in $45,000 worth of stakes at Saratoga, N. Y., and he expects to ship there early in June. Thanks, Thane, for your very newsy letter which is greatly appreciated.

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Our good friend R. M. Webber from Middleton, N. B. writes:—"Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wry have booked passage by plane for Santa Anita, California, where they will remain a couple of weeks to see their grand pacer Widow's Pride 2.06 race. They will leave Moncton May 1st, returning from California the week after the big race. Allison Langille went up to Pine Ridge stables at London, Ontario, last week and returned home with Pine Ridge Alec 2.06¼. I think he is one of the nicest looking animals I have ever saw. He is black in color with a small stripe and a snip. Boh hind ankles white. His coat is like that of a horse in midsummer and shines like a bottle. He is a big, rugged chap, looks like he will weigh over 1,100 lbs. Al was offered a very nice profit as soon as the horse was off the train but he thinks he has what he has been looking for all his life. I have never seen where our mare Cochato Princess started on the ice. Have been wondering what they had in Nova Scotia that could beat her." Thanks, Mr. Webber for your news.

—o—

One of the pleasing incidents of the inter-provincial ice race meet held recently was the winning of the Class B. Pace by Nellie Worthy, owned by Allison Carr, Oyster Bed Bridge, who represented the Oyster Bed Bridge Driving Club. Nellie Worthy looks like a good prospect for her class this season.

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The attention of horsemen is directed to the announcement of the Tracks and Victoria Driving Club which appears on this page. They are offering seven stakes, one to be raced for each week on the Island circuit. Accounts and particulars appear in the ad.

W.K.S. Wins Inter-Scholastic Hockey Title

"Ice Follies" At Forum Viewed By Large Crowd

Beautiful costumes, soft-lighting and an excellent performance by members of the Charlottetown Figure Skating Club combined to delight the large audience which attended the "Ice Follies of 1946" at the Forum last night.

The various numbers in which some 40 performers participated drew rounds of applause and the show, locally produced and "iced", received much favorable comment.

The performance was under the distinguished patronage of His Honor Lieut.-Governor Bernard and Mrs. Bernard, Premier J. Walter Jones and Mrs. Jones, His Worship Mayor B. Earle MacDonald and Mrs. MacDonald, Dr. W.J.P. MacMillan O.B.E., and Mrs. MacMillan.

The youthful members of the troupe executed turns, twists, spirals with skill and grace, and glided over the mirrored surface with an adeptness that was a credit to their instructor, Mr. Wallace E Scantlebury. It is safe to assume that if last night's performance is any criterion, figure skating, in another season or two, will figure more prominently in the winter program of activities at the Forum.

The teen-aged youngsters proved themselves at home on the steel blades as they waltzed, jitterbugged and fox-trotted rhythmically to music. The antics of the clowns drew roars of laughter from the spectators and lent a pleasing note of variety to the dazzling presentation.

The program follows:

1—Grand Parade and Practice Session. This represents our regular skating session.
2—Skating Duo — Marjorie Gillespie, Barbara Roper.
3—Spot Waltz — Miss Sheila Praught and George Scantlebury.
4—Skating Specialty—Miss Joan Snazelle and Arlene Dowling.
5—Freddy Frog in Frog Frolics.
6—14 Step — 4 Couples.
7—Specialty — Adele Vickerson, Velma Carmody.
8 — A Little Bit of Ireland — Eleanor McInnis, Pat Richard, Sheila Praught.
9—George and His Old Man.
10—Skating Specialty — Joyce Rodd and Reggie Hughes.
11—Phyllis Cutcliffe in Miss Butterfly.
12—Fox Trot — Barbara Whitlock, Yvonne McEachern.
13—Skating — Sheila Praught and Partner.
14—Flashlight Skating — Reggie Hughes and Lois McEachern.
15—Jitterbugs — Pat Richard, Eleanor McInnis, Barbara Whitlock, Yvonne McEachern.
16—Tap Dance — Miss Peggy Campbell.
17—Skating Specialty—Pat Richard and Eleanor McInnis.
18—Skating Specialty — Barbara Whitlock, Yvonne McEachern.
19—Pig and Wolf Specialty — Reggie Hughes and George Scantlebury.
20—Clown Antics.
21—Class Waltz.
22—Skating Pair — Elaine Murley, Donna Shaw.
23 — Specialty — Eleanor McInnis, Phyllis Cutcliffe.
Finale.

Members of the Club participating in the performance follow:

Lois McEachern, Yvonne McEachern, Barbara Whitlock, Barbara McLean, Helen McDonald, Roma Coles, Irene Richards, Eileen Brown, Arlene Lavers, Sally Cudmore, George Scantlebury, Tommy Scantlebury, Reggie Hughes, Marjorie Gillespie, Joan Snazelle, Shirley Judson, Phyllis Cutcliffe, Margaret Coles, Mary McNeill, Pat Richard, Faye Mill, June Carroll, Marlene Roper, Elaine Ready, Lorraine McCormac, Jane Giddings, Mary Worthy, Anita Dillon, Joyce DeCoste, Arlene Dowling, Elaine Murley, Donna Shaw, Eleanor McInnis, Olive Down, Joyce Riggs, Velma Carmody, Adele Vickerson, Joyce Crozier, Jean McGregor, Sheila Praught, Jack McCourt, Joe McDonald, Irene Giddings.

Makeup Artist, J. Austin Trainor, C D A; Pig-Wolf-Cow made by W.D. Mullins; Eilectricians Bill McAusland, Leslie Hughes; Scenery by Scantlebury Signs.

Almost 50 Entries In Blue Acres Stakes

STELLARTON, N. S., March 15 —(CP)—David Nelma announced that entries had closed today for the first number one stakes at Blue Acres, his new racing venture in Stellarton.

Nelma said when he counts the entries he expects them to number nearly 50. P. E. I. entries have come from Miscouche, Alberton, Summerside, Carleton Siding, Murray River and East Royalty; New Brunswick horses will come from Woodstock, Chatham, Sackville, Sussex, Bathurst and Saint John; among the Nova Scotia entries are horses from North Sydney, Glace Bay and Inverness.

Tonight at the Forum, the Prince of Wales Welshmen and the Legionaires will meet in the first game of the best three out of five series for the City League hockey championship and the Dr. Dougan Trophy.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

The series should prove an interesting one in that the teams split honors in their two games played through the regular league schedule. The Legion won the first game 6-8 and the Welshmen took the second contest 9-5.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

The Collegians will have the same lineup which carried them to the top in the season's schedule, but the Legionaires will be strengthened by the addition of "Bucko" MacDonald who has recently returned from a pastiming in Quebec hockey arenas.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Whether or not the local curling fraternity will have an artificial ice making plant next year will be decided definitely a little later on. At an enthusiastic and representative meeting held last night, committees were selected to survey the prospect from all angles and should the venture prove at all possible and reasonable, plans towards that end will be instituted.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

The Charlottetown Legionaires, intermediate hockey champions of P.E.I. and N.B., will fly to Berwick Monday for the opening game of the home and home series for the Maritime Championship. The team has chartered a Maritime Central Airways plane which will land at Greenwood Airport, five miles from Berwick. There will be room for ten passengers on the trip. The air transport will leave here at 5 o'clock and return after the match.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Saint Dunstan's and Senior Y basketball teams meet this afternoon at Prince of Wales College Auditorium in the second game of their best two out of three semi-final series. The Saints won the opener last week 28-16.

Defeat S'side High School, Take Round 10-4

At the Crystal Rink last night the West Kent School team won the Prince Edward Island interscholastic hockey crown and the Crockett Trophy by defeating the Summerside High School 6 goals to 3 and winning the round 10 to 4.

For two periods the Prince County High School boys outplayed the visitors and led 3 to 1, which brought them to within one goal of their rivals on the total score. But in the final frame the boys from the Capital, with a surprising reversal of form, scored five goals without a return and skated off the ice victors by a wide margin.

Bevins and Brown got a brace of goals each and Carver a goal and three assists.

"Pooch" Gallant on the home defence figured in every scoring play of the losers, getting a goal and two assists.

Howatt was one of the chief factors in his team's victory and though injured twice gamely continued in the play.

Callbeck, Summerside goalie also performed creditably.

The West Kent team, managed by Ev Cutcliffe and coached by Gordie Drillon had previously won the Archer Cup, emblematic of the championship of Charlottetown.

The Summerside boys were handled by the High School principal, Davis Lidstone.

SUMMARY
First Period
1—Summerside High, Gallant (L. Schurman).
Penalties: None.
Second Period
2—Summerside High, L. Schurman (Gallant, Stewart).
3—West Kent, Bevins (Carver).
4—Summerside High, Stewart (Arsenault, Gallant).
Penalties: None.
Third Period
5—West Kent, Bevins (Carver, Carter).
6—West Kent, Brown.
7—West Kent, Carver (Carter).
8—West Bent, Brown.
9—West Kent, McGregor (Bevins, Carver).
Penalties: Crockett, L. Schurman, Gay.
Referee: Herb Schurman.
Line-ups:
West Kent: Goal, L. Howatt; defence, Carter, Crockett; forwards, Bevins, Carter, McGregor, Carver, Acorn, MacKenzie, Brown, H. Howatt.
Summerside High: Goal, Callbeck; defence, McKay, Arsenault, A. Gallant; forwards, L. Schurman, Stewart, J. Schurman, Gay, R. Gallant.

Borden Wins Semi-Final Opener 10-4

The Borden Nationals last night defeated the Augustine Cove All Stars 10-4 in the opening game of a best-of-three games semi-final for the Bell trophy, emblematic of the Prince County hockey championship.

The All Stars scored early in the opening session and made a brief three-goal flurry in the first half of the final period but throughout the remainder of the game were held at bay, having many scoring chances foiled by the superb goal-tending of E. Richard between the Borden pipes.

The game was played at Borden rink on ice in fair condition.

Line-ups:
Augustine Cove: Goal, Dawson; defence, Muttart, Cutcliffe; forwards, W. McFadyen, J. McFadyen, Murray, Sherren, McWilliams, Campbell, McFarlane.
Borden: Goal, E. Richard; defence, Oatway, McIsaac; forwards, J. Darrach, Pickering, L. Richard, P. Darrach, Campbell.
Referee: Harold Stewart.
SUMMARY
First Period
1—All Stars, McFarlane (J. McFadyen).
2—Borden, Pickering (Richard).
3—Borden, Oatway.
4—Borden, Campbell.
Penalties: None.
Second Period
5—Borden, P. Darrach (Pickering).
6—Borden, J. Darrach (Campbell).
7—Borden, Oatway.
Penalties: Cutcliffe.
Third Period
8—All Stars, Cutcliffe (Sherren).
9—All Stars, Murray (Muttart).
10—Borden, P. Darrach (Richard).
11—All Stars, McWilliams (W. McFadyen).
12—Borden, Campbell (J. Darrach).
13—Borden, Campbell.
14—Borden, Richard.
Penalties: Richard.

St. John Beavers Win Maritime Senior Title

HALIFAX, March 15 —(CP)— Saint John Beavers staved off a desperate Halifax Navy attack in the third period tonight to shade the sailors 5-3 in the fifth game of the best-of-five Maritime senior hockey finals to capture the tri-province crown 3-2 in games.

The Beaver victory earned them the right to advance into the first round of the Allan Cup playdowns against the Ontario Hockey Association champions, either Hamilton Tigers or MacIntyre Mines.

Tonight's contest was a thriller from the opening whistle with the New Brunswick titleholders having fewer scoring chances than the fast-skating tars, but displaying better coordination in their efforts to make their opportunities count.

After a scoreless first session, the Beavers gained a 3-2 advantage in the second frame and outscored the Sailors 2-1 in a hectic last period to gain a well-earned verdict.

The Saint John blueline stalwarts, Walter Kyle and Jack Culverwell, turned in another outstanding performance with their dangerous rushes and heavy thumping defensive play foiling Navy forwards time after time. Although the fixture was featured by solid bodychecks throughout, referees Wick James and Hughie Gillis handed out only four penalties, all minors.

Summary
First Period
Scoring —None.
Penalties —None.
Second Period
1—Navy, Gauthier (Chipman) 2.52
2—Saint John, Fitzgerald (Kyle) 4.01
3—Saint John, Estabrooks (Price, Federonick) 12:43
4—Saint John, Price (Federonick) 16:59
5—Navy, Shill (Gauthier) 19.42
Penalties —Eaton.
Third Period
6—Saint John, Butler (Fitzgerald) 2.49
7—Saint John, O'Toole (Fitzgerald, Butler) 3.45
8 -Navy, Gauthier 10:47
Penalties —Kyle, Rowe, Culverwell.

Hockey Scores

Intercollegiate championship — (Quebec - Ontario) — Toronto 1, McGill 4.
McGill wins sudden-death game for intercollegiate title).
Ontario Senior Finals
Hamilton 5 MacIntyre Mines 0
(Hamilton wins best-of-five series 3-1)
Western Junior Semi-Final
Winnipeg Monarchs 5 Port Arthur Flyers 4 (overtime) (best-of-seven series tied 1-1)
Northern Ontario Junior Finals
Timmins Porcupine Combines 1
Copper Cliff Redmen 5
(Copper Cliff wins best-of-five series 3-1.

Willie Joyce, Danny Kapilow Fight Draw

NEW YORK, March 15 —(AP)— Willie Joyce and Danny Kapilow slugged their way to a 10-round draw tonight in Madison Square Garden. Joyce weighed 139; Kaplow 142 3-4.

A crowd of 10,179 contributed to a gross gate of $36,187 to see the bout, put on as a substitute show when the Tami Mauriello-Joe Baksi heavyweight rompus was called off earlier in the week.

Bernard McCloskey, 162 1-2, of Nova Scotia, (hometown unavailable) won a four-round decision over John Harvey, 155, Port Chester, N.Y., in a preliminary bout.

$1,832 Raised For Former N.H.L. Goalie

TORONTO, March 15 —(CP)— Charles Watson, Toronto sportsman, announced today that private subscriptions in a fund to aid Lorne Chabot, former National Hockey League goaltender seriously ill in a Montreal hospital, had reached $1,832.93. Some $450 has been turned over to the one-time Toronto, New York and Chicago player and the rest has been placed in a bank.

WORM'S INTUITION

Without eyes and living underground, a worm senses the fall of night and wriggles to the surface.

WHOOPS WE GO AGAIN!
CARNIVAL! SKATING!
MOCCASIN DANCE!
AT VICTORIA RINK
TUESDAY NIGHT, MARCH 19th
SURPRISES FOR PRIZES
3-2-9-16-31

The advance guard of wildgeese have arrived during the past week. Late on Tuesday evening, a flock of seven coasted in silently on cupped wings and came to rest on a stubble field somewhere south and east of the Hillsboro River. It was evidently a family group for the five goslings could be easily distinguished from the two parent birds. The old gander was a magnificent bird with a darker breast than is generally found in our eastern Canada geese.

* * *

The old veteran at the head of the flock evidently doesn't believe in advertizing for he arrived unheralded and without fanfare. Bringing a family intact through last season's 'stubble barrage' and then running the gauntlet of guns all the way down the New England coast to their wintering ground they took all that our southern neighbor's gunners could throw at them during the long winter months, and yet managed to make the first leg of the journey northward to their breeding grounds with their ranks at full strength. Thus the old Honker must have grounds for believing that 'advertizng doesn't pay'.

* * *

The flight is not heavy, just the odd scattered flock. Maybe its just as well for its too much to expect that spring is just around the corner. I notice that the crows have not yet started their movement from the south. A few hardy souls remained with us all winter but the big bulk of them spent the winter in a warmer climate. Some fine morning, we'll awaken to hear their far sounding Caa Caa Caaa coming from all points of the compass. They are black rascals there is no doubt about that, but somehow or other we welcome their cheery 'cawing' after a long winter of comparative silence. When one hears the crow symphony begin in earnest, one has a very sure feeling that spring, at last, is just around the corner.

* * *

The past winter was very favourable for the pheasants, Hungarian partridge and Ruffed grouse couldn't of had been better supposing it had been made to order. Grass, grit and weed seeds were always available for the Huns, and the pheasants had no sleet storms to bother them. Furthermore, there were no crusts to trap our native grouse. During periods of heavy frosts in January and February, particularly if the snow is several feet in depth, grouse (native partridge) will often take a header from a limb and dive head foremost into a snowbank. They take the plunge in the late evening and sometimes remain under the snow, if the weather keeps cold, for several days and nights. Sometimes a sudden change in temperature during the night brings rain for a short period which later turns to ice. When the luckless grouse decide to leave their snug and warm retreat, they find themselves imprisoned within an icy shell.

* * *

Sometimes they manage to work toward a clump of bushes where the crust resistance is less and succeed in gaining freedom. More often, they die miserable, lingering deaths beneath the snow, to later make a meal for a prowling fox. I distinctly remember my father telling me when I was a very young lad about going to the woods for a load of firewood after a heavy silver thaw. As he was breaking the crust in a small opening in the woods to allow the horse to turn the sleigh without breaking the shafts, he heard a peculiar tapping on the crust a few feet distant. When he went to investigate the strange occurrance, he inadvertently broke the icy covering and a large grouse flew up from almost beneath his feet. When the birds make the dive, they go in on a slight slant and appear to work along under the snow after the momentum of their plunge is ended. I believe they do this to fool their enemies, for Mr. Red Fox knows all about this trait and investigates any round hole he sees in the snow.

* * *

Foxes are not the only creatures who investigate strange holes in the snow. A long time ago, years and years in fact, I was attending a line of rabbit snares on a January afternoon. It was on a Saturday and I had leisure time at my disposal to read the signs on the snow as I wended my way through the woods. Coming to a small glade I observed a round hole in the snow that had the appearance of having been recently made. Sensing what made the hole, I approached cautiously to within a few feet and then threw myself face down across the hole. In my own mind I was sure of catching a partridge. I got the surprise of my life when the snow erupted several feet in front of my face and a big partridge ZOOMED up and disappeared into the surrounding trees.

U. N. B. Wins Hoop Title

(By The Canadian Press)

HALIFAX, March 15—University of New Brunswick from Fredericton became Maritime intercollegiate basketball champions tonight when they scored a 53-44 victory over St. Francis Xavier University of Antigonish, N. S., at Halifax.

Ruffed grouse are quite plentiful this spring. Last week on a sunny afternoon, I was strolling along the south side of a wooded slope on the lookout for pheasants with a view to ascertaining how they had wintered. I didn't see any pheasants on this occasion, but along a stretch of a half mile, I kicked up five Ruffed grouse, all singles. The birds were surprised as they sunned themselves at the woods edge.

* * *

Both pheasants and Hungarian partridge have come through well. Some fell victims to Snowy owls and Goshawks and others, particularly Huns, were killed by striking telephone wires, but old King Winter treated the upland game birds very courteously this past season. Any Huns picked up after striking telephone wires were in prime condidtion. I did, however, find a couple at widely separated points, that were in an emaciated condition when death overtook them. Crows had pretty well cleaned the bones of one of them, but even at that it was evident the frame was short on meat.

* * *

These two particular birds may have died from disease but it is more probable the cause of death was senile decay. The life span of both the pheasant and Hun is estimated by competent authorities to seldom exceed 4 years, thus considerable numbers are bound to die from natural causes. At time of writing, the outlook for a bumper crop of Huns, barring bad breeding conditions is exceedingly bright for the coming season.

* * *

At the quarterly meeting of the P.E.I Fish and Game Protection held at Charlottetown last Thursday night in a proposed amendment to The Game Act, a resolution was passed requesting the Government to pass legislation whereby all male residents of the province over 16 years of age, (except farmers, their sons, and hired help hunting on their own or adjoining property), be required to purchase a hunting licence costing one dollar per year for the privileg of hunting game in the province and that all urban residents of the province be required to purchase an angling license at a cost of one dollar (farmers exempted) for the privilege of angling for trout or salmon in the province.

* * *

In an honest effort to meet the farmers and rural residents more than half way in an effort to speed up the fish and game improvement program, the members agreed, after considerable discussion and with a 2 to 1 majority vote, to take a double dose of their own medicine and pay two dollars per year instead of one dollar as formerly for the privilege of hunting and angling in the province and with a one dollar fee for rural residents.

* * *

An ambitious program has been mapped out for the coming year, with dam building taking precedence, if the proposed amendment goes into effect.

* * *

A resolution was also passed, after an amendment was defeated, to petition the Deparment of Agriculture to forward a request to Ottawa that the season on ducks and geese open on September 25th this fall insaead of September 15th, the opening date in 1945. The opening date was set at September 20th for years, but last season was set ahead to September 15th. Country gunners had voiced strong disapproval of the early opening date.

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