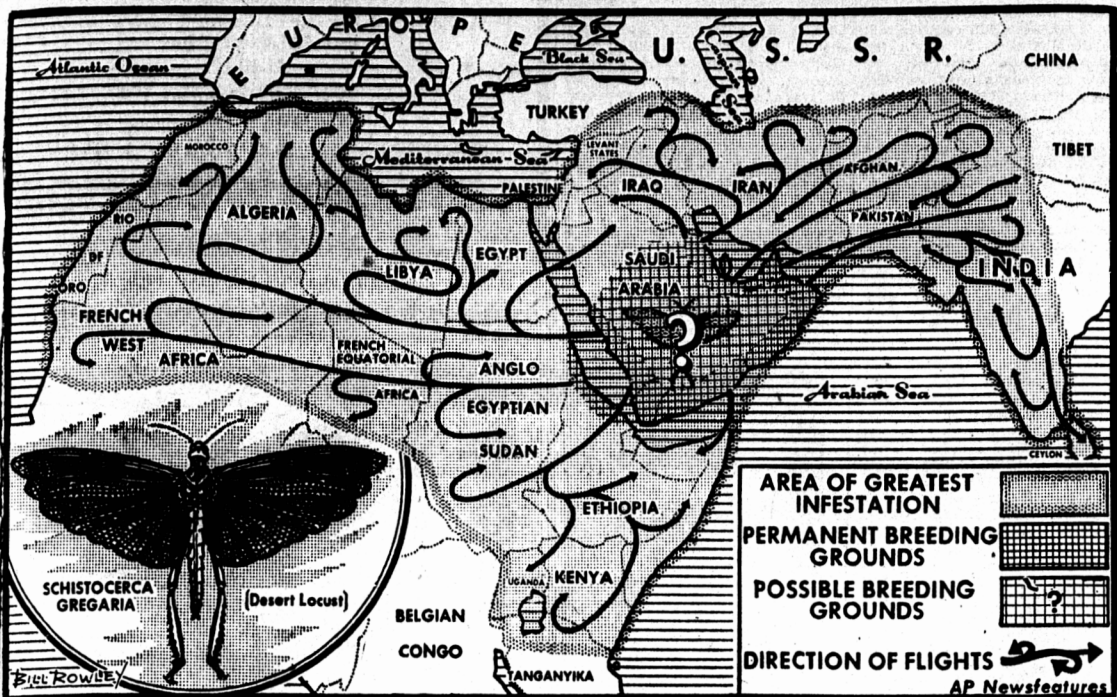


LOCUSTS ON A RAMPAGE



By HERMAN R. ALLEN

A creature known to scientists as *Schistocerca gregaria*—otherwise the Desert Locust—is swarming over large parts of Northern Africa, the Middle East and India in what may prove to be its worst outbreak in history.

This locust comes and goes in cycles, but very irregular cycles. Outbreaks and the intervals between outbreaks may vary from about three years to about 15 years. This is the second year of the current outbreak, and already locusts are swarming in almost every part of their maximum area of infestation. The period and the severity of infestation may vary between areas because of rainfall or other factors.

The maximum area includes all areas in which the locusts have been a serious problem in the past. In general it includes Africa above the equator, with a few dips below that line, the Arabian Peninsula, India and Pakistan generally west of the 80th parallel, all of Afghanistan, a little of Southern Russia, southeastern Turkey and all of the Middle Eastern countries.

With the entire area already covered, succeeding seasons may bring greater concentration of the fast-multiplying insects.

The permanent breeding grounds of these crop-destroyers were long unknown, but a scientist with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization says they are now believed to be along the shores of the Red Sea below Egypt, around the entire coastline of the Arabian Peninsula and possibly in the interior of the peninsula. No one has ever been able to make a locust survey in the interior.

The locusts, at any rate, generally appear first somewhere in the vicinity of the Red Sea. Just a few at first, then more and more until finally there are millions. Suddenly, for some reason, they take to the wing. Some swarms fly to the eastward, some the westward. They follow no definite path, often going where winds carry them. In India they may follow the monsoon moisture pattern, but not necessarily.

Sometimes, according to the FAO scientist, "They just fly". A classic case is a swarm seen 1,200 miles at sea, heading straight for nowhere.

The insects light to feed and breed but may move on quickly if the soil is too hard and dry for the female to bore a hole for her eggs.

Some swarms may continue east or west until they reach the limits of the maximum area. Others may turn off to north or south, or even double back. Their crazy meanderings soon spread them widely.

The locust's life span is believed to be three to five months, so those that reach central India, for example, are not the same ones that left the Red Sea shore, but their descendants by several generations.

Finally the swarms die off. What happens to make conditions unsuitable for them is not known, but then for several years not one locust will be seen in the entire maximum area.

But some were left behind in the breeding grounds when the swarms first took off. They lay eggs. After a few years a locust will be seen here and there in the breeding area. Locusts from an area of a few square yards

will get together. Then they will get together with other little bunches from 10 yards away, 100 yards away, a mile away. Soon the whole cycle is under way again.

Can the Desert Locust be wiped out? The FAO and the nations plagued by the disastrous swarms hope that it can. Basis for their hope is what has been done against two other locusts, the Red and Migratory locusts, both natives of comparatively small areas in central Africa.

There have been no outbreaks of either locust in the years since cooperative efforts of the various governments in the areas have been in effect.

The method is to send inspectors into the breeding grounds. These inspectors from time to time will scrape up the soil from an area of a square yard. They will count the locusts in it. From previous

experience they knew that when the count reaches a certain number per square yard in a given area there is danger of an outbreak. Then crews move in with poisons and other control weapons.

The battle against the Desert Locust is still a matter of definitely locating the breeding grounds. An organization called the Desert Locust Survey, with headquarters in Nairobi, Africa, is carrying on the work. It is financed principally by the governments of Great Britain, India and Pakistan, but all governments affected contribute to some extent.

The FAO is helping the world-wide battle against locusts—many different kinds inhabit many parts of the globe—by helping individual nations and groups of nations set up their own control measures. Most recently FAO has midwived a control organization for Central America and Mexico.

Murphy Meets Matthews In Bout Friday

NEW YORK, March 1.—(AP)—Bob Murphy, a pleasant, red-headed Irishman who has been bowling over a lot of over-stuffed middleweights of late, meets a genuine light heavyweight Friday night.

The ex-sailor from San Diego is not unhappy about the prospect either. Murphy's opponent will be Harry Matthews, who has come in from Seattle with a fabulous record. Matthews, now under the tutelage of Jack Hurley, the renowned tutor of the big punch, hasn't lost a fight in 52 engagements. Two were draws. Both boxers are 28.

Irish bobby says Matthews "can hit but good." That's quite a compliment coming from a guy who has won his last 13 fights via the kayo route, even if most of his rivals have been middleweights. "I'd rather fight a puncher than a boxer any day," said Murphy. Since that's Matthews' attitude, the 10-rounder in Madison Square Garden should be something to see.

Dodgers Sign Big Television Contract

VERO BEACH, Fla. March 1.—(CP)—Brooklyn Dodgers today signed baseball's longest-term television contract.

President Walter F. O'Malley announced the television contract is with the Schaefer Brewing Company and also includes the radio broadcast of all Dodger games at home and away.

"With options, the contract will run for seven years and is for a much more substantial sum than our previous three-year contract," said O'Malley.

It is reported the Brooklyn club will receive \$3,000,000 for the first five years of the contract.

By Fago & Shortea

Jones Back With Cards In Majors

(By Joe Reichler) ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. Mar. 1.—(AP)—A year ago the odds were about 1,000 to 1 that Vernal (Nippy) Jones would ever play major league baseball again. Today this determined young man looms as the one to beat for the regular first base job on St. Louis Cardinals.

Watching Nippy cavort around first base in a brisk workout makes you wonder if this is the same Jones who looked so pathetic here last spring. A serious spinal disk operation had him on his back for weeks in the winter of 1949.

Jones should have taken things easy for a year. However, Jones disregarding all advice, reported for spring practice. He gave all he had. But he couldn't bend over. He couldn't swing a bat right. His legs were numb. He couldn't run. Finally, in June, he realized he was helping nobody and went home to California.

But Jones was back with the Cards next month. He managed to get to bat 28 times, made only six hits for a .231 batting average, and in mid-August he quit the club again.

It was then that the Cards finally gave up on the 26-year-old gamester who only a year before had batted an even .300. They assigned him to Rochester, a farm club, in the International League. Realizing that first base was a wide open spot this year, manager Marty Marion invited Jones into camp last week. Jones went to work as if there was never anything wrong with his back.

"Nippy looks great," Marion said. "He looks like he is ready to pick up where he left off in '49. If that is so, our first base problem is solved."

Keep Mum On Charles-Louis Title Rematch

CHICAGO, March 1.—(AP)—Joe Louis, former heavyweight champion, huddled with International Boxing Club officials, but

all concerned kept mum on a reported champion Ezzard Charles-Louis title rematch April 11 at Chicago Stadium.

Louis had just returned from his San Francisco triumph over Andy Walker, the fourth straight win by the Brown Bomber in his "comeback" campaign. Louis said he had talked today by long distance telephone with I.B.C. president Jim Norris in Miami, Fla., but just to say "hello".

However, Louis will confer with Norris in Detroit March 8, the day after the Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott fight in that city, when the Charles-Louis meeting at Chicago presumably will be discussed.

PRESTATYN, North Wales — (CP) — So that they can chat to each other as they ride side by side, two elderly women who live in Prestatyn have had their bicycles joined together by a special attachment.

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1/2 PRICE CLEAN-UP SALE

ODD LOTS — Broken sizes discontinued lines of Men's Wear on sale at a drastic discount of 50%. Quantities are limited so come early Thursday.

- 25 Men's Overcoats — Take Your Choice 1/2 Price
- Stanfields Heavy Wool Underwear Solled Green & Gold Label 1/2 Price
- Fleece Lined Underwear Shirts — Drawers — Solled 1/2 Price

- 3 ONLY—TOPCOATS, old style . . . \$5.00
- 3 Boys' SUITS, Tweeds, \$22—Sale . \$10.00
- Men's Odd VESTS \$3.00—Sale . . . \$1.00
- 3 Youths' OVERCOATS \$20—Sale . . \$5.00
- Men's Cotton Gabardine RAINCOATS— 1/2 PRICE
- Fine quality winter UNDERWEAR— Broken sizes 1/2 PRICE
- Heavy Sport SHIRTS, checks, \$6—Sale \$3
- Plaid Sport SHIRTS \$6.95—Sale . . . \$3.50
- Men's Plaid Windbreakers \$12—Sale \$6.00
- Men's PARKAS, \$15—Sale 1/2 Price \$7.50

Sale Starts Thursday Morning Ends Saturday Night

HENDERSON & CUDMORE

WHERE QUALITY IS SURE

Thinks Glorifying Sport Is Dangerous

MONTREAL, March 1.—(CP)—The great danger facing sport today is that it might be removed from the recreational field to the amusement or entertainment arena, Lt.-Col. George C. Machum,

president of the British Empire Games Association, said today. In a speech to the Canadian Progress Club, he said that for some time the trend has been towards the "glorification" of sport as a spectacle for the masses, rather than a means of health and physical welfare of those same masses.

"Millions are being spent on the development of a few outstanding athletes for the amusement and entertainment of crowds sitting in grandstands," he said. "The main problem is to awaken youth to a full realization of what organized participation in sport and recreation would do for them. Boys should be steered towards emulation rather than admiration of outstanding athletes."

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MORE PEOPLE RIDE ON GOOD YEAR TIRES THAN ON ANY OTHER KIND