

Answer: It was a pleasure to receive your query and to learn that you are enjoying your work abroad. Any steno who is so keen on her job that she is willing to undertake any kind of work for the Department as well as retaining interest in her stenographic qualifications, is bound to succeed. I should advise you to go to a business college for a refresher course in shorthand typing.

Question: While I was on special duty at the recent Paris Conference, I broke my upper plate on a piece of French pastry. The cost of the meal was a proper item on my expense account. However, my claim for reimbursement for repairing the plate was turned down. I think this is unfair, since the meal is properly the concern of the Canadian Government and French pastry is something I have had to contend with only because I was sent abroad. Do you think I could submit a claim for repairs to my plate as a dislocation claim.

CHAMPING.

Answer: I am sorry but the relevant regulations have no teeth in them.

Question: A few days ago the Head of Chancery returned to me my draft of a dispatch to the Department completely changed. In the margin was a request that I let him know whether, by his corrections, he had changed the sense of it. Should I conclude that in the Department the style of a communication is more important than the contents?

FOWLER.

Answer: The Head of Chancery is well aware, as you will learn in time, that despatches are, as those *objets d'art*, cherished because they hit one's fancy but soon put away forever. It is more important to be pleasing than practical.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECREATION ORGANIZATION

Winter has arrived in Ottawa a little earlier this year than it did in 1954. The snow on Parliament Hill and the familiar winter sound of scraping snow shovels has turned our thoughts to winter pastimes.

Bowling continues to be one of our most popular activities and competition for the Pearson trophy is keen. At the present time the scores of the two leading teams stand at 40 points and 39 points. The team captains are Roger Sauriol, Helen Larkin, Vern Campbell, Gerry Goudie, Don Ager, Eric Mead, Fred Smith, Esther McGoff, Rolly Paquette, Gary McSorley, Elsie McNal and Mardie Peden, so choose your favourite and place your bets!

Plans are well under way for our seasonal Christmas-New Year party. It will be held on December 30th in the Coliseum, where we held our very successful Spring dance. This winter party is bound to be another success for, once again, Guy Beaudry is Chairman of arrangements. Guy is planning a floor show. If there are any outstanding musicians, clowns, or dancers in the Department who happen to be abroad, let them apply immediately for home leave. (Those who know only Russian dances needn't apply. I understand that in the office of the Assistant Under-Secretaries there is a famous Russian dancer!)

Since the commencement of another sketching class, conducted by Mrs. R.E. Sturgeon, more and more profile doodles are to be seen on routing slips and canteen serviettes. In class the students sketch one another but outside the class anyone may be a victim.

We had hoped to have another cribbage tournament, but I have been informed that all our best crib players are in E. & O. and Finance Divisions where even noon hours these days are devoted to estimates, so the cribbage tournament has been postponed.

At one of our recent meetings we discussed the question of recreational facilities for the members of the staff who have nobly volunteered to work in Indo-China. It was decided that our funds would stretch to providing a few games for our friends in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Henry Walker consented to undertake the purchasing operation and a game of scrabble and two packs of cards have been sent by - *gift plane* - to each of the three groups. We hope they will reach their destination in time for Christmas.