

ON THE BUST

One of our Missions in the United States received a letter from a gentleman enquiring about customs regulations with regard to a Marble Bust which his daughter wished to take into Canada. A reply to the gentleman was dictated by one of our colleagues. The reply contained the following paragraph:-

"Your daughter may, however, adopt one of two alternatives.

- (a) Have her bust crated and shipped to Montreal in bond pending authority from the Collector of Customs in Ottawa for its duty free entry as personal property or a wedding gift; or
- (b) Pay the duty and taxes at the border and then submit a claim for refund."

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"99999-40"

O sing a song of Registry!
A pocket full of sighs,
Bring forward slips, transmittal slips,
Telegrams and "Why's"
Togoland now filed by 'V'
When t'used to be by 'Y'?"

O may I never live to see
An atom bomb hit Registry;
There'd surely be a lot of fuss
In classifying active dust.

FILE

JDS.

DIPLOMATIC DILEMMAS

(A Question and Answer column conducted for the benefit of departmental personnel by the Deputy Assistant Under-Secretary for Protocol Liaison (2))

Question: I am the junior officer in this small post and my stenographer has to do the accounts, information, films, library, consular and administrative work as well as make the coffee, look after the cigarette and liquor money and do the Ambassador's wife's shopping. Consequently she is seldom free to do anything for me. If it is not possible for you to supply us with an additional stenographer, can you suggest any way in which I can get the work done which I have already written in long hand and which will soon be anachronistic.

STALE MATE

Answer: Your question shows a complete lack of ingenuity. Why not make the coffee, look after the cigarette and liquor money and do the Ambassador's wife's shopping yourself, while your stenographer catches up with the typing? If you think that your adroitness does not extend to coffee-making, shopping and accounting you might feel disposed to take a course in typing. A number of our young officers who can type, have assured us that, in the service, their ability to type has proved to be an invaluable accomplishment.

Question: I am a stenographer Grade IIA. When I left Ottawa my shorthand speed was 80 words per minute and my typing speed 60 words per minute. Since I have been at this mission, my duties have included, keeping the accounts, acting as librarian and film librarian, custodian of cigarettes and liquor, making tea and coffee as well as personal shopper for the wife of the Ambassador. Although I quite enjoy these pastimes I am afraid I will soon loose my efficiency as a stenographer. Can you do anything to help me in this predicament?

PRETTY PASS.