

BRITISH CABINET AN INFORMAL BODY

The Staffing Body of England Has no Legal Standing—Absorbed Power Gradually

Sidney Low, the English writer, calls attention to the fact that the British Cabinet has really no standing in law, though it is actually the body which rules England. He makes several interesting statements in describing the situation.

The British Cabinet has long been one of the mysteries of that greater mystery, the British Constitution. To be quite exact, indeed, it is not correct to call it a part of the British Constitution, for strictly speaking it is known to the Constitution. The Cabinet to-day rules the country, but it has no legal status. It was not until some 10 or 12 years ago that the word "Cabinet" appeared on the notice paper or other official document.

Cabinet Minister takes the same oath that every Privy Councillor takes to be a true and faithful servant to the King's Majesty, as one of his Majesty's Privy Councillors and to keep secret all matters committed and revealed unto you or that shall be treated secretly in Council. The entire body of the Privy Council is supposed to advise the Sovereign on a matter of State; but to be made a Privy Councillor is practically a high honor. It is regarded as a high honor, but if a Privy Councillor is not a member of the Cabinet he performs no official functions.

All the executive and political functions of the Privy Council have passed into the hands of those of them who form the Cabinet, which is really a secret committee of the King's servants who in practice collectively rule the country so long as they remain in office.

As Sidney Low writes in an article in the London Daily Mail, "no act of Parliament ever gave them these powers, which could not be asserted or defended in any court of law. They are due to prescription, accident and custom."

Technically the Cabinet as a Cabinet can do nothing. It cannot even write a letter or issue a signed order.

MADE A POOR START

Western Lady's Attempt to Promote Trade Relations With France

Though perfectly innocent of any intention of defraud, the wife of a prominent business man in Prince Albert, in her individual endeavor to promote trade relations between France and Canada set the police authorities buzzing in both countries. It happened in this way. An advertisement appeared in some of the French newspapers offering employment to those who would put up a deposit of \$2,000 with the Globe Trotters' agency of Prince Albert. Shortly after its appearance the immigration department was besieged with inquiries and an investigation into the matter was immediately started on both sides of the water. It seemed to be a gigantic fraud, consequently the energies of the police on both sides of the Atlantic became very active. It was ultimately discovered that the advertisement had been inserted by the wife of a prominent Prince Albert business man.

The lady, quite innocently, had thought of this scheme as the best means to get in touch with some of the French commercial houses, with the idea of promoting French-Canadian trade. She did not want the two thousand dollars for her own purposes but merely wished it put up as a bond of good faith. After getting in touch with the firms her intention was to start the business and then get them to send over travellers to carry on the work when it would be worth their while.

That the name "Globe Trotters" was chosen was an accident. The lady, who is herself French, made a imperfect translation, and she failed to understand the meaning of the expression "globe trotter" as it applies in the English. Satisfied with the explanation the authorities dropped the matter.

Electric Sleep

Electric sleep, which may be turned on and off at will, is the alluring prospect offered to people suffering from insomnia, by a German physician who asserts that he has devised a new form of electric current which, when applied to the base of the brain, will produce a narcotic effect, able to be maintained as long as is desired.

An Old Master

A portrait which hung for years in the back room of a house at Newport in Monmouthshire, England, and whose value never was guessed, turned out to be Gainsborough's picture of the Duke of York, which was painted for George III. in 1784.

Gold Thread Stockings

A Parisian novelty is promised in stockings woven in fine gold thread which will cost from \$30 upwards per pair. For more modest purses stockings of silver thread may be purchased for \$20 per pair.

New Use For Wireless

Utilizing a wireless telegraphy receiving instrument, apparatus has been invented which records each flash of lightning in a thunder storm, with the exact time it occurred.

A Donkey Bank

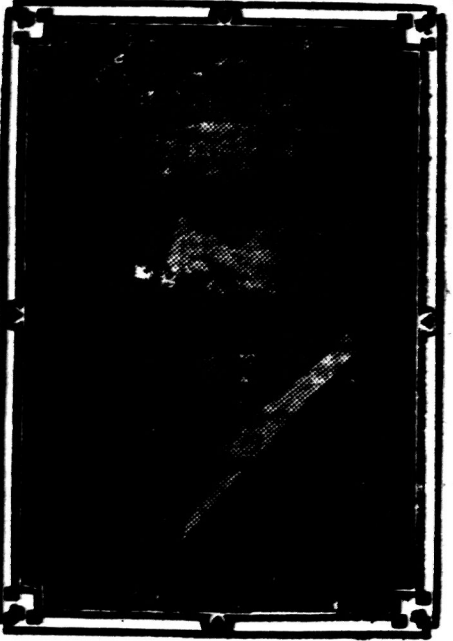
To amuse children and teach them to save money has been patented a bank into which the figure of a donkey puts a coin when placed in a slot.

Acceptance Maker Killed

Charles Volain, the constructor of acceptance, was killed in an automobile accident at Lyons, France.

PRINCE'S UNIQUE HONOR

Prince Arthur of Connaught, who represented King George at the funeral of the Emperor of Japan, met with a unique honor at the hands of his late Majesty when he visited the island Empire in 1906, to invest the Emperor with the Order of the Garter. After the investiture the Emperor received Prince Arthur in private, and drew from a bag the ribbon and star of the Order of the Chrysanthemum, and with his own hands placed the ribbon over the Prince's shoulder and pinned the star on his breast. The Order is the highest in the Empire, but this is the only instance on record of the Emperor deigning personally to invest the recipient.



R. S. GOURLAY of Toronto, who was elected President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

RICH VIRGIN AREA

Coal and Iron in Huge Quantities One of British Columbia's Assets

With the construction of the big bridge over Seymour Narrows, connecting the Campbell River section of Vancouver Island with the mainland of British Columbia, an area of great mineral wealth will be made more accessible. The coal deposits are very extensive; in fact, they are said to be almost inexhaustible. By near the head of the Quinsam river, an affluent of the Campbell, there is a very extensive deposit of iron ore. What other minerals remain to be discovered in the mountain slopes, which flank this great timbered area, one may surmise, but no one can really speak with certainty; but the coal and iron are of themselves sufficient to support a large industrial community.

As a timber country, the region seems to be unsurpassable. There are tens of thousands of acres upon whose soil the sun's rays have not fallen for centuries, because of the stately canopy of verdure, which the firs, the spruces, the hemlocks and the cedars support with their lofty, columnar trunks. About two million feet of lumber per day is being cut, yet the forest wealth shows no sign of diminution to the casual observer. One of the most important and difficult problems presented for consideration is the use to which the sawed-off acres shall be put. Some of them will, doubtless, be reforested. Much excellent pasturage can be had even where many of the large stumps are left.

A MONKEY GHOST

Terrifying Appearance of Little Creature to Unsuspecting Chinaman

A small monkey which escaped from its quarters in the Medical Building of McGill University, Montreal, managed to fall into a pall of white paint, and having accentuated his ugliness and his weird appearance to an extent difficult to describe, he appeared ghost-like in the path of a Chinese laundryman. Screaming with terror the Chinaman started down the street at full speed, people rushed to the doors, and in the excitement a fire alarm was sent in, which brought the engines to the scene. When the hubbub abated, the little animal was recaptured, more frightened, probably, than the Chinaman.

Heater for Motor Cars

A new device for heating automobiles in winter consists of a brass cylinder which runs from the radiator of the machine to the limousine or body of the car, covering the cylinder with the air through this tube, in which it is heated by the excess heat liberated from the cylinder heads and manifold. The air is forced back into the body of the car, where a valve regulates the amount of heat desired. In summer time he hot air escapes under the car. This device has a tendency to cool the engine and keep the paint and varnish from cracking.

One General Wedding Day

In a certain district of Brittany, France, where the greater part of the population consists of fishermen who are away for many months of the year, they have a strange custom with regard to weddings. All the weddings in this district take place on one fixed day. This annual wedding day is made an occasion for a general celebration by the inhabitants of the district, who feast the young couples with the greatest hospitality.

Beat up Traveller

Joseph J. Gawley, a travelling salesman residing in Windsor, was set upon by five men and terribly beaten in Detroit, near the plant of the Michigan Steel Castings Company, having been mistaken for a strike-breaker.

PERILS OF JAVELIN

Are you a Javelin thrower? If so, only if you desire to play hospital. Armando Bazzano, the sensational Cuban player of the Chicago Cubs, tells of an Indian in Cuba who was the greatest ball player of the island. "I give you my word, that the greatest ball player I ever looked upon was an Indian named Canella," said Armando. "He came out a few years ago, and at once became the marvel of Eastern Cuba. He was a pitcher and a star on the slab, but he was also a batsman, a lightning base-runner and a clever outfielder. An influential Cuban manager succeeded in making an American magnate understand Canella was no negro, and all was arranged for his try-out in the coming spring. And then came the news that Canella's arm was gone! Going home for a visit, Canella saw the young men of his tribe practicing throwing the javelin. Practising with a slender spear, he hurried it with all his might—and something went snap! crack! in his right arm as he let go the javelin. Since then he has not been able to throw a ball from the pitching slab as far as the catcher."



MRS. LEMING, an English society woman who likes airship adventure and frequently takes a trip cloudward.

SPORTING DICTIONARY

Great Need of French Athletes is Common Tongue

The president of the French Academie des Sports, Hebrard de Villeneuve, is the initiator of the idea of compiling a French dictionary of sporting terms, of which he declares the sporting world to be in great need. Much confusion, he says, is created by the present non-recognition by the institute of even the most commonly used sporting terms. For instance with regard to fencing, a sport most essentially French, there are many expressions, such as "un contre," "une opposition," "un liement," "un coup," "un battement," "un coup de main," "un coup de poignard," which do not even appear in Larousse. Many other sporting expressions and terms are not defined in any existing French dictionary, with the result that considerable confusion is created by their frequent misuse, most of them having been adopted through necessity without being properly understood.

The immense increase of the national interest in sport and athletics gives an importance to this question which has never hitherto possessed in France. Hebrard de Villeneuve proposes that the members of the Academie des Sports should divide themselves into 10 subcommittees, each dealing with a specific branch of sport. By this means it will be possible to attain some accuracy and to give some authoritative meaning to the various terms now in use.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS

Japs and Kahars are the Real Champions

The feats of professional runners seem insignificant when compared with the regular performances of an East Indian caste. These Kahars, who are also known as Jiharwah, live in the Punjab, where for centuries they have acted not only as runners but as fishermen and as water-fowl catchers.

These men are said to be able to accomplish 100 miles a day without resting. There is said to be a well-authenticated instance wherein one Tika Ram carried despatches 300 miles in three days, from Meerut to Meerut. It is further said that, so far from shortening their lives, these performances really conduce to longevity in the Kahars, many of whom are able not only to withstand the strain of covering great distances, but to thrive under it.

The Jarkishas, another caste, notwithstanding their irregular diet, excessive use of liquor and exposure to the elements, live to a reasonable age. In Tokio when a census was taken of the Jarkishas men some years ago there were found to be more than 1,500 who were over 55 years of age.

CURIOUS HABITS OF BRUIN FAMILY

They Are Wise Animals But Different Kinds Have Widely Different Ways

Many of the conventional ideas as to bears have endured from periods long antedating the investigations of naturalists. Certain of these ideas are absurd; others have a foundation in fact.

It is a fact that the representative polar bear of the greatest strength, courage and ferocity has a yellowish coat, and that the pure white coat, as a general rule, is a mark of cowardice. It is difficult to account for this fact, unless it be ascribed to some taint of albinism, which is almost invariably accompanied by weakness and degeneracy in an animal.

In captivity no bears hibernate. To the polar bear winter brings a disinclination for baths; to the Malay or Himalayan, kept indoors, it makes no difference; but the black and brown bears of both sexes eat sparingly at intervals, and sometimes sleep for two or three days together in their dens at this time. In their wild state the black and brown bears choose a cave or hollow tree, and there the trapper seeks them for their pelts and for their abundant grease. The discolored snow around the small hole kept open by the animal's breathing does not escape the trapper's practiced eye, nor the scratched tree trunks where the black bear has scrambled up to lie hidden in some hollow, perhaps 40 feet above.

This mild-mannered and indolent beast, which seeks only to turn and sleep again, falls a easy prey to the hunter. But the brown bear of Europe and the grizzly are roused to fury when disturbed.

Taking Bears Alive

There are various ways of taking or "turning" the bear. Polar bears, both young and old, are often taken with a noose laid around a piece of blubber in a hole and captured and taken into camps and cooped there. Their love of sweet things is the undoing of other bears. They will go into box traps and fall traps after honey, or fasten their heads in a nail-studded molasses barrel while sucking the syrup. In some parts of the world they commit such havoc while in search of fruit that cultivators are obliged to spread bird lime for them.

The characteristic repugnance to touch anything dead or motionless seems to indicate that primarily the bear was a fruit-eating beast. This had become an accepted tenet of natural history before the discovery of the oil-eating polar bear.

"Bear talk" was always considered "good medicine" by the Indians. If a bear blocked their path, they addressed him politely reminding him of their common brotherhood, praising his nobility, and requesting him kindly to allow them an unobstructed passage. This, it is said, he frequently did, for, being by nature inoffensive, the soft accents did not disturb him, and so he would go on his way.

Doubt as to Mugging

Some naturalists contend that bears do not "mug" while others contend that, with the exception of the polar bear, they do. It is sometimes asserted that the bear never walks naturally on his hind legs, but this statement is incorrect. Bears often walk on two legs after descending a tree, and they have been seen deliberately to assume an upright attitude in order to toss an object. The same statement applies to their wrestling, since they engage in the most strenuous contests of this kind, in which hugging plays a prominent part. An approved "half Nelson" often finishes the good-natured bout. Bears have been held to be dull and foolish. In the Norse and Russian folk tales they are butts of the peasant or of the fox. But few animals, except monkeys, are so intelligent. None play so well together, none learn so quickly so many tricks and none are so susceptible to education.

How to Wear Puttees

An eminent French surgeon declares that puttees, as used by mountain climbers cause varicose veins. Nearly all the Alpine chassours whom he questioned declared that the use of puttees makes climbing very painful. It is also asserted by an army surgeon, Dr. Ronyer, that 75 per cent. of Alpine chassours get varicose veins after the mountain season as the result of wearing puttees.

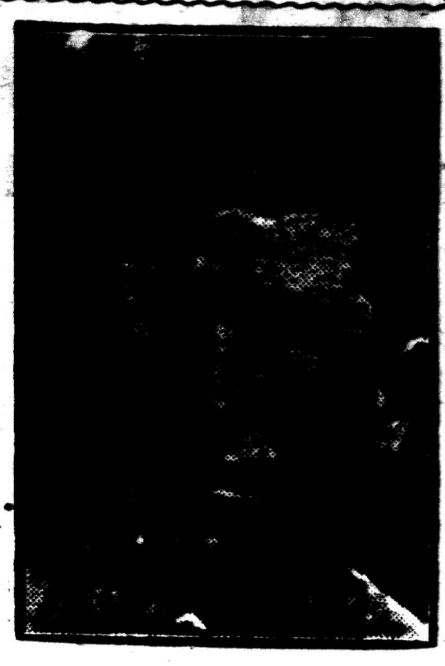
On the other hand it is explained by a defender of puttees that they are often unsatisfactory because people have not been shown how to wear them properly. High button boots and breeches loose around the knees and buttoning right down the leg to meet the top of the boots, he says, should always be worn with puttees, and the cord should be a yard and a half long.

Hawk as a Flyer

It is on record that a goshawk, belonging to Henry of Navarre having its Royal owner's name engraved on its golden varvels, made its escape from Fontainebleau in 1574, and was caught twenty-four hours afterwards in Malta. It had negotiated 1,400 miles, and must have sped through the air at the rate of sixty miles an hour—supposing it to have been on the wing all the time. All a hawk needs, if credence be given to the story, that the bird winged the enormous distance at a rate not less than 100 miles an hour.

Polishing with a soft rag is all that is necessary to keep a brass bed looking bright.

FOURTEEN REASONS



James S. Thorpe, the Sax and Fox Indian, has fourteen reasons why he is the premier all-round athlete of the world.

Competitors of the redman all are willing to acknowledge his supremacy, but great faith always is placed in figures. Here are the reasons why Thorpe tops the white, black and red races:—
100-yard dash—10 2-5 seconds.
120-yard hurdle—15 3-5 seconds.
220-yard hurdle—25 seconds.
440-yard dash—58 2-5 seconds.
Shotput—45 feet 1 inch.
Discus—122 feet 8 inches.
High jump—6 feet 3 inches.
Broad jump—25 feet 3 inches.
Hammer throw—122 feet.
Pole vault—10 feet 8 inches.
Football—All-American back.
Baseball—Star pitcher.
Lacrosse—Corking forward.
Basketball—Star guard.

BULL-FIGHTING PAYS

Two Spanish Torreadors Earn at Least Quarter Million Dollars a Year

There is probably no sport in the world so lucrative as that of Spain's national sport, bull-fighting, and the statement that there are twenty-three famous torreadors who earn annually \$1,000,000 is by no means exaggerated.

In Madrid one finds the torreador, the fairy prince of the senoritas, at the leading hotels. He smokes the very best cigars. He drinks the choicest wines from Southern Spain or France's famous champagne. He is also most fastidious in his fashions, wearing the best of clothes. His nails are also delicately manicured lest their rough appearance should mar the brilliancy of the priceless diamonds which his standing as a torreador compels him to wear. His life has made him a stoic, and his smiles he reserves for the ring.

He is also most superstitious. Evil befall the man who dares open an umbrella in his presence, or who passes between him and a friend with whom he may be talking. The torreador who, on the morning of a bull-fight, may have fallen a victim to any of those two events, will pay a heavy fine rather than face the tamest of bulls.

There are two torreadors who earn anything up to \$250,000 a year. They are Bombita and Machaquito. The former is married to the daughter of a French nobleman with a highly historical name, and the latter to a Scotchwoman.

A GIANT CYCLIST

Grenda, the Australian is a Huge Fellow With a Good Record

Alfred Grenda, the six day "grinder" is an Australian and he is also the largest athlete in the cycle racing game, standing 6 feet 3 inches, and weighing 206 pounds. He is magnificently proportioned, and is a fine specimen of the modern athlete.

Grenda started his racing career three years ago, and, like Ernie Fye, rode as a professional from the start. He was fairly successful during his first year and won thirty-two races, in which he defeated some of the best of the Australian professionals. The following year he won the Australian championship and captured nearly all of the big classics. As he is only 22 years old he should have a long career ahead of him.

Neway Lalou

Who make de mos money of all de lot? Neway Lalou—Who hol de beeg han in de beeg jack pot?

Neway Lalou—Who play la crosse in de East, in de West?

Neway Lalou—An' stick de hockey some, too I guess? An' stick all de proceed away in bees ves?

Neway Lalou.

Who sign all de contract in all de league? Neway Lalou—An hol out for salary, oh, so beeg?

Neway Lalou—Who break all de contract before he play? And sign four, five other all in de same day, And mak all de manager hair turn grey?

Neway Lalou.

Who get de most crack on de head, by far? Neway Lalou—And spend three, four week in hees bed, by gar?

Neway Lalou—Who lie on de grass to make de stall And pass all de Gifford like cannon ball?

Secre! De bes man in de world, dat's all! Neway Lalou.—Toronto Globe

PIONEER SKATERS WERE THE DUTCH

They Were the First Makers of the Metal Gliders Now so Popular in Canada

The Canadian athlete owes his life to the Dutch, that has always been understood, and now the attention is made that it was the Dutch who taught us how to skate. Hockey is supposed to be the usual descendant of the "hurley" game as played in Ireland, before Canada occupied the large place it does now on the map of the world, and the game is now accepted as peculiarly Canadian; but the name of the inventor of skates is lost in obscurity.

Passing over the days when every skater was the author of his own skates, we find that in the middle of the seventeenth century the Dutch had cornered most of the trade and were admitted to be the best manufacturers of skates in the known world. The Holland model was copied on all hands, and the Canadians who skated then were dependent upon the Dutch for their styles. Then, now, the blade of the skates was composed of iron or steel. It was attached to the foot by means of a wooden platform. A skater simply stood upon his skates and had it lashed upon his foot. It was some time subsequently that the strap was invented, and for many years thereafter the skate was a curved blade of steel, with a wooden top, which was attached to the skater by means of straps. A peculiarity of the early Dutch skates was the curve in front. It may have been deemed immodest to end the blade in a point; more probably it was considered dangerous. In any event the skate ended in a whorl of steel, the skater being of opinion that the curve prevented him from stubbing his toe or tripping on the ice.

The Curve Skate Passes

This curve skate with wooden fittings was the standard for many years, and it was due to an American that the next improvement was added. This was in the shape of a socket in the heel of the boot. The curve had disappeared from the toe of the skates by this time, but the upper part was of wood. There were slits, too, through which the straps passed to attach the skate to the boot. Inserted at right angles to the boot the skate entered easily. But when the toe was strapped on it was impossible for the heel to slip. This was hailed as a great invention, for the trouble with the skate slipping from the boot was reasonably sure that his skates and his boots would not part company in the course of the exercise. For many years the wooden skate with the socket in the heel was the admired of all admirers.

English Skating Boots

In England, before the introduction of the same skate that would clamp itself upon any shoe, the fashion of having special skating boots had arisen. On the fens, where skating, and especially figure skating, was very popular, and had, indeed, attracted the attention of the champions of Europe, the habit of having special boots for skating had arisen. In this country the idea was to use the ordinary boot. Wearing, as a rule, boots with thick soles, it was found that the skates attached themselves easily. In England, however, thinner soles were the style, and under the clamp the soles crumpled up, therefore, the English acquired the habit of using special skating boots. The modern skate is attached to the boot by means of screws. We have discovered, too, the advantages of the straight blade, and the ancient curve has been abandoned. In Europe the demand for speed has not been so insistent, and there the curved blade remains to give the Europeans an advantage in fancy skating, while to this continent of the straight blade they have yielded the palm for speed.

FAVORS TEETOTALISM

Chivington Sees Time When Liquor Will be Banned by Baij Club

"The time will come in baseball when there will be a temperance clause inserted in every player's contract," said President T. M. Chivington of the American association in a talk to newspapermen.

"The sooner that time comes," continued the A. A. head, "the better it will be for players, public, and club owners. I would welcome the immediate adoption of such a universal rule by the magnates of the American association. There is absolutely no reason why an athlete in training should drink."

"I cannot see the force of any argument why any player should need to drink during the season. The supposed danger of going stale is foolishness. There is no necessity for drinking, and the sooner it is stamped out effectually the better. There are some men to whom a drink is no menace; to others one drink is a positive danger in stimulating their appetite. Temperance is of great value, even more to the players than to the club owners."

Splendid Gold Trophy

The trophy presented by Mr. E. W. Darnell, vice-president of the Royal Life Saving Society in Canada for annual competition, is said to be the handsomest piece of work of its kind in the Dominion. The cup stands nearly three feet high and is of wrought gold of the finest workmanship. Mr. Louis Rubenstein, of Montreal, as president of the Canadian branch of the Royal Life Saving Society, has charge of the trophy. Its value is estimated at over fifteen hundred dollars.

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THE WEST SIDE

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Alex. G. Practical Plane and Rep...