

The Outpost

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THE VICTORIA FALLS,

as viewed from an altitude of 1,000 feet. Two of the most unique photographs in the world.



The top picture shows the Zambezi, looking down stream prior to taking the plunge. The gigantic size of the fall can be faintly gauged by the height to which the spray rises above the brink. The railway line is in the foreground. The bottom picture depicts the Falls, looking up-stream, with the Devil's Cauldron, Rain Forest and famous railway bridge in the foreground. Livingstone can be dimly discerned in the right background. Both photographs were secured by Col. St. Pierre Van Ryneveld, K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., his renowned flight from England to South Africa.

EDITOR'S NOTES.



Notes, articles, sketches and photographs will be received with pleasure and published if possible. They should be addressed to the Editor, "The Outpost," P.O. Box 382, Salisbury, and should be posted to reach us by the 15th of each month. ANY NEWS pertaining to the Corps is of interest.

The principal event of the month was the publication of the report of the Commission on the Cost of Administration. The sections dealing with Police and Defence matters were very naturally read with considerable interest by members of the Police and Defence Force. While agreeing with the Commission in some respects, there are a few points on which we feel that their opinions are open to criticism. Section 316, for instance, which states in connection with the rapid mobilisation of units in order to comprise a striking force: "Such a body composed of units strange to one another would lack homogeneity; the officers and non-commissioned officers would not know the men under their command, nor would the men know their officers, or even know each other. From this point of view, particularly in the early stages, when the need would be greatest, such a force would be less efficient than a force of similar strength the individuals of which, though less highly disciplined, had been trained together as a composite force."

We do not think that this section is altogether sound, as if such a force were mobilised it would, we presume, be a force of one, two, three or four troops of mounted men, according to the seriousness of the situation. Each troop would be drawn from some area, possibly one from Salisbury district and Depot, possibly one from Gwelo and Victoria, possibly one from Umtali, and yet another from Bulawayo and Gwanda. Assuming this to be the case, each man would without doubt know the men in his own troop, even if there were a few in another troop that he did not know. There is little doubt that every man in a district has at some time or other met every man in his own district; or if an exception occurs anywhere in the Corps, it is notable. Very well, if every man knows his troop mates and his N.C.O.'s and troop officer, we fail to see how any loss of efficiency could occur through his only having a slight acquaintance with some members of other troops. In any case, within twenty-four hours the difficulty, if any, would be overcome, as we are not members of different regiments, but all members of the same Corps. It is rather difficult to see the point of section 317, which queries what would become of men left on duty in the event of 200 men being mobilised to deal with a native

rising. It states that "the actual policing of the country would cease, excepting in the towns." In our opinion the policing of the country in the disturbed areas would in any case cease, whereas in the unaffected areas police work would be carried on with a diminished force (as was done during war time), and there would, we venture to think, be little loss of efficiency.

If, as is recommended, the Police are regarded purely as policemen, and the military side of their training entirely deleted, we do not see where any great increase of efficiency would result. The average man on an out-station is no less an efficient policeman because he has received military training, but rather his military training tends to make him smarter and more efficient. It must be remembered that in the Police the military side is not made unduly prominent, but rather is maintained by private study and monthly question papers, answered by the man on his station and corrected by his district officer. Thus very few men lose any time by maintaining their military training. The average time it takes to train a recruit is from two to four months. If military work were entirely deleted this would not be appreciably reduced, as the recruit must learn to ride and to look after his horse, also have a fairly sound idea of the laws of the country before he can be considered an efficient policeman. The fact of his receiving military tuition whilst learning to ride does not materially increase the length of his recruit's course. We think it would be a pity to abolish military titles, as in part it is the semi-military life that attracts a number of our recruits. This point, however, is dealt with elsewhere in this issue. We are not in agreement with the remark in section 329 that patrolling serves no useful purpose, as it should be remembered that one of the main duties of the Police is the prevention of crime as well as its detection. What can happen in spite of systematic patrolling was shown by the famous Darwin human sacrifice case. If systematic patrolling were abolished, we have no proof that undetected and unheard of crimes, particularly in the way of witchcraft, tribal murders, etc., would not increase. The knowledge that a European policeman will pay them regular visits tends to give a sense of security to the law-abiding native, as also to act

as a deterrent to evildoers, who realise that with a regular patrol any offence is almost bound to come to light.

The proposal to reduce the pay of a recruit on attestation may be open to consideration, provided he gets from the start a living wage. Many recruits on joining send money to their parents, and in any case living in Depot is expensive; but provided the reduction was not too heavy, it would provide incentive to the recruit to become efficient as soon as possible. The suggestion to abolish marriage allowance seems to us to hit at the class of man who can least afford it. This was a pre-war privilege, and a ration allowance for wives on the strength has been in vogue since the inception of the Corps, besides being a recognised allowance in any military body.

A FORECAST OF FUTURE FIGHTING.

A VISION OF WAR BASED ON
"REASONABLE AND LOGICAL
CONCLUSIONS."

By "SCIENTIST."

The Great War was referred to by many eminent statesmen as "the war that will end wars," a phrase that found an echo in every heart. For hundreds of years through the ages this dreadful scourge has been taking an ever increasing toll of lives and limbs, and one has only to compare the mammoth guns of the *Iron Duke* with the slings and catapults of our ancestors to appreciate what vast forward steps the machinery of war is taking, and it will progress during this and the next generation at an even increased speed.

Practically every year some more advanced form of dealing out wholesale death and destruction is invented, for the scientists of every country have no lack of funds and assistance while perfecting warlike apparatus; it is only when they are engaged on peaceable inventions for the benefit of mankind that they lack active support.

War is natural, for it is a fact that all nature fights, even trees and flowers, although their actions are not visible to the naked eye. World war may become more infrequent, but for human beings to cease to struggle would be quite as strange as if they lived for ever. For centuries we have used our money and brains to devise more deadly methods of dealing out death to our patriotic rivals; and as we are now, in scientific terms, not far from the bow-and-arrow stage, is it strange that the future should lead to methods from which our present-day intellects would shrink in horror?

Do not think that the writer of this article in *The Outpost* has forgotten the League of Nations. He knows that the leading men of all nationalities are connected with this admirable institution; but, although he is completely in sympathy with its aims and objects, he does not think that it will be successful in preventing further warfare.

No doubt my point of view is not the popular one, but it is useless to adopt the proverbial South African ostrich attitude, and, judged from a purely scientific point of view, wars have not ceased. If

we plotted a curve showing methods of fighting, we should see at once that all we are doing is to endeavour to protect ourselves and make scientific machinery go into battle on our side.

Recent crises, when bloodshed was only narrowly averted by the extremely tactful handling of delicate situations, prove that the desire for peace is not so firmly rooted in the breasts of the nations as popular belief assumes it to be. Even the presence of our very excellent police shows whether the final appeal is to delicate argument or strong right arm.

THE FIRST ESSENTIAL.

Although the next hundred years will advance civilisation more than any previous century in the world's history, warfare will have reached almost the stage when it will be conducted by a group of scientists sitting before a switchboard and dealing out destruction by long-distance wireless; that is a vision of the far future. But I shall avoid any such flight of imagination in this article, and keep to reasonable and logical conclusions.

It is, of course, not easy to state exactly what methods of fighting will be employed in 1950, but I can at least reasonably foretell on what lines the science of fighting will advance, for to the scientific mind a generation is but a comparatively short space of time.

The future war will not be so localised as previous ones, for we shall have to defend the entire British Commonwealth of Nations. Therefore, the first essential will be to have an efficient scheme for the rapid transport of all the paraphernalia of war to every corner of our Dominions, and, of course, the principal means will be by way of the air—giant aeroplanes will carry men and munitions at a speed that would sound incredible at the present day. There will also be submarines to carry much greater loads than at present.

There will be great difficulty in forming secret plans. In earlier days a plan was locked up in an iron chest and was comparatively safe, but in the future, with wireless telephony and sight in a more advanced stage, it will be exceedingly difficult to evade these "eyes" and "ears." Although by then Vortex, or directional wireless, will be in use, it will be practically impossible to prevent written and verbal messages being "tapped." This will necessitate the continual use of secret codes.

ADVANCED "FRIGHTFULNESS."

There is not the slightest doubt that a deciding factor will be "frightfulness" in a very advanced form, and, as wireless receivers will be in every home, it will be impossible to prevent exceptionally clever propaganda (which played such an important part in the Great War) reaching every citizen. Just, for example, to broadcast the "rumour" that water supplies had been impregnated with typhoid germs would seriously undermine the morale of any nation, and it would be possible in many other ways to strike terror into every home. There would be no way to stop this "broadcast propaganda," for wireless messages cannot be censored; the only way to prevent them would be by "jamming" the whole atmosphere, and that method might prevent all wireless communication, and is, of course, impracticable.

Various forms of poison gas, infinitely more terrible than any at present, will be used, and the question of protection will become a highly scien-

tific one. Another weapon will be jets of water highly charged with electricity. This will render cavalry obsolete, as horses can be electrocuted with far greater ease than men, and protective measures against this will be necessary. In fact, much of the equipment of the fighters of the future will be the result of careful experiments by the scientific chemist; and, owing to the introduction of germs into warfare, inoculation and vaccination will be of vital importance.

Women will play an equally important part to that of men in battle; but that, of course, is only to be expected, as they have already adapted themselves to all other masculine pursuits. During the Great War, when women were making shells and "helping to win the war," they had no reason to complain when bombed by air raiders, for they were vital factors in the conflict, and as such were open to attack.

FLOATING FORTRESSES.

The battleship, in its present form, will be obsolete, but floating fortresses—an improvement on the "mystery towers" in Shoreham harbour during the war—will be used. There is not the slightest doubt that there will also be armoured boats, capable of diving under water and flying in the air, combined tanks-submarines-aeroplanes; and scientific smoke screens (similar to that arranged by Commander Broek at Zeebrugge in 1918) will be very important and used to a great extent both on sea and land.

At the present time submarines are detected by listening apparatus, and to prevent this powerful electric disturbances will be sent through the water to drown any sound, and fresh means of detecting the presence of under-water craft will have to be employed—probably wireless sight, or radio detection, such as we have used in South Africa to detect water below ground.

"Camouflage" will have become a fine art, and aeroplanes, with silent engines, will be practically invisible. This will necessitate special coloured searchlights to pick them out in the air. These aeroplanes will be equipped with electric impulse guns, firing an enormous number of bullets a second, and no clumsy trailing aeriels will be necessary to pick up wireless instructions. Bullets may be visible, and protection against attack and surprise will be reduced to a fine art.

There will be machinery for tunnelling rapidly, as there will be great activity underground, partly for protection and partly because night will afford no cover when wireless sight, at present in its infancy, is perfected. Clouds of poison gas will be released at a sufficient height to render them innocuous to those below, but deadly to an invading aeroplane that enters their zone.

A WIRELESS WAR.

The future war will naturally be a wireless war, for there is no end to the possibilities of this wonderful force, and wireless telephony, sight, heat, power and writing may all play important parts. The wireless-controlled torpedo—equipped with wireless-sighted periscope—will be a very useful factor; as this is controlled by a secret combination of different wave-lengths, on the principle of a differential letter lock, it would be impossible for the enemy to obtain control of it, and the only means of defence will be small travelling "jamming" stations. For by bringing the station

within a mile or so of the torpedo a sufficiently powerful current could be released to "paralyse" all controls.

There would also be a very efficient wireless control of tanks and aeroplanes, effecting a big saving in lives. The aeroplane will be controlled by wireless, which by means of a complicated mechanism alters the setting of a gyroscope, and the operator, who may also be in flight, has absolute control and can release bombs at will.

At the present time the writer of this article can, by an expenditure of about three horse-power, destroy a wire at a distance of more than a yard without any connection at all; it is, therefore, obvious that in the far future wireless power will be developed to such an extent that by momentarily diverting several thousand horse-power of a battle-plane engine it will be possible to destroy aircraft within a few hundred yards. It may also be possible to destroy the delicate riggings of aeroplanes by wireless heat.

Another new weapon will be the electrically-controlled rocket, operated on a wire. The advantage of having absolute control of an object of this description is obvious when it is remembered that if an aeroplane in flight comes into contact with telephone wires it may be crashed to the ground.

MENTAL TELEPATHY.

During war many important Government and other centres will be underground for protection, and the "dug-out" of the recent war will give place to scientifically-controlled shelters, comfortably appointed and electrically-lighted and heated throughout. Electrically-heated suits may be worn, enabling the wearer to "plug himself in" at different points of these underground shelters.

Mental telepathy is at present not a scientific possibility. However, I think it is quite possible that when civilisation has advanced another decade mental telepathy will exist in embryo, and will form a very useful method of communication.

Readers of *The Outpost* may take it for granted that the war of the future will be of brief duration, for the strain will be no less terrible than the methods of fighting, although, of course, every new method is followed closely by a defensive counter-invasion. However, attack will undoubtedly be the best defence, and the nation that is quickest to "get going" will be half-way to success.

If the reader is inclined to scoff at technical probabilities he will do well to remember that he owes the very uniform he wears to the scientist.

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TICKY.

The sun was sinking in an unusually vivid sea of orange and red splendour, and the purple shadows were creeping out among the distant hills. I'd put the horse away and was feeling just right for a good quiet sundowner after some twenty-five miles of burnt-up, uninteresting country. I was sincerely hoping Jones would be out as I wandered over to the room. Jones isn't a bad chap really, but I do get tired sometimes of his extraordinary fertile imagination; he really believes his own yarns sometimes I know, and I hate to hurt his feelings.

One look into the room showed me that Jones was in, and my hopes for that solitary sundowner sank to zero—and then even lower—for there, too, quite comfortable in the only chair, was old Guzzler, the cattle inspector. They both shouted "Hullo, Ripling," effusively, and I gave them, I suppose, a rather surly "Evening, Mr. Guzzler," and "I guessed you'd be out, Jones." I saw at once by the dead one under the table and the half empty one on top that they had been enjoying themselves, and realised after a horrified glance behind my bed that they were enjoying themselves on the last two bottles of *my* monthly stock. I rescued a drink before it should be too late, resolving to get even with Jones some time. They had evidently been talking a lot—or at least Jones had—because Guzzler remarked (after he'd seen that I was comfortably settled), "You know, Jones, I guess you dream half the yarns you tell."

With that pained look on his face so characteristic of him, Jones asserted that every word he'd told Guzzler was absolutely gospel—as usual.

You've never heard any of Jones's yarns, have you? Well, I will not repeat them; you wouldn't believe them, anyway. After a few minutes of his "strong silent" drinking, Mr. Guzzler remarked, "I don't think I told you, Jones, about that hair-raising experience I once had, did I?"

"No," replied Jones; "I don't remember, anyway."

Old Guzzler took another sip, cleared his throat, and started.

"It was somewhere about New Year, 19—, I forget the exact year now—about twelve years ago—soon after I joined the Department. I was somewhere around where Jub-Jub's kraal is now; it was a lot wilder thereabouts in those days than what it is now, and I'd camped in a bit of fairly open country. It must have been about one o'clock in the morning that I was awakened. There was a misty kind of moon, I remember. At first I couldn't make out what the peculiar noise was that had disturbed me, and then I muttered "elephants," and began dragging on a pair of boots. Jumping out and rubbing my eyes open, I saw one lumbering form coming towards me—and then I picked out another—and then another—and then it seemed there were hundreds. They somehow seemed peculiar; I couldn't make out their trunks, and the moon, as I said, was a bit misty. No, they were larger than elephants! And then I got a good view of one almost on me before I got my wits. Elephants! Good God, they were *Ticks!* Great, big, black, full-blooded ticks! I dimly remember seeing the boys and mule disappearing by me for safety—and then I started

running. I don't remember much of that run. Did you ever run, Jones, with your boots stuffed with lead, and something—something big—sticking in your throat and you couldn't breathe with your mouth wide open and dry? I don't know how I ran that night, but I remember as in a fog getting to some water, and then—one of them got me by the back of the neck! I could feel its sickening jaws getting to work. Can you imagine how I yelled and twisted and tore? And then the others began to arrive! *Can* you possibly imagine the position, Jones? Suddenly I remembered my hunting knife, and after what seemed a lifetime I somehow got it out. I only have a vague recollection of eternal slashing and stabbing at those enormous bodies. Uh! I shiver over it *now!* Can you imagine what the mess was like? Ticks! Full up and wanting more! The last thing I remember was falling or sprawling over the last one as I finished him off with a slash and feeling him growing smaller as I lapsed into unconsciousness."

Guzzler stopped with the sweat sticking out on him, and Jones's mouth had come open and stopped there.

"But," murmured Jones, "surely it's not——"

"Yes," asserted Guzzler; "gospel." The doctor had told me that if I didn't give up drink I'd be seeing things—that was about twelve years ago now—and I saw what I've just told you after I'd been on the *tack* for exactly a week. I went straight back to the bottle after that, and haven't been worried since. Jones, I wonder what yours are from; let's have another drink, and I'll be going."

Jones isn't a bad chap really, but he doesn't get on too well with Mr. Guzzler, the cattle inspector.

KUDYARD RIPLING.

MISTAKES WILL HAPPEN.

By JOHN A. RENNIE.

I.

When the yarn came round the village of Mrs. Thomson having run away with Mr. Briggs, some men who were having their second sundowners nearly choked on them.

It came round in the form of a typhoon, because Thomson brought it himself.

"My wife," he said thickly, "is gone—run right away with Briggs."

They all looked at him open-mouthed; and he immediately ordered himself a glass of whisky and stood in a dazed way looking at nothing, but unconsciously opening and knotting a fairly useful looking fist.

Then one of the men stepped forward and tried to be kind by saying "Tommy, it may be all for the best. I knew a man once who shouted for joy——"

Thomson turned round on him and gave him the hardest hit on the nose he had ever had, and was giving him some more on other places when all the men caught hold of him and held his arms.

Thomson did his best to throw them off by treading on their toes, kicking their shins, and so on, but they hung on tenaciously, and soon he calmed down sufficiently to be released.

Then those who did not have bruises to attend to asked Thomson to tell them more about it.

"How do you know she has run away?" asked someone standing nearest the door.

"I have a small note," said Thomson, breathing hard as he re-adjusted his clothes, which had suffered considerably during the melee, "that she wrote—before leaving."

They all coughed expectantly.

"It says that she has gone—gone off——" he seemed unable to go on, what with his recent exertions and the wrath he laboured under.

The barman gave him a drink, free of charge, but again his tongue failed him, so diving into a pocket he handed over the note instead.

It read: "I am leaving by train—with Mr. Briggs."

Not knowing how or in what manner to sympathise with Thomson, many of them set off to tell Mrs. Briggs about it.

On the way one or two recounted vivid recollections of their having seen the pair together in the same railway compartment, and also of their suspicious behaviour in that compartment.

Mrs. Briggs broke down when she heard the news and fainted right away; but when someone emptied the water jug over her in a frenzied effort to bring her round, she got up and threw it at him, breaking much of its enamel.

However, she dried herself on a towel and then became unconsolable, walking up and down the verandah with a child in her arms, telling all who wanted to know how good she had always been to her husband. She had given him seven heirs to inherit everything he had, which was never much, thanks to himself; always cooked his food and mended his clothes, and always loved him. But she was sure she would never do any of these again.

"What about the children?" someone asked.

"They will just have to die along with me," she said in a tearful, confident voice.

II.

Only a week had passed—during which Mrs. Briggs was kept busy taking in donations from everyone in the village, with gratitude in her lonely-looking eyes; and during which time Thomson had altered one more man's features for hinting that under the circumstances the best thing for Thomson was to marry Mrs. Briggs. Only a week had passed, I say, when Briggs, the romantic hero, came back.

Only a few villagers were at the station when Briggs emerged from the train and said "Hullo!" to them. They nearly fell on their backs, and gazed fixedly at him.

He saw their stare, and asked, "What's the matter?"

"Are you mad?" asked a voice; and the others' silent looks seemed to echo the words.

"Are you mad?" repeated the voice. "Do you know what Thomson has threatened to do?"

"No!" said Briggs, looking wonderingly at them.

"Eat you! Make mince-meat of you, and then veritably eat you!"

Briggs laughed heartily at this information, which made them look at him in further surprise. Surely he had not changed to such an extent as to make light of personal danger? Did they not all remember seeing him run for his life the day a swarm of honey bees "lost their rags" in the village and went around biting people to improve their looks? It could only be the intoxicating feeling of what he had done that had brought him back and inspired him with such courage.

"But what have I done to old Tommy?" asked Briggs.

"What haven't you done, you mean. You ran away with his missus," said someone.

"I ran away with what!" gasped Briggs, in his turn startled.

"With his missus!"

Briggs' eyes dilated.

"But—I left by train—I never ran!"

"That's not the point; you did it, and Thomson is at present a romping lion, waiting to eat you."

"But I tell you," said Briggs hoarsely; "I tell you I only spoke to her once on the train."

"Yes!" said half-a-dozen voices. "What did you say?"

"I asked her where she was going?"

They looked doubtful, but asked, "And what did she say?"

"She said she was going the same way the train was going," replied Briggs.

They said nothing, but their smiles indicated plainly their belief that Briggs thought he could come back, and by sheer inventive power lie himself out of the business.

"Anyhow, none of that will wash with Thomson. He's been training up for you, and as soon as he hears you're back——"

"Well," interrupted Briggs with a shudder, "I can't make it out at all. Somebody's 'atched a plot against me; I never did anything to make him wild like that."

"You — ran — away — with — his — wife!" said someone in measured accusing tones.

"I never, I tell you! I wouldn't run away with her if you paid me! I don't say I'm a judge of beauty, but she don't attract me!"

Everyone whistled at this, and Briggs was just going to ask if they didn't believe him when someone said, "Here's Thomson!"

Thomson came up at this moment, and with the calmness of a man who knows what he wants, and what he is going to do, asked, "Where's Briggs? I hear he's back!"

"There he goes!" said someone, pointing to a figure that was walking off briskly, carrying a Gladstone bag.

"Where?" from Thomson, and a wild light gleamed in his eye. He did not wait, but straight away walked after Briggs.

"Here!" he shouted, "I want to speak to you!"

"I'm in a hurry," shouted Briggs; and he looked it too, because he had, without any warning, broken into a semi-trot.

Thomson did the same, and soon these two men were trotting gently up the road.

Thomson bawled: "Stop! I want you!"

Briggs bawled back: "No! I'm in a terrible hurry!" and throwing away his Gladstone bag, broke into a wild gallop.

Thomson, who had had to adopt the same pace, yelled a short summary of what he would do to Briggs when he caught him, and this helped to increase the latter's pace.

Briggs made for the hotel, and led Thomson a spirited chase round and round it, during which they ran over and hurt many hens and chickens, as well as many unsuspecting pedestrians.

Thomson was heard to puff: "You made her love you, and you're going to cop out for it!"

Briggs was heard to puff back: "I never, you deluded brute. She don't attract me!"

Then a very strong arm of the law stepped along and told them to "cheese it," or they would be had up for being a public danger and for wearing out the pavement of the hotel.

III.

When Briggs arrived home, his wife was quite an altered person to the one he had lived with for ten years.

She opened the door, and seeing Briggs standing on the threshold in his dilapidated condition—what with all the running that had been his share—just shut the door again in his face.

Briggs opened it again and walked in.

Mrs. Briggs put her hands on her hips in an antagonistic way and said, "What do you want?"

"Maria," said the poor man, half tearfully, "have you—you, whom I clothed and fed, night and day, ever since we were married—have you also gone mad with the rest of them?"

Mrs. Briggs said ferociously, "Have you ever clothed and fed us like this?" She pointed to a row of children, clothed in unfamiliar garments, who stood gazing wonderingly at their father.

Mr. Briggs stood astounded.

"Who the—where the——" but he suddenly changed it to: "Because I get out of work!"

"And why?" she asked, her voice rising as her rage increased. "Why do you lose your jobs?"

He wanted to explain, but she silenced him with: "Be quiet! It's because you drink—drink like—like a fish!"

The fish was completely humiliated, and faltered, "I'll never do it again!"

"You will! Besides, what about Mrs. Thomson? You ran away with her."

"But I never, Maria. Can't you believe my word? Can't you believe that she don't attract me?" He looked appealingly at her; and she suddenly turned her head away to sneeze into a handkerchief.

"Besides," he pursued, "you know why I went with the train; you know that I went to——"

"That's enough!" said Mrs. Briggs sternly. "You ran away with her, and just let me hear you denying it!" She looked menacingly in the direction of a distant broom.

"I've been doing nothing else since the train came in!" he blurted out.

It had the worst possible effect. Mrs. Briggs dived for the broom and Mr. Briggs dived sadly into the night.

For a whole week Briggs led a hunted life, and Thomson became quite thin with anxiety and sleeplessness and the running he had to do.

People began to feel sorry for both of them, and thought it would be kinder to catch Briggs

and hand him over to Thomson for an average "hammering," because, after all, he deserved it. But here again the law pointed out that they would be accomplices in a case of assault, with intent to do grievous bodily harm and much battery, so they had to abandon the idea.

Many a cold night Briggs turned up at his own house, which Mrs. Briggs was holding as if it were a fortress; and he found himself repulsed by a broom. He would retire and argue the matter out from a safe distance, but it did no good.

One night, however, he ended up on a tragic note. "I'm better dead," he said dramatically: "I'll hang myself."

The window opened, and this welcome ultimatum floated out on the stilly breeze: "If you bring me a paper to-morrow morning saying as how you agree to be sober for the rest of your natural, giving me permission to treat you worse than this if you break out again, I'll take you back."

IV.

And then, the very next day, Mrs. Thomson calmly got off the train and ordered the village taxi to take her home.

The taxi-driver was half afraid that he would be inveigled into a matter that was sure to end drastically, yet he thought he would risk it.

He only stopped at the Thomsons' house long enough for his fare to alight and pay him, and then drove rapidly off.

Mrs. Thomson went lightly up the small garden road, and without hesitation opened the door.

Thomson sat smoking, with his eyes intently on nothing. He was a very unkempt, grizzled figure, and appeared very unlike the hero of a story.

He looked up as the door creaked, and beheld there his wife. She was as pretty as ever; she had a sparkle in her eyes and a smile on her lips, as if it were still the olden days, and she had just come back home from some shopping. He rubbed his eyes to make sure it was no vision.

"I've come back, Tommy," stepping nearer.

Thomson stood up and gazed at her with eyes that burnt with emotion.

She looked at him askance.

"Why are you so strange," she asked; "surely you got my note?"

"That's just why," in a strained voice. "You ran away with Briggs!"

"I did what?" she exclaimed.

"Ran away with Briggs," he repeated tensely.

She looked at him for a moment, and then burst out laughing, sitting down in an easy chair to do so.

"Oh! Lord!" she laughed, holding her sides.

Mr. Thomson gazed at her in bewilderment, mixed alternately with suspicion and awe.

"You see, it's just a mistake; you came to a terrible conclusion," she tittered. "I only said I was going 'with' him."

"Well!" he thundered fiercely; and this nearly made her go off into fresh laughter.

"You silly, jealous old thing! I've been visiting mother. I was cross with you because you were so grumpy. Mrs. Briggs was here at the time, and I showed her mother's invitation. She said it would cure you if I went off at once without consulting you, and told me how to word the little note."

LEGAL NOTES.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL CASES.

An address given by the Deputy Clerk to the Manchester Justices to the City Police under the auspices of the Federation.

By "W. O."

From the *Irish Guard*.

(Continued.)

FACTS SHOWING IDENTITY.

Another exception to the rule is where the evidence will show identity. In a case where two boys charged a man with gross indecency, and stated that he had made an appointment with them at a certain time and place later, the fact that the prisoner was the man who turned up at that time and place and gave the boys money was held admissible as evidence that he was the man who had committed the crime.

These, I think, comprise the whole of the instances which are exceptions to the rule that something said or done by the prisoner in another matter is inadmissible.

EVIDENCE OF OPINION.

A witness is only entitled to state facts; his personal opinion is not evidence, but in some cases where special knowledge or experience is necessary to enable the Court to form an opinion, expert witnesses are allowed to state their opinion.

The object of this rule is to keep the witness as much as possible from trespassing on the functions of the judge and jury, or it may be the magistrates, whose duty it is to draw inferences from the facts. The rule does not, however, exclude a witness from stating his belief as to the identity of a person, or as to the state or condition of a person at a material time, or the identity of any property, provided that belief is based on what the witness has himself observed. Thus he may state that in his opinion a person was drunk or sober, or that property produced in Court is, in his belief, his property.

An expert witness is an exception to the rule as to stating opinion. He is one who has devoted time and study to a special branch of learning, and thus is specially skilled in those points on which he is asked to state his opinion. His evidence differs from that of an ordinary witness in the following respects:—

- (a) He can give his opinion, not merely state what took place.
- (b) He can give details of experiments he has made, not even in the presence of the prisoner.
- (c) He can cite books of authority.
- (d) He can cite reports of other cases for the purpose of showing similarity of symptoms.

In Palmer's case, tried in 1856, it was alleged that the death of a man named Cook had been caused by poison administered to him by Palmer. Expert medical men gave evidence that the circumstances of Cook's death pointed to poisoning by strychnia. They were not present at the death, and could find few traces in the dead man's body of that poison; they based their opinion on the circumstances attending the deaths of three other persons proved to have been poisoned by strychnia, which resembled the circumstances attending

Cook's death in almost every particular. The Court admitted the evidence, and Palmer was convicted.

That is an instance of medical men giving expert evidence, but they are frequently called upon to give evidence which would come within the category of non-expert; to take one instance only, where they give an opinion based on observation as to whether a man in their opinion is drunk or sober.

Handwriting is a matter which is not confined to the evidence of experts; non-experts who are acquainted with the handwriting are allowed to testify. Handwriting may be proved by:

(1) The person who wrote or signed the document, etc. (This is the most satisfactory.)

(2) A witness who saw the party write or sign the document.

(3) A witness who has seen the party write on other occasions, or even on one occasion, and who can swear to his belief that the writing produced was written by that person.

(4) A witness who has seen the documents purporting to be written by the party, which, by subsequent communication with that party, he has reason to believe to be written by him.

(5) A witness who has formed his opinion as to the authenticity of a document by comparing its handwriting with that of a document admittedly written by the prisoner, or with samples of the prisoner's handwriting. Such a witness must be skilled in comparing handwriting, but he need not be a professional expert.

Evidence of opinion may be given by non-expert witnesses when direct or positive evidence of facts is unattainable, and the witness must therefore speak, if at all, as to his opinion or belief. Thus, on questions of identity, appearance or age, condition or resemblance, as such matters are essentially matters of opinion, and as a rule no witness can swear positively to them.

HEARSAY EVIDENCE.

Now I come to deal with what is known as "hearsay"; that is, things said in the absence of the prisoner. As a rule these are inadmissible, and not evidence against the prisoner. It would obviously be unfair that the prisoner should be prejudiced by a statement which was not on oath, which he had no opportunity of contradicting or explaining, and more particularly when he had not the opportunity to cross-examine the person making it. Cross-examination might have had the effect of causing the person to alter his statement; it might have put quite another light upon it, and it might even have shown that the statement was not worth credence. This rule is of much interest and importance to police officers and others giving evidence, and cannot be too well appreciated. It is difficult for most civilians to understand that a Court of Law does not arrive at a conclusion based on hearsay evidence.

There are exceptions even to this rule of law, but I think, when you consider them, you will agree that the exceptions are only in exceptional circumstances.

Where two or more persons are engaged in a criminal conspiracy, anything said or done by one of them in furtherance of the conspiracy is admissible in evidence against all the others, although they were not present when the words were spoken; providing it is first proved there is a conspiracy, and that the persons charged are members of it.

Depositions taken under the "Indictable Offences Act, 1848," are admissible under some circumstances, but I will deal with them when I come to "Secondary Oral Evidence."

Statements made by a person who has since died, relating to the circumstances which ultimately cause his death, are admissible in evidence against a person who is being tried for the murder or manslaughter of the deceased person, providing such statements were made when the deceased was in "settled, hopeless expectation of death." Such statements are known as dying declarations. The presumption is that the sense of approaching death is calculated to produce in the declarant a sentiment of responsibility.

On a charge of rape or indecent assault upon a female, statements made by her, though not in the presence of the prisoner, if made at the earliest reasonable opportunity after the commission of the offence, are admissible. But such statements are not evidence of the facts complained of; they are corroborative of her credibility and consistency, and they go to negative consent when that is in issue. Perhaps they cannot properly be called hearsay.

Events that occurred in the absence of the prisoner cannot be given in evidence unless they clearly lead up to or explain the charge, or are so connected with it that an inference can reasonably be drawn from them respecting the charge.

What other people said or did in the presence of the prisoner is only admissible so far as it throws light on the prisoner's subsequent conduct, or in any other way tends to explain his statements or acts. It has little or no value in itself, but it does sometimes elicit a statement or reply from the prisoner.

Anything said or done by the prisoner is admissible in evidence against him, and that brings me to say a word about confessions. Probably you are all aware that in 1918 a memorandum was issued by the Home Office, approved by the Judges of the High Court, containing rules on the subject of the admissibility as evidence of statements made by prisoners or persons suspected of crime. As I understand you all have a copy of that memorandum, I do not propose to recapitulate it. I will only say this: it is your guide when questioning prisoners, and if you observe the rules there laid down there will be no difficulty about the admissibility of the statements; but anything said or done in order to induce a confession may render it inadmissible. And whilst I am on this subject, and as I may not have another opportunity of mentioning it, I should remind you that where two persons are charged jointly, a statement made by one of them will not be evidence against the other, because an accused person is called upon to answer that which has been stated on oath by the witnesses for the prosecution, he is not required to make any answer to the statement of another prisoner.

And now I think I have dealt with all the matters which come under the heading of relevancy, and therefore we will take the second main heading, which is "Proof."

PROOF.

As soon as you have ascertained what relevant facts you are going to establish, the next question to ask yourself is, "By what method shall I be allowed to prove these relevant facts?"

In the first place every relevant fact must be proved by either direct or circumstantial evidence.

Direct evidence is that which goes straight to establish the fact; it is the evidence of an eye-witness who can say he actually saw the offence committed.

Circumstantial evidence is that which establishes certain minor facts, the effect of which is to establish the main fact in issue. As to the particular value of circumstantial evidence, I will have something to say as to that under the heading of "Cogency." Sufficient to say here that it must raise a violent presumption of the existence of the fact in issue; then it will be as strong as direct evidence. Both direct and circumstantial evidence are equally admissible; neither is technically better than the other; neither excludes the other.

Now, whether you prove your facts by direct or circumstantial evidence, the evidence must be that of:—

- (1) Witnesses (oral evidence).
- (2) Documents (documentary evidence).
- (3) Things (real evidence).

And if you look at the nature of such oral, documentary or real evidence, you find that it comes under two headings, viz., Primary and Secondary. Which means that either the original witness or document or thing is produced in Court (which is primary evidence), or else you produce some report, copy of a document or model (which is secondary evidence). Therefore you will observe you can have primary oral evidence (the evidence on oath of a witness who saw the offence committed), secondary oral evidence (the deposition of what that witness said when examined before the magistrate, which is admissible under circumstances which I will later relate). Also you can have primary documentary evidence (the original letter itself), and secondary documentary evidence (a copy of the letter).

In criminal cases what is called the onus of proof, or the duty of proving the allegation, rests on the prosecution, for the prisoner is always presumed to be innocent. But in some cases when certain facts are proved, the onus is on the prisoner of disproving his guilt. I will refer to the onus of proof in bigamy cases when I come to deal with presumptions of innocence. In cases of male persons living on the earnings of prostitution, where it is proved that the prisoner lives with or is habitually in the company of a prostitute, he is deemed to be knowingly living on the earnings of prostitution, unless he can satisfy the Court to the contrary. There you get an instance where the onus is shifted.

It is a rule of law that the best evidence must be given of which the case is capable, or, in other words, the law requires the production of that evidence which is the best attainable of its class. The meaning of that is that evidence tendered will not be received when it shows on the face of it, or when other circumstances admitted or proved show that evidence of a better and more original nature can be produced. If the original of a document can be produced, a copy is inadmissible. Secondary oral evidence is usually called hearsay, and that I have already dealt with, but under that heading we get depositions taken under the "Indictable Offences Act, 1848."

A deposition is the record of evidence given on oath, taken down in writing by an officer of the Court before a magistrate, with a view to its being used on the trial. It is read over to the witness after it is written, corrected if necessary and signed by him. If on the trial the witness is dead, or too ill to travel, or has become insane, or is kept away by the prisoner or his friends, the deposition of the witness can, after formal proof, be read to the jury in Court.

Also this heading includes depositions under

the "Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1867." This enables the deposition of a witness to be taken, in indictable cases, where the witness is dangerously ill and in the opinion of a doctor not likely to recover, and the witness is willing to give evidence relating to an indictable offence. This is done for the perpetuation of testimony. The deposition is admissible on the trial of the accused—

- (1) if the witness is dead; or
- (2) there is no probability he will ever be able to travel or give evidence; and
- (3) the deposition is signed by a magistrate; and
- (4) it is proved that reasonable notice in writing of the intention to take the deposition was served upon the person (whether the prosecutor or the accused) against whom it is proposed to be used; and
- (5) that such person, or his advocate, had or might have had, if he had chosen to be present, full opportunity of cross-examining the witness.

You will note the distinction between this deposition and a dying declaration. The latter is not an oath, and is in the absence of the accused; this deposition is on oath, and the accused must be given an opportunity of being present and cross-examining the witness.

In cases where a coroner's jury returns a verdict of murder or manslaughter, the depositions taken by the coroner are admissible at the trial if the witness is dead and on proof that the person against whom they are tendered in evidence was present at the inquest and was afforded an opportunity of cross-examining the witness. The coroner is not bound by any precise rules of evidence, therefore only such of the deposition of the witness is admissible as would be admissible if the deposition had been taken in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction under the "Indictable Offences Act, 1848."

Oral evidence is generally regarded as more satisfactory and convincing than documentary, for the reason that a witness can be cross-examined and the Court can judge by his demeanour whether he is telling the truth, and he can always explain his evidence. The mere production of a document, which no one can cross-examine for the purpose of placing a construction on it other than the words literally convey, may create an imperfect impression. On the other hand, memories are treacherous. A witness may remember only a part of the transaction, whereas the document may record details in permanent form. Nevertheless, a witness should always state what he himself remembers, and not what he has been told, and he can always refer to his notes.

A witness can always refresh his memory as to details by referring to his notes, or the notes of another made in his presence very shortly after the event. If they be someone else's notes, he must have read and approved them shortly after the event. The necessity of making careful notes of all happenings cannot be too much impressed on you. They are always available to bring back a recollection of the incident.

When your note-book is referred to in the witness box, the prisoner is entitled to look at the note-book and to cross-examine on the note you have made; but he is only entitled to look at the part of the book containing your note. If he cross-examines on the notes, he makes them evidence.

It is a general rule that a witness must not

read his answer to any question. He can look at his notes to revive a recollection of the facts, or if it fails to do that, it creates a knowledge that at the time he made them he knew they were an accurate statement of what occurred. You should be careful to make your note as soon after the event as will ensure that your memory retains vividly a recollection of what took place.

And now I come to deal with witnesses and their competency, and in this connection we should understand that every sane adult person is a competent witness.

The "Criminal Evidence Act, 1898," for the first time made a prisoner a competent witness in his own defence. He can be cross-examined, as you all knew, but a very important matter to remember is that he is not to be asked, or, if asked, he is not required to answer, any question tending to show that he has committed, or been convicted of, or is being charged with, any offence other than that he is then charged with, unless:—

The proof that he has committed or been convicted of such other offence is admissible to show that he is guilty of the offence he is charged with; or

He has personally, or by his advocate, asked questions of witnesses for the prosecution with a view to establish his own good character, or has given evidence of good character, or his defence involves imputations on the character of the witnesses for the prosecution, or he has given evidence against any other prisoner charged with the same offence.

(To be continued.)

IF.

(With apologies to R. K.)

A DEPOT SATIRE.

If you can keep your head, when some darn
Sergeant
Is losing his, and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself to fix your bayonet
Instead of getting in a bloomin' stew;
If you can slope when you are tired of sloping,
Or shoulder arms, altho' your hands are numb,
Or, feeling hopeless, do not give up hoping,
And still retain the strength to hold your tongue.
If you can bear, on going in to breakfast,
To find that all the bread is three days old,
Or else that someone's trodden in the porridge,
And probably the sausages are cold.
If you can want, admitting want your master,
If you can dream, tho' all your dreams are vain,
If you can eat dry bread or bread and butter,
And treat the two as tho' they were the same.
If you can swot your law for half a minute,
Then bluff the Sergeant that you took all night,
And, after almost funk'ing to begin it,
By some wild fluke get up and say it right;
If you can keep your heavy eyes from closing,
And wait your turn, long after it has gone,
Then spring up smartly, tho' you're almost dozing,
And answer something, whether right or wrong.
If you can talk of Sergeants without slander,
Or new recruits without a swollen head;
If neither guards nor depot coffee hurt you,
If you can smile at 6 a.m. 'Nuff sed!
If you can fill each unforgiving minute
By polishing your kit, until you're done,
And shunning the Canteen and all things in it,
You'll get on in the Mounted Police, my son.

BETWEEN PARADES.

"Ah, my man," quoth the curate to the fellow he had just met in the train, "don't you wish you could have your time over again?"

The fellow had just done ten years.

The curate arrived at his destination minus a collar and plus a black eye.

* * * *

Professor Spurgeon says he wants to see a woman like Henry Ford. We dare say some women *do* like Henry Ford.

* * * *

"Success at golf is only a matter of application and putting two and two together." And that's fore.

* * * *

Sandy had been photographed, and as he was looking at his picture McPherson came along.

"What's that ye have there?" he asked.

"My photygraph," replied Sandy. "Whit d'ye think o' it?"

"Mon, it's fine!" exclaimed McPherson in great admiration. "It's just like ye tae. An' what micht the like o' they cost?"

"I dinna ken," replied Sandy; "I hinna payed yet."

"Mon," said McPherson, more firmly than ever, "it's awfu' like ye."

* * * *

The sergeant-major had the reputation of never being at a loss for an answer. A young officer made a bet with a brother officer that he would in less than twenty-four hours ask the sergeant-major a question that would baffle him. The sergeant-major accompanied the young officer on his rounds, in course of which the cook house was inspected. Pointing to a large copper of water just commencing to boil, the officer said: "Why does the water only boil round the edges of the copper and not in the centre?"

"The water round the edge, sir," replied the veteran, "is for the men on guard; they have their breakfast half an hour before the remainder of the company."

* * * *

The head of a large shop, while passing through the packing room, observed a boy lounging against a case of goods and whistling cheerily.

The chief stopped and looked at him.

"How much do you get a week?" he demanded.

"Thirty shillings."

"Then here's a week's money; now clear out."

The boy pocketed the money and departed.

"When did we engage that boy?" the chief enquired of the departmental manager.

"Never," was the reply. "He had just brought a note from another firm."

* * * *

American (speaking to Englishman on wonders of broadcasting): "Once in New York I saw an operator place his hand on a switch and get Japan, place his hand on another switch and get Turkey, and then place his hand on yet another switch and get New Zealand; all in three minutes."

Englishman: "That's nothing. The other night I put my hand out of bed and got Chili, I put it under the bed and got China, and then I

put my cold hand on the wife's back and got Hell, in considerably less than three minutes."

Pussyfoot: "My man, why do you drink whisky? It is very bad for you. Drink water. Water is the best drink in the world."

Anti-Pussyfoot: "Quite right; but then you see, not being a greedy man, I don't desire the best drink in the world. For a poor sinner like me, whisky is quite good enough."

* * * *

Sgt. Strongarm was an enthusiast on muscle developers, which he recommended on every occasion.

"A splendid thing," he said. "They make people more healthy, increase their strength and lengthen their lives."

"But what about our ancestors?" asked one of the recruits. "They didn't have any muscle developers, did they?"

"They did not," said the sergeant triumphantly; "and where are they now? All dead."

* * * *

It was at an inspection at the Depot, and the Commandant was passing down the ranks. Suddenly he stopped before a very portly recruit whose medal ribbon was an inch too low down. Fixing the man with his eye, the Commandant asked, "Did you get that medal for eating?"

"No, sir," replied the man.

"Then why the devil do you wear it on your stomach?" roared the Commandant.

* * * *

The gymnasium instructor was putting them through Swedish drill. "I want every man to lie on his back, put his legs in the air, and move them as if he were riding a bicycle," he explained. "Now commence."

After a short effort, one man stopped.

"Why have you stopped, Murphy?" asked the instructor.

"If ye plaze, sir," was the answer, "Oi'm free wheeling!"

* * * *

"Hullo, chum, what have you got the hump about?"

"I'm sorry for the poor blighter who's going to lose his overcoat this weather."

"Why is he going to lose it?"

"'Cause I ain't got one."

* * * *

After two hours of turning, short advances and wheelings, the sergeant saw one of the recruits fall out of place.

Sergeant: "Where are you going, No. 3?"

No. 3 (sadly): "I'm going home. You change your blooming mind too often."

* * * *

"Sir," said the fierce lawyer, "do you on your oath swear that this is not your handwriting?"

"I think not," was the cool reply.

"Does it resemble your writing?"

"I can't say it does," said the witness luringly.

"Do you take your oath that this writing does not resemble yours?"

"Ye—es," said he hesitatingly.

"Now how do you know?"

"'Cause I can't write," was the prompt answer.

QUOT HOMINES TOT SENTENTIAE.

That Commissions of Enquiry perform a useful service cannot be denied, but it is equally true that they may fall into grave error when dealing with technical matters in which the members have not been so fortunate as to have received a personal preliminary training.

The Report of the Administration Cost Commission recently published contains much food for thought on Police and Defence matters, and it may be of interest to readers of *The Outpost* to compare some of these recommendations with those of the Union Public Service Commission of Enquiry, which was appointed to enquire into all matters affecting the Public Service of the Union of South Africa, and whose third report, published in August, 1919, deals exclusively with the S.A. Police and the S.A.M.R. and the Union Prisons Department.

It may be said that this latter report contains 144 pages of closely printed matter, and from this fact some indication of the scope of the enquiry may be obtained.

It is curious to see how diverse are the opinions of these two Commissions, which for brevity we may call the Woolley Commission and the Graham Commission respectively. Each was faced with similar problems, each took evidence from all and sundry, and after a period of consideration each published its considered opinion.

Let us deal with one point only by way of illustration, quoting from each report in turn:—

THE WOOLLEY REPORT.

"318. We submit that the time has come for the British South Africa Police to be regarded purely as policemen entrusted with the important duties of compelling observance of the law by bringing offenders to justice, of informing and directing unwilling offenders, of preserving order in assemblies and between individuals, and of assisting in other Government activities, particularly in the more remote districts."

"320. All military titles throughout the Police should be abolished, their retention encouraging the idea that the Police Force is something other than its name implies."

"364. Failure to differentiate clearly between the functions of a semi-military body and those of a Police Force has been apparent, and so long as members of a Police Force retain military titles, some confusion of thought is inevitable."

THE GRAHAM REPORT.

"474. If the South African Police were called upon to perform military duties, and this might happen at any time, the Police titles would be dropped and the military ones adopted. That is to say, in practice every Police officer under the system presently in vogue possesses two titles, the use of which depends on whether he is performing civil or military duties. The object of this system is doubtless to meet the objection which is felt against what is known as a policy of militarising a civil force. How far this objection has any weight is a matter of conjecture. It is difficult to believe that the nomenclature of the title of its officers has any real influence upon the organisation or control of a body such as the South African Police. If a State is so unwise as to organise its Police Force upon a despotic or undemocratic basis, such a policy will not be checkmated by the adop-

tion of Civil titles, for the officers of some of the most despotic, tyrannous and ruthless forces known to history have not only borne civil titles, but have been controlled by a purely civil authority. Moreover, the South African Police is in fact a semi-military force, as it may at any time be called upon to fight side by side with members of the Permanent Military Force and the Citizen Army. This being so, for the purpose of the military organisation, of which it is an important unit, their military titles must in any case be maintained."

"476. The Commission is of the opinion that to avoid any confusion that might arise if the South African Police was called upon for military duty, the officers of the force should be given the following titles, and should have the right to use either or both of them at all times," etc., etc.

Here we have the considered opinions of two Commissions, reporting on the same point as affecting the Police Forces maintained under identical conditions in adjoining territories.

It is not the intention of the writer to do more than to indicate that one of these Commissions obviously has arrived at an incorrect conclusion, and to leave the readers of *The Outpost* to judge for themselves which one it is.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA CADET CORPS.

RESULTS OF INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS HELD AT GWELO CAMP, JUNE, 1924.

DIRECTORS' CHALLENGE SHIELD.

(Awarded to the most efficient School Cadet unit in the Senior Division.)

Won by Milton High School, Bulawayo.—

	Points.
Physical training	88
Platoon and section drill	150
Extended order drill, etc.	225
Musketry	137.32
Lewis gunnery	32
Total	632.32

2nd, Salisbury High School.—

Physical training	90
Platoon and section drill	148
Extended order drill, etc.	211
Musketry	123.78
Lewis gunnery	41
Total	613.78

3rd, St. George's High School, Bulawayo.—

Physical training	86
Platoon and section drill	129
Extended order drill, etc.	169
Musketry	116.50
Lewis gunnery	32
Total	532.50

4th, Plumtree High School.—

Physical training	92
Platoon and section drill	121
Extended order drill, etc.	171
Musketry	107.50
Lewis gunnery	26
Total	517.50

5th, Umtali High School.—	
Physical training	75
Platoon and section drill	113
Extended order drill, etc.	167
Musketry	134.63
Lewis gunnery	27
Total	514.63
6th, Chaplin High School, Gwelo.—	
Physical training	78
Platoon and section drill	135
Extended order drill, etc.	162
Musketry	114.40
Lewis gunnery	21
Total	510.40

MUSKETRY COMPETITIONS.

Gwelo Challenge Shield (Individual). Application at 200 yards kneeling and 500 yards lying. Rapid fire at 300 yards.—Won by Cdt. de Beer (Salisbury High School), 50; 2, Sgt. Markham (Salisbury High School), 48.

Milton Challenge Cup (Teams of Six). Application at 300 yards kneeling. Rapid at 200 yards lying. Snapshooting at 100 yards standing.—Won by Salisbury High School, 227; 2, Milton High School (Bulawayo).

Salisbury Challenge Cup (Teams of Four). "Falling Plate" targets, 200 yards.—Won by Chaplin High School (Gwelo), 356; 2, Salisbury High School.

Farmers' (R.A.U.) Challenge Shield (Teams of Six). Snapshooting at 200 yards lying. Rapid fire at 300 yards lying.—Won by Salisbury High School, 156; 2, Plumtree High School.

Commandant General's Challenge Cup (Teams of Six). Attack practice, 700 to 200 yards.—Won by Plumtree High School, 110; 2, Salisbury High School.

S.R.R.A. Prizes (Teams of Eight). Application at 200, 300 and 500 yards lying.—1, Salisbury High School, 468; 2, Plumtree High School, 426; 3, St. George's High School (Bulawayo), 423.

Eastern Division (S.R.V.) Challenge Cup (Individual Grand Aggregate).—Won by Cdt. de Beer (Salisbury High School), 121; 2, Cdt. N. Kenny (Salisbury High School), 106; 3, Sgt. Markham (Salisbury High School), 104.

Salisbury Merchants' Challenge Cup (Unit Grand Aggregate of three events).—Won by Salisbury High School, 468; 2, Plumtree High School, 457; 3, Milton High School (Bulawayo), 405.

BOXING FINALS.

Cub Weights.—Cdt. Wilson (Chaplin High School, Gwelo) beat Cdt. S. Mande (Salisbury High School).

Fly Weights.—Cdt. S. Hyde (Salisbury High School) beat Cdt. Calder (Que Que School).

Bantam Weights.—Cdt. M. Mande (Salisbury High School) beat Cdt. Beswick (Bulawayo Primary School).

Feather Weights.—Cdt. Walton (Salisbury High School) beat Cdt. Jackson (St. George's High School, Bulawayo).

Light Weights.—Cdt. V. Hyde (Salisbury High School) beat Cdt. Maugham (Milton High School, Bulawayo).

Welter Weights.—Sgt. Bissett (Milton High School, Bulawayo) beat Cdt. Boulter (Umtali High School).

Middle Weights.—Sgt. Tyler (St. George's

High School, Bulawayo) beat Cdt. Garrett (Plumtree High School).

Light-Heavy Weights.—Cdt. N. Kenny (Salisbury High School) beat Cpl. Musgrove (Chaplin High School, Gwelo).

Middle-Heavy Weights.—Sgt. Fletcher (Plumtree High School) beat Sgt. Davidovics (St. George's High School, Bulawayo).

Heavy Weights.—Sgt. Palmer (Chaplin High School, Gwelo) beat Sgt. McCay (Milton High School, Bulawayo).

Strong Cup (Champion School in Boxing).—Won by Salisbury High School, 5 wins.

R.A.B.A. Prize (Best Boxer).—Won by Sgt. Bissett (Milton High School, Bulawayo).

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

SENIOR DIVISION.

100 yards (10 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.).—1, Markham (Salisbury High School); 2, McDowell (Umtali High School); 3, Parks (Salisbury High School).

440 yards (54 secs.).—1, Parks (Salisbury High School); 2, McDowell (Umtali High School); 3, Meredith (Plumtree High School).

880 yards (2 mins. 8 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.).—1, Bissett (Milton High School, Bulawayo); 2, Fynn (Plumtree High School); 3, Lilford (Plumtree High School).

Hurdles, 120 yards (18 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs.).—1, Meredith (Plumtree High School); 2, N. Kenny (Salisbury High School); 3, Kerr (Salisbury High School).

High Jump (5 ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.).—1, P. Lendrum (Salisbury High School); 2, N. Kenny (Salisbury High School); 3, Ackerman (Umtali High School) and Edwards (St. George's High School, Bulawayo).

Long Jump (19 ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.).—1, J. Ross (Milton High School, Bulawayo); 2, P. Lendrum (Salisbury High School); 3, Leach (St. George's High School, Bulawayo).

Relay Race.—1, Salisbury High School; 2, Milton High School, Bulawayo; 3, Plumtree High School.

Administrator's Challenge Shield (Champion School in the Senior Division).—Won by Salisbury High School, 69 points; 2, Milton High School, Bulawayo, 30 points.

JUNIOR DIVISION.

100 yards (11 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.).—1, V. Hyde (Salisbury High School); 2, Lidsky (Chaplin High School, Gwelo); 3, N. McLeod (Salisbury High School).

220 yards (28 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.).—1, V. Hyde (Salisbury High School); 2, Lidsky (Chaplin High School, Gwelo); 3, Boulter (Umtali High School).

440 yards (63 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs.).—1, N. McLeod (Salisbury High School); 2, Cary (Plumtree High School); 3, Baker (Chaplin High School, Gwelo).

High Jump (4 ft. 5 ins.).—1, Sinclair (Plumtree High School); 2, Millians (Plumtree High School); 3, Millings (Milton High School, Bulawayo) and V. Hyde (Salisbury High School).

Long Jump (15 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.).—1, H. Bloom (Salisbury High School); 2, V. Hyde (Salisbury High School); 3, Millians (Plumtree High School).

Relay Race.—1, Salisbury High School; 2, Plumtree High School; 3, Chaplin High School, Gwelo.

Small Workers' Challenge Cup (Champion School in the Junior Division).—Won by Salisbury High School, 68 points; 2, Plumtree High School, 32 points.

OUTSTATION ~ NOTES.



Outstation notes should reach us by the 15th of each month. Accounts of local functions, movements of members of the Corps or news of ex-members are what we want. Queries may interest your station, but not others. Recount rather the incidents from which they arise.

VICTORIA.

The Royal and Ancient still holds sway over this wee "dorpeen" (Scotch-Dutch for small village). Everyone is doing it now! Strange and hitherto unheard (?) words flow over the evening breezes as bunker after bunker claims its victims; the ladies, God bless 'em, being just as bad as the men!

PERSONALITIES.

Sgt. Collings and Cpl. Pettit both went up to Salisbury for the language exams., but owing, it appears, to some unfortunate boy's fault, they were not called in time to catch the connection at Gwelo, and consequently missed part of the Civil Service Exam. Congrats. to them both on passing the Police Exam.!

Tpr. Richens had a short but hectic stay here on his way to "Blighty" on long leave, and Sgt. Kiddle has also departed hence.

On the 16th June Fort Victoria "soccer" team went to Mashaba, and after rather a scrambly match drew with their opponents two all. Tprs. Malt and Maslin, Det. Harris and Const. Crossen played for Fort Victoria, Malt, Harris and Crossen being the mainstays of the team. This match was followed by a "battle bridge" affair at Mashaba.

The third match of the season was played at Fort Victoria on the 28th June, 1924, ending in a draw—one all. So far each match has been drawn.

On 27th June a fancy dress dance was held on behalf of the Loyal Women's Guild, and judging from everyone's remarks, it was a great success; at least, I found it so myself. The dresses were exceptionally good and would compare favourably with Salisbury.

Cpl. Cowgill has been transferred to Salisbury on the ground of ill-health. We are all very sorry to lose him, and wish him better health in the capital.

"SIMUKA-SIMUKA."

FILABUSI.

Filabusi still m—er—calling!

Am afraid our notes this month will be somewhat scanty, as work is so pressing.

Tpr. Nagle returned from Bulawayo looking very fit. His tongue now being completely healed—shh! but every peevish at having lost his "wisdom teeth," which I take it, is the cause of him obliging us with so much, oh! such lovely music.

During the latter part of last month Tpr. Murray passed through on transfer to Belingwe, and looking very fit. Awfully sorry we couldn't oblige *re* the big cats, Paddy! You certainly do like reading. Thanks!

THINGS WE SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW:

Who was the trooper rudely awakened from his peaceful slumbers by the yells of a comrade who was complaining of the "heat"? and perhaps Belingwe might be able to inform us (if it doesn't put them out).

Why a certain trooper kissed a spruit whilst on patrol? And if it wasn't possible to find a more appropriate place?

Is it true that a certain trooper in the vicinity is buying a "Rolls," or is he going to retire?

Is it the fashion for "fungus" in Filabusi or is it an open competition? If the latter, I should like to point out that there is very little chance in some quarters.

Is it true that a certain country is only represented at Wembley by a calabash and a couple of assegais in a corner, which it took a certain gentleman days to find?

Why the sudden religious feeling in Filabusi as regards hats?

If the brains of Fort Rixon can't keep their notes up?

Why can't Shabani oblige us, as everybody is more or less very interested in that place? Of course, there is no need to put yourself out.

"WHO'ST."

MTOKO.

There is but little of interest to relate this month, but we must see what crops up as we proceed.

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Powley left our midst last month, returning to Darwin whence they came towards the close of last year. All the residents of Mtoko were very sorry to see them go, as sports were encouraged umpteen per cent. during their short stay.

Mr. and Mrs. Lenthall and family returned from leave, which unfortunately was somewhat spoilt on account of illness whilst down south.

The district has once more been visited by lions, which caused considerable damage to native cattle. Twenty head of cattle were reported to have been killed. One of the marauders has been killed by means of a trap-gun set by a native.

Cpl. Champion recently had the thrilling experience of treading upon the tail of a leopard which he was hunting at night. Luckily the said leopard's powers were slightly curbed as a result of indulging in a meal doctored with strychnine, and the aforesaid member of the B.S.A. Police remains on full duty!

Dr. S. Gurney, of the Muskwe Medical Mission, was recently taken to Salisbury hospital suffering from an internal complaint necessitating an operation. At the time of writing we learn that he is mending as well as can be expected. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Ely, of the Native Department, with Mrs. Ely, has left Mtoko on transfer to Umtali, which station we hope they will prefer to their last.

Large swarms of locusts have visited the district during the month and are still flying in all directions, and are gradually putting the cabbage patch *junctus officio*.

There being no more to prattle about at the moment, the above, Mr. Editor, must suffice.

"KYE-KYE."

UMTALI.

Dear Mr. Editor, at the time of writing these notes we are in the midst of "Umtali Week," so it is rather unfortunate that one has to close one's notes so early to enable them to be included in the July issue of our journal.

The Agricultural Show has come and gone. The weather was fine, if a little cold, but this was favourable to the horse events. The show ground is small, but fairly compact, the only drawback being in my opinion the slope of the ground.

The agricultural exhibits in the way of grain, beans and potatoes were good, as were also the poultry exhibits and cattle; but in my opinion the entries for sheep and goats were small and the horse exhibits rather disappointing. Nevertheless, taking the show all round, it was good, though the crowd was never very great. This may be due to the fact that most of the Umtali folk were at

business, and could not get away. The attendance on the last day was much better.

The Police gave a good account of themselves in the horse events. The results were as follows:

Rings and Pegs: 1st, Cpl. Hawden; 2nd, Major Stops.

Victoria Cross Race: 1st, Tpr. Ward; 2nd, Cpl. Hawden.

Bending Race: 2nd, Cpl. Stephens.

Hack under 14.2: 1st, Cpl. Stephens; 2nd, Tpr. Pithey.

Hack over 14.2: 3rd, Cpl. Thompson.

Jumping: 2nd, Tpr. Funnell.

The wrestling on horseback caused much amusement, and later much sorrow when the shirts of the competitors were examined. The Police teams were far too light, and if anything a bit too slow in tackling. I am glad to say they are better at tackling criminals, otherwise the latter would generally be at large. With the exception of the winners in the tent-pegging and rings, the performances of the competitors were not of a very high order. This was no doubt due to the "Pipe Band" from Salisbury, which dispensed "Scotch music" near the peg; and it was perfectly clear to an outsider that the mounts, instead of having their hearts in the work, were looking for the heather. The Arnold Quartette dispensed sweet music in the Agricultural Hall during the afternoon, after the official opening. The town was decorated with bunting and coloured lights, and looked quite gay, and smiles were seen on the faces of some of our local storekeepers, who have not been seen to smile for nearly a year. I think the only people who did not smile during Show week were the wretched purchasers and the Town Police. Still, the latter did their work well and there were no accidents. There have been dances every evening which have been well patronised, and there are golf matches and motor excursions to the surrounding beauty spots.

On the 12th July there was a gymkhana meeting, in which a Police race was provided. I feel certain that all members of the Police are very grateful to the handicapper, Mr. Mackintosh, who took so much trouble over this race; and all will admit, I feel certain, that his judgment was fair, which was later proved by the running of the horses. Monty was the winner, whilst the following horses exhibited excellent form: Hops, Velos, Nuggett, Boy Blue, and last, but not least, Morning Star. Our thanks are also due to Major Stops and the official starter for their consideration and helpfulness. I think all hands will now agree that it is not necessary to gallop a horse repeatedly on a race course to get him into condition. This was clearly brought home to one when the animals were brought back to the paddock, for there was not a fleck of sweat on their coats.

Umtali District Police horses which are schooled every morning under the D.S.P. or A.D.S.P. proved by their performances in both the Show and gymkhana meeting that they are as fit as any horses on the countryside, if not fitter. Another year, given the same horses, which are mostly remounts, we will pull off the jumping, be it over hurdles or the high jump.

In the evening following the meeting the Umtali Choral Society gave their first night show of that well known and popular Gilbert and Sul-

Ivan opera, "The Mikado." As is generally the rule with amateurs, at the commencement of the evening a little nervousness was exhibited, but this soon wore off. The house was crowded.

Miss Charter as "Katisha" was, in my opinion, the star of the evening. Not only did she fill the role to perfection, but her dress was exceptionally pretty and true to character. Her acting was excellent. Next, I think, come Mr. Mayo in the character of "Ko Ko," and C. V. Rowles. Between them they kept the house in roars. Miss Lovett made a charming "Yum Yum." Her voice is quite sweet and her acting good. She will excel herself in the next two performances, which promise to bring forth crowded houses. Mr. Roberts, as "Nanki-Poo," was quite good. He has a pleasant voice and seemed very much at home in the "Kissing Duet." I almost envied him, and I know quite a few others did. Mr. Chataway was very good as "The Mikado," but his voice did not travel very well. This may be due to the building. The other characters were all good, and the chorus work excellent.

Mrs. Willingham deserves the greatest of praise for her excellent scene painting of "Ko Ko's" garden; it was beautifully finished.

The instrumental part of the performance was very good. This was largely due to our drum expert, Ma Chia Nsimbi, who made the drums crash with a vengeance. He is in great demand just at present in the orchestra.

That is a lovely suit, Tiney, but the tie a trifle loud, what! How did you manage it?

There are golf championships on the board for the next two days.

On Sunday, the 13th, a band performance in the park.

We have had a few visitors in town from other stations for the festivities, viz., Sgt. Hughes-Halls from Salisbury, who has been doing the "gay dog" amongst the ladies; Tpr. Funnell from Headlands, and Davies, the "Nuggett" of "Nuggetts"; old Bill Howard from Odzi, who was unfortunately prevented from competing in the jumping at the show owing to the indisposition of his horse; Cpl. Hawden from Penhalonga, our "Stable Jockey." Well done, old bean, you pulled it off, also our bets, and rooked the tote and bookies.

We are now expecting an unholy rush of Police footballers for a match on the 14th July. It was quite good to see what an excellent performance the Salisbury rugby team gave which visited us during June last. They severely tore our local team. It was nice to see that there were so many Police members playing, and that they carried the Police colours to victory.

I was very sorry to see that the "Duke of Westminster," of Chipinga, did not send his champion racer "Mustard" through for the gymkhana meeting. "Velos" would have twisted him severely, I feel certain. We live on deeds here, not reports.

Lest I forget it. Wonders never cease. Sammy shot a leopard whilst out on his last patrol. The beast put up a devil of a fight, I hear, but Sgt. Pat Keeley's boxing advice was followed, and the kidney punch was too much for the animal, which now graces the barrack-room floor. He is now making enquiries for the whereabouts of three lions which are reported to be in his area.

"Pretty Polly" and Pithey indulged in a game of "Ping Pong" at the jumps a few days ago. "Polly" pinged and Pithey ponged. Unfortunately the pong came when there were quite a few spectators. Pithey proceeded to look for the ball, and is of opinion that the ground was hard and "Polly" not a sport. "The best of friends must part, Pithey."

Tpr. W——, how did you square Dick to wait for you whilst you stuck the lance in the peg? Did you have bird lime on the rings? What do you carry in your wallets?

Is it true that "Poofiti" Davis burnishes his gramophone records?

Would Major mindger using his gramophone? No, if you buy him a few new records.

No notes from out-stations so far. Buck up, you blighters; you love to read the paper, even if some of you are too mean to buy one. The paper can never be expected to grow larger and more interesting until you become sporting and support same.

A young trooper who recently joined this troop saw our Farrier with a singeing lamp, singeing one of the horses. He walked through the stable and shortly afterwards returned.

"I say, 'Farrier Bloke,' there is another one standing over in that corner, and he is shivering like hell!"

Farrier T——, getting measured for a suit for Show week, to tailor: "Tailor, make me look as smart as you can."

Tailor: "My lad, you've made a mistake; I'm a tailor, not a blcoming conjuror."

"NDHLOVC."

CHESS.

It was not anticipated that many would solve the problem given in the June issue. To those who managed it, our congratulations are due. Solution as follows:—

White.		Black.	
1.	Kt—B 1 (key move)	1.	K—Q 5
2.	Q—B 6 Ch.	2.	K—K 6
3.	Kt—B 4 Mate.		
		If 1.	K—K 3
2.	Kt—Q 3	2.	K—Q 2
3.	Kt—B 5 Mate.		
		If 1.	K—Q 5
2.	Q—B 6 Ch.	2.	K—Q B 4
3.	Kt—Q 3 Mate.		

A fine example of the power of the nimble knight.

The winning six moves in the game published in June are given herewith for the benefit of those who took the trouble to work them out and would like to verify their efforts:—

White.		Black.	
14.	B—K 3	13.	B—B 4 Ch.
15.	K—R 2	14.	B x B Ch.
16.	K—R 3	15.	P—Kt 6 Ch.
17.	P—K 6	16.	B—B 1 Ch.
18.	Q—Kt 4	17.	B x P Ch.
		18.	B x Q Mate.

Any other line by white would have resulted in an earlier mate and a forced sacrifice of the Queen in any case.

The following game was played in the ninth

round of the recent International Masters' Tournament at New York:—

White, E. D. Bogoljubow. Black,

J. R. Capablanca.

Queen's Pawn Opening.

1 P—Q 4, Kt—K B 3; 2 Kt—K B 3, P—Q 4;
3 P—K 3, P—K 3; 4 B—Q 3, P—B 4;
5 P—Q Kt 3, Kt—B 3; 6 Castles, B—Q 3;
7 B—Kt 2, Castles; 8 Q Kt—Q 2, Q—K 2;
9 Kt—K 5, P x P; 10 P x P, B—R 6; 11 B x B.
Q x B; 12 Q Kt—B 3, B—Q 2; 13 Kt x Kt,
B x Kt; 14 Q—Q 2, Q R—B 1; 15 P—Q B 3,
P—Q R 3; 16 Kt—K 5, B—Kt 4; 17 P—K B 3,
B x B; 18 Kt x B, R—B 2; 19 Q R—B 1,
K R—B 1; 20 Q R—B 2, Kt—K 1; 21 K R—B 1,
Kt—Q 3; 22 Kt—K 5, Q—R 4; 23 P—Q R 4,
Q—Kt 3; 24 Kt—Q 3, Q x P; 25 Kt—B 5,
Q—Kt 3; 26 R—Kt 2, Q—R 2; 27 Q—K 1,
P—Q Kt 3; 28 Kt—Q 3, R—B 5; 29 P—R 5,
P x P; 30 Kt—B 5, Kt—Kt 4; 31 R—K 2,
Kt x Q P!; 32 P x Kt, K R x Kt; 33 Resigns.

It would be fatal for white to take the Rook, for if: 33 P x R, Q x P Ch.; 34 K—R 1, R x R!, and wins. Any other move black wins by superiority in pawns and position.

Try a four-mover this month:—

White.	Black.
K on K R 1	K on K 5
Q on Q 2	Pawns on K B 3
B on Q Kt 3	Pawns on K Kt 3
Pawns on K 2	Pawns on K R 5
Pawns on K R 2	Pawns on K R 6

White to mate in four moves.

It may be mentioned here that problems to be properly solved should mate in the stipulated number of moves against every possible defence. The above four-mover is rich in variety in this respect. Solution next month.

Quite a few are familiar with the well known fool's mate—mate in four—but how many are aware that it is possible to be checkmated in two moves at the commencement of a game? This is how it is done; but the opening is not recommended for tournament play:—

White.	Black.
1. P—K B 3	1. P—K 3
2. P—K Kt 4	2. Q—R 5 Mate.

Games and problems are reproduced with acknowledgments to the *British Chess Magazine*.

“KING'S KNIGHT.”

BOXING.

The Rhodesia Amateur Boxing Championships are being held at the Drill Hall, Salisbury, on 16th August, 1924, and it is hoped that our enthusiasts in the Police will come forward and maintain their reputations. Unfortunately two of our star turns, Cpl. Jordan and Tpr. Pickup, will be away on leave, but we still have good talent in the Corps capable of holding their own amongst the best.

WANTED.—A good portable Gramophone.—Reply “Police,” Gokwe.

SOCCER NOTES.

There is little to relate since last month's notes appeared, only one match having been played—against Raylton in the second round of the Austen Cup. Incidentally it is our first match since Ansell and Crick left for England, and our half-back line is entirely changed with Merrington centre-half and Spalding and Munro wings. (Merrington makes an excellent substitute for Ansell, and will do well when he settles down to his new position.) We have a great find in Quin at centre forward if we can keep him for the rest of the season.

The game against Raylton ended in another victory for the Police by 3 goals to 1 (Quin, Ryder and Grimmett). It was a ding-dong game and looked like ending in a draw, but two goals in the latter quarter of an hour decided the match, and we are now in the final for Salisbury district, the winners to meet Untali on the 16th August.

Another interesting event was Mashonaland's visit to Beira and Untali, five of the Police again figuring: Simpson in goal, Reid back, Poole half-back and Saville and Grimmett on the right wing. It was a record for Mashonaland, in that they won all three matches: 2—0 against the Portuguese, 2—1 against the pick of Beira and 2—0 against Untali. To travel 750 miles in five days and play three matches with success in itself says a lot for the fitness of the players, and tends rather to disprove the arguments adduced by “Work and Play” in last month's issue. Out of the six goals scored, five were by past and present members of the Police—Saville 2, Grimmett 2 and Winward 1, and an outstanding feature through all three games was the goalkeeping by Simpson. In the Untali match the victory of Mashonaland was entirely due to the custodian, who brought off some wonderful saves.

Up to the present the Police are undefeated, at the top of the League by two points and two matches in hand, and have great prospects of pulling off two other trophies.

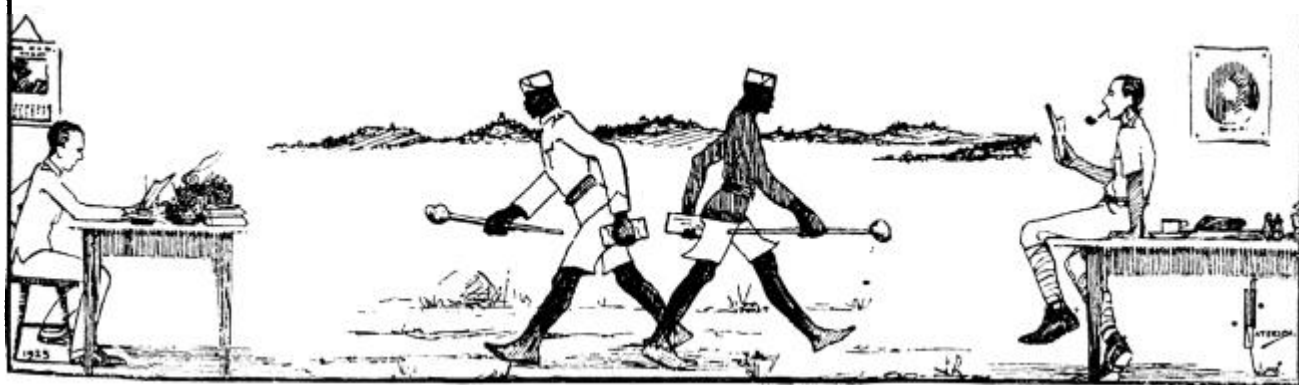
Next week we meet the Callies in the League, and probably again on Sunday in the replay for the Salisbury Challenge Cup.

NOTICES.

The Manager must be notified of any change of address, as otherwise he is unable to guarantee the delivery of the Journal.

Subscribers are asked as far as possible to give their support to the tradespeople who advertise in our columns.

CORRESPONDENCE.



The Editor will be pleased to publish correspondence on any matter of interest to the Corps, but criticisms of Orders or personal grievances cannot be voiced in these columns.

The Editor, *The Outpost*.

Sir,

Police Conferences.

Although "Pro-Conference" thinks that strong exception should be taken to the article in the April number, he puts forward very weak criticism of same. To reply to his letter one must take the questions as they are asked. He asks: "Is the reputation of the Police discredited by conferences?" Yes; conferences savour of the Russian workman and soldiers' councils.

He says: "There are fewer causes of dissension," and "More reason that conferences should be held, otherwise it would be possible for rank disaffection to appear." May I venture to inform him that Schedule "C" deals with dissension and rank disaffection?

We are selected because we are physically fit and spirited; if we are not physically fit, we cannot join; if we are not spirited enough for our soldierly duties, we are soon weeded out.

Loyalty, patriotism and adventure are virtues that cannot be jeered at, even mildly, as "far-fetched"; for these qualities have made the Empire.

One cannot compare the S.R. Civil Service or Police forces in England with this Corps. We are a *military* Police force, the regular army of Southern Rhodesia, under a *disciplinary* system and *not* a *conference* system. Does "Pro-Conference" know that in one district a dozen men refused to vote for anyone to attend the last conference?

In his criticism, "Pro-Conference" has conveniently overlooked the last two lines of the article: "A study of military history leads one to the conclusion that any corps is better off without discussions." Has "Pro-Conference" ever read any military history? In France in 1792 the system of conferences began to spread in the army, discipline gave way everywhere, the soldiers held conferences and got so familiar with their superior officer that one regiment (the Royal Champagne Regiment) mutinied because their officers did not ask them to dinner. Another instance of the same period. "Do not buy too many horses," said

Bischoffswerder to some Prussian officers setting off in 1792; "the comedy will not last long. The army of lawyers will soon be annihilated." This prediction came true.

Right through military history, of any period or nation, where latitude of discussions or conferences has been allowed, there followed *decay* of discipline.

Quite recently the Irish army admitted their mistake in allowing conferences.

Conferences have never been allowed in the British Army. "Pro-Conference" says the writer of the article makes a number of assertions without the least evidence in support of them. The above are *facts* in support of the article.

I am, etc.,

"YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT."

The Editor, *The Outpost*.

Sir,—With reference to the correspondence published in the columns of *The Outpost* last month *re* sport in Depot, I would like to give my opinion, not altogether on the sport in Depot, but on the correspondence and on the principle of publishing it in *The Outpost*. I think, in doing so, I am giving the opinion of not a few.

Do you not think that in a paper like *The Outpost*, which has, I believe, a very extensive circulation outside the boundaries of this Colony, being sent to a great number of Police Forces throughout the world, that correspondence such as we had last month should, in the interests of the B.S.A. Police, be left out?

The B.S.A. Police has a reputation throughout the world of being "a fine body of sportsmen." Does anyone imagine that by "grousing" they are going to substantiate that opinion in the outside world?

A joint meeting of the Headquarters Club and Depot Recreation Club was held in Depot on Thursday, 26th June, 1924, and it is at such a meeting that we expect to hear complaints made regarding sport. But were there any complaints forthcoming? No! Why? Because our good

friend "Work and Play" did not attend the meeting, presumably through lack of interest. He prefers to let the world think we are a "discontented lot of grouzers," and he is giving a very wrong impression.

My personal opinion of sport in Depot is that it is good.

The rugby team has won two matches by 13-0 and 12-6; two good wins. Their losses were 14-11, 14-11 and 10-9, which is very creditable indeed.

The following is the record of the soccer team up to the team of writing; it tops the League with a lead of four points:—

Goals.					
P.	W.	D.	F.	A.	P.
5	4	1	14	4	9

I think, Mr. Editor, that that will speak for itself.

There is no need to mention anything of golf, tennis or any other sport in Depot, as they are not included in the articles.

Of course, if this correspondence is published in the columns of *The Outpost* for the purpose of starting a controversy with a view to increasing the circulation, then all I can say is that it is in very bad taste, and some other subject might have been chosen for the purpose which would not have created such misapprehensions regarding sport in Depot in the minds of your readers.

I am, etc.,

H. REID,

Vice-Captain, Soccer Team.

[We do not agree with our correspondent, as the correspondence of which he complains gave both sides of the question. Had we published "Work and Play's" letter without comment, certainly Cpl. Reid would have had grounds for his remarks, but before publishing it we, as will be remembered, submitted it to three of the leading authorities on sport in Depot, and gave their views, and therefore the world could certainly not think we are a discontented lot of grouzers. Cpl. Reid is, of course, entitled to his opinion, as is everyone else, but we consider that the suggestion made in the last paragraph is a gratuitous insult for which there was no need, and which is absolutely unworthy of an N.C.O. of the B.S.A. Police. A casual reference to back numbers of *The Outpost* and its predecessor will show that such methods never have been adopted to increase circulation.—Ed., *Outpost*.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Simuka-Simuka" (Victoria).—Cannot trace receipt of your last notes, but many thanks for this month's lot. *Re* your query, we do not know if it is strictly official, but it is very frequently done.

"H.L.F." (Gwanda).—"I spend 2s. a day on cigarettes." Wholly smoke!

"E.W." (Gwelo).—"There was I, tearing up the field." Reminds us of our golf.

"T.R." (Bulawayo).—"Take it from me." Unfortunately we took it from the post orderly, otherwise we'd have given it back.

"M.D." (Hartley).—"Clever people require plenty of fresh air." That must be why we sleep with our window and door wide open.

"F.D." (Umtali).—"Circus performers must keep strictly sober." Of course, who ever heard of a tight rope walker.

"S.F." (Salisbury).—"And don't forget that money talks." Maybe; but it never gives itself away.

"D.L." (Gwanda).—"I understand that fish is good brain food. What sort do you advise?" Judging from your letter, we should advise a whale.

"D.P." (Que Que).—"Poultry keepers make far too large a profit on their eggs." Sounds a few affair.

"D.R." (Bulawayo).—"I motored sixty miles the other day without meeting a soul." Now you're back it must be a relief to run into people again.

"S.J.R." (Victoria).—"The girl of to-day knows how to look after herself all right." And, if she is pretty, the young man of to-day puts in quite a lot of time looking after her too.

"W.G." (Umtali).—"Half the feathers sold as ostrich feathers are nothing of the sort." Then apparently that's their *nom de plume*.

"J.L." (Salisbury).—"I firmly believe that character is indicated by handwriting." You can always tell an absconding cashier, for instance, by his slope.

"D.S." (Bulawayo).—"In real life the private detective accomplishes little." That's because he hasn't the Force behind him.

"E.R." (Umtali).—"I can't see anything in a cold bath." There is nothing in ours if the morning is chilly.

"H.F." (Hartley).—"I have got a very good nerve." We guessed it when we read your letter.

"F.B." (Plumtree).—"What won the Derby three years ago?" Humorist, but not everyone laughed.

"H.O.M." (Gwelo).—"My friends tell me I could make a living by my pen." What kind of fowls do you propose to keep in it?

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