

Correspondence

Professional Officers

TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA
 Sir, — In a recent issue of the Times of Malta, "Professional" throws further light on the unsatisfactory position obtaining in the Central Office of Statistics and shows that in the United Kingdom there is actually a Statistician Class of fully qualified professional men and women to provide and handle information essential to Government in the formulation of policy.

My Association had, of course, always held that professional posts in the Government service should be occupied by competent professional officers. The salaries attached to these posts should offer sufficient inducement to the right type of graduate to join the service and have an adequate career value to enable the expert to give his undivided service to Government.

We have not failed to lay our views before Government on more than one occasion; the subject was discussed in detail in 1952 when we protested against Government's intention to exclude an officer from appointment to the post of Acting Director of Agriculture merely because he happened to occupy a professional post within the Department and notwithstanding the fact that he was the Senior Officer in that Department.

That professional officers with the necessary qualifications should fill all professional posts, from the highest to

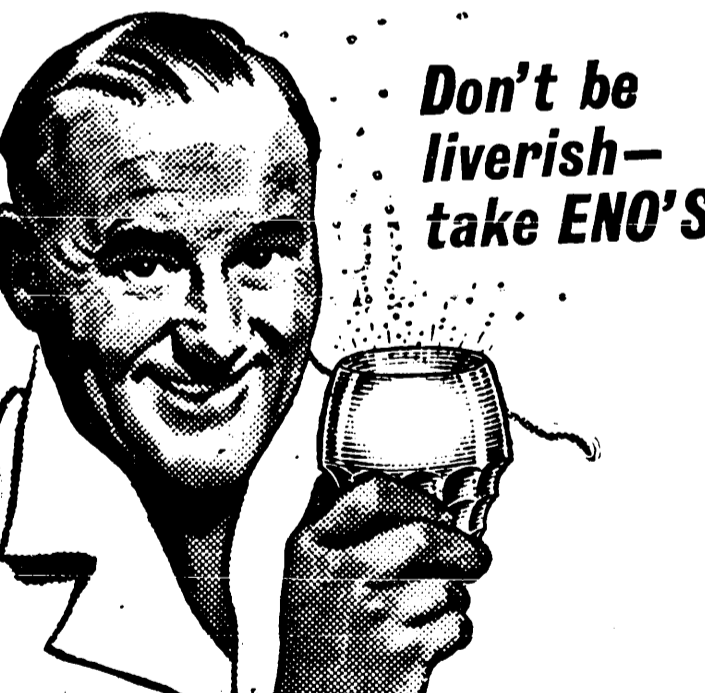
the lowest, should be self-evident. It is surprising to find the opposite view held in certain quarters and the result of its application may be gauged by the muddle it has created.

Our view is that the posts of Statistician, Senior Research Officer and Research Officer should be filled by fully qualified men. The salary scale attached to the post of Senior Research Officer, lower than that of a Higher Executive Officer, is far from adequate.

It is sad to reflect that the policy so far, has been to peg down the salaries of professional officers to unsatisfactory levels to the detriment of the officers concerned and the service in general. I need hardly say that it is the duty of my Association to try to bring about a change of such policy with all the legitimate means at its disposal.

In our opinion, there is no harm in giving a chance to suitable general service officers to compete for specialist posts provided, however, that on acquiring the requisite qualification they renounce to their chance of promotion in the general service. Otherwise, as it was rightly pointed out in the editorial, the public expense incurred in giving the necessary training and the experience gained by the officer in the speciality, will have been wasted.

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GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA
 Sir, — With reference to the controversy appearing in the Press regarding the contract for bituminous emulsion as well as to the Parliamentary Debate held recently thereon, and to the resultant conflicting statements, the easiest way out to satisfy the taxpayer would, in my view, be that of appointing a Board of Inquiry composed of three non-Government members and with a time limit in which to submit their report to the Prime Minister who will lay it on the Table of the Legislative Assembly.

This is a question wherein thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money are involved and all cards should be placed on the table once public opinion is being impressed with alleged facts which might allay confidence in the handling of contracts in general and in one tender in particular.

If the proposal to set up a Board of Inquiry is accepted, the terms of reference should be extended to a survey of the present contracts system and to possible recommendations thereon.

Yours truly,
 E. C. BORG.

Valetta.

"SHOW BUSINESS"

TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA
 Sir, — Mr. R. Tabone is correct in pointing out that the film "Show Business" was first shown in 1944. I am in possession of the "Picturegoer" issue dated Oct. 14, 1944, which shows that the film was released in England on October 16, of the same year.

In 1935 Constance Moore, one of the stars featuring in the film was only 16 at the time and still had to wait three years to make her film debut. Nancy Kelly was still younger, 14 to be exact. It is evident that the film could not have been made in 1935 as these two stars were unable to play adult roles at the time. Furthermore, every Film Stars Who's Who lists "Show Business" among Eddie Cantor's latest four films, and Winchester's Screen Encyclopaedia of 1946 states that George Murphy's 1944 films were "Show Business" and "Step Lively." Surely the copyright date furnished by the editor must be a nine-year slip.

Yours truly,
 LINO CASSAR.

Sliema.

TODAY'S B.B.C. PROGRAMME

5.30 a.m. News Headlines: 5.40 From the Editorials: 5.45 Lift up Your Hearts: 5.55 News Summary: 6 Music for Dancing: 6.45 General Speaking: 7 The News: 7.10 The Daily Service: 7.15 Radio Newsreel: 7.30 Books to Read: 7.45 Music Magazine: 8 The News: 8.10 Home News from Britain: 8.15 The Philippines: 8.30 The Song Shop: 9 Close Down: 10.30 From the Editorials: 10.45 What's it all About: 11.15

Science Review: 11.30 Commonwealth Club.
 Noon: News: 12.10 p.m. News Talk: 12.15 Sports Round-up: 12.30 Forces' Favourites: 1 Me and My Shadow: 1.15 Cricket: 1.30 Winifred Davey and James Moody: 1.45 Ulster Magazine: 2 The News: 2.10 Home News from Britain: 2.15 B.B.C. Scottish Orchestra: 3 Radio Newsreel: 3.15 Twenty Questions: 3.45 "Rodney Stone": 4.15 Talk about Jones: 4.45 Report from Britain: 5 News: 5.10 News Talk: 5.15 Music by Haydn and Brahms: 5.45 Cricket: 6.00 p.m. Over the Border: 6.15 Radio Newsreel: 6.30 Home and Away: 7 The News: 7.10 Home News from Britain: 7.15 Sports Round-up: 7.30 Twenty Questions: 8 The Little World of Don Camillo: 9 The News: 9.10 The Daily Service: 9.15 New Records: 10 Cricket: 10.15 Listeners' Choice: 10.45 What's it all About?: 11.15 Ulster Magazine: 11.30 The Way to Heaven's Door: 11.45 Close Down.

Roads to Bays

TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA
 Sir, — To the North of Armier are two small sandy bays which I and others have found ideal for bathing. Unfortunately the roads leading down to them are in a sad state of repair, especially the road to the more northern bay which, I think, is the prettier and more sheltered of the two.

A levelling and general first-aid patch-up of these two roads would, in addition to sparing car owners from damaging tyres, brake linings and springs, lessen also the congestion on other better known and more frequented beaches. I do not think that it is necessary here to repeat the usual plea for tourism because I think that those who cannot afford a yearly summer sojourn at Cannes, Nice or the Venetian Lido, have a right to disport and enjoy themselves on their own Riviera and play the tourists economically at home.

Driving down one of these roads you suddenly realize why Gozo and Comino, which loom like jagged jades on a sapphire satin setting, are designated on your passport as "Its Dependencies". Your life depends on keeping our dear dependencies always before your eyes during the dire and deep descent. And be thankful if, on reaching sea level, your wailing wife, panic-stricken progeny and all paraphernalia necessary for a day's outing are still intact inside your shaky but perhaps still valid car.

Yours truly,
 L. A. BUTTIGIEG.

Vittoriosa.

CINEMATOGRAPH FUND

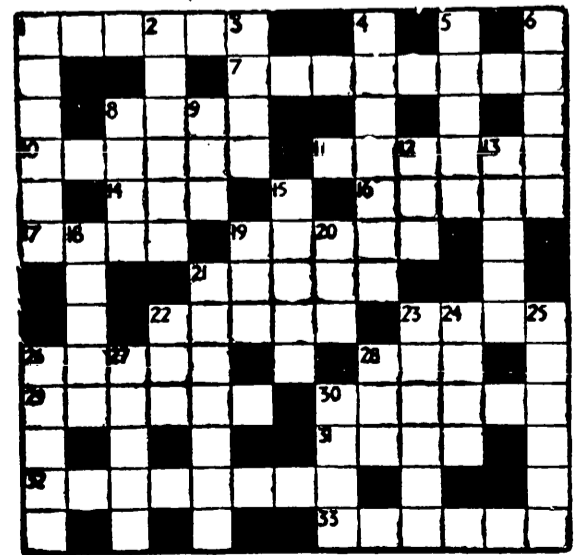
TO THE EDITOR TIMES OF MALTA
 Sir, — I was glad to read that the premiere of "The Flight of the White Heron" realized the sum of £142 odd for the coffers of the Malta Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund. As a member of the general public who contributed to this sum, may I please be informed who benefits by this fund?

Yours truly,
 L. SPITERI.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS:— 1 Do camels find them back-breaking? (6); 7 Certain animals stand on them (8); 8 Man, possibly (4); 10 Not comfortable if it's too second half (6); 11 Such scenery is magnificent (6); 14 Portion of treacle tart (3); 16 High-flown sources of diversion (5); 17 It's on the Wye (4); 19 More than a line of cloth (5); 21 Pickle of a kind (5); 22 May become an officer, but certainly doesn't start as a gentleman (5); 23 Part of a play (4); 26 Far from urban (5); 28 May follow the Royal Hunt (3); 29 He has a lot to say (6); 30 A friend dined with taste (6); 31 He starts a bell ringing (4); 32 They're dark, and have their nights (8); 33 Windows have them (6).

CLUES DOWN:— 1 You may eat it and retire (6); 2 Passages, as about "8 Across" (6); 3 Dish from the West (4); 4 Follower of a deer, maybe (7); 5 Value of a mitre? (5); 6 They won't burn (5); 8 A word from Bill Sykes (4); 9 A great deal (3); 12 Do dress-makers earn this money? (3); 13 Where the plane crashed? (5); 15 Snake with a little girl's head? (5); 18 Can make you wrinkle up your nose (5); 19 He helps to make the salad dressing (3); 20 Used in fishing and wine-tasting (3); 21 A certain amount of heat (7); 22 May give itself a licking (3); 23 Monarchs tending to be wooden? (6); 24 No palindrome for a stone (4); 25 They're hard to anticipate (6); 26 Two names to describe a prince (5); 27 Foreign ruler (5); 28 Went after a horse, once (3); 30 Get rid of the ball (4).



17 Oder; 18 Arrest; 19 Jilts; 20 Cherub; 22 Tern; 24 Her; 25 Capered; 26 Piers; 27 Float; 28 Ascot; 29 R-ever-ly; 30 Cheer; 31 Dried.
 DOWN:— 2 Plated; 3 Af-fair; 4 Tay; 5 Chain; 6 Honours; 7 Anon; 8 Pampas; 12 Sahib; 13 Poach; 14 L-ever; 15 Wes-ser; 16 Stand; 18 Atlas; 19 Ju-pit-er; 21 Health; 22 Teaser; 23 Re-pose; 25 Creep; 26 Pare; 28 Aid (Ida).

LOCAL RELAY PROGRAMME

Switch A
 The General Overseas Service of the B.B.C. with the following additions and substitutions:
 9.00 a.m. Family Fare: 9.30 Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley — Part 3; 10.00 Come All Ye Good People; 6.00 p.m. Malcolm Miles in All The Best; 10.45 Palace of Varieties; 11.15 Bandstand; 11.45 Bands and Midnight: God Save The Queen.

Switch B
 Ave Maria, Saint of the Day: 6 a.m. Music for Dancing: 6.45 Unit Call; 7.15 Weather Forecast: 7.20 Morning Music; 8 Religious News; 8.30 From the Opera; 8.20 Ernesto Nicolini and his Orchestra; 8.45 Saidenber and Rebner at the Piano; 9 Women's Half-Hour: 9.30 The Fragna Orchestra; 10 Housewives' Choice; 11 Swing from Paris; 11.30 Songtime with Curt Massey; 11.45 Chamber Music (interrupted for Angeus); 12.15 p.m. Nello Segurini and his Orchestra; 12.50 What's On: 1 The Angelini Quartet; 1.25 Interlude; 1.30 The Becton Story — Ep. 8; 1.45 The Lower Quintet; 2.15 History Through the Microphone; 2.45 The Charloerees; 3 Piano Music by Villa-Lobos; 3.30 Light Music and Songs; 4 Announcements Bulletin; 4.15 Tea Time Tunes; 4.30 Children's Magazine; 4.50 World News in Maltese; 5 Gino Conte and his Orchestra; 5.30 Public Relations Office News; 5.50 Local News.
 6 p.m. Nilla Pizzi Sings with Lelio Lutazzi and his Orchestra; 6.30 Maltese Miscellany; 6.45 Dance Music; 7 Paris Symphony Orchestra; 7.30 National Lottery Programme, presented by Tony Agius and his Trio; 8 Operatic Duets; 8.15 Casa Cugat; 8.30 Recital (A) Nadette Galea, piano; 9 Piano Magazine — including "Alberto u Agnese" by V. Busuttill; 10 Malta Cultural Institute Programme; 11 Tomorrow's Highlights, Hymn of Malta.

F.B.S. — TRIPOLI

5.30 a.m. Morning Miscellany; 6 Weather Forecast; 6.01 Morning Miscellany; 6.30 Record Roundabout; 7 The News; 7.10 The Daily Service; 7.14 Weather Forecast; 7.15 Close Down; 11.30 Commonwealth Club.
 Noon: News: 12.10 p.m. News Talk; 12.15 Sports Round-up; 12.30 Forces' Favourites: 1 Me and My Shadow; 1.15 Cricket: 1.30 Four Hands in Harmony; 1.45 Ulster Magazine; 2 Cavalcade of Music; 2.30 Life with the Lyons; 3 Piano Playtime; 3.15 Twenty Questions; 3.45 "Rodney Stone"; 4.15 "Talk about Jones"; 4.45 Jamaican Folk Songs; 5 The News; 5.10 Local Announcements; 5.15 Music by Miler; 5.30 Educating Archie.
 6 p.m. Music for You; 6.15 Radio Newsreel; 6.30 Home and Away; 7 Evening Star — Nad King Cole; 7.15 Sports Round-up; 7.30 Letters from Home and the Canal Zone; 8.15 Prisoner at the Bar; 8.45 F. Waller; 9 The News; 9.10 Record Changer; 10 Close Down.

Solution to Yesterday's Puzzle

ACROSS:— 1 Sp-rat; 6 Happy; 9 Fashion; 10 Taffy; 11 Norma; 12 Si-M.O.-n; 13 Pelican; 15 Was (Ted);

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