



CALLOUS CATSMEAT CUT CAUSES CRIMINAL CASE

PERTINACIONS POSTBOY PILES PROVENDER ON POST OFFICE PUSSIES

MISAPPROPRIATION CHARGE FAILS

A case of extraordinary interest came before Mr. Justice Turner, K.O., at the Supreme Court to-day, when Percival Postbagge, aged 16, an employee of the P. & T. Department, was charged with misappropriation of Government funds to the extent of tenpence.

Mr. Bubble prosecuted, and Mr. A. R. Hill appeared for accused. Mr. R. A. F. Grey watched the proceedings on behalf of the P. & T. Department. Mr. W. E. Watchem watched them on behalf of the S.P.C.A. Several members of this Society brought along their own pets, but the judge ordered their removal at an early stage.

Mr. Bubble, outlining the case for the Crown, pointed out how the Government had entered on a policy of ten per cent. cuts in all departments, affecting all classes from school teachers to pork butchers, but the plan had met with a good deal of squealing. The P. & T. Department had been ordered to curtail expenses and the officials had done their utmost. Less gum was put on the stamps, all nibs of any value had been removed from the desks, civility had been entirely dispensed with, and yet the men at the head of affairs felt there was a leakage still going on. Consequently an ultimatum from the Chief Postmaster ordered that pencils were to be rationed at one among every three employees, and that all the staff were to supply their own fountain-pen ink. In spite of this a certain leakage still went on, and at last the Government had to take the extreme step of applying the ten per cent. cut to the catsmeat allowance, realizing that here was an opportunity of saving two pounds seventeen shillings and eightpence halfpenny a month. This had not been done without considerable forethought and grief on the part of the Government. The Prime Minister, himself a great cat lover, only yielded to the measure under extreme pressure, and declared on the floor of the House with tears in his eyes that he could never again look a mouse-trap straight in the face.

It appeared, however, that the cats in the Auckland C.P.O. were still receiving their full ten pennyworth. Mr. Bubble then produced a grey tomcat, which he said had been systematically weighed, and had, in the opinion of Dr. William Pet-It, eaten no less than ten pennyworth of catsmeat every week since the cut. The police were accordingly informed, a close watch kept, and on the 8th inst. the accused was arrested. He had in his possession at the time such a quantity of rump steak as could not have been bought even at the Meat Auctions for ninepence. "The boy must have taken this money from some illegal source," concluded Mr. Bubble. "In short, he has robbed the Government and I

ask for the maximum penalty."

For the defence Mr. Hill said he would not occupy the attention of the Court for long. In the first instance, the boy acted with commendable zeal. When the edict went forth that the ten per cent. cut would affect his *protégés*, accused went and explained the matter to them. They said nothing in reply, but he judged from their general demeanour that a mice-catching strike would probably ensue. "Thus," said counsel, "a national crisis confronted this young lad. With considerable acumen he set about collecting Australian pennies. These he tendered in payment for the meat, and as New Zealand money is definitely worth more than Australian he was actually making a substantial saving. Mr. Hill said he had just received a cable from Mr. Lang offering to come over and advise the P. & T. Department if necessary." At the mention of this famous statesman's name the Court rose as one man and sang "God Defend New Zealand."

The jury retired for three and a-half minutes, and then returned with a unanimous verdict of not guilty, and Postbagge left the Court amid the purrs of seventy-five cats who had been hurried up in mail vans in anticipation of this happy ending. A pleasing touch at the conclusion of the sitting was the distribution, by the Foreman of the jury, of bags of Australian pennies to the children assembled about the Court.

OUR GIFT SCHEME

Owing to the expiry of the coupon system in July we have reluctantly to hold over details as to what competitors have to do. Next term, when our solicitor has consulted the Minister for Internal Affairs, we shall give details. Meanwhile, save the coupons.

FRENZY

Students and public alike are given this final reminder of our play, which opens its season at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday, and will be presented on the following Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

"Frenzy" is definitely the best play we have done for a number of years, and the final rehearsals are enthusiastically spoken of by the author-producer, Mr. J. S. Coppard.

The following is the cast of the principal characters:—

Marmaduke Jones, Mr. R. F. A. Grey; Agatha Jones (his wife), Miss Peggy Cherry; Gill Hamilton, Miss Dawn Collier; Aspidistra (their servant), Miss Rona Munro; William (in love with Gill), Mr. I. N. Moir; Joseph (his henchman), Mr. B. Kingston; Shade of Napoleon, Mr. Tubby Edwards; Shade of Confucius, Mr. E. B. Patterson; Shade of Captain Kidd, Mr. J. Gregory; Bill Bloggs (a navvy), Mr. Spragge; 'Erb (a bookie), Mr. A. Stubbs; Barber, Mr. T. Ellison; 1st Navvy, Mr. L. Smith; 2nd Navvy, Mr. S. White; 3rd Navvy, Mr. D. Milliken; 4th Navvy, Mr. A. Stubbs; Policemen, Business Men, Communists, Blue Shirts, etc.

Students are urged to attend themselves and to advertise our show as much as possible among their friends and relations. The Students' Association relies a great deal for its finances on the success of the annual play. You can do your bit towards that success. Students concession tickets (4/-) are available in the College Library and at the Cafeteria. These entitle the purchasers to reserved seats at Lewis Eady Ltd. Patrons are reminded that the ticket itself will not admit, but must be exchanged for a Theatre Pass. The Box Plan opened on Monday, and is rapidly filling. Get in before it is too late.

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COLLEGE COUNCIL TAKES ACTION

The Executive wishes it known that the Registrar will have notices erected prohibiting the parking of cars in the College grounds during dances. If these notices are defied the registration numbers of all cars in the grounds during dances will be noted and the owners will be summarily dealt with by the College Council.

THE SCORE BOARD

How 'Varsity Teams Have Fared To Date.

RUGBY

Senior A, 11—Marist, 0.
Senior A, 13—Manukau, 3.
Senior B, 9—Marathon, 20.
Second A, 12—Marist, 3.
Second B, 6—R.N.R., 27.
Thirds, 3—Suburbs, 24.
Third (Int.), 14—Marist, 3.

HOCKEY

Seniors, 0—St. Luke's, 3.
Second A, 2—St. Luke's, 1.
Second B, 6—Somerville, 1.

BASKETBALL

Senior Knockout.

A's, 3—G.O.G., 6.
C's, 6—B's, 5.
C's, 4—T.C., 9.

HARRIER CLUB

This club was inaugurated on April 28th, at the close of the athletic season. Its primary purpose is to build up an athletic team which will lose the celebrated Wooden Spoon at the next Tournament.

The first formal meeting was held on May 6th, when the following officers were elected: Captain, G. Sceats; Deputy-Captain, A. Browne; Sec.-Treas., V. Simmonds; Committee, J. Graham, Henderson.

On Saturday, May 8th, the first training run was held at Mount Albert, over a course of five miles. Results were: A. Hill, 1; W. Vaughan, 2; R. Hussard, 3.

Final Sprints: (1) H. Gruzning, 1; G. Graham, 2; V. Simmonds, 3; (2) G. Sceats, 1; A. Browne, 2; J. Blamires, 3.

Last Saturday, the club participated in the Auckland Club run at Birkenhead Hill, Newton-King and Sceats gained places for 'Varsity.

All students are invited to join the club. It is hoped to have it represented at the N.Z. Cross Country Meeting at Hamilton later in the year.

Mr. Kohn, of Queen Street, has given a cup which will be awarded to the harrier gaining the most training points during the season.

On Saturday next, May 16th, the Club will hold a run over a five-mile course. The assembly will be at the Avondale Racecourse at 3 p.m. Afternoon tea will be provided.

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University College.

MAY 15, 1931.

THE DICTATION "LECTURE"

IS IT VALUE FOR VALUE?

Now that bursaries have been "cut" and incomes decreased, the very practical question arises as to whether we are getting the best value for our fees.

I have been nursing an opinion on one aspect of this matter for some time which I have decided to make public in order that other opinions may be learnt, and so perhaps ultimately some good may arise thereby.

I refer to lectures which are wholly or mostly occupied with the dictation of notes.

In the first place I will concede that in lectures in some subjects, such as languages, note-taking must necessarily occupy a large part of the time. As the lecturer proceeds with the students in these subjects, notes are given either for insertion in the text-books or compilation in a *vade mecum*.

These notes are supplemented in some cases by printed notes which are prepared and distributed by the lecturer from time to time. No fault can be found with the dictation of notes in such cases, since the notes would no doubt lose a great deal of their value if they were printed and distributed beforehand.

I make bold to say, however, that the value of notes in many subjects would be enhanced if they were printed and distributed either at the beginning of the first term or by instalments as the lectures progressed, instead of occupying most of the lecture time with their dictation, as at present. The lectures in these subjects are for the most part a contest of speed between the lecturer and the lectured, with a side competition in each bench to see who has the fewest blanks. In my opinion the lectures in philosophy afford an example in point. Year after year, almost the whole of these lectures is occupied in taking down notes which on comparison are found to be almost word for word each year. If the mere fact of writing out the notes helped to instil at least some appreciation of the matters noted, there would be some, although not every, justification for the system.

However, very few students can take down from six to eight foolscap sheets of notes in an hour and at the end of it have an intelligent appreciation of what they have written. Particularly is this so when the subject is "new" to a student. I submit

that if in such a case printed notes were handed to students before the lecture commenced, and the lecture time was occupied in traversing and elucidating the notes, students would obtain infinitely more value from the lectures, both from the intellectual and economical points of view. It may be contended that from six to eight pages is far too much matter to take down by way of notes on an hour's lecture. So it is. The fact is, however, that in many subjects, notes given as above must of necessity be taken down practically verbatim as the student is so little conversant with the subject, or the lecturer proceeds so quickly that it is impossible for the student to rely on his ability to make a satisfactory précis of the matter given, and practically every word must therefore be taken down. Again, it may be said that the student should prepare his lectures and so be in a position to make a précis of the lecture. Even passing over the important fact that it is impossible for most students to keep ahead of the lectures, let alone keep up with them, such a contention must fail in most cases owing to the fact that there is generally nothing to enable the student to foretell in what order the branches of the subject will be dealt with. In "controversial" subjects, the student is, of course, practically debarred from preceding the unknown views of the lecturer.

I make no apology for entering on what some may regard as the sacred preserves of higher mortals. Having pegged out and paid for a claim lower down the hill, I am now working it to the best of my ability and expect to obtain from those above, at least their most favourable assistance, towards a hundred per centum return.

—AUDAX.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 1st, and the following officers were elected:—

Patron, Sir George Fowlds; President, Prof. Anderson; Vice-President, Prof. Belshaw; Student President, Mr. K. Melvin; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. W. Barker; Committee, Miss N. Callis, Messrs. R. Bell, B. Sinclair-Lockheart, J. Lowrie and G. Adams.

The new committee opened their term with a debate on Monday, May 11th, on the subject, "That the merits of jazz outweigh its defects." The judge, Prof. Anderson, placed the speakers, Mr. Melvin, Mr. Bell and Mr. Rowe, in that order. Next term a comprehensive programme will be carried out. Early in the term, too, an invitation social evening will be held with the intention of stimulating outside interest in the society.

CORRESPONDENCE

LIT. CLUB PLAYS AND "SCOTCH" REVIEWERS

(To the Editor)

Sir,—While admitting that your bihebdomadal perpetration is worthy of more praise than I suppose it receives, I greatly deplore its tendency to adhere to the cutworn methods of a bygone age so scathingly denounced by the late Lord Byron in his reference to Scotch reviewers (whether of nationality inbred or spirit imbued) and their habits of damning anything new or which they had not the mentality to understand. I refer particularly to your utterly conventional critique of the plays *The Legend* and *Something to Talk About*.

To damn so strongly a play like *The Legend*, when so ably presented, shows an obstinate disregard of the canons of criticism and a pettish personal prejudice. That the effect desired was attained was most obvious, and that your critic missed both the point of dramatic interest and the whole spirit of the play is equally so. I previously knew nothing of the play, but after consulting the producer I found that the effect he intended was just that which I experienced.

Your reviewer said that Miss Chambers gave a colourless portrayal, inferring that it was barely creditable. *It is a colourless rôle*, and, granted that it might have been better played, is not the fact that the impression of a woman, imbued solely with a deep passion for the sea and a love for a worthless husband and a "drowned" son, was conveyed, a matter for congratulation? A woman desolate with memories, set among non-understanding folk and with a soul as free and resolute as her Sea—I regret your critic does not understand.

That he does not understand the dramatic climax is clear—he refers to "the sodden apparition," but it is no ghost, it is the long lost son who returns in a storm which recalls another storm years before. To say the play has no literary merit is to forget that "Mrs. Reed" stands quietly and "colourlessly" by the table, set for a memory, and talks of the sea, its nature, its sentiments, its beauty and of the legends, unfolding unconsciously such a lofty spirit that the neighbour and the cultured clergyman can but sit silent until they fall back on ridicule to ease their own discomfort. I am afraid I must class your critic with the parson.

With the critique of the other play I also disagree, and think it distinctly over-laudatory. It was inclined to drag somewhat, like many of Eden Phillpott's plays, and lack of incident, accompanied by very slight dialogue, made it at times rather uninteresting.

The supper was excellent and I feel that here your critic was on happier ground.

M.

CLUB SECRETARIES

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LITERARY SECTION: Conducted by G. K. Chestandtum

HOW TO BRIGHTEN UP
OUR SOCIETY MEETINGS

No. 4. ENGINEERING SOCIETY

The College was given to understand
By a notice duly posted,
That the Engineering Society planned,
A show, of which they boasted
"Its like has not been seen before
It will create a grand furore
A thing you really can't ignore."
All this was what they boasted.

The meeting was held to demonstrate
(At least with that intention)
Professor P. W. Lambkin's great
Mechanical invention—
A real authentic metal man
That moved and talked and walked
and ran,
Did other things that humans can,
Too numerous to mention.

They say that the specification tells
Of its springs and gears and levers,
How its eyes were made out of sele-
nium cells,
And its ears were 'phone receivers.
How it ran on petrol which it drank
and stored up in a petrol tank
Located where one has one's [blank].
(I fear I've few believers.)

How its brain was made up of an
adding machine
And a gramophone recorder,
To contain all of which, as is easily
seen,
The skull must be much broader.
Which gave the creature quite an air
Of grave intelligence and care
Augmented by its lack of hair,
Its symmetry and order.

It was really a thing to have lived to
behold,
It well repaid inspection;
It did just exactly the things it was
told,
And did them to perfection.
But what most people thought was best
The part with which they were im-
pressed
Was how for Lambkin it expressed
The most profound affection.

And Percy (for Percival James was
its name)
Had manners quite delightful.
He said, "I'm quite well and I hope
you're the same,"
And was never, never spiteful,
While ladies stood he never sat,
Nor once forgot to raise his hat,
Nor practised the behaviour that
Makes 'Varsity so frightful.

In the midst of this very remarkable
scene,

While ladies strove to pet it,
It began to show symptoms, the first
there had been,
That something had upset it.
It may have been a spring that broke
Or someone played a stupid joke
(There are such injudicious folk
Although we all regret it.)

But whatever the reason, it suddenly
had
A reversal quite surprising,
Its manners, from good, became thor-
oughly bad,
And its temper went on rising.
I muttered sounds like "damn" and
"hell,"
And other naughty words as well,
Which Lambkin found he could not
quell,
It was so enterprising!

Those present soon gave it a fairly
wide berth,
It now no longer charmed them,
Each was anxiously wondering just
what on earth
Would happen if it harmed them.
For now it waved its arms around
And bellowed with a raucous sound
And stamped its feet upon the ground,
Which thoroughly alarmed them!

Professor P. W. Lambkin thought,
Though it would rather pain him,
That in view of this temper of Percy
he ought
In some way to restrain him
Until his petrol all ran out,
When he would cease to wave and
shout
And wave his metal arms about
In ways to almost brain him.

But Percy in some way had gathered
a hint
Of what Prof. was devising,
His selenium cells took a profligate
glint
And his temper kept on rising.
He fumed and spluttered, and gave
cough,
Then made a dart towards the Prof.
Who very sensibly made off,
An action not surprising.

He streaked up the road just as quick
as you think,
In lively consternation,
And Percival stopped but a moment
to drink
At a wayside petrol station,
Then off they went on their career,
With Percy slowly drawing near,

And Prof. half paralysed with fear,
At his awful situation.

I shudder at my task, indeed
I don't see how I can proceed
And don't you think it would be best
To draw a veil upon the rest?
The hope of payment or a bribe
Would not induce me to describe
The way that Percy dealt with him
And tore to pieces, limb from limb
A man of intellect so bright,
A great profession's leading light.
But I'm delighted to narrate
That in the most excited state
That his exertions had entailed
Poor Percy's lubrication failed,
And though he didn't care a jot
His bearings and his gears got hot.
At last this caused him to explode
And blow a crater in the road.
The searchers found, as they had
feared
That he'd completely disappeared.
So they gathered what they could of
Prof.

And had the remnants carted off.

THOSE SONGS

During the past year or two there
has been a great deal of discussion
about the Hongi Club and the
Women's Hongi Club, and numbers
of students are beginning to realise the
value of a get-together spirit, and to
wonder if our College is not after all
more like a night-school than a Uni-
versity. The social activities of the
College are run by the faithful few,
and the club-room so-called hardly
resembles a club-room so much as
Milne & Choyce's rest-room.

Such a state of affairs is unavoid-
able in a University largely filled with
part-time students, who have far too
little time for their studies to be able
to take a lively interest in social af-
fairs, or even to attend the entertain-
ments provided. Yet the fact that
something can be done to improve
matters, is shown by the improvement
that has already been effected through
the agency of coffee evenings. While
we continue these, may we not look
round for some other means of draw-
ing students into closer unity?

At the end of the Xmas vacation
I had the pleasure of travelling in the
same railway carriage with a party
of girls from a sister college. One
could not mistake their origin, for their
badge was conspicuous upon the very
cushion they carried. Not long after
they took their seats they began to
sing quietly from a wide repertoire,
which included several of our own old
favourites. They took parts, they im-
provised words, they produced song
books and learned as they went along.
There seemed no end to the concert
they could produce, and I felt almost
envious as I remembered how few are
the songs universally known among
Auckland students.

Yet more than once valiant efforts
have been made to teach us some new
songs. Practices have been held, fol-
lowed by dancing to take away the
taste. A lantern has been introduced
to supply the words. A fair collec-
tion of songs was offered, and every
effort was made to encourage us to
learn them. The response was half-
hearted, and most of the practices
broke up in disorder after chorused
objections and demands for a dance.

This was very natural. If the prac-
tices were not held in conjunction
with the dances, there would not be
the same conflict of interests. It is
true that at first there would not be
such a large attendance, but there
would certainly be a larger element
of enthusiasm. A system of Commu-
nity Singing among ourselves, if such
would not compete unduly with the
more serious and artistic efforts of the
Glee Club, might well prove very
popular. Regular "sing-songs" could
be held in the Common Room—songs
being chosen by reason of their having
well-known and catchy tunes, and
some dominating personality conduct-
ing. Our wits and versifiers would
be inspired more frequently to set
words to well-known tunes, old or
new. Finally, it might be possible
to compile a song-book (tunes speci-
fied) to allow of our learning the
words in our spare time and having
them with us at practices.

As matters stand, our songs arise
by chance, die as unexpectedly as they
appeared, and leave us with a stand-
ing repertoire of about half-a-dozen
ill-assorted ditties that must by now
be wearisome to the public. Those
who once delighted in going early to
our play in order to hear the student
section of the audience perform, are
now distracted by the noise and hooli-
ganism practised by those who have
nothing better with which to occupy
their (alleged) minds. The majority
of students do not behave like this
from preference so much as from bore-
dom. Given more songs, of a kind
that appealed to them, they would en-
joy themselves without acquiring quite
so much merited odium. On the other
hand, a little well-organised Com-
munity Singing would do more than
anything else to unite and cheer us.

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GRADUATION

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UNWARRANTED EXCURSION

(To the Editor)

Sir,—It was with amazement—nay, with disgust, that I gathered from your last number that a party of students, none of them, apparently, very proficient in the art of climbing, had actually scaled the spire of the College building. Surely it is not right that the delicate tracery, the frail cornices, of that "poem in stone" should be subjected to the danger of fracture from the frantic manœuvring of inexpertly wielded skis? What if that clock, by which hundreds time their goings out and their comings in, had been perforated by a chance blow from an ice-axe? Can your readers watch in apathy while our roof is treated as a public park, and littered with the crumbs, papers and orange-peel incidental to lunch, as consumed by the masses? Should not we, as the sole upholders, in a commercialised and soul-less world, of beauty and the more excellent things of the spirit—should not we, I say, strive to present to the community an uplifting example, rather than sink to the barbarous pleasures of the great unwashed. And should not the Professorial Board, so zealous in protecting our Alma Mater's interior from harm, (witness the notice-board), take steps to prevent her exterior from being desecrated by the aimless antics and witless wanderings of a number of her children who have apparently reverted to the type of their primitive ancestors.—I am, etc.,

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Mary Elizabeth (Betty), younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Buddle, of Takapuna, to Ian McKenzie, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Chambers, of Remuera.

OUR BIHEBDOMADAL HOWLERS

Professor (discussing "Faery Queen"): "Book II. deals with purity of body—I don't think there's much in that."

FUDDLED FRENCH.

La plage tranquille—Sleeping sickness.
Feminine of le coq—*La coquette*.
—Nelson College.

POETIC PORTRAITS

PROFESSOR FIH

I let all my kids play with slugs
Make pies out of worms and bugs.
I emphatically say,
Whenever I may,
That it's good for their dear little mugs.

D. S. L.

"Why does the lamb love Jeannie so?"
The eager students cried.
"Why, Jeannie loves the lamb you know,"

The janitor replied.

E. B. P.

I can do anything that you ask of me
Provided you don't ask me how.
I can build my nest in a rhubarb tree
And whistle like a cow.

S. W. Y.

Whenever I see a delectable she,
With eyes of pleasing design,
I know that the girl was created for me,
And I know she will never be mine.

BERNARD WIGHT

Full men(y) a flower is born to blush
unseen,
And waist its sweetness on the
desert air.
But, oh! You should have seen him
as the Queen,
With tangled roses in his hair.
—A. P. HERBERT.

Don't forget Sci-Soc's Competitions. See posters.

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