

THE BRITISH EXCHEQUER DIPS INTO SOCCER POOL

Taxes and Postal Receipts Induce Complacency
Over \$200,000,000 Gamble — Demand Is Made
For State Monopoly Or Control As Oper-
ators Reap Millions

LONDON, March 8.—In the midst of their worries over the fate of Austria and Czechoslovakia, Spain and China it may be somewhat reassuring to know that the British people can find time to bother about trouble nearer home, such as the national mania for gambling in all its forms.

Next to the Americans and Greeks the English must be the heaviest gamblers in the world. They gamble on stocks, bonds, cards, dice, horses, dogs and football games. Bridge, poker and chemin de fer flats run more or less openly throughout London's fashionable West End. And football pools, in which the total wagered reaches fantastic sums, are conducted with the sanction of law and with the active co-operation of the government's postal service, which reaps a tremendous profit thereby.

In the House of Commons the attention of Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was called to the 'extraordinary exploitation' of the people involved in football pool gambling and it was suggested that the government either should take over the business and run it as a monopoly or else impose special taxes and regulations to protect the public against gouging. But Sir John was disposed to let sleeping dogs lie and refused to fret over the moral issue.

"As long as I get the revenue I stand neutral," he remarked.

The government was not so complacent a few years ago when the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes were drawing millions of pounds sterling from this country to Dublin. Then the complaint was not against gambling as such, but against the departure of so much good money across the Irish Sea. On patriotic rather than moral grounds the Irish chance taking was outlawed as a lottery. It now operates in England to some extent but has been driven underground and the 10-shilling tickets are stealthily bootlegged.

By contrast the English football pool is operated in broad daylight. Their proprietors build no hospitals, but they do pay income taxes. A survey just completed states that three out of every four families contain one or more members who take their weekly plunge in a pool hoping to extract a fortune. The schedule of wagers

range from six pence to a pound. It is estimated that the pool receipts have run into \$200,000,000 annually, of which perhaps the net profit to the promoters is \$10,000,000 or more, and about \$15,000,000 is spent at the post offices for stamps and money orders.

The post office has been only too willing to hire extra staffs to take care of this rush of business. At Liverpool, for instance, the authorities have established a special sorting office with a staff of 200 to handle pool correspondence exclusively. In three months this one office handled more than 150,000,000 letters to and from the pool.

There are 10,500,000 separate households in England and Wales. Few of them escape the pool, which boasts 9,000,000 subscribers.

It is easy to subscribe. The prizes are based upon the results of the 40 to 50 professional soccer matches played every week in England and Scotland. All a subscriber has to do is to fill out a coupon, guessing which team will win, lose or draw. The odds against guessing all results correctly are overwhelming and therefore the few lucky ones are well paid. This season several individual prizes exceeding 20,000 pounds have been paid.

This lure of winning a fortune for a few pennies has universal appeal. Football pools were started as a poor man's pastime. Now the rich play them too. In Mayfair homes the master and the mistress, as well as the parlor maids and the chauffeurs, fill out their coupons religiously.

Soccer is the country's most popular game, drawing far larger crowds than does cricket or rugby, yet soccer fans have no great advantage in guessing the results of games. In fact many of the major prizes have been won by people who never attend game and don't know the difference between soccer and snootash.

Public interest in the pool operations is whetted by some newspaper which print forecasts from experts to guide readers as to the likely outcome of games. Pools, in grateful return, spend huge amounts on newspaper advertising.

Inevitably corruption is creeping into the fold. Here and there soccer players have been approached by the

EMPRESS BRITAIN STOPS 14 HOURS AT HANGKOK

(Special to The Daily Mail)
HANGKOK, SIAM, March 5.—Canadian Pacific's great white flagship Empress of Britain arrived here today on her cruise round the world. Her passengers disembarked speedily anxious to make the most of their 14 hour stay here. Tonight she clears again, heading for Hong Kong.

Cruise members this morning toured the city taking in the Grand Temple of the Emerald Buddha, Wat Poh and the Oriental Hotel. This afternoon they visit Wat Arun by launch and motor to Wat Bencham-Abophit, and Hangkok Riding and Polo Club where they will witness Siamese classical dancing, before returning to the Empress. Joining the vessel here tonight will be the group which left the Empress at Penang February 28 on an optional excursion which took them overland to Paknam, Aranya Prados and Angkor. Motoring, bathing and sightseeing have marked their trip and highlights such as the visit to the ancient ruins of the Temple Angkor Wat have been featured. They arrived here this morning by motor from Abanya Prades and will join the other cruise members on departure.

gamblers with the suggestion that they should 'throw' games and make sure their team loses. Postal clerks have been caught in slicker frauds. They have filled out their coupons after all the results became known and then have forged an earlier postmark to convince the pool operators that results were honestly guessed in advance of the playing.

One of the chief complaints against the pools is that they operate without public regulation or accounting, and do not publish their profits. Moreover, they do not take a chance as the public does. The pools always win. Before distributing prize money they deduct 5 per cent for their net profit and 15 per cent for running expenses. Eight to ten families are said to enjoy a virtual monopoly of this \$200,000,000 business.

No one favors abolishing the football pools altogether, since the Englishman dearly loves a little flutter. What The Daily Telegraph proposes is official regulation and special taxes. Some think the English might well adopt the Swedish system under which a statutory company conducts the monopoly on behalf of the state and donates the profits to the State Physical Fitness Campaign.

EUROPE'S SHIFTING ALLIANCES SHOW NEW COMBINATIONS

Europe's shifting political alliances now appear to be resolving themselves into new combinations. Germany is falling into line behind Italy in accepting the British proposals or withdrawal of volunteers from Spain. The possibility of a four-power agreement grows stronger.

Whether or not the opposition's campaign against the British government's policies will succeed in preventing such an agreement remains to be seen. The speech of Mr. Eden may prove to serve as a weathervane as to which way the wind blows.

Meanwhile France's Premier Chamberlain expresses willingness to resign with his cabinet if an emergency government supported by all parties can organize. Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg tells Austria that the recent agreement with Germany includes a guarantee of Austria's sovereignty. And Germany hopes to be free of the Paris-Moscow pincers.

Germany has found distasteful the accord between France and Russia. France was arming along Germany's western frontier and France's protégé, Czechoslovakia, offered a convenient jumping off place for Russian bombers on Germany's eastern frontier. German authorities now believe that France will follow Britain into a pact with Germany and Italy, breaking the alliance with Russia and leaving Czechoslovakia poorly situated to resist German influence.

Cornerstone of such a structure, however, is Britain's foreign policy and the domestic situation in Great Britain draws the gaze of the world. Winston Churchill, former Conservative minister, staunch champion of France, and rearmament enthusiast, gives the government of Mr. Chamberlain a bitter tongue lashing at a gathering of Conservatives. Although he says that Britain has suffered 'grievous impoverishment in the eyes of the whole world,' Mr. Churchill would not ask Mr. Chamberlain to resign for, bad as he thinks the situation is, he fears it would be immeasurably worse if Labor regained power.

Hitler Plans Visit To Rome In May

Chancellor Hitler will return Premier Mussolini's visit of last September with an eight-day visit to Italy in the first half of May, it was announced this week.

Hitler will visit Rome, Florence and Naples and while in Rome he will stay at the Quirinal King Vittorio

NOVA SCOTIAN HAS PRIZED LETTER OF ADVICE

Once Wrote Late Lord
Atholstan Asking Advice On Career

HUBBARDS, N. S., March 8.—Death of Lord Atholstan, owner and publisher of The Montreal Star, has brought to light a souvenir letter in possession of A. W. Shatford, hotel proprietor in this South Shore town.

The letter was written by Lord Atholstan—then Hugh Graham—in 1882, in longhand on the stationery of The Daily and Weekly Star, in reply to one Shatford sent asking advice.

"A young man starting out in life with a fair education, backed up by good physical condition, energy and determination, can make his way in spite of all the obstacles that are certain to be met," Lord Atholstan wrote.

Speaking of choosing a career, he added, "The best way, in my opinion, is to look about you, select something congenial to your taste without regard to the remuneration at the beginning, throwing yourself wholeheartedly into the work, making your pleasures subservient to the one controlling idea of making a success."

OROMOCTO NEWS

The ladies of the W.A. of St. John's Episcopal Church met at the home of Mrs. Clement Hughes on Thursday evening last. The president Mrs. R. D. W. Hubbard of Lincoln was in the chair. The vice-president Mrs. C. H. Gilmour read the litany. After routine business Mrs. Leslie Cail conducted a grab bag contest where many useful articles were obtained. Delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. Hughes.

Miss Keith of Bangor, Me., is visiting the Misses Lizzie and Allie Mills at Oromocto West.

Friends of Lawrence McMinn will be glad to learn that he is improving after being confined to his home as a result of an accident when he had his leg broken.

Percy Cogswell spent the week end with friends in Fredericton.

Emmanuele's palace. The elaborate program in his honor will include a naval pageant, an army parade, displays of air force and three big Fascist party demonstrations.



"All right,
Mr. Referee,
Let's Go!"

At the end of the second period, with the score 6-5 in favour of Essex Centre, Mr. Picobac realized with a sudden shock that his pipe was empty and cold. He refueled it for the final period leisurely, with frequent pauses for post mortems on the course of the game so far.

"Picobac is great stuff at a hockey game," said he, tamping the Burley flakes firmly into the bowl. "It's a steady burner, and a mild . . . cool . . . sweet smoke in the time of stress. But with a score of 6-5 a man's pipe burns under forced draught."

He was searching his inner clothing for a match when the teams came back on the ice. He was still searching when they lined up for the face-off.

"Hey," yelled Mr. Picobac desperately, "somebody give me a match!"

Somebody passed him a box. The delicious fragrance of fresh-lit Burley spread through the air and Mr. Picobac's tension relaxed. His pipe was lit.

"All right, Mr. Referee," he shouted. "Let's go!"



TRY PICOBAC Sliced Plug
in the Vest Pocket Tin 15¢

"It DOES taste good in a pipe!"

Picobac

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IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED

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MIRACULOUS RIDE—The new Packard Six and new Packard Eight (formerly called Packard 120) bring you the gentlest ride ever offered to motorists—a ride that literally re-makes roads!

UNEQUALLED SAFETY—These new Packards are outstanding in safety. Side-sway is eliminated and the danger of skidding is tremendously reduced.

REVOLUTIONARY REAR END—The foregoing things have been accomplished by a trio of epochal improvements which now bring the effect of independent wheel suspension to the rear end.

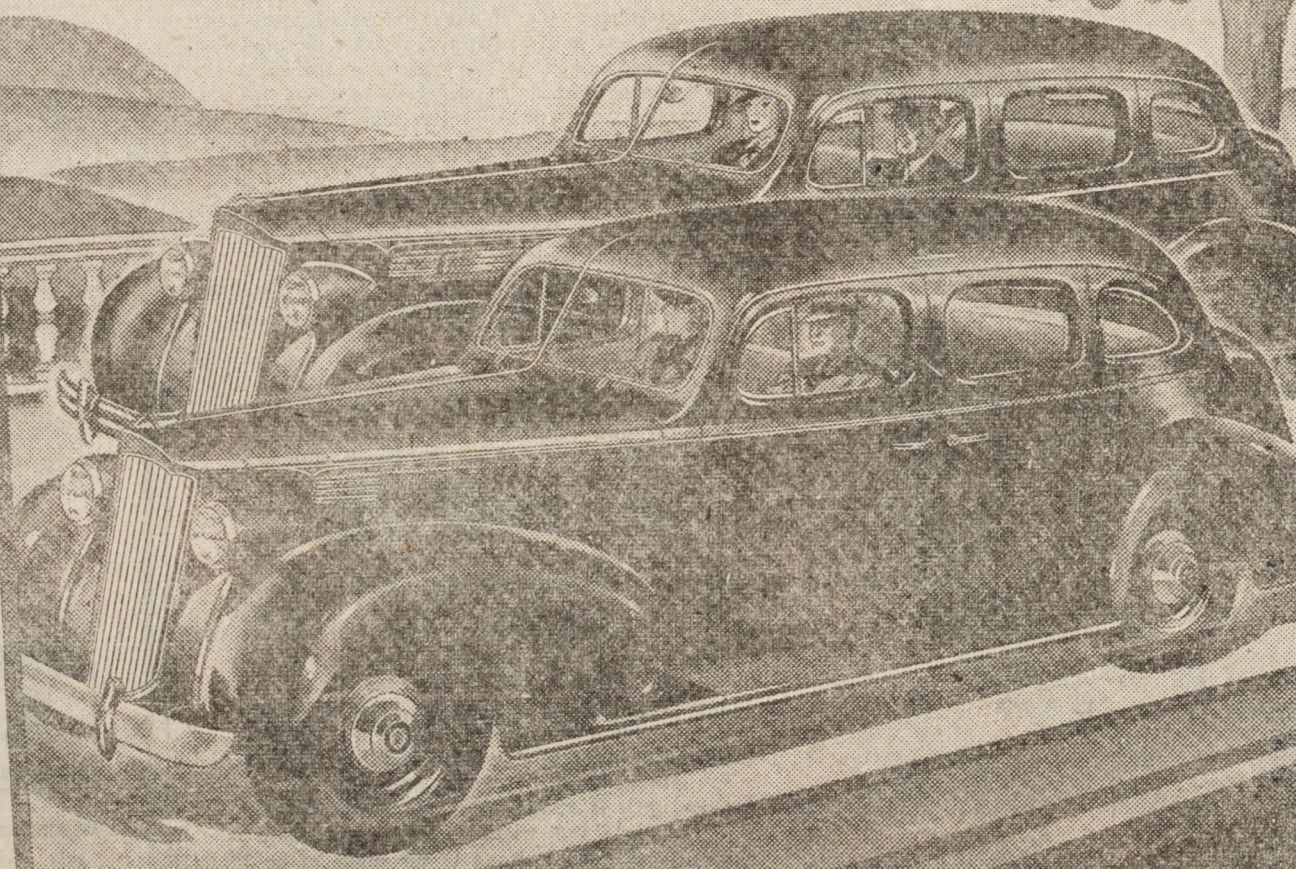
NEW QUIET BODY—As a result of years of research in cooperation with a great University, Packard brings you a really quiet all-steel body with an all-steel top.

MORE LUXURIOUS SIZE—Both the Packard Eight and Packard Six are seven full inches longer in wheelbase than last year. Bodies are far wider. Trunks challenge those of any cars for roominess.

SERVICE NEEDS CUT—The need for service is still further reduced. Example: Chassis lubrication is now needed only twice a year!

ENDURING BEAUTY—The famous Packard lines are now more beautifully streamlined than ever. But they still proclaim your car a Packard, still guard it from early style obsolescence. Only Packard gives you both long mechanical life and long style life!

EASY AVAILABILITY—YOU can afford one! See your Packard dealer. He will give you proof that, if you can afford to buy and operate any new car, you can afford to buy and operate a Packard!



YOU HAVE A DATE TUESDAY EVENINGS

Each Tuesday evening, at 9:30 P. M. over the N. B. C. Red Network, Packard brings you one of the most entertaining full-hour shows on the air! Lanny Ross, Charles Butterworth, and Florence George head a brilliant cast that entertains each week one of the topmost stars of radio, stage or screen!



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