China Gradually Relaxing Restrictions On Foreigners

By BRUCE LEVETT

VANCOUCER (CP) — The coolies have gone from the waterfront of China and the beggars have left her streets.

Her women may be growing more style-conscious and her businessmen are becoming less wary in their dealings with westerners.

But it's still a land where the foreigner gets 65-per-cent discount while the natives pay top dollar for the goods they produce.

Capt. John Lewis, 33, from Milford-Haven in Wales, is master of the converted oil tanker Stancloud and he has been sailing to China for 10 years.

The most notable change he has seen in that time is the gradual relaxation of once-rigid restrictions governing the movement of foreigners.

However, while he finds it easier to get around in Communist China today, there are few places to go and little to do.

He spoke of China just before Stancloud, heavy with 750,000 bushels of grain, cleared here Sept. 10. Capt. Lewis spoke on the changes he has seen since he first shipped to China in 1953 as an apprentice on a ship carrying fertilizer to Tsintao.

DELIVERS GRAIN

Today he is master of one of the hundreds of vessels of all the registries of the world—except those of Japan and the United States — which have carried 6,500,000 tons of grain worth $500,000,000 to China since early 1961.

These ships are chartered by agents of the Chinese government operating through the Baltic Exchange in London.

Stancloud and her crew can be considered typical. There are 31 Britons and 12 Spaniards aboard. They're proud of their soccer team which plays other shipboard teams while waiting to load in Vancouver, Victoria, Prince Rupert or New Westminster.

They play them again while discharging cargo in Shanghai or Dairen.

In the last 10 years "there hasn't been a great deal of change with regard to the Chinese," Capt. Lewis says.

"The great change has come in the easing of regulations. The regulations—such as the one stating you have to be back aboard by midnight—are still on the books. But they're not enforced as rigidly as they once were."

NO COOLIES NOW

"You can carry your camera in China today, provided you don't photograph within city limits or take pictures of military installations. And provided you have your film processed before leaving the country.

"As long as you comply with their regulations and don't cause them any bother, the authorities won't cause you any."

Where Stancloud ties up, there are no coolies in evidence.

"Now they're called workers and they get a wage—about $40 a month. They reckon that's enough to feed a family of four and have a little left over."

Chinese women still work in the sheds and along the dockside, but they don't carry heavy loads aboard the ships anymore, although they still toil aboard the freelance sampans and lighters.

In Dairen, his last port in China, Capt. Lewis saw converted stores with five or six beds to a room.

"They've always lived 15 or 20 to a room and I guess they still live that way."

WOMEN DRESS UP

In Shanghai he saw a sign of a changing China—a "woman's beauty shop."

"It wasn't anything like what you have here or in the United States, but it was an indication. The women seem to be becoming more style-conscious. Once it was hard to tell the women from the men: they all wore trousers and denim shirts.

"Now the women, at least some of them, are wearing their hair swept back and they are taking to dresses and skirts."

Shanghai and Dairen are still "dull cities with little to do there." However, "now the skyline in Shanghai is lit up a bit more than it was."

In Shanghai or Dairen there are only two places for Capt. Lewis and his men to go—the seamen's club and the Friendship Department Store.

"Things are getting better. In the last year the percentage of discount allowed foreigners in the Friendship store came up to 65 per cent on anything to be taken out of the country.

"The idea is, if you can get it cheaply you'll buy it and take it abroad and show off the goods of China."

He has bought 'coffee tables, beautifully carved, and camphor-wood chests and dress goods."

SHOES COST LITTLE

On his last trip to China he paid $6 for 'a good pair of shoes."

But for the Chinese, the prices are 'on a par with prices here."

"The $6 shoes would have cost the $40 - a - month waterfront worker $15.

"Still, the coolies are not as hungry as they used to be."

The ports of China are 'far more mechanized" than they were 10 years ago.

"Back in 1961 the grain ships used their own gear to unload in China. When an order was filled, the ships would sell the gear to the Chinese. Now the main ports have all their own facilities and these facilities are being improved all the time.

"In 1961 it took us 21 days to discharge cargo. On our last trip we turned around in seven days."

Once 'we could get no radar or wireless repair done. Ship repair was limited."

Now ship chandlers come aboard with lists of prices competitive with those charged across the world.

"The businessmen, those I deal with, talk more freely these days. Once they were very cautious."

FOLLOWED BY CROWD

Still, the sailor in Shanghai or Dairen makes few outside contacts.

"You walk the streets and you have a crowd following you. They stare. They watch to see where you will go, what you will buy. It's just Chinese curiosity and it's been that way ever since I began running to China."

But there is little contact.

"I don't know why, beyond the language barrier and the natural Chinese reticence."

The Chinese curiosity "sometimes becomes embarrassing to foreigners."

"On my last trip to Shanghai I took a cab to the seamen's club. A crowd of Chinese was gathered around the door, just staring. The doormen had to hold them back while I ran inside like a film star at a premiere."

Still, they're a friendly people. They stare at you and you stare back. If you smile, they'll smile. When they get to know you they'll yarn on almost any subject."

Almost any subject—after 10 years of running to China Capt. Lewis has learned not to talk politics.

One chap tried to draw me out on Viet Nam. I told him that if the United States and the Chinese wanted to fight each other, that was their business."

Five Canadians Questioned After Game Warden Threat

LAC MEGANTIC, Que. (CP) — The RCMP said here five Canadians were questioned and then released after a game warden across the border in Maine reported he was held at gunpoint, then left stranded on a lonely road.

The warden, Martin Savage of Oquossoc, Me., said the incident occurred Thursday night when he stopped a car carrying four men and a woman to check a night-hunting complaint.

RCMP Corporal G. M. Roy said in a telephone interview from his office in this border community five Canadians, ranging in age from 18 to 25 were chased down by police after coming across the border in a car Thursday night without stopping for customs.

He said the Canadian authorities could bring only one charge against the group stopped here —that of not reporting to customs, which is an offence involving a possible fine of $100.

Cpl. Roy said seven Maine officials have been in Lac Megantic to discuss the case with Canadian authorities.

He said it is possible the youths stopped on the Canadian side of the border will be extradicted to the United States to be changed there with armed robbery.

Mr. Savage said in Oquossoc the car he stopped had Canadian licence plates and sped off in the direction of the Canadian border.

He said he had received a report of night-hunting of a deer in the area of Wilson's Mills, Me.

He reported one of the men in the car held a gun on him and then disarmed him. The group also disconnected wires on his car so he could not drive it or use the radio.

Cpl. Roy said Friday night traces of two bullets were found near the car's wheels.

Mr. Savage had said he tried to halt the Canadian car as it moved along route 16, 75 miles south of the border community of Woburn, Que. Woburn is 130 miles southwest of Quebec City.

He said that although it refused to stop at first, he eventually caught up with it when it stalled. Then he was disarmed and the auto sped away.

Atheists Should Be Granted Citizenship Commons Is Told

OTTAWA (CP) — Justice Minister Favreau said in the Commons in his personal opinion, a person professing to be an atheist should not be denied Canadian citizenship purely for that reason.

Mr. Favreau was commenting on a controversial decision by a county court judge, who recently rejected applications for citizenship by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bergsma of Caledonia, Ont., on the grounds they are not persons of good character within the meaning of the Citizenship Act.

The judge, acting as a citizenship court, reported that the couple professed to be atheists and refused to swear an oath of allegiance to the Crown ending with the words 'so help me God."

For the second day running, Mr. Favreau went out of his way to suggest to the Bergsmas that they ask a higher court to direct the citizenship judge to make a different interpretation of the Citizenship Act.

The minister said a higher court could well rule that an atheist can be considered a person of good character and direct the Hamilton citizenship judge to follow this interpretation.

Speaking during consideration of citizenship department estimates, Mr. Favreau said as an individual MP and a lawyer he "would wish" that atheists will not be automatically branded as persons of bad character and denied their citizenship certificates.

He stressed that as minister of justice he could not comment on particular court rulings.

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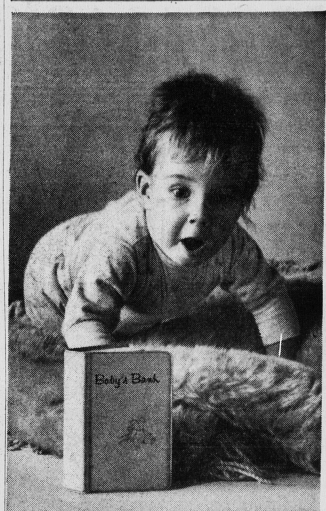

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JAN WESSEL GRUDE

The Island Development Co. Ltd. announces the appointment of Mr. J. W. Grude as manager of its Hotel, Resort and Tourist Division.

Mr. Grude, with his family, come to the Island directly from Schefferville, Quebec, where for the past 6 years he has been General Manager of the Quebec Labrador Pioneers' Association.

The experience, knowledge and background gained by Mr. Grude in Europe, United States and Canada eminently qualifies him for the new responsibilities he has assumed.

Born in Stavanger, Norway Mr. Grude is a graduate of the School of Hotel Administration, Oslo, and of the School of Hotel Administration, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., and enjoyed a scholarship for study in Hotel Administration and Culinary Art in Paris, France. In addition to management experience he has served in apprenticeship, supervisory or executive capacity in hotels in England, Norway, and in Canada, specializing in food at Banff Springs Hotel, Empress Hotel, Victoria; Chateau Frontenac, Que.

Mr. Grude is fluent in English, French, German and his native Norwegian.

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