

Impoverished England Fights For Its Economic Life

Perhaps no modern, semi-civilized nation on earth today (and this includes the U.S.A.) has more terrible problems facing it than does Great Britain.

Stripped of her former vast colonial possessions, impoverished by two World Wars and four years of socialism, England today is fighting for its very economic life.

INDEED, MOST OF HER citizens are quite willing to sacrifice to regain stability . . . but the cards seem to be stacked against her. Her centuries of glorious history are being dimmed by the Twentieth Century technological era that allows man-

kind to produce more, within reasonable reach of natural resources.

Since Great Britain has few natural resources from which to create wealth, she faces the competition of new-born populations . . . and her ability to meet world competition has greatly decreased.

BUT WITH IT ALL she has contributed much of character and integrity, plus the pattern of human freedom, to other nations.

She is more to be pitied than censured. Yet, fondly, we join with those who hopefully sing: ". . . there will always be an England!"

A Political Pay-off?

Just preceding the Nov. 4 election, it looked as though John L. Lewis and his mine workers were so mad at the Truman administration for not giving them the \$1.90 per day increase that they might not vote for Gov. Stevenson.

So President Truman invited John to the White House for a little chat. John came out smiling and the miners, then on a non-

working (but "no-strike") basis, went back to work.

Cometh early December and Mr. Truman over-rides his Wage Stabilization Board and grants the total raise. Naturally, President Truman being a public official of great and high integrity, he wasn't paying off a political debt to Lewis . . . or wasn't he?

Cherishing Freedom

The founder of the chain store system which bears his name, J. C. Penney, recently said in the course of a speech, "There are all sorts of statistics that can be put together to show the extent of our achievements. But they cannot be put together to prove what their users say they prove—that the quality of salesmanship is proved by our abundance.

"These statistics prove no such thing. The fact that we have these conveniences in greatest abundance proves only the greatness of our people—and the prosperity that comes to free people."

A little later on during his talk, Mr. Penney said: "We are going to have to sell a word. It is a word called Freedom."

WE AMERICANS have every right to be proud of our material achievements. Our farms and factories produce goods in quantities and of qualities unknown in most of the rest of the world. Our retail

stores are loaded not only with the necessities, but with a wealth of wares which would seem like utter luxuries to other peoples. Our American standard of living is unrivaled."

All this is to the good. But, as Mr. Penney pointed out, we tend to lose sight of the main cause of it.

And that cause is freedom: freedom to work, freedom to own property, freedom to follow the dictates of our own conscience and ambition, freedom to take chances, freedom to be an individual in the fullest meaning of the term—above all, freedom from the tyranny of a totalitarian state.

THAT FREEDOM was our heritage. But we can keep it only if we guard it, nurture it, and dedicate ourselves to its perpetuation.

Yes, that is the word we must sell—the word freedom.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

If and when the CIO and the AFL become one colossal union, will that not constitute a labor monopoly? And since Congress has legislated against monopoly in any business segment of this nation, will it not also have to legislate against a labor monopoly? If free and open competition is presumed to be the basis of our American society, then we think Congress will have to muster sufficient honest courage to place labor where it places the wealth that labor produces.

Ambassador William O'Dwyer, our head man in Mexico, has turned in his resignation to President Truman, knowing that Gen. Eisenhower would not re-appoint him after January 20. Just what the former Mayor of New York City will do is not yet stated by him. He is reported to have considered remaining in Mexico, and getting into some kind of business. He hardly would return to New York—not with a grand jury there wanting to hear his side of the various rackets that flourished there while he was in the Mayor's office. Truly, Mister O'Dwyer is temporarily an exile.

An ancient and revered axiom of England goes: "The King is dead—long live the King!" Meaning, of course, that England is never without a reigning monarch, be it King or Queen. The same axiom may be applied to our United States, when stated: "One political party is dead—long live another political party!" This was shown in 1933 when President Hoover and the Republican Party gave way to Presi-

dent Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Democratic Party. Next January 20 it will be in reverse, with Eisenhower taking over from Truman.

Do you ever read the horoscopes that some of the newspapers print? We have looked 'em over, now and then . . . and are impressed with one fact: generally speaking they endorse the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments.

Men who are sinister at heart and dedicated to the performance of evil things upon others cannot be expected to act like angels. Reasoning, backed by logic and morals, has no effect upon their attitudes. Then why should we expect the men who sit in Russia's Kremlin to act like Christian people? The only way to eliminate their evil is to oust them from power, either by physical forces from without, or within, or a combination of both.

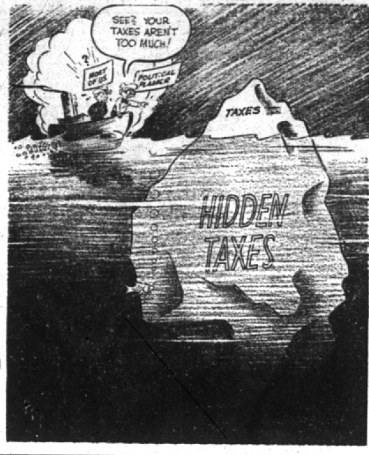
Southern California, once an area where the warm sun shone a good deal of the time, and where crops were plentiful and profitable, is being bothered with smog, which is a combination of smoke and fog. Thus the Golden State, long desirous of growing through industrial development, now enjoys the out-pouring of the factory chimneys . . . or does she? Five recent weeks of smog from Ventura to San Diego have cost farmers a half million dollars in crop damage, just because the sun could not get through. Well, one cannot have his cake and eat it too!

So They Say . . .

J. D. Bell, Colonel, U. S. 8th Army, in Korea: "No American army, anywhere ever began a winter better equipped and clothed than the Eighth Army is now."

Dr. Elton D. Trueblood, Quaker philosopher: "Ministers today . . . convert the converted. They minister to those already safely in the fold."

John D. Hickerson, Assistant Secretary of State: "The best chance for an armistice in Korea is for the United Nations to show that it is united and resolute."



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Cleared From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Made Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
 December 19, 1902
 Birmingham Chapter, O. E. S., was hostess last week to the annual meeting of the Oakland County Association of Eastern Stars. Mrs. Emma Kutler of Pontiac was named president while Mrs. W. A. Ruttraw of our own fair community was elected vice-president.

One of the finest pieces of hewed oak timber seen in many a year was brought to Birmingham one day last week for shipment to the Soo. It measured in the clear 28 by 28 inches and was 42 feet long, a total of 2740 feet of lumber. It was cut on the Hyde farm here.

Mrs. Edgar Parks has some new and desirable Christmas novelties which she will be pleased to sell at her home on Henric street. She has a few articles done in burnt work which are especially beautiful and lovely.

The cold weather is with us but the coal is not. There is Smith took a trip to Buffalo last week to see why shipments are so long delayed while Birmingham shivers.

Only those present at the Y MCA men's Saturday evening can appreciate what a grand organization is before the young men of the and fruits with the cost below that of prevailing prices a year ago.

30 YEARS AGO
 December 15, 1922
 Beginning Friday, Dec. 22, a class in up-to-date ballroom dancing will be held weekly in the Macabee Hall, Park block, under the personal supervision of Harry Hicks of Detroit. The course of eight lessons will include assemblies.

Postmaster Geo. H. Mitchell asks the help of everyone in the mailing of Christmas cards and packages. He said special cards would be scheduled for Christmas week to the service by addressing all mail properly and seeing that parcel seal was securely wrapped and tied.

The PTA Council of Birmingham is asking for suggestions from the two teen members and non-members

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

A landmark passes. It will seem very strange to those of us who tried to live the business sense of west Maple frequently to no longer see the silencing of the First Methodist church thrusting upward toward the sky.

Residents of the immediate neighborhood are going to miss its familiar bell, calling its people to worship. More of us will miss it while there next to us, but no longer will its voice alert us to the community carolling in Shain Park.

Speaking of carols, what is there about Christmas music which has so many a greater appeal than any other?

Other religious holidays have their music—hymns of thanks-giving, anthems of praise, novel hymns of praise. None of these, however great the appeal that even the simplest Christmas hymn holds.

And speaking of singing—it was a splendid program presented Dec. 10 by the members of the Birmingham Male Chorus. They sang from Royal Oak, "The Beauty Shop Quartette".

Everyone did a splendid job, and the program was arranged and balanced to suit the taste of all. The large audience, not one hold a doubt as to whether or not they enjoyed themselves.

While we're on the subject of music and singing there are quite a few women who agree with us that to have a chorus of all women or mixed voices, would be nice. We know the Musicals provided a nice outlet for some of the community women, but there are quite a few of us who like male sing, but since we are working, can't join in a chorus group. Primarily, our main interest is singing, having fun

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

As far as City Commissioner Frank Rising is concerned, the city's first "Men's Night" on Dec. 8 must have been a roaring success. For the first time since his election to the city council a year and a half ago, Rising had difficulty that night finding a spot near the Municipal building to park so he could attend the meeting.

"I had to drive around the block several times before I found a motorist who was pulling out and leaving a space," he explained to fellow commissioners when he arrived a few minutes late.

Women weren't entirely absent from the downtown area on "Men's Night". But most of them were seated in the family car, waiting for hubby to return. Baby sitters couldn't be obtained by some parents. A few fathers were observed taking junior around by the hand into and out of several stores while "poppa" shopped.

And some kiddies were waiting in the car with mama.

Birmingham city planners are anxious to have drawn up the final draft of the proposed off-street parking amendment to the city's zoning ordinance.

It's widely been in the mill for six months, and several special meetings have been held in an effort to get it into final shape for submission to the city commission. The proposed amendment would require all property to provide some sort of off-street parking spaces, depending on the classification of a property is zoned.

If you want to take some of the joy out of your Christmas season, just remember that after paying your December bills, income tax time is just around the corner.

I like airports, believe they are necessary, and predict a great future for this infant transportation method.

But I can't help wondering how the larger municipal units seem to be getting more and more power to interfere with the home lives of the smaller communities.

The federal government can come into town and condemn any site it wishes for such necessary things as postoffices, federal buildings, dam sites, Army Air Force gunnery ranges, etc.

The state can shove through a road anywhere it wants, or tell

communities on which roads they shall spend gas and weight tax money. And now we learn that big cities like Detroit, because of a special Michigan law, can come into any other municipality and condemn any of it desired for a Detroit city airport. Like in nearby Warren Township.

Does this "municipal condemnation" principal work to the advantage of little cities, too, does anyone know?

Like Birmingham, for instance, deciding that for the "health, welfare and protection" of its residents who live here but work in Detroit, our residents should be able to find a reserved place to park, therefore the city of Birmingham can condemn a downtown Detroit piece of property to be used for parking by Birmingham residents?

Shouldn't what's sauce for the goose be sauce for the gander?

If you want to know how complicated Birmingham city government can become, just get involved in a street lighting assessment. Unless the city paves entirely around the block in which you live, you could find yourself involved in up to three special assessment districts over a period of years—or until the block is surrounded by pavement.

I believe the city's got about the most complicated pavement paving system it could possibly devise. It might be interesting to find out how simply it might be done.

Years ago electric lights were considered a luxury. Then, as everyone began to have them installed, they became a necessity. But do you know that for the past seven or eight years, electric lights have gone back into the luxury class again.

So the federal government considers it.

Every time you buy a new light bulb, you pay 10 per cent luxury tax. That's right, a luxury tax. Although the electric power companies like to refer to it as an "excise tax", it still is included in the federal legislation that imposes a luxury tax on perfumes, furs, jewelry, shaving lotion, etc.

Some to think of it, the voice of America could use this fact in its broadcasts to the people inside the Iron Curtain.

And People of the Communist-enslaved nations: don't believe what

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