

“There Will Always Be An England” and “England Will Be Free” and “We Are British Still Oh Mother Land”. The foregoing titles of patriotic ballads still remain clear and fresh in the memory of many, many readers and bring back memories of World War One. The lively and martial song “We’re British Still Oh Mother Land”, written by the late C. C. Forsythe, who was for many years organist and choirmaster of Cambridge Street Methodist Church, and the words by the late W. Well- esley Staples, a member of the old reliable firm of Dun- das and Flavelle.

The above introduction has been prompted by the fact that the writer of Main Street recently had the pleasure and distinct satisfaction of spend- ing two weeks in old London, England, treading on English soil and visiting many of the immensely and intensely his- toric places of interest.

London, a city of over ten

million people, with oceans of traditional history, steeped in ancestral traditions and all the charm of a great nation. While the streets throb to the sound of motor cars and double deck buses, and airplanes sweep the heavens above the spire of St. Paul's Cathedral, vehicle traffic flies down on the left side of streets and roads. Down in the deep bowels of the earth whiz fast trains. Everything is humming in old London and it is interesting to note that the "tubes" are the oldest in the world.

It would take columns upon columns to describe London and its people. The city is filled with loyal Britishers and thousands of visitors clicking cameras around Trafalgar Square, take pictures around Nelson's tall monument where hundreds of pigeons light on any part of the human body to feed on the handfuls of grain bought by the many camera men — a spot in the big square where children have the thrill of their young lives feeding the birds.

Traffic! It speeds like lightning and toes an inch over the white lines are in danger of disappearing.

If the native folk have their trials, tribulations and troubles, they are not noticeable to visitors. The "Bobbies" are friendly, the general public helpful and often when a Londoner sees a visitor studying a map, friendly and courteous advice is forthcoming.

History has been preserved in London and the "greats" in royalty and in great men have been engraved on monuments and in such fabulous shrines as Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, House of Commons, Big Ben, Dicken's old curiosity shop, which stands in the same spot for three hundred years. Dirty Dick's Pub which has been in the same location for over 200 years, London bridge of nursery rhyme fame, the famous tower of London where among other historic articles are stored the Crown jewels, the coronation robes and countless other priceless historical articles, including the largest diamond in the world.

Big models are covered with the armour of knights of old, the old torture chambers are shown as well as the walk trod by Anne Bolyn, Mary Queen of Scots, Sir Walter Raleigh and others, who were beheaded on a huge block resembling the butcher shop blocks of former days. The old Beef Eater in colorful uniform is depicted in live person and proved quite chatty.

The old and historic towers are only two stories above ground but two and three levels below ground. All types of old battle attire can be seen, as it was once used by soldiers and knights of old.

The famous River Thames separates London city proper from the Tower and bulwarks, and here and there are to be seen bronze plaques marking spots where the German air invasion left bomb and shell indentures on the big stone and cement walls which line both sides of the long water basin.

A visit to the House of Commons brought to light a debate on the killing of seals in Canadian waters. Where members of Parliament in Canada sit behind desks, the Parliamentarians in the British House have no desks. The House of Commons was one place struck by a German

bomb and a large part destroyed by fire. A fair sized table near the Speaker of the House was donated by the Canadian Government.

It was noticed that in the great Westminster Abbey, over a thousand years old, there are two upright chairs which were presented by the one time Hon. Vincent Massey of Canada.

The writer had a close up look at the Queen Mother as she left her special sedan and entered her private home. It was very noticeable that the home of the Queen Mother as well as the Queen, at Buckingham Palace, front directly on the street with court yards at one side. The home of the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street is also directly on the street with no green lawn at the front.

St. Paul's Cathedral is particularly beautiful and historic. The whispering gallery is a remarkable freak institution, huge and magnificently beautiful, and the whispering gallery attracts thousands of visitors annually. By whispering against a wall at one side of the circular gallery the voice becomes quite audible some 60 feet across on the opposite side.

Visits to Windsor Castle, to Hyde Park where orators are allowed to top a soap box and speak their minds on all sorts of subjects, a visit to the oldest and largest zoo in the world, a visit to Epsom Downs, to Ripley's village, to Guilford brought big incidents to memory, and the live stage show of "Charlie Girl" reminded one of the fact that the show has been in London for four years.

There are all kinds of eating places in London and patrons are not gouged. Carnaby, Bond and other streets for well dressed people were busy. souvenirs are reasonable and while many men the bowler type hat and carry umbrellas, the gals look alive in their mini skirts and maxi coats. Long haired teen agers are the same as in Canadian cities.

Incidentally, the writer was interested in sitting in at Old Bailey police court where the judge and lawyers wear white wigs, even the women lawyers. Paper stands were visited on Fleet Street, named after Lord Thompson of Canada and it was noticeable in different sections of London that as the working people head for the underground rail cars they buy their favorite papers.

Much more could be written but space forbids. "There will always be an England."