

Churchill Greeted Editors in Parliamentary Office

This is the seventh of a series of articles about conditions in Great Britain and other countries visited by a group of Canadian newspaper editors. It was written for the weekly newspapers of Canada by their own representative on the tour, Hugh Templin, of The Forge News-Record.

There seems to be no doubt that Prime Minister Winston Churchill is the greatest wartime leader. Britain has had throughout her long history. He took office at a time when the fortunes of Britain and the Empire were at a low ebb. Invasion of England seemed certain and the ability to resist successfully was doubtful. In the intervening months, Churchill has given the people new heart and has aroused such enthusiasm that England has stood up under bombing and threats with unparalleled courage. The danger of successful invasion appears to have passed. Powerful nations which feared that Britain could not hold out in the late months of 1940 are now her allies in 1942.

Winston Churchill has been visiting this continent. He came to talk over the unification of plans to win the war. Actually, his very presence and his effective speeches have done much to stir up the United States and Canada, as they had previously heartened the people of his own country.

A number of Canadian newspapermen met Winston Churchill while he was in Ottawa. Hundreds of other Canadians saw him during his brief stay. Perhaps I might add my story of a meeting with the great Prime Minister in his own office in London, after hearing him give one of his rare wartime addresses in the House of Commons at Westminster.

One More Wish Granted
The British Council, acting as hosts to the group of Canadian editors in Britain, made an effort to gratify our every wish. They had laid out their own program before we arrived, but they were quite willing to alter it to include anything we particularly desired. Strangely enough, or so it seemed to us, the program did not include an opportunity to meet or even to see the Prime Minister. I believe that was because the people in London do not realize what an influence Mr. Churchill exerts in Canada. They did not know how unanimously the residents of this country, in the air waves, they did not know that we regarded him not only as the leader of the British Isles, but of the Empire.

When a request was passed on in E. D. O'Brien, of the British Council, he promised some action. It came at once, through the good offices of the Hon. Brendan Bracken, Minister of Public Information. Mr. Bracken is young (somewhere around 40) and active. He has not held his post long. Before that he was secretary to Mr. Churchill. He is a tall, thin, bachelor and a rich man. Cartoonists delight in his features. He has one of the hardest jobs in England, the handling of publicity in wartime. I met him several times during my visit and thought him capable, interesting and quite human.

Mr. Bracken came around the next day with a message. We would not only meet Mr. Churchill, but we were going to hear him speak in the House of Commons first. Parliament in first speech before Parliament in more than three months. Arrangements were being made to find us seats in the galleries. Afterwards, Mr. Bracken himself would take us to the Prime Minister's office and we could ask him any questions we liked.

A few mornings earlier, our little group had been greeted at Westminster by the officers of the Parliamentary Union and then had been conducted through the various Houses of Parliament by two of the guides, one a member of the House of Lords and the other from the House of Commons. They had been thorough, informative and amusing. We had even seen such places as the room where Guy Fawkes had stored the gun-powder intended to blow up an earlier Parliament. We had gazed regretfully at the few piles of rubble and twisted girders which were all that remained of the House of Commons room. We had seen the room in the same building where the Commons now meets. At least one of the Canadians took time out to call in the red-tiled roof where the Prime Minister sits, just near the corner of the great hall.

The Mother of Parliaments
The place looked very different on our second visit. Crowds were hurrying through the hall, with policemen in conspicuous numbers. I sometimes wondered if the London police were as wise as they looked. With Brendan Bracken as guide, it did not matter: they all knew him.

As Mr. Bracken showed us past the guards, he told us that he could secure seats for some in the Press Gallery, and others would be distributed in other galleries. I was one of the five or six fortunate enough to go to the Press Gallery. We went to the rooms of the Sergeant at Arms (the spelling is as it appears on the documents) and were enrolled as duly constituted members of the Press

Gallery. We signed our names in a huge volume which undoubtedly contains many interesting signatures, and received passes to prove that we were members. Mine was No. 34 for this new session.

There were some surprises. I had always heard that there were not sufficient seats in the House to accommodate all the members at once, so on this day, with the Prime Minister reviewing the war for the first time in months, there were seats to spare. Among the members were several women, three with hats and four without. No two sat together. They were widely scattered, each in a separate row of seats.

The Press Gallery wasn't filled. In the row ahead, I saw Harold Fair, the Canadian Press representative, whose home is in Arthur, Ontario. In all the other galleries, I did not see more than a hundred people. Probably it is hard to gain admission in these days. One would suppose thousands more would like to hear Churchill speak. Among that hundred, the guide pointed out some notable persons. Directly behind Mr. Churchill sat one of his daughters. Directly opposite was Mr. Malskey, the Russian Ambassador. That was in the days when Russia's part in the conflict was uncertain, but Mr. Malskey had just told the Prime Minister in his Russian hands by Christmas; that the Germans would never take Moscow.

During the question period, I had time to look around. Overhead was an ornate ceiling like that in the Senate Chamber at Ottawa. Around the walls were life-size statues of the ancient knights. Immediately behind my back stood a former Duke of Gloucester with spear and shield.

Churchill Speaks to Parliament
When Prime Minister Churchill rose to speak, he was almost directly below me. Over the railing, I could look down on his partly-bald head, with wisps of hair brushed across it. He stood at the corner of the table on which the mace lay. Before him were his notes in a broad book. He did not read the speech but kept his eye frequently on his notes.

Mr. Churchill was dressed in the same clothes one sees in so many of his photographs. That is not surprising since his suits are as strictly rationed as those of every Briton. He had on a black coat, with a white handkerchief, showing conspicuously over the edge of the breast pocket. He wore the famous bow tie with the spots and spectacles with heavy rims. The skin of his face and head was a bright rosy pink as I looked down at close range. The only conspicuous adornment was a heavy gold watch chain across his broad vest.

There is no need to quote from that speech now. Partly it reviewed the course of the war, but to a greater extent, it was an attack on his critics in the House, the press and the countryside. It contained plenty of punch, as all his speeches do. He used few gestures. Sometimes he grasped the edge of the table in front of him; at times, he held the lapels of his coat or clasped his hands behind his back or over his stomach. It was the words that counted, rather than the manner of their delivery.

In the Prime Minister's Office
Just as soon as Mr. Churchill had completed his speech, I hurried out of the gallery and met the other Canadians. Mr. Bracken was waiting for us and took us down winding stairways and along corridors, past three or four more policemen. Outside the Prime Minister's office we waited for him to arrive.

He came in a few minutes. Already he had lighted one of his famous cigars. He invited us into his room and as we were introduced by the Minister of Information, he shook hands with each other, making the name of the paper as well as of the man. He is an old newspaper man himself.

The room is large and L-shaped. A huge, ornate fireplace is conspicuous on one wall and on either side of it were etchings of famous prime ministers of the past. In front of the fireplace is Mr. Churchill's desk, but he did not sit down. Instead, he walked up and down all the time he was talking to us. He was bubbling over with energy and apparently pleased with the speech he had just delivered.

He began with a joke: "You have had plenty of time to see the City of London." You have visited the damaged areas and the House of Commons? Now, I suppose you have come here so that you could say you had seen all the ruins?"

But there was nothing that looked like a ruin about him. It was amazing that a man could carry the cares of an Empire at war and show the effects so little. We told him how glad we were to be there and how highly he was regarded in Canada. We said that when his voice comes over the air, people stop work to listen. We said we were sorry he had not been able to come to Canada after the meeting with President Roosevelt at the Atlantic.

He seemed to like that and reciprocated by praising what Canada and Canadians have done. He would like

Hybrids Fight Soil Drifting

Ottawa Experts Cross Grass and Wheat to Keep the Good Earth in Place

OTTAWA, (CP)—Agriculture department experts seem to be getting somewhere in their efforts to develop a large-seeded perennial grass which can be used satisfactorily on the prairies to put plant fibre back into the soil and thus help control soil drifting.

An official statement said the division of forage plants in Ottawa has produced more than 140 fertile hybrids -- crosses between perennial grasses and wheat -- and others have been produced by the National Research Council and the Dominion Forage Crops Laboratory in Saskatoon.

"Seeds of these new productions are being produced as rapidly as possible in order that tests may be laid down on various experimental farms throughout Canada, with a view to determining the forage value of the different hybrids under various soil and climatic conditions," the statement said. It was emphasized that "no seed will be available for general distribution until these preliminary tests have been completed."

The statement said years of continuous grain growing in some sections of Canada had destroyed the soil-binding fibre which was in the ground, when the natural grass was first turned under.

"There are many who believe that

Milk Supplies Most of the Food Required

"Food does make a difference to national health and our growing knowledge of human needs and the foods which supply them is convincing more and more people of this fact every day," writes Frances Hucks in an article in the current issue of Health, the official publication of the Health League of Canada.

Miss Hucks is an experienced dietitian and is now in charge of the nutrition division of the Milk Foundation of Toronto.

Miss Hucks points to the fact that meals are now planned more and more on the basis of known food values and with some thought for the ages and activities of each member of the family. That doctor's orders include lists of foods which should be eaten daily for positive health rather than long columns of forbidden dishes.

"Nutritionists recommend at least one and one-half pints of milk daily for a child and from one-half to one pint daily for an adult. If used in these amounts," Miss Hucks explains, "milk will supply the following proportions of the average family diet:

- 90 per cent of the riboflavin (Vitamin B2).
- Over one-half of the phosphorus.
- 40 per cent or more of the Vitamin A.
- One-third or more of the protein.
- One-fifth of the calories.
- About one-sixth of the thiamin (Vitamin B1).

"Small but appreciable amounts of iron and other food essentials.

Milk when taken in these amounts thus makes up between forty and forty-five per cent of the total food requirement, and yet it can be bought for about twenty-five per cent of the total food allowance. Miss Hucks thus emphasizes the fact that milk is definitely a food bargain."

Miss Hucks explains the importance in nutrition and health of each of the elements of milk. Calcium is essential for healthy bones and teeth and is also important to muscle function, blood circulation and heart action. Those who do not include milk in their diet are more than likely to suffer from calcium deficiency, because calcium is found in other foods only in very much smaller proportions.

Phosphorus works with calcium in building bones and teeth. Vitamin B1 or riboflavin deficiency affects the eyes, retards growth and impairs general health, lowers vitality. Milk is a most important source of this vitamin.

Vitamin A has been featured as the cure for "night blindness" but it also guards against respiratory infections, and helps in the development of healthy tooth enamel.

The proteins of milk and those of eggs are the most easily converted into body proteins, and milk's condition contains a higher proportion of certain other food essentials.

Milk is low in calories, compared with the high proportion of vitamins and minerals, and so is not "fattening." Many doctors, in fact, stress the importance of including milk in a reducing diet.

"It is well worth while to deliberately form the milk habit if you have not already done so," Miss Hucks says, "for the sake of good nutrition and as the basis for better-than-average health and vitality, get your three glasses a day."

PEPTILIN PEPTINS

LONDON, (CP)—The peptilin idea has been carried out in frock design in women's clothes in London. There are pendant pockets, continuation of blouse below the belt, or folds of material at side and back below the waistline.

Men of 30, 40, 50

Want normal sex, vim, vigor, vitality? Try Peptilin Peptins. Contains natural, stimulant, sugar-alcohol, aids to normal sex after 30, 40 or 50. Get a special laboratory check for only \$1.00. Try this aid to normal sex and vim today. For sale at all good drug stores.

Plan Farmerettes For U. S. In 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt Will Recruit Land Army For Uncle Sam Next Year

WASHINGTON, (CP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt plans to recruit an army of farmerettes to till American farms next summer and to help bring in the enlarged crops asked by the Department of Agriculture.

"The women will help fill a gap caused by the migration of farm hands to industrial areas for defence jobs. Mrs. Roosevelt has instructed her assistants in the Office of Civilian Defense to outline physical exercises and training for such a pitchfork and hoe army as the farmerettes enrolled in the First Great War.

School teachers, college students and others unemployed in the summer may be called upon to take the exercises. The President's wife referred to the contemplated organization as the "Women's Land Army," but said that it need not be limited to women.

The forage plants division started to breed such a grass in 1935. Russian scientists previously had succeeded in crossing wheat with certain perennial grasses. Most of the hybrids produced in Canada were sterile but methods had been found to bring about fertility in some of them and the next step is to lay down test plots.

EXEMPT SHOW GIRLS

LONDON, (CP)—The theatre manager's Committee has asked the Labor Ministry to exempt from conscription sufficient chorus girls and theatrical stars to keep troops and war workers entertained.

Glass Saves Steel

Novel Use in War Factory Canteens

Britain is using glass to save steel. It is translucent, toughened glass which can now take the place of steel as the top plate of hot cabinets in cafes and restaurants, safely standing up to temperatures of 120 to 150 degrees.

In these days when canteens and cafeterias are provided in all factories over a certain size the quantity of steel which can be saved is therefore considerable.

By admitting light to the cabinet, toughened glass lessens the work of the canteen staff in clearing it and in serving the food. The glass takes a slightly longer time than steel to warm up but it holds the heat better, thus substantially reducing heating costs particularly in canteens with lengths of hot cabinets or a battery of steamers.

And of course the glass costs less than the valuable steel which it releases for the war.

FIELD-MARSHAL'S GRATITUDE

CAPE TOWN, (CP)—On being presented with the field-marshal's baton on behalf of the king, Prime Minister Jan Christiaan Smuts said he wished to express his profound sympathy to his Majesty for the way he has honored not only myself personally but his dear country of ours."

SWEET CAPORAL

Cigarettes
THE PUREST FORM IN WHICH TOBACCO CAN BE SMOKED.

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