

"There'll Always Be An England"

By CYRIL TITT

Having recently returned from a three months' trip to Old England, and in view of the present British Flood Relief Campaign drive, perhaps a few words from an eye witness of current conditions in the old land might be interesting.

First of all, do not get the idea that England is down and out—not by a long shot. She is undoubtedly down, and very much so, but certainly not out. The same dogged fortitude and determination that carried these people through six years of terrible war will yet surmount their many difficulties—and this winter they were beset on all sides with difficulties and privations that would make us here in Canada shudder to even think of—that is, if we really gave it genuine thought.

However, you can think and read all about it, but unless you have actually seen and lived among them you cannot have the faintest idea of the hardships, privations and disasters these undaunted little islanders have had to put up with this last winter—yes, and they will have to put up with for many months to come.

This last winter was the coldest and most bitter winter for a century. The thermometer went down to zero and below in several parts of the country. This is most unusual. Normally, in the South of England, snow will occasionally come and perhaps last two or three days, and then it will be mild for a week or two. This last winter the heavy frosts came the middle of January, and then the heavy snow falls, one after another, and there was no let up for eight or nine weeks.

Roads became blocked with higher snow drifts than I have ever seen here in Canada. Railroads were snow bound and one week during the serious fuel shortage there were 40,000 cars of coal on sidings unable to be got at for the snow. Coastal shipping from the Tyne side in the North, to London in the South, was held up for days owing to the terrible gales and blizzards. Practically all the London power houses depend on this seaborne coal for their fuel. This caused a most serious shortage of electricity and gas, and power had to be turned off for days. This threw two and a quarter million men out of work for three or four weeks as well as causing serious inconvenience to the housewives.

The cry went out for more production of coal, but thousands of the miners were unable to get to the mines. Those at the pits, and the ones that were able to get there responded to the urgent call for more production.

This crisis brought out the really peculiar characteristics of the British. When things are really tough and at their worst, that is the time when they are always right there with their "shoulder to the wheel." It is indeed a fact that the British as a nation are at their best only when a real crisis is upon them, and it is then that their sterling qualities show up.

Now this shortage of coal, due in the main part to the transportation difficulties, cause untold hardships in the homes. No home in Britain was warm at any time last winter; one in fifteen thousand homes have steam or central heating, and these could not obtain the necessary fuel. Ninety-eight per cent. of the homes still have the old fashioned open fire-place which only delivers about 15 per cent. of the heat to the room, the rest goes merrily up the chimney.

During this fuel crisis—which was during the most severe weather, many

people had no heat at all of any description for as long as four days, and only had a small gas ring (with the gas only available for a few hours per day) to cook on, and heat water for hot water bottles. This is not just "hearsay," for I was a guest for many days in one home that had to live under these conditions for four days. In some of the largest departmental stores in London, such as Peter Robinson's, the sales ladies waited on customers with no heat in the store. It certainly looked strange to have a lady in a fur coat come up to a person and ask, "Is there anything I can show you?"

Eventually the thaw came, and with it the most disastrous floods ever known in England. The Thames valley was flooded for miles, and between London and Chester it was just like a sea. Practically the whole North east of England was inundated, and this extended from Peterborough to North of York, a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles. In the town of Selby the water was six feet deep in the streets.

Hundreds of thousands of acres of the finest of farm lands were inundated, and they were still in that condition at the end of March. To cap it all, just at this woeful time, the Spring tides arrived on the East coast which made the rivers that were trying to run the water off useless, for these tides which were abnormally high, made the rivers back up, and so made things even worse.

The winter loss in farm stock was at least 1,500,000 sheep, tens of thousands of cattle (drowned) and untold numbers of hogs and chickens, etc. On top of all that the land will not be fit for seeding until too late for this season. On top of all that again we have to think of the loss of clothes bedding, furniture and yes, homes that were ruined. No clothes, bedding or furniture can be bought without the never ending coupons or points—even a tie or handkerchief calls for a coupon or point.

Don't you think these people need a little help from us over here—who are living in comparative luxury.

On top of all these major disasters these uncomplaining people have been living for seven years (and still are) on a monotonous diet of skipping austerity—a diet that would look like starvation to us lucky ones over here. Here are a few of the basic rations per week, per person: 2 oz. cheese, 1 egg, 2 oz. bacon, 1 oz. cooking fat (lard), 5 oz. butter and margarine combined, and the large amount of twenty-eight cents worth, our money, of meat. This is not the ration for one day, but for seven days!

After putting up with this austerity diet for seven years they have had to face this disastrous winter, with the cold, snow and floods—never warm, never fully fed. Owing to the floods many of these patient, long suffering people are without clothes, bedding, warmth, and are half starved in the bargain. These are the same people that stood up practically alone for one full year against the might of Hitler and Mussolini. These are the people who stood up against the bombings (nightly), the flying bombs (doodle bugs) and the V-2 rockets; and they are not complaining even now, and, much as they need help of any description, they would never ask for help.

I certainly feel that this British Flood Relief Campaign is worthy of the greatest response and support ever given to any appeal in Canada. The need is urgent, the cause is just.

You can't make a hog of a gentleman by giving him an automobile.

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, JUNE 1st

FACING NATIONAL PERILS

Golden Text.— For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. Isa. 30: 15.

Less on Text.—2 Ki. 19: 5-7, 32-37; 20: 12-17.

Time.—7:10 B.C.

Place.—Jerusalem.

Exposition.— I. Judah Delivered from Assyria, 19: 5-7, 32-37.

Hezekiah became King of Judah in succession to his unprincipled father, Asa. He inherited a realm suffering from great deterioration, injustice, spiritual and moral decline. Grievous burdens had been imposed by Assyria, which dominated Judah. This state of affairs had been foretold by the prophet Isaiah (Isa. 7: 20; 8: 7). Israel had departed from the Lord. The people turned to the idolatry and customs from the East. Tolerated paganism in the land, practiced by the remnants of population Israel failed to subdue, previously restrained, gained control (Isa. 2: 6-8). The prophets Isaiah and Micah carried on a consistent witness against national sins (Isa. 6: 9, 10; Mic. 3: 1-4). But the people continued to depart further from the Lord.

As soon as he came to the throne Hezekiah instituted reforms. He opened and cleansed the Temple (2 Chron. 28: 24), restored the service and purged the priesthood. He revived the Passover with a magnitude which rivaled that of Solomon (2 Chron. 32: 5). In preparation for his revolt against Assyria he made terms with neighboring nations, especially Egypt, an alliance which Israel condemned (Isa. 30: 1-3).

Hezekiah's opportunity to revolt against Assyria's domination came in 710 B.C. Sennacherib, successor to Sargon, cruel king of Assyria, sent a large army to besiege Jerusalem (2 Ki. 18: 17). Degrading demands were made upon Judah's king. He appealed to Isaiah who bade him refuse the demand and predicted that Sennacherib would "hear tidings" (v. 7) and return to his own land. The defense of the city would be Jehovah's charge. Heartened by this assurance, Hezekiah defied the invaders. Immediately they prepared for the assault, but that night the Angel of the Lord "went out, and smote the camp of the Assyrians, 185,000 dying in the night. So Sennacherib departed and the siege was lifted. Upon his return, the Assyrian king was assassinated by his own sons (v. 37).

Several definite lessons are in this record. (1) That any king or ruler who seeks to do right will have the favor and blessing of God (Ps. 144: 15; Deut. 33: 29; Eph. 1: 3). (2) Blasphemous rulers are headed for doom (Isa. 37: 7; 2 Thes. 1: 8; Rev. 6: 15-17). (3) The Word of the Lord is sent to guide both ruler and people (Isa. 31: 6-9). (4) National salvation is the work of God (Ps. 124: 126).

II. Hezekiah's Fatal Boasting 20: 12-17.

It was Hezekiah's spirit of worldly pride that led him to display the wealth of Jerusalem and its Temple to Berodach-baladan, emissary of the king of Babylon (vs. 12, 13). That nation had formerly been under Assyria (2 Ki. 17: 24). It was now growing in power and coveting the land of Egypt. Since Hezekiah was an ally of Pharaoh, he was a potential enemy of Babylon. Foolishly he displayed his glories to his visitors and they carried back a rich report which added to the covetousness of their king. The trouble with Hezekiah was his foolish pride.

Isaiah, the prophet, examines the king, after the visitors had left for home. The one who had so often comforted the king now had to reprove him. The Word of God does both (Matt. 11: 28, 30; Heb. 4: 12, 13). Hezekiah's only reply was a simple confession which revealed his folly "There is nothing among my treasures that I have not showed them" (v. 15). He never seems to have thought of bringing his visitors to Isaiah, who would have given them the Word of God (Isa. 40: 15, 25-31).

Isaiah pronounced a verdict against Hezekiah and Judah (vs. 17, 18). All the treasures and Judah's sons would be carried into Babylon. In v. 19 we learn that Hezekiah repented and humbled himself, but the mischief was irrevocable, as some evil is (Jer. 27: 21, 22; Dan. 1: 3-7). The lessons to be learned from this are: (1) Sin is cumulative when it is not restrained, inviting judgment (Heb. 6: 4-6; 1 Jno. 1: 8-10). (2) Pride in this world's glory and goods is displeasing to God. Hezekiah's secret pride displaced his faith in God several times. God's plan was not that Babylon should learn how splendidly rich was Judah, but that the source and beauty of the people's life was in the presence of the Word and Law of the Lord (Rom. 11: 23). (3) Even a revival, which God graciously bestows by the Holy Spirit and which changes the downward trend in a nation, can be stopped by the vainglorious pride of man (vs. 16, 17).

DEFINED

"Daddy, what is leisure?" asked the child. "My boy, leisure is the two minutes' rest a man gets while his wife thinks up something for him to do."

BURLINGTON

At the monthly meeting of the Public School Board on Monday evening two men teachers were named to the staff, instead of ladies, to fill vacancies caused by resignations.

Another fine addition to business premises in Burlington was opened for the first time on Wednesday of last week in the new local sales office and show room of A. S. Nicholson and Son Ltd.

Jack J. Cunningham, a local spray painter, 75 Ontario Street, had a narrow escape from serious injury and a ducking in the old Welland canal early Saturday morning last, when his three quarter ton truck turned over on Ormond Street, Thorold.

Police Chief Earl Jack of Dundas, was the guest speaker at the monthly dinner meeting of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce held at the Estaminet on Tuesday evening. The subject of the speaker was "Youth Recreation" and he told of the great work being done among the children in Dundas by the way of youth recreation such as sports, shows and the formation of a band.—Gazette.

General Sessions

County of Halton, To Wit: Notice is hereby given that the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and also the County Court of the said

COUNTY OF HALTON will be held in the Court House in the Town of Milton —ON— MONDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1947

at the hour of one o'clock p.m., D.S. T., of which all Justices of the Peace, Coroners, Constables, Gaolers and all others concerned are requested to take notice and attend, to do and perform all duties which appertain to them.

WILLIAM J. ROBERTSON, Sheriff, Co. Halton Sheriff's Office, Milton, May 13th 1947.

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