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Britain Carries on Despite Drawbacks

"England Not Going to the Dogs" Says Former Member of Parliament. "She is Making a Fresh Start."

Recently there have been several questions and remarks made by readers of The Advance as to the situation in Great Britain. It is typically British that all the opinions are along the line that Britain still carries on. This too, is the keynote of an article by P. W. Wilson, a former member of the British House of Commons, writing in "Current History" a month ago. Mr. Wilson says:—

Britain Carries On

There is an impression that the British Empire is an ancient and venerable affair. Yet in an important sense, it is quite modern. A hundred years ago what could we have seen of the development of Canada, Australia and New Zealand; the vast expansion of territory in Africa; the reorganization of Egypt, the Suez Canal; the annexation of India?

The question whether an empire, thus mainly recent, is to be permanent, is not unfair. For thousands of years, the pages of history have been devoted to the rise of empires, their glorious culmination, and their ultimate disappearance. If we reckon time by centuries, what reason is there to suppose that the British will continue to hold territories as diverse as Kashmir and Canada, Gibraltar and Hongkong, the Khyber Pass and Labrador? Never has there been an empire so varied in its culture, so scattered in its area, so exposed along its "far-flung battle line," so ill defended by military forces.

When the shock of war fell pitilessly on Western civilization, there were many who assumed that it must mean the end of a fabric so delicately adjusted and so vulnerable as the British Empire. Yet the war was won without the loss of an inch of territory. On the contrary, the empire was extended by 800,000 square miles, and, with six votes in the League of Nations, Great Britain appeared to be at the very zenith of her power. But the war was a terrible surgery. Needing rest after it Great Britain emerged into a new and rapidly changing world. It was as if she had stepped from the hospital into a subway at the rush hour.

Britain's sovereignty itself was brought under rude discussion. Before the war the Parliament at Westminster was "Imperial" and exercised as absolutely right to legislate for the whole of the King's dominions. Today the authority of that Parliament, described no longer as Imperial, but as British only, is limited to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. All the dominions enjoy a legislative and administrative independence. They have asserted, moreover, their right to appoint their own diplomatic representatives; also, to sign their own votes at Geneva, even if those votes be against the mother country. Ireland has her own flag, coinage, stamps and tariff, while South Africa indulges perennially in debates over independence. The only link between the dominions and Great Britain and each other is today the sovereignty itself, vested in the Crown, and this link is voluntary.

There is another aspect of the case which is sometimes ignored. We hear much of what the dominions think about Great Britain. We seldom inquire into Britain's thoughts about dominions.

It is a familiar saying that the empire was conquered in a fit of absence of mind. As late as 1852, Disraeli, now regarded as an apostle of empire, wrote to Lord Malmesbury that "these wretched colonies will all be independent too, in a few years, and are a millstone around our necks." There are, as there always have been, the Winston Churchills who vigorously uphold the majesty of the Empire. But there are others who are "fed up" with dominions where it is taken for granted that Britain will pay for the army and navy, yet while tariffs are made punitive against British imports. A war-weary nation asks bluntly why Great Britain, with her own problems to solve should worry her mind over Jews and Arabs in Palestine. Let Iraq and Egypt settle their own affairs and let self-government in India be granted. It has always to be borne in mind that Great Britain is a country where the people can safely grumble because they know "hat, amid the lubrications, a silent and efficient civil service will simply 'carry on.'" It is this official momentum that is today maintaining the empire which consists no longer of "possessions." Financially and industrially Great Britain stands alone.

The population of Great Britain is now about 600 to the square mile. She has accumulated a colossal debt of \$35,000,000,000, much of it at an interest of 5 per cent. She has developed social services, including national insurance against sickness, old age and unemployment. A world-wide depression has seriously reduced the volume of her foreign trade. With the tonnage of the world's mercantile marine trebled by expensive building, there is a shortage of cargoes and one of Britain's main sources of income is shot to pieces. It is thus no wonder that there has been a momentary failure to balance either the budget or foreign trade, and that, despite drastic economies in expenditure, with an income of taxation to one third of the national income, sterling has been driven off the gold standard. Under the pressure of this taxation, ancestral estates, which have been held by famous families for many generations, are broken up and dukes cannot afford to live in their castles. Pictures and art treasures are sold across the Atlantic, and statesmen, ac-

customed to weigh their words, somewhat recklessly broadcast the danger of national bankruptcy.

It is in the perspective of history that the emergency, real though it is, should be estimated. In the 14th century England was ravaged by the Black Death, which reduced her population to a half, and after centuries of war, foreign and civil, her position when Elizabeth ascended the throne was precarious. Yet the Elizabethan era was not without its glories. After 1776 the finances of England were in a condition far worse than they are today. But the younger Pitt pulled the budget into shape, and England was able to finance Europe against Napoleon. After Waterloo, England presented a picture of appalling discontent. There was cholera. There was rebellion. Yet the Victorian era rose, like the Elizabethan era, to splendid achievement.

Within Great Britain there are multitudes of men and women who say little and make no fuss. They do not discuss large schemes. They do the day's work. They are content with simple homes and gardens from which, as a rule, they derive produce. The old is preferred to the new, and it is inexpensive. It is no deprivation to be without novelties that you have never wanted. In England there is thus a great reserve of domestic happiness, independent of prosperity or depression, of which headlines take no note. That is why many English, though poor, are loath to emigrate.

The revival of industry which has accompanied the devaluation of the pound is definite. Wool and coal and cotton have taken an upward turn. But it will not be by mere inflation that Britain will win a permanent victory, nor, as this writer thinks, by tariffs. For a cheaper sterling, while it helps export for the moment, means that in due course, there will be a higher price on imported food and raw materials. The salvation of Great Britain depends on her ability to differentiate between courage and complacency, and abandoning the latter, to organize her industries drastically on a basis that eliminates waste, applies work to actual production, and advances distribution by supplying to the world that of which the world stands in actual need. England is not going to the dogs. But she has to make a fresh start.

January Report of S.S. No. 1A Tisdale

Standing of the Pupils in the Various Classes in the South Porcupine School for the Month of January.

The following is the report of S. S. No. 1A Tisdale for January:—
Senior Fourth—B. M. C. Shaw, principal—Fred Andrew, Woldymr Solonnyka, Catherine Foster; Bob Gallagher and Mike Kostynk, equal; Newsham Haneberry, Hildreth Childs, Edythe Rapsey, Elna Wuori, Lillian Huot; Tessie Kesnesky and Rose Myronyk, equal; Beatrice Smith, Douglas McLeod, Ruth Verner, Nellie Eyre; George Nummela and Beulah Rayner, equal; Helen Zaitz, Irene Deacon, Mike Capyk; Gertrude Wilford and Waneta Blood, equal; Dora Dillon, Louis Dagenais.

Junior IV—B. W. Fashler, teacher—Pass List—Vieno Kautto, Betha Londry, Arne Manner, Rudolph Bezpalko, Ina Rintamaki and Preston Hamilton, equal; Arnold Coote, Robert Purnis Cosie Howey, Natalie Kostynk, Aino Rintamaki, Johnny Mortensen, Omer Clusiau, Bernice McDonald, Marjory Smith, Jean Gallai, Josephine Ceconci, Sapphira Toderan, Stella Stefanski, Vivian Miller, Irene Cosco, Charlie Cunningham, Stella Brown; Steve Stefanski and Irene Varker.

Senior Third—Laurel Thorpe, teacher—Eva McLeod and Dora Kesnesky, equal; Shirley Coffey, George Dogue, Jim Turner, Harry Pyke; Ralph Dysart and Robert Richards, equal; Mary Toderan, Pat Laforest and Edwin Kusela, equal; Bessie Verner, Royce White, Della St. Paul, Leino Rauhala, Eileen White, Steve Sapyk, Nellie Shukinski, Charlie Giovannella, Roy Richards, Walter Barbas, Lewis Pyke, Buddy Robertson, Leuto Walli.

Junior Third—Mary E. McNab, teacher—Teresa Cosco, Isabel Andrews, Dorothy Michalak, Eino Kautto, Beverley Evans, Lillian Kaufman, Joan Smith, Mario Giovannella, Irene Disher, Sarah Firth, Jessie Hamilton, Betty MacIntosh, Katie Zaitz, Viola Laffin, Eileen Lowry.

Second Class—O. Walker, teacher—Irja Luhta, Elaine Dogue, Joyce Coffey, Aiti Huhta, Fern Helmer, Stephen Evans, Myra Cantor, Shirley Ewing, Violet Dillon, Lila Jannakka, Leonard Battrick, Annie Rintimaki, Kathleen Hill, Clayton McLary, Bill Turner, Kathleen McKay.

Sr. I—R. M. Donlevy, teacher—Helen Haneberry, Kathleen Connelly, Lillian Belleie, Frank Richards, Margaret Foster; Stella McLary, Vivian Ferrican and Eva Pietila, equal; Alice Robertson and Eva Pietila, equal; Rauno Waanan, Frances Cunningham; Lois McLeod and Harry Disher, equal; Edwin Brown and Annie Camero, equal; Viola Mansfield and Norris Orr, equal; Irja Maki, Laura Young.

Sr. Primer—Isobel McGavin, teacher—A—Bonnie Clark, Luella Johnston, Kauko Nikkanen, Martha Luhta, Harry Coott, Clara Lindross, Aini Rintala, Adeline Jakes, Teddy Romanick, Keljo Iloia, Tom Mahon, Kevin Cahill, John Hrynuk, James Fera, Terry Pullen, Betty Curboy, Douglas McLellan, Audrey Laffin, Stanley Mahon, Kathleen Turner.

B—Mary Sekulick, Robert Bowes, Vilho Rintimaki, Nelson Farrell, Au-

Protection Needed for the Game Birds

Matter of Sanctuaries and Other Methods Should be Considered. Public Interest Should be Roused

In an address at Timmins last year Jack Miner, the noted nature lover, emphasized the need for the people in this area giving special thought to the matter of the preservation of game and game birds in particular. He referred to the danger this was that tourists might rush to James Bay now, with the railway going that far, and if unchecked it would not be long before the wild ducks and geese would disappear. At present there are hundreds of thousands of them each year at James Bay, but indiscriminate shooting of them would soon mean their extermination so far as this part of the North is concerned.

One of the chief things needed in dealing with the whole question of game and game preservation is the idea of close attention from the public generally. With an aroused public opinion ways and means will soon be found. Better still, with the public intelligently interested it will be possible to enforce any laws that may be passed in the matter. Consideration and discussion of anything relative to game and game preservation is all to the good. Accordingly, there is good reason for reading and considering the following editorial article in a recent issue of The Orillia News-Letter. In this editorial The News-Letter says:—

"We have still much to learn about the conservation of wild game. Birds and animals which have become domesticated have been the subject of study under conditions which made it possible to learn much about the diseases to which they are subject and the manner in which the species can be preserved.

"But we are still very much in the dark as to the danger to which wild life is exposed, and most of our conjectures in regard to the preservation of game have had as their basis the supposed balance that nature keeps between species that prey upon others and those which are preyed upon.

"We know very little about the prevalence of epidemics which may sweep through the woods and carry off thousands of birds and animals, most of our knowledge being of a guesswork nature, such as the popular belief that there is a plague which decimates the wild rabbits every seventh year.

"This is supposed to account for the immense number of rabbits which are to be noticed some years, while in others they may be extremely scarce. It is only lately that scientists have begun to study typhemia, a disease among rabbits dangerous to man, which may account for the periodical depletion of the woods of rabbits.

"The invasion by settlement of the habitat of game birds on this continent has brought about danger of depletion that rouses fear that some of the species might become extinct.

"The fate of the heath hen, or black grouse, has roused game conservationists to a keen sense of this danger. It is reported that the last male of the species, which has been under observation for a long time on an island in Massachusetts, has not been seen since last spring, and with the death of this solitary bird, a game bird which was formerly plentiful has vanished for ever from the face of the earth.

"While study of the disease to which game birds are liable may be of some assistance in their preservation, the chief means that we have for maintaining their numbers is the prevention of their destruction by their great enemy, man.

"It seemed not long ago that the typical game bird of the prairies, the prairie chicken, or painted grouse, was doomed to go the same way as the heath hen. However, rigorous prohibition of shooting for some years has brought the prairie chicken back in sufficient numbers to allow a couple of days' open season last fall.

"In our own district the protection season for partridge has apparently had the effect of renewing the species, so that those who travel through the woods report now that they are increasing in number.

"While there is still a vast area of woodland in this country suitable for the breeding of partridge, into which very little advance has been made by man, modern firearms make it possible for a few hunters to clean out the birds from a wide extent of territory.

"In addition to the close season for the conservation of wild life of all kinds, one of the most valuable means for preserving it is the game sanctuary.

"The experience of Jack Miner at Kingsville shows how well they remember where they are allowed to remain unmolested. No better method of saving the game birds and animals can be suggested than the establishment of game sanctuaries at frequent intervals and of adequately large areas from which guns would be rigidly excluded.

"Such sanctuaries also give opportunity to study the birds and animals and to secure information which might be of immense value in preventing the epidemics which it is highly probable, now and again deplete the numbers of many species.

"With sufficiently large sanctuaries, where game could breed and multiply under natural conditions, the sportsmen would find that the game would increase in all unprotected sections, since the overflow from the sanctuaries drey Miller, Hazel Lefurgy, Annie Mozdir, Elmer McLary, Norma McCaw, Charlie Brown, Walter Rachanski, Bill Mozdir, Jackie Londry.

IT SEEMS A SECRETARY IS SIMILAR TO A NEWSPAPER

There are so many organizations of one kind or another in town (close to two hundred, The Advance counted some years ago in the district) that there must necessarily be a large number of secretaries of one sort or another. Accordingly many who are having or have had the thankless but onerous work of secretary will read the following now going the rounds of press, feeling, perhaps, that it expresses the point of view forced on them. One time the secretary of one of the Timmins lodges was giving The Advance the list of officers installed the evening before at the lodge. There was a long list and it was humorously suggested that everybody and everything was listed except the lodge goat. "Oh, the secretary is always the goat!" replied the secretary. From the following it would appear so:—

If a secretary writes a letter, it is too long.
If he sends a postal, it is too short.
If he issues a bulletin, he is a spend-thrift.
If he stays away he is shirker.
If he offers a suggestion, he's a know it all.
If he says nothing, he's a dead one.
If the attendance at the meeting is slim, he should have called the members up.
If he does call them up he's a pest.
If he duns a member for his dues, he is insulting.
If he does not, he is lazy.
If the meeting is a howling success, the programme committee is praised.
If it is a failure, the secretary is blamed.

If he asks for advice, he is incompetent.
If he does not, he is bull-headed.
Ashes to ashes,
Dust to dust,
If the others won't do it,
The secretary must.

Every printing office in our town, including Renfrew, suffers from the "Side-line" printing canvasser. And so we have a few large printing plants in a few large cities growing larger and the town printers employing less men. When the full job is done and the town print shop so forgotten by local users that good craftsmen have to be dispersed with, then Toronto and other large city printshops will reap a harvest.

Huntingdon Gleaner:—"I am sentencing the wrong man," said Federal Judge R. M. Gibson of Pittsburgh, when he fined Milton G. Myer \$100 for violating song copyright laws. "I would like to sentence the persons who write these songs I have to listen to over the radio," Gibson added.

WORLD SHOULD NOT THINK OF GOING BACKWARDS NOW

In hunting for an excuse for the present conditions in the world there are some who blame it on machine production. An effective answer to this old-fashioned idea, as old-fashioned idea as that of the knight who wants to reduce wages, is given in the last issue of The New Liskeard Speaker. The Speaker says:—

"Considerable is being said during these days about 'The Machine Age,' and we heard over the radio that an American has written a book in which he puts up a strong plea for the continued use of machinery, and urges that employed as well as employees all should participate in the use of labour-saving devices. The Speaker has presented similar views in several articles.

would stock the lands that were open for hunting.

"The tragedy of the last lone heath hen should not be repeated in the case of the remaining game birds whose preservation rests in our hands."

Almonte Gazette:—One crowd succeeds another and perhaps is forced into oblivion by what follows. But instead of them being antagonistic why should they not be complementary? As a constructive suggestion we propose that the next contract tournament should be played on a Tom Thumb golf links, and that the programme or caddy privileges should be reserved for the authors of cross word puzzles.

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