

SIR PHILLIPS GIBBS, THE FAMOUS NOVELIST, HAS FIRM BELIEF IN BRITISH CHARACTER

"Of course I believe in England! One has to believe in England as long as the English character goes on—and it is going on," declares Sir Philip Gibbs in the following gripping and intensely sincere contribution to the London Daily Express.

"Are we getting a little doubtful of ourselves, so that it is necessary to make an affirmation of faith in England and the future of our people?"

I suppose our old self-assurance, our belief that one Englishman could whip three men of any other nation, our conviction that no trick of fate could ever take away from us our divinely appointed mission to teach manners and morals to the rest of the world (and supply their markets with manufactured goods) have been rather shaken by the after-effects of war and by a breaking down of insularity.

There are reasons for self-criticism and uneasy thought. The world has changed about us, and goes on changing with a rapidity that is sometimes alarming to thoughtful minds looking at England's place in the scheme of things.

We have lost, for all time, that easy supremacy of wealth and power which came to us as a manufacturing nation based upon a cheap supply of coal. We had the lead in a world that was mainly agricultural. Now we have lost the lead, because other nations are manufacturing the same things as ourselves—not so well, perhaps, but rather cheaper—and have developed their own supplies of coal, or other means of power.

Competition.

That is a hard knock, and we shall have to make up our minds that we have no natural advantages in that way over other nations who work rather harder than ourselves. We are fighting against a desperate competition, which is going to be keener as the world's markets get more crowded with manufactured goods which do not come from our factories.

Yes, there are reasons for uneasiness about England at the present time. Those unemployed. . . . Our self-complacent politicians failing utterly to find any remedy for that social malady. . . . The dwindling and distress of agriculture, the only basis of national health and ultimate security. . . . Dog-racing. . . . The easy-going indifference of the prosperous, tennis playing, motor-faunting south to the grim struggle for life and a week's wages in the industrial north. . . . That damned income tax. . . . Gross inequalities of reward for services.

And yet—of course—I believe in England! Who could have any doubt of England who was in France and Flanders during the years of war? There were intrigues at home, there were memoirs of generals and others which make one sick, but the common men and the young officers revealed the spirit of England as it is in the mass, as it has been through history, as it will be.

Whimsical Men.

They were whimsical between their battles. Nothing could kill their humor. Somehow, instinctively, unconsciously, without verbal patriotism—loathing that word even, as something that should not be said aloud—they had England in their bodies and spirit, as it is told in old tales of history, and in the stones of old buildings, and in the record of our people—which isn't bad up and down the world.

One has to believe in England as long as that character goes on, and it is going on. Our schools are turning out the same stuff. I have seen it lately here and there—good types exactly like those second lieutenants and the men they led across No Man's Land, hoping for the best when all was worst.

That old character of ours is in the girl of today, who is going to be the mother of tomorrow, if she can find a mate and afford the cost of motherhood, which is more than that of a "baby" motor-car. She is a hark-back to the past—that modern young thing who would hate to know it.

Striding along Oxford street, showing her knees (and why not?) she is out for the adventure of life, whatever it brings, and if it brings bombs from the sky (which it will not, in my judgment, to those now living) she

will show the same pluck as her elder sister, who was once a W. A. A. C. These girls of today will not take life with a whimper.

Self-praise is no recommendation, but lately we have been over-critical of ourselves perhaps. I believe in England because of certain qualities recognized in our stock by other peoples. They agree that the English—and I mean the English and not the Scots or the Irish, who have different characteristics—are the most good-tempered people in Europe.

They have no genius for hatred, very little cruelty. It is perhaps because they have no passionate sense of logic, no instinct for abstract ideals, which sometimes lead to cruelty and to religious wars or revolutions. We are not, as a rule, quick to kill a man because he disagrees with us, or to torture him if he holds a different political faith, or to shoot him in the back for the sake of liberty or righteousness.

The Englishman is a fair-minded fellow in a field or a fight. He is ready to listen to the other point of view. He thinks "there's a lot to be said on both sides," and it is that openness of mind, that desire to be fair all round, which gives him a sense of justice in dealing with races under his rule.

Foreigners believe we have a kind of Roman quality, which is revealed in India and other countries. They see young gentlemen from English public schools administering justice in Indian districts with a strong impartial hand, and they imagine that we have some kind of philosophy and tradition laid down in text-books.

But the average Englishman does not learn that kind of thing. He handles men well because he believes in fair play, and dislikes the bully or the cheat, and, anyhow, he is not going to stand for bad sportsmanship. We are, on the whole, a kindly folk, apart from some rather brutal chapters in our history.

Stupid, they think us—most foreigners. That is true in many ways. As a nation we are not intellectual, like the French. As a nation we are inartistic, unmusical, without interest in abstract ideas, and verbally constrained. But there are surprises. The English people are always showing unexpected qualities of genius, or wit, or wisdom. We are intensely individualistic—and you can never put the individual into a common mould.

That is why I believe in England. We still breed original characters in a standardized world of deep-thinking fellows, oddities, men with reserves of strength which come out at the appointed hour, and quiet, commonplace, restless men, who get on with the ordinary job of life without a fuss, making the best of it, until one day perhaps, as in the last war, the job alters, and they make the best of that, in the same quiet, unexcited way, though it costs them to the last gasp.

At the present time there is one aspect of English life which is distressing to my mind because it may destroy some of this old quality of character—our reserves of spiritual strength, without which we are lost. That is the gradual disappearance of agriculture and the invasion of rural England by industrialism and suburbanism.

Our English character needs the soil for its roots. We have always recruited our strength and our genius from the peasantry and the farming classes. Now we have no peasantry to speak of.

We are buying more food from other countries, and in spite of depressed industries we are becoming more industrialized. We must have the soil under our feet again, to get a peasant, farming stock as a reserve of health and character.

Yet England is beautiful, and there is still time to re-adapt ourselves to new conditions without yielding to a depressing kind of fatalism. We are over-populated, certainly. It seems to me certain that we cannot support an increasing population in this small island, where now there are not enough jobs to go round.

Well, there is room in the great Dominions, where the spirit of England lives again, unspoiled. Our younger men will have to go there for elbow room—and why not?

N.Y. DOCTORS FINISH SURVEY OF DISEASE

New York, Oct. 9.—In a survey just completed in New York City it has been demonstrated that the majority of cases of tuberculosis meningitis are due to direct exposure to active tuberculosis in the household and not to infected milk.

Experts in the department of health had charge of the study and altogether 11 cases of tuberculosis meningitis distributed in the major hospitals of the city, were under observation. In about half the cases the diagnosis was corroborated by the finding of tubercle bacilli in the spinal fluid. In the other half, guinea pig inoculation and post-mortem observations left no doubt as to the correctness of the diagnosis.

"That tuberculosis meningitis in these children," says the statement of the department of health, "is probably due to direct exposure to tuberculosis in the household, can be assumed from the fact, shown by doctors Park and Krumwiede of the City Laboratories, that almost all cases of tuberculosis meningitis are of human origin. Cases in which the bovine bacillus are found are rare, indicating that in the great majority of cases milk is not the conveying medium."

The statement then explains that while the infection may occur in a few days the signs and symptoms of the disease do not manifest themselves before a period of from four months to one year or more, the development of the disease being hastened, and often brought about, by some debilitating influence or some intercurrent disease, such as measles, pneumonia and influenza, especially during the first two years of life.

Victims of tuberculosis meningitis never recover.

BALANCE OF TRADE IN BOOZE FAVORS CANADA

Ottawa, Oct. 9.—Official Canadian trade figures issued here indicate that Canada's exports of whiskey to the United States are increasing. For the twelve months ended Aug. 31, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, whiskey to the value of \$18,620,150 was exported by Canada to the United States. During the corresponding period a year ago, whiskey exports totalled \$17,471,437. A comparison of the gallonage exported shows a total of 1,153,710 during the twelve months just ended as compared with 1,067,774 in the preceding twelve months.

While the value of exports of whiskey shows an increase, there was a decrease in the value of beer and ales sent from Canada to the United States when the twelve month periods are compared. In the twelve months just ended, ale and beer was exported to the United States to the value of \$4,871,546. During the twelve months ended Aug. 31, 1927, export of these commodities was valued at \$5,673,920.

During the first three months of the present fiscal year April, May and June, the United States absorbed the total export of Canadian whiskey. During these three months, 44,680 gallons of Canadian whiskey was exported valued at \$1,010,355. This was a very great increase over the whiskey exports in the corresponding three months of the previous year.

SAYS OUR GIRLS BEGIN TO PAINT WHEN TOO YOUNG

London, Oct. 9.—The British public school boys have just returned from their Canadian tour.

Questioned as to their impressions of the girls of Canada, one declared:—"The Canadian girls are much younger than they looked, because they commence to paint and powder while still at college."

He added: "They are very nice to go out with a day, but I wouldn't like to marry any of them."

"Say pa."

"Well, what now?"

"Do golfers go six months without sleep in Greenland?"

CHINA ENDS CO-EDUCATION; BACK TO STRICT SEGREGATION

Canton, Oct. 11.—Co-education has failed in south China, and the authorities are preparing to restore the ancient Chinese rule demanding strict separation of the sexes.

"Generally undesirable" is the verdict reached by the educational officials against further attempts to follow the West into such dangerous excess of freedom as co-education impresses the Chinese mind.

Although it has been decided to establish separate schools for boys and girls, the decision will be enforced this fall in only the middle or high schools, the primary schools and universities being included as soon as funds are available to make possible the change.

The provincial educators are making strong efforts to improve educational facilities, but they are encountering many difficulties. Student agitations continue to interrupt the work of the schools, resulting in many instances in students being arrested for alleged Red tendencies and even in their being executed. After the Communist troubles here last December, in which thousands of persons were slain, it was alleged that most of the students involved were duped by clever girl Reds sent to the schools by the Communist party as students.

The decision to abolish co-education has not met with favor among middle school students, the girls especially. They have petitioned the authorities to rescind the decision. Another order of the education officials, stating that all girl students who have bobbed their hair must allow it to grow long and that it must be braided in classical Chinese style, is meeting with much opposition.

Recent important discoveries in the fixation of nitrogen for the purpose of producing artificial fertilizers from by-products of coal will occupy an important part of the coming meeting. Because of the domestic and political aspects involved in the future utilization of Muscle Shoals, the subject is expected to be of special interest. Europeans who have accepted invitations to speak on the fixation of nitro-

gen are Georges Claude, the French scientist, whose work ranges from the liquefaction of air to the securing of power from the sea, and Rudolf Battig, general director, the Mont-Cenis Process for the Fixation of Nitrogen, Germany. American speakers on aspects of the same subject will include Louis C. Jones, president of the Nitrogen Engineering Corporation; Charles J. Brand, of the National Fertilizer Association, and C. H. McDowell, president of the Armour Fertilizer Company.

Among the fifteen or more French scientists expected is C. Simon, who will explain his method of propelling automobile trucks or autobuses by means of compressed gas neatly packed away in small tubes placed at the side of the car.

Possibilities in the piping of gas from the mouth of the mine to distant cities are expected to be presented in the address by Dr. Alfred Pott, German scientist, on the system which he has proposed of piping coke gas from the Ruhr to Berlin. This project, which is now being actively discussed in Germany, suggests the possibility of erecting great gas plants at the mouths of the mines in this country to supply cities hundred of miles away.



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SAYS AMERICA SUFFERS FROM PROHIBITION

Boston, Oct. 10.—Prohibition is ruining the health of the American people in the opinion of noted foreign surgeons attending the convention of the American College of Surgeons, which opened here yesterday.

"Americans eat too much fats and carbohydrates, and drink so much water with them that systemic poisons are generated for lack of alcohol to burn them up," declared Dr. Herbert Schlink of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia.

"Prohibition was defeated in our State, New South Wales, by four to one on a referendum vote, and we think the result proves the good sense of the people."

"I am impressed by the difference in the looks of Australians and you Americans. Our folk look so much more healthy and vigorous. Americans as a nation suffer from indigestion because body poisons are not burned up by the moderate use of wines and beer. We have controlled drinking under a war time measure inaugurated in 1925, and since that time I have never seen a drunken person in our city."

Sir George Syme, president of the Australian College of Surgeons at Melbourne, agreed with his colleague declaring: "I always have noticed the healthy look of my countrymen after a visit to America. The secret drinking in this country is far worse than moderate open drinking."

"One of the worst features of America prohibition, it seems to me, is the disrespect for the law which your young people have developed along with it," was the comment of Dr. Farquhar Macrea, of Glasgow.

"As prohibition now works in this country. I think you would be far better off with modification of that law. A moderate amount of liquor does not make a drunkard population, but rigid prohibition seems to make both drunkards and lawbreakers."

He—"Wouldn't you like to hear me sing 'Because I Love You'?"

She—"No; if you love me, please don't sing."

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