

ANSWERING FOUR QUESTIONS MOST OFTEN ASKED ABOUT CONDITIONS IN BRITAIN

This is the 13th of a series of 18 articles on conditions in Great Britain in wartime, written exclusively for the weekly newspapers of the Canada by Hugh Tompkin, of the *Fergus News-Record*.

Having completed the first dozen stories in this series, perhaps you should take time this week to answer the questions most often asked me since I came back to Canada. I shall not attempt to answer them all, of course, but only four of those which seem the most important and which are most frequently asked.

WHAT CHANGES THE WAR MAKING IN GREAT BRITAIN?

This was my first visit to England and therefore I cannot answer from my own experience, but among my fellow travellers were several who had visited them on several occasions. During my stay in England, I met people of all classes. My hosts included titled persons of various degrees of prominence and I travelled by myself where time permitted and met and talked with people of all classes. I wandered away from the group to talk to people who were working in their respective trades and in their respective machinery in the factories. I met many former Canadians now living in England.

It seems to be unanimously agreed that the changes in Britain have already been great, and more are still to come, and that things can never be the same again as they were before the war.

A great levelling process is taking place. Money is of little use and cannot buy luxuries. Rooms are not to be had for the money. The quality of the food is the same as it was before the war, but it is not so good as it was before the war.

During more than three weeks in London, I saw only two young men dressed in formal evening clothes and not counting the waiters in the hotels. These two were in an underground station and they were drunk. They were pointed out to me as bad examples by a constable. Yet in the days before the war, a Canadian cabinet minister refused admission to the dining room in the hotel where I stayed, because he was not in evening clothes.

An incident happened during my stay in Britain that shows the Germans have no idea what a change they have wrought in England. One night, they dropped a spy parachute. Evidently he expected to move in society. He was dressed in tails and his outfit was complete even to white spats. The outfit marked him as an officer, and he had further misfortune to drop in a mud puddle and spoil his spats. He was

picked up before he had time to hide the small wireless transmitter he carried. His clothes cost him his life.

Even then, pleasure travel in automobiles was limited to the distance one could go on three gallons a month. Since then, it has been prohibited. While I was in England, the distinction between first and third classes for railway travel was abolished and there is now only one class.

Rich and poor suffered alike in the bombing. That, perhaps, did more to break down distinctions than anything else. Everyone physically able to do so must take a turn at fire watching.

It is said that income and other taxes amount almost to conscription of wealth. I cannot say whether that is true, but it is obvious that wealth can no longer obtain many luxuries, and a great levelling process is taking place. The British people do not hear any complaints about it.

Food allowances of all rationed staple foods are alike for rich and poor. No amount of influence can get any more. The British people are obviously not complaining about it. It is really getting enough to eat. At least, a Canadian feels the sudden change in diet.

Take butter, for instance. No matter where one eats, the allowance is the same two ounces a week. That means a slice about the size and thickness of a quarter for each meal. It will not butter a roll. On Sunday morning, I showed the family for children only. Stores were for one day's ration, on one slice of hot meat.

It is hard to find anything for breakfast in Britain. I never ate an egg while I was there. (The ration is two eggs a month per person in the London district.) In fact, the minister refused admission to the dining room in the hotel where I stayed, because he was not in evening clothes.

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A. L. MILLER
Editor

once or twice on following days. There are two exceptions. Gans and offal are not rationed. At the hotels one ate unrationed meat, venison, rabbit pie, grouse, chicken, guinea fowl or such things as tripe, sweetbreads and head-cheese. English sausages are amazing things. They look like sausages but taste nothing on earth. I tried them twice, the second time to see if they could possibly be as bad as I thought they were the first time. There was no improvement.

Bread and vegetables were not rationed. With so many growing their own vegetables last year, and with a favorable season, there was no scarcity of vegetables. I saw oranges for sale once. They were for children only. Stores were for one day's ration, on one slice of hot meat.

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Sandusk W.I.

The Sandusk W.I. met at the August meeting at the home of Mrs. Earl Bousfield with the President, Mrs. Chas. Johnson in the chair. Eleven members present. The meeting opened with the Opening Ode, the Lady's Prayer, and the Lullaby. Creed in unison. The motto "Forty is the old age of youth" fits the young of our age" written by Mrs. Tyrell, was given by Mrs. Elvin Pond. The roll call brought forth habits house keeping retained from grandmother's day. A flower contest was conducted by Mrs. Leo Mulkins.

A discussion on the Sugarless Cook Book Recipes followed. The ladies agreed to bring tried recipes for exchange next month, preferably supper dish recipes.

A letter of appreciation for aid to Junior girls Achievement day was read. Then followed a discussion upon the letter from the National War Finance Committee for aid in the next campaign.

A suggestion for a series of Phantom parties was favorably received. The first party will be a white elephant sale to be held at the October meeting. A motion by Mrs. Elvin Pond, that we make a saving fund of a penny a meal, for the club, was carried. My good man, Earl Bousfield, that we make a saving fund of a penny a meal, for the club, was carried.

A special half hour was spent in a discussion of household economics. The September meeting will be a discussion of household economics. The September meeting will be a discussion of household economics.

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NATIONAL WAR LABOUR BOARD

GENERAL ORDER

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has found that the cost of living index number for July 2, 1942, of 117.9 (adjusted index 117) has risen by 2.4 points over the index for October 1, 1941, of 115.5 (adjusted index 114.6).

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 (1) of the Wartime Wages Control Order P.C. 5963, and subject to the general provisions of the Order, the National War Labour Board orders that employers subject to the Order who are paying a cost of living bonus shall adjust the amount of such bonus 20 per cent, and employers who are not paying a cost of living bonus shall commence the payment of such a bonus, both effective from the first payroll period beginning on or after August 15, 1942, as follows:

(a) If payment of a cost of living bonus is being made pursuant to the provisions of Order in Council P.C. 5253 (now superseded by P.C. 5963):

(i) For employers to whom Section 48 (3) (a) of P.C. 5963 applies, the bonus shall be increased by the amount of sixty (60) cents per week.

(ii) For employers to whom Section 48 (3) (b) of P.C. 5963 applies, the percentage of their weekly wage rates, paid to them as a cost of living bonus, shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.

(b) If no cost of living bonus is being paid, the payment of such a bonus shall be commenced:

(i) For employers to whom Section 48 (3) (a) of P.C. 5963 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by the amount of sixty (60) cents per week.

(ii) For employers to whom Section 48 (3) (b) of P.C. 5963 applies, the amount of 2.4% of their weekly wage rates.

(c) In no case shall the amount of a cost of living bonus adjusted pursuant to the provisions of P.C. 5253, established prior to the coming into force of this Order, in an amount exceeding \$4.25 per week, the amount of the bonus shall remain unchanged.

(d) For each employer now being paid a cost of living bonus of less than \$4.25 per week, the amount of the bonus shall be increased up to sixty (60) cents per week, but in no case to exceed a total weekly bonus of \$4.25.

(e) For employers to whom Section 48 (3) (a) of P.C. 5963 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by the amount of sixty (60) cents per week, but in no case to exceed a total weekly bonus of \$4.25.

(f) For each employer now being paid a cost of living bonus of less than 17% of their weekly wage rates, the amount of the bonus shall be increased to 17% of their weekly wage rates.

(g) The adjustment or payment of a cost of living bonus calculated as ordered shall be to the nearest cent of any fractional figure.

(h) Employers in the construction industry shall adjust the amount of their cost of living bonus in accordance with the provisions of the Order for the construction industry, pursuant to the provisions of the Order for the construction industry.

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With the R.C.A.F.

By Flight Lieut. T. C. McCall

"Dreadful flap at Ops: Three kites missing" said if you can get me second place to anything found on this continent, in the opinion of Flight Lieutenant A. B. Ferguson, it probably threw him into confusion until such time as he had succeeded in mastering the intricacies of "Raf" — the universal language of all who fly with the R.A.F.

Translated the request means that the operations room — nerve centre of the squadron is concerned over the absence of three aircraft and the speaker would like some information on the matter. "Gen" is a short term used for inside information; "flap" means almost any kind of commotion or to-do, and "kites" of course, refers to aircraft.

With many Canadian flyers returning to Canada, such terms as the above are likely to find their way into the language of the younger generation. For instance, there's the expression "Good show" which is a comment designed to cover almost any situation from shooting down three enemy aircraft to finding a new necktie. Overseas, a chap is a "type" either good or bad. If you see a pilot with the top button of his tunic unfastened, don't chide him for sloppiness; he's a fighter pilot and as a ruggedly individualistic fellow, demands the right to express himself thus. If his cap badge, instead of glistening, is heavily tarnished and covered with veridgris, it isn't that he doesn't take

pride in his uniform. Not at all. He's proud to be a coastal command or flying boat chappie whose exposure to salt water is emblazoned on his cap badge as a testimonial for all to see.

Scottish hospitality does not take second place to anything found on this continent, in the opinion of Flight Lieutenant A. B. Ferguson, it probably threw him into confusion until such time as he had succeeded in mastering the intricacies of "Raf" — the universal language of all who fly with the R.A.F.

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WESTLAND WHIRLWIND

Some months ago we knew that a brand new fighter plane had stepped into the ring to battle under British colors but until very recently no one on this continent knew who it weighed in. It was it looked like or how powerful a punch it delivered. First details of the new single-seat Westland Whirlwind fighter came as a surprise since its twin-engine design is a new departure in British fighter planes that has until now been considered a taboo. The Whirlwind is a new departure in British fighter planes that has until now been considered a taboo. The Whirlwind is a new departure in British fighter planes that has until now been considered a taboo.

Closest German comparison to the Whirlwind is the Messerschmitt ME 109 but the wing shape single versus double tail and alignment of engines with fuselage nose would provide marks of quick distinction.

The only true twin-engine fighter is the Lockheed Lightning but its twin tail booms prevent any confusion of it with the Whirlwind.