



"Talking of Sound Reasons..."

"The Works Doctor came to see me the other day and put forward a strong case for some form of insulation to protect employees from excessive noise. Apparently most of the absenteeism and nervous illness in the place is due to sound irritation, although I believe he had another sport for it. I must admit our re-equipment scheme has increased the noise level considerably - and absenteeism has increased likewise. Anyway I'm recommending to the Board that we call in Newalls to see what can be done about it. It will be a worthwhile investment to get back to something like peak efficiency."

* entirely serious

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EDUCATING A NATION OF CARELESS TEA-DRINKERS

Ceremonial ordeal for schoolgirls

By our own Reporter

Still far ahead of coffee, its nearest rival, and as yet unarmoured new-fangled methods of making it, the ritual of tea-drinking remains a firm and hallowed part of the English scene. In places it has degenerated into the tea-break and often it comes out of an urn.

If the ceremonial has occasionally been relaxed, however, the rate of consumption has shown no signs of falling off since the war. Last year we drank 100 million cups of tea (a word sanctioned by the Tea Bureau) the equivalent of ten pounds of tea per million of the population. That is, 300 million pounds; and Lancashire drank at the highest rate.

We did not, however, always drink it well: it was gulped without thought, sometimes it was ridiculously weak; and in addition to our lack of taste we did not pay nearly enough attention to style. Or so the Tea Bureau is at pains to persuade us.

Heating the pot

For example many people did not heat the pot; or if they did it was cold by the time the boiling water reached it. Or perhaps they neglected to ask those whom they were serving whether they liked milk before or after. Or else they boiled the water too long, not long enough or not at all. In an attempt, therefore, to reintroduce a tea-making standard into the British way of life the Tea Bureau decided to begin at the beginning. It chose the greatest tea-drinking area in Britain and it chose schoolchildren aged 11 and upwards.

For some years tea-making has been part of many school curricula: it crops up in domestic science lessons. But until yesterday in Manchester it had never reached the status of an examination. Now that has been remedied, one suspects, quite so starkly before a small audience of wistful schoolgirls. In the Gae Showrooms demonstration theatre at the town hall they watched twelve classmates taking part in a tea-making contest organised by the Tea Bureau as a pilot scheme for other education authorities to adopt.

The girls took their own crockery. Kettles, Ceylon tea, cube sugar, and milk were provided. So was a caddy-spoon, though one competitor who had the enterprise to use her own lost a mark for infringing the rules. This mistake came under the heading of "measuring the leaf".

One or two much-maligned aspects of the tea ritual were staunchly upheld. Heating the pot for example: naturally none of the girls yesterday morning failed to do this, but strictly speaking you should dry the inside of the pot before putting in the tea.

Then the question of when to put in the milk: a tea taster at yesterday's ceremonial could not see how you judged the strength of tea if there was milk already in it, and he was judged, when a girl asked him in one breath: "Do you take your milk before or after and do you like your tea strong or weak?" She ended with 98 marks. The Tea Bureau believes that ceremony is almost as important as the tea itself. That is why it awarded 40 marks out of a hundred for "preparation of tray" and "etiquette in serving".

Lack of infusion (letting the tea brew or stand) is the biggest factor in the quality of this morning's morning's competitors failed to let the pot stand for five minutes before pouring. Correctly boiling water may seem a frivolous test to the untutored but too many tea-drinkers are deceived into thinking the water is boiling when big bubbles appear on the top. It should be boiling at the bottom, too, for which an extra half-minute should be allowed. Twice-boiled water is frowned on even more sternly.

Inhibitions

Admirable as the bureau's intentions may be in trying to stylise the taking of tea, it was hard at times yesterday to dismiss doubts about the method. How inhibited can you get with teapot, cups, spoons, sugar, milk, and a kettle? Should a girl of eleven or twelve betray signs of a tea-time nervous? Needless cup and saucer adjustment, constant peering into empty teapot, and mixing up lids. The chief causes of these occasional kettles—it is to be hoped they were no more than stage fright—were pots brewing for the regulation four to six minutes, and then the tasting. There was nothing for them to do but stand and watch the judges. Even the audience got fidgety amid the tensions of rivalry as the marks of each pair of girls on stage went up on the board. And the tea itself? "Excellent," said the tea-taster. "There is no higher compliment in the tea-tasters' world."

HONORARY DEGREES AT MANCHESTER

The University Court has given authority for the conferment on Founder, Day, May 14 of the following honorary degrees:

D.Sc. (hon.) to Sir Charles G. Bell, K.C., for his services to the Law, the University of London, and the University of Manchester.

D.Sc. (hon.) to Professor John H. D. Jones, for his services to the University of Manchester and the University of London.

D.Sc. (hon.) to Professor John H. D. Jones, for his services to the University of Manchester and the University of London.



Group Captain Peter Townsend on his arrival at London airport from Brussels yesterday

THE £1,000 HOUSE

Now on offer to local authorities

By our Hall Correspondent

Local authorities throughout the country will to-day receive a letter offering them the first post-war, all-in £1,000 house. The house has been designed and developed by Mr. J. L. Spooner, a Hull architect-builder, who, with a staff of 1,700, has built 20,000 houses in this country and abroad since the war as well as factories, shops, schools, and blocks of offices. He said yesterday:

"The £1,000 house, including all services such as paths and drains, has been developed in view of the existing credit restrictions and the need for strict economy in building. I have built houses in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, and across the Greek Government on the rebuilding of their earthquake victims, and the £1,000 house has been developed as a result of the experience of home building in these countries. The plan is to build these houses in lots of not less than 50, and we would agree to build two or three hundred houses in twelve months. They would be of the two-bedroom four-person or three-bedroom four-person type, but we would be willing to incorporate a number of three-bedroom five-person houses in the scheme at no extra cost. The internal parts of the house would be built at our factory, erected on the site, and the brickwork built on the site. All services such as plumbing and electric fittings."

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has approved the plans of the £1,000 house and has agreed to long-term loan plans for local authorities wishing to build them.

Mr Justice Pilcher, who is hearing civil claims at Birmingham Assizes, was unable to appear in court yesterday because of illness.

MYSTERY OF MR BULGANIN

Is he on way out?

By Victor Zorza

There is much speculation in dispatches coming out of Moscow, and among Kreninists generally, about the fate of Marshal Bulganin, whose future, it is said, will be decided at the session of the Supreme Soviet which begins to-day.

Attention has been drawn to the small number of nominations which Marshal Bulganin received during the recent "election" campaign—he was at the bottom of the list of Presidium members—and this has been taken as an indication of his coming political demise. On the other hand, his election speech has been published as prominently as those of other Presidium members, and the signatures in the letters to Western leaders are still his own, and from this it has been concluded that he can have no intention of resignation.

One thing that is quite certain is that Marshal Bulganin will formally submit his resignation during the current session of the Supreme Soviet, together with that of his Government, as he is required to do by the constitution after each election. Whether he will be reappointed is another matter.

At a press conference in Moscow yesterday Mr. Hannu Karjalainen, who had been discussing disarmament and a summit conference but said he had no news of Bulganin, the Marshal was not among the guests at a dinner last night for the United Nations Secretary-General.

MARRIED WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT

£40,000 more in ten years

There has been a net increase of nearly £40,000 in the number of women in work since 1948. An article in the "Ministry of Labour Gazette" to-day, describing the trend in employment of married women, said that the last summer's figures showed that the whole of this increase has been due to the influx of married women into employment.

There have been substantial decreases, however, in the number of women in domestic service and in the number of women in the textile industry.

The increase in the number of males employed in the same period was 60,000. The "Gazette" comments:

A feature of this change is that while the increase in the number of males in manufacturing industries was a large increase in the number of females, while the male labour force remained stationary, the female labour force increased by nearly 50,000 in the same period.

Stagings of work due to industrial disputes involved nearly 38,100 workers in February. The aggregate time lost was about 110,000 working days. The total number of stagings was 294, of which 202 were in coal-mining.

The index of weekly wage rates (based on January 1954, as 100) for all industries and services was 115 at the end of February, compared with 112 at the end of January. For manufacturing industries only, the index remained unchanged at 112, at which figure it has remained since August 1947.

The final figures of earnings and hours in October 1957, issued yesterday by the Ministry of Labour, confirmed the provisional figures issued a month ago. The average weekly earnings of just under seven million manual workers in manufacturing industries and other principal non-manufacturing industries were £10 12s 5d, which was 10s 10d higher than in April 1947. For men only the figure was £12 11s 7d. The average weekly hours were 46.4, compared with 45 in April, 1947.

NEW BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD

The Queen has nominated the Right Rev. John Alexander Ramsbottom, Bishop Suffragan of Jarrow, Archdeacon of Auckland and Canon of Durham, for election as Bishop of Wakefield in succession to the late Rev. Roger Plumpton Wilson, on his translation to the see of Chichester.

Bishop Ramsbottom, who is 52, was for four years a secretary of the Student Christian Movement. He was vicar of St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, from 1942 to 1949.

WIDOWS WITH CHILDREN

More help needed

Dr J. C. Heenan, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, yesterday spoke of the "almost impossible position" which many young widows with children were in. He told the annual meeting of the Girls' Welfare Association in Liverpool that there were, in his knowledge, young women with small children who simply had not enough money to live on.

A young woman who lost her husband at the moment when the family was young found herself in great financial difficulties, continued Dr Heenan.

"Unless she is given more in the way of allowances or public assistance she will be forced to put her young children in a nursery and go out to work. It need hardly be said that it costs the country more to maintain nurseries than it would do to give widows adequate allowances. If children are robbed of the mother's care and the home is left deserted, then the consequences as to the number of children who later on are given a life of crime are obvious."

The annual report of the association, which was presented at the meeting, gave a "very warm welcome" to the Juvenile Liaison Unit of police women recently formed by the Chief Constable of Liverpool, which the streets for young girls in moral danger. It stated that many girls had already been taken to the association's hostel as a result of the team's watchfulness, and continued:

"Historical continuity is thus maintained in Liverpool the same work is done by the same people. The Police Patrols, the expert eye gained from their own work as a police officer, has been invaluable, and she is now in close touch and sympathy with the new under-graduates."

Of the 47 girls whom the police introduced to the hostel during the year, none had missed their trains, some had been found wandering, and some, having run away from home, had suddenly realised that they had no plan and no money. Altogether 172 girls had been admitted from various sources and 91 of these went there by themselves.

TO REFUEL VALIANTS IN FLIGHT

Use of new technique

Vickers Valiant jet medium bombers in service with the R.A.F. since 1955 will shortly have their range increased through the use of in-flight refuelling at high altitudes and speeds. Vickers' Armstrongs announced yesterday that the use of a probe and drogue technique was being applied to the Valiant under a Ministry of Supply contract in conjunction with Flight Refuelling, the originators and manufacturers of the equipment. At the start of the operation the tanker-Valiant trails the refuelling hose to its full length of some 90 feet. The receiving aircraft then rises the probe into the drogue at a relative speed of three to four knots. A special fuel-tanks fitted yesterday flew non-stop from Gander, Newfoundland, to London Airport—a distance of 2,400 miles, and about twice the normal range for the aircraft.

OBITUARY

Mr W. Buchanan-Taylor

Mr William Buchanan-Taylor, who has been a publicist for J. Lyons and Co., the caterers for twenty years, died at his home in St. John's Wood, London, on March 26, aged 80.

Mr Buchanan-Taylor had been pursued during a long illness by his second wife, the actress, and had been a "comedy star" of the 1920s and 1930s. He was one of the acknowledged experts in the modern publicist and he persuaded many a publicist to copy his original Nippy. He was the first publicity director for the Edinburgh Festival and for many years after leaving Lyons and Company he was his own agency in London.

He directed publicity for the National Savings movement for several years. He retired in 1953 after a severe breakdown.

MANCHESTER ASSIZES
The Assizes at Manchester will be held at the Manchester Assizes Court, 1, St. James's Square, Manchester, on Friday, March 28, at 10 a.m. The Assizes will be presided over by Mr. Justice Pilcher.

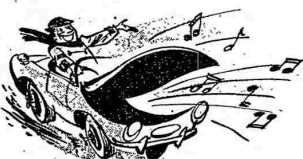


Living youngsters talk of 'squares' and 'cats' from York to Yeovil

Motorists associate high spirits with an oval

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