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Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 47

JUNE 1945

One Penny

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Editorial

A long and arduous task has been the lot of the British people, a task never surpassed through all the trials and tribulations of a determined people, who in 1939 set out to accomplish a security for a world peace.

The world security order being shaped in the San Francisco Conference coupled with the Atlantic Charter lends colour to a Utopian dream, but this can only be an accomplished fact when the governing of our daily lives by the constant control by numerous regulations is removed.

The dispensation of want and fear are two of the pillars upon which the Atlantic Charter is based, but how can this be accomplished when it is learned that a maximum war disablement pension for the rank of private is £2 weekly, the war widow's pension is subject to her capacity for employment and other anomalies too numerous to mention here?

From time to time it has been advocated that individual organisations should co-operate in the closest degree to work for a common end as a collective body and where the urgency of an improvement in the social service, whether it be pensions or housing,

should not be the basis for the party political platform either in the Council Chamber or the floor of the House of Commons.

In April, 1945, the Government issued their Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Rent Control and it is interesting to note the recommendations; among those made the following indicate the proposed line of action that may be taken as a basis for future legislation: Future of Control, Registration of Rents, Increase in Rents, Enforcement of Repairs, Possession, Furnished Lettings, Rural Housing, etc.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Imperial War Graves Commission was issued quite recently, which gives a clear assurance of the care and attention that is being devoted to the maintenance of all war graves wherever our Imperial Forces made the supreme sacrifice and now that victory has been achieved in Europe the memory of those fallen must never be allowed to wain as a passing night, but to perpetuate this memory by a practical application by way of increased pension and allowances to those left.

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The Need for Solidarity.

Now that the war in Europe has come to an end no slackening of effort must be allowed to take place. The same vitality of purpose must continue to ensure that our fighting forces in the Far East shall have the best possible equipment to bring to a speedy conclusion a victory that will bring to an end any further attempts of world domination and aggression.

And what of the future? Shall it be one of international treaties, regional pacts and a true application of the Atlantic Charter? If this be the case we must first put our own house in order by first adopting a satisfactory plan of social security, whether it may be through parliamentary legislation or the application of a supplementary pension.

In the past there has been injustice in the scale of these latter, the question of war widows pensions and disablement pensions. It will of course be said, "Where is the money coming from?" There are ways and means through a sound economic planning without the necessity of control, and now that the war in Europe is over, the financial burden of the C.D. service now at an end, the cost of this could be applied for the common benefit of those classes of persons previously mentioned.

Furthermore, the re-instatement of our overseas markets would do much to reinforce a policy of

employment, and it is hoped that all the political promises made will be carried out.

As mentioned in the previous issue of the Bookhams Bulletin, the matter of land nationalisation and its effect upon the community was made and it is interesting to note the subject has been dropped.

Some criticism has been made concerning the composition of the Leatherhead Housing Committee and to the fact that there is a lady architect serving upon this Committee. The inclusion of an architect is a valuable asset and a few more persons with the time and specialised knowledge would be far more valuable to the community than square pegs in round holes.

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When Winston Spencer Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace (on November 30th, 1874) his grandmother the Duchess of Marlborough remarked that he came into the world making an earth-shaking noise. All through his life he has lived up to that infantile reputation. A lazy boy at Harrow, thought to be a dullard, he scraped by the skin of his teeth into Sandhurst, when to India as a subaltern in the Hussars, played polo assiduously, laid the foundations of his vast knowledge of military history and by hook or crook had seen more war (in Cuba with the Malakand Field Force, the Tirah Expeditionary Force and Kitchener's Nile expedition ending with the charge at Omdurman) before he was 25 than many an officer twice that age. Two years later he was in South Africa fighting the Boers, acting as war correspondent for *The Morning Post* and escaping, sensationally, when made a prisoner of war. Then came his plunge into politics. He has sat loosely to party ties—being first a Conservative, then a Liberal, then a Conservative once more and now—well perhaps one might say that he is again a Liberal leading a Conservative party which must eat out of his hand or perish.

Winston has always believed himself to be a man of destiny.

Standing beside his father's glazed coffin he told a journalist that Lord Randolph Churchill hoped he would be buried in Westminster Abbey but he was to be buried at Blenheim. "But," he added, "a Churchill will be buried in Westminster Abbey. I shall be buried in the Abbey." And so he will, when the time comes; but may that time be far far away. When he went on a lecturing tour in America and Canada he stood beneath a great streamer-banner bearing the words "The future Prime Minister of Britain." He almost missed that proud distinction, which he owed to Hitler.

David Low in one of his most penetrating cartoons depicted Pitt and Lloyd George descending from their pedestal to welcome to his place on the plinth the greatest war minister England has ever had—Winston Churchill. History will no doubt confirm Low's estimate of Winston's place in our rude island story.

Let there be no mistake about this—Winston has won through by solid hard work. He has scorned delights and lived laborious days to attain his place and power. Those speeches which set our blood atingle and compel us to gather round his standard are the product of toil, industry, sweat of the brow and brain. That superlative mastery of English, that wizard-like capacity to wed the exact noun to the inevitable verb and to stiffen both by adjectives

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and adverbs that seem to spring, highborn, into their predestined place—all these things are acquisitions, not gifts of the gods. Not for nothing did Churchill in his early days rehearse his speeches before a long mirror—it was part of his self-discipline.

If he had not been pre-eminent as a statesman and war minister Winston might have been a Royal Academician (his oil-paintings attain a very high standard) or a builder or an author of the very highest rank. Perhaps that rank ought to be accorded to him for his biography of his father (one of the best biographies of the last half century), for "The World Crises" his four-volume history of the 1914-18 war and his monumental biographical study of his illustrious ancestor John Churchill the great Duke of Marlborough. Winston's versatility amounts to genius—the genius which is both an endowment and a capacity for taking infinite pains. Winston has given us an outline of his life story in an entertaining book entitled "My Early Life" which closes with his marriage to Miss Clementine Hozier and the familiar ending "and they lived happily ever afterwards." How much Winston owes to "Clemmie," as he calls her, only he knows, but Lloyd George once said that the Churchill family life is idyllic and Lady Oxford has said that Winston is the best son, the best husband and the best father that she has ever known.

What ought we to do for Winston Churchill, we who follow him and honour him? A title! What title could add a cubit to his stature? A grant of money! Would he take it, and would it add to his happiness? One honour the King will surely confer on him—the priceless and coveted "Order of Merit"—an honour so exalted that one recipient of it once declared that "The worst of the O.M. is that it is so damned final. There is nothing beyond it." But the honour which I feel certain Winston Churchill would regard as the crowning honour of his life would be a panel or plaque above the Speaker's chair in the rebuilt House of Commons bearing the legend "Winston Churchill has deserved well of his country." That would be a unique honour whose glory would never fade.

A.P.

The New Ration Books

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The time is not far distant when the work of the Citizens' Advice Bureau will have been achieved. It has fulfilled a war-time need of the greatest importance in the lives of the community, and although there will still remain a thousand and one problems to be solved, the continuance of the work is dependant upon the finances that may be allocated at the discretion of the Ministry of Health.

Moreover, some aspects of the work of the Bureau must continue, particularly regarding the re-settlement of the returned service men and women and the industrial workers and although the Ministry of Labour is introducing Re-settlement Advice Bureaux throughout the country, these are purely of an executive character.

With the wide experience of the Citizens' Advice Bureau it is easy to recognise the value of such work, and without setting up competition with the Ministry of Labour or any voluntary organisation, the Leatherhead & District Citizens' Advice Bureau have already prepared plans to advise upon the problems which will inevitably face the returned service man and woman.

Such matters as pensions, post-war credits, gratuities, demobilisation, etc. fall within the scope of post-war activities and in

co-operation with the British Legion, the Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's Help Society, the Emergency Help Committee of the British Red Cross and the Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's Families Association can provide that assistance falling outside the scope of any statutory authority.

If you want information on any matter,

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Of course we will keep on the job! To postpone victory is just foolishness, but to throw away our hard won victory would be criminal. To stop saving, or worse still to spend our savings now before goods are plentiful, will force up prices against us and prevent urgent reconstruction. Government control has been proved our wartime safeguard against inflation and now, and when peace comes,

it must be supplemented by self-control.

Self-control marked our VE day thanksgivings. The anniversary of ever-glorious D Day is now approaching. The best and easiest way to celebrate it is to increase our weekly savings.

Peace when it comes will also present new problems to solve.

Problems will invite endeavour.

Honest endeavour will excite enthusiasm.

High enthusiasm will unite Nations.—G.

. . . as it is spoken (not Basic English)

Here is a curious item issued by the Ministry of Agriculture News Service.

Many years ago an East Anglian farmer sent the following bill to a neighbour.

Aossferaday	2	6
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Can you translate it?

To the beginning of this year, the repairing of war damaged houses has cost Coventry over three million pounds.



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Spring 1945

What a wonderful Spring we have had this year, apart from the ending of the war with Germany.

After a somewhat drawn-out, dreary and cold Winter, Spring suddenly burst upon us and the marvellous spell of fine weather in April gave all a chance to make up for lost time, especially the farmers. Those lucky amateur gardeners who possess a cool greenhouse are no doubt delighted with the result of their indoor seed sowing this year, the plants being of such a high standard that in some cases they beat those that used to be raised in heat in pre-war days.

Thirty years ago the suburban gardeners with blanket-sized gardens would be satisfied with the purchasing of a few plants such as geraniums, marguerites and lobelias, but when the first world war came along some of them had the chance of working an allotment and although their professional brothers at first laughed at their efforts, by the time two years had passed some of the amateurs were winning prizes in the open classes at the local horticultural shows. At the end of that war and during the subsequent period these amateurs went further out from the towns in order partly to follow on in Adam's occupation. Some unfortunately bit off more than they could chew, but generally speaking only a few coveted more acres than they could reason-

ably manage. When the present war came along these representatives of the "old guard" knew from past experience what to do and they have helped considerably in the supply of foodstuffs.

The Spring which was some three to four weeks in advance of previous seasons and the signs are that Summer will be a good one, inasmuch as the oak came out before the ash, which according to the old folk lore means we are only in for a little splash. Towards the end of April we had a somewhat serious set-back in the shape of a severe frost which did a great deal of damage to the fruit trees, especially plums, of which there should only be a small quantity available later on. The apples however seemed to get through and now at the beginning of June they are plentiful and about the size of large marbles. The hedges are white with mayblossom and the roses are in full bloom.

As a reminder of what the frost did, some cherry trees have lost practically all their fruit and even had their foliage "scorched" as though they had been in a fire. Beyond that the early opening leaves and the bloom of the walnut trees were absolutely black, so there should be few if any walnuts this season locally. Whilst the frost did this harm it may have done a lot of good in reducing the number of pests which no doubt started work on the early vegetation. Nature usually restores the balance.—R.A.

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Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's Families Association.

It is the first and foremost object of this Association to assist the dependants and families of those men and women serving in H.M. Forces and although victory in Europe has been achieved, the work of the Association must continue at the same level to maintain the very many calls upon the funds.

There is much work to be carried on regarding the welfare of the wives and families of those still serving in SEAC and to ensure such work to be carried out, the question of increased funds is a need with which this Association is faced.

An appeal for £1,000,000 was launched on 25th May and the gratitude of the nation to our fighting services can be shown by practical application in supporting this national appeal and any token of expression of gratitude can be sent to Air Vice-Marshal Sir N. McEwen, Chairman, SSAFA, 90 Regent Street, London, W.1.

From time to time the work of SSAFA has been brought to the notice of the general public in the columns of the Bulletin and should there be any one interested in the work and its organisation, particulars can be obtained from the Divisional Secretary, SSAFA, Surrey House, Church Street, Leatherhead.

George and Bob, the Country Gardeners

Hello, George, got any weeds?

Yes, Bob, or I had before I got the hoe going. I can't bear to see weeds taking all the goodness out of the ground and encouraging all manner of pests.

Well, George, now is the time to begin using insecticides, particularly calomel dust for onions to prevent the fly. My tomato plants are ready to go out after a little hardening off, and out they go as soon as I get the chance. I am going to spray them as well as my potatoes with Bordeaux mixture from about mid-July onwards, the same as last year, and it pays.

Agreed, Bob, and now's the time to sow the main crop of carrots, James Intermediate is my choice. At the end of July I sow winter cabbage, such as Flower of Spring and Xmas Drumhead.

Yes, George, and how about the other kinds that do well in almost any situation—Purple Sprouting Broccoli and Cottager's Kale.

It seems to me that the potato crop bids fair to be a good one, so let us hope it will, because the food situation is still very acute and we shall be glad of everything we can produce, so let us go to it with a will.

Sorry I can't stay any longer, because I've so much to do that every minute is precious at this season of the year. So long.

BOB.

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