



"... And men are flesh and blood"

IT is not for nothing that *The Complete works of William Shakespeare* is still after all these years one of the two set books for desert island dwellers. It is not for nothing that Ben Jonson said of his contemporary, "He is not for an age but for all time," and that Longfellow echoed with "The Great poet who foreruns the ages, Anticipating all that shall be said."

No matter what the situation, Shakespeare has a Word for It, even when the dictionary hasn't. Almost 400 years before our Prime Minister's first faint words on the subject came drifting across the Tasman, Shakespeare anticipated all that shall be said about Meat Rationing. We have amused ourselves by picking out merely a few examples of this further proof of his omniscience. And such is the benefit of Universal Education that one's own favourite quotations are *ipso facto* those of the greatest good to the greatest number.

On Preparing to Hear the Prime Minister's Broadcast:

"Stiffen the sinews, tighten up the belt. Disguise fair nature with hard-favoured rage."—Henry V.

Harassed Housewife, Hearing that Husband Still insists on Three Meat Meals a Day:

"A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!"—Richard III.

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L AS IN LAME OR LIMPING LEG

D The Russian D is represented by a variation of the Greek Delta triangle. It looks quite clumsy and antiquated. Let us think of it as a dead Dodo, the squatting, wingless bird that persists in the Russian alphabet.

Finally, the Russian F is represented by the Greek upper case Phi. It looks like this: Φ and is the exact equivalent of our F.

The Russian equivalents of our B and Z are easily memorised. Take our lower case b and draw a line at a right angle to the stem, thus: β . You have the Russian capital letter which is the equivalent of our B. Curve the stem, thus: β and you get the Russian lower case b. The Russian equivalent of our Z looks like our script Z, thus \mathcal{Z} and is easily remembered.

If Meat Rationing Comes—

SHAKESPEARE HAS WORDS FOR IT

Meat-hungry Man, Thinking That if the Worst Comes to the Worst—

"So in this word, 'tis furnished well with men

And men are flesh and blood."—Julius Caesar.

Butcher, Confronted by Ration Books:

"Double, double, toil and trouble."—Macbeth.

A Warning to Wild Creatures:

"You spotted snakes with double tongue, Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen."—Midsummer Night's Dream.

An Invitation to a Holiday in the Ranges:

"Come, shall we go and kill us venison?"—As You Like It.

On Returning from Holiday in Ranges:

"Where hast thou been, sister?" "Killing swine."—Macbeth.

The Poultry Keeper (lucky man!):

"In fair round belly with good capon lined."—As You Like It.

The Meat-eater, Towards the End of the Rationing Fortnight:

"Who with a body filled and vacant mind

Gets him to bed, crammed with distressful bread."—Henry V.

Disgust of a Householder Who, Having Sacrificed a Domestic Pet, Finds its Internal Organs Have Not the Vitamin A Content Recommended by the Health Department:

"Thou lily-livered cur!"—Henry V.

A Housewifely Hint on the Intelligent Use of Leftovers:

"Thrill, thrill, Horatio. The funeral baked meats

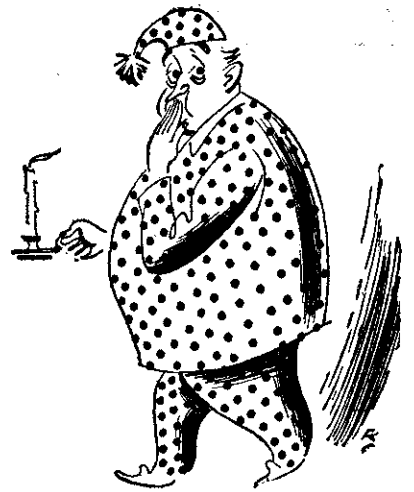
Did coldly furnish forth the marriage table."—Hamlet.

C=S For the letter S, the Russians use C. The English C is, of course, used by us only as an S (as in city), or as a K (as in cat). The Russians write K whenever they sound the K (O K TEAM), and use nothing but C for the S sound. Therefore, they do not need nor have the symbol S.

One more letter, and we have practically finished. For the English sound EE, the Russians use what they call the double E. It looks like this: \mathbb{E} . Before the revolution, the Russians also had the \mathbb{i} which looked and sounded quite like our short i. The Russian \mathbb{H} is the best memorised as two of these short \mathbb{i} 's joined by the natural upward stroke /, and the dots omitted. Remember, that in English, too, we cannot be sure to get the long E sound unless we use the double E.

When the EE (\mathbb{H}) merges with the preceding vowel, a short sign is placed over it, thus: \mathbb{H} . Accordingly, MOH is pronounced mo-ee, whereas MOH is pronounced moi (rhyme with boy).

You should now be able to read many Russian words composed of the letters discussed.



"... Crammed with distressful bread"

A Husband Expressing Disgust at the Sight of a New Vegetarian Dish (motto com expressione):

"Is this a taggot that I see before me?"—Macbeth.

AFTER reading and duly pondering the foregoing, we are brought face to face once more with the Miracle of Shakespeare. In spite of the magnitude of the whole Meat Rationing problem, his warm humanity not only informs the whole, but has time to illumine every facet of it. He is mindful of the possible plight of hitherto uneaten animals, he spares a line here and there to present the Housewife's Point of View. Yet in spite of this attention to details he never forgets his major premise, and there emerge from time to time throughout his work glimpses of the underlying philosophy that Man Cannot Live by Bread Alone.

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Loretta Young

COLUMBIA STAR IN "BEDTIME STORY"

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