

A QUEEN WITH A MIND OF HER OWN

(By "Dutchy")

THREE incidents may be quoted to give some indication of the character of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, now a refugee in England, and one of the remarkable women in the world by any reasonable test.

At the age of ten, when her father died and she made her first appearance as Queen on the balcony of the Royal Palace at Amsterdam, the cheering throng amazed her:

"Mamma," she asked, "do all those people belong to me?"

"No," answered her mother, the Regent, Queen Emma, "you belong to all those people."

The second incident occurred in 1918 when the German Kaiser fled to Holland for safety, after he had abdicated. The Allies wished to try him before an International Court of Justice. Queen Wilhelmina summoned the Allied Ambassadors and gave them a lecture on a neutral country's rights to give refuge to a refugee.

Lastly comes the incident which preceded her daughter's marriage to a German Prince. By Hitler's orders, the passports of all German bridesmaids and guests were confiscated. Queen Wilhelmina did not hesitate. In her own hand she wrote a personal letter to the German Dictator:

"This is the marriage of my daughter to the man she loves, whom I have found worthy of that love. This is not the marriage of The Netherlands to Germany."

The passports were returned. It was not the first sharp letter this vigorous woman had written to Hitler.

Definite Character

Those incidents are quoted to indicate that the Queen of Holland is a woman of definite character, with fearless beliefs in what is right and wrong. She is 60 years of age, and the 11th member of the House of Nassau to rule over the Empire of the Netherlands. Her father was 62 when he married, for a second time, a 20-year-old German Princess of a small State. Wilhelmina was the only child of that union, and the Salic Law was repealed so that she could ascend the Throne. She was crowned at the age of 18, and soon showed her Ministers that she was a young woman of spirit, for she refused to allow anyone to write her first public speech. A year later she amazed the world when she offered her palace at The Hague as a meeting place for the first International Peace Conference.

Since she ascended the Throne, Queen Wilhelmina has led a strict and disciplined life, demanding the same qualities, in their daily habits, from those around her. As a young woman, she loved hunting, and found it excellent exercise. As she grew older, she gave up riding and took to the bicycle, daily pedalling out of the Palace yard through the same gate as that used by the tradesmen. In

winter she went skating on the canals in company with her people.

At 20 she married a German, Prince Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, an officer in the Prussian Guards, with a taste for "life." It was not a happy marriage, but it endured for 33 years. The Prince Consort was not popular with the Dutch, whose esteem for their highly moral Queen increased with years. Wilhelmina, a faithful churchgoer, has always been extremely tolerant. Jew and Catholic receive as much consideration as the Dutch Calvinists.

No Waste

There was no wasteful expenditure at the Dutch Court. Queen Wilhelmina shunned extravagance as she shunned publicity, and stamped out gossip by moral example. Up every morning at 6 a.m., summer and winter, she made a practice of gardening in the Palace grounds before breakfast. Later hundreds of her subjects, pedalling to work



WILHELMINA,
Queen of the Netherlands

because of manufacturing, even more. Amsterdam had become almost the most important international banking centre in the world; the modern Mammon, so the

cynics say. Rotterdam had been transformed into the third largest port for the transshipment of merchandise in Europe; Amsterdam had also become the largest grain market on the Continent, and its diamond-cutting trade the equal of Antwerp. Before the occupation by Germany, Holland exported tiles and potteries, cheese, butter, and bulbs; Diesel engines, chemicals, radio and electrical appliances, and vast quantities of coffee and spices.

Thrift and Shrewdness Bring a Fortune

And in those 42 years Queen Wilhelmina's own fortune has risen with her Empire's. Her State allowance is comparatively small, but her investments—chiefly in her own Empire overseas—provide her with profits which make her probably the richest ruler in Europe.

Oddly enough, Queen Wilhelmina has never visited her overseas Empire—Curacao, in the Caribbean Sea; Dutch Guiana in South America, and the Dutch East Indies, one of the richest archipelagoes in the world.

What the future holds for this Empire and its refugee Queen no prophet will dare to foretell, but for future historians she will provide many a rich and colourful story, despite her piety, her thrift, and her stern morals.

A Chance For Bowlers

Here is a chance for patriotic bowling enthusiasts.

As part of the beautifying scheme of Trentham Camp, Lieut.-Colonel H. D. McHugh, M.C., Camp Commandant, proposes to lay down two bowling rinks on the lawn in front of camp headquarters.

Since bowls are not part of a soldier's kit, a present of a few sets would be greatly appreciated by the bowlers in camp.

on their bicycles, could look up at the Palace windows and see their Queen at her sewing.

The marriage of the Queen's only daughter, Princess Juliana, heir to the Throne, caused a little heart-burning. Wilhelmina demanded that any son-in-law should be possessed of three important qualities: Perfect health, Protestant faith, and Royal blood. Juliana discovered them herself in Prince Bernard of Lippe, one of those thousand German Royal people about whom the world never hears until they make a marriage of importance or are concerned in a scandal. Queen Wilhelmina was won over by the Prince's charm, but when he began to indulge his taste in racing cars and cocktails, his mother-in-law put down her foot. Relations were cool until the birth of a daughter in 1938.

During the 42 years Queen Wilhelmina has ruled over the Netherlands Empire she has been witness of its remarkable growth and increasing wealth, for that Empire is the third richest in the world. The population has increased by 3½ millions; the national wealth,

GRIM AND AMUSING

WAR produces the extraordinary. Behind the serious news of changes and events are many incidents, both grim and amusing, which are apt to be passed over in the official communiques which appear each day.

Here are a few, gathered from overseas papers, which have come to hand,

During the first big British raid over the German naval station at Wilhelmshaven, a British 'plane fell on the deck of a German warship. It had been brought down by the force of explosion when British bombs exploded the ship's magazine.

The only motor-cars seen in Paris since the German occupation, are those used by the Germans. The French go on foot or on bicycles. Those who can afford to do so, have resurrected their old horse-drawn carriages.

Frank Butler, a pressman who was watching air battles over the Channel from the cliffs of Dover, was struck by falling cartridge cases from the 'planes of fighting aircraft.

Although German 'planes dived to within 300 feet above the big airport of Croydon during their first attacks on London, not one enemy bomb fell on the station itself, so "rattled" were the German airmen by the anti-aircraft defences. Homes and a perfume factory nearby were demolished.

Churchill's Nickname

The "Manchester Guardian" has christened Winston Churchill "Jack the Jargon Killer," because he insists on less jargon in official letters.

A Royal Air Force pilot made a forced landing near a laundry in England. He was nearly smothered by the kisses of 43 laundresses.

A deaf woman tied a length of string to one toe when she went to bed, hung the other end out of her window and arranged with the air-warden to give the string a tug when air-raid sirens sounded.

Because of loss of sleep through enemy air raids, a London newspaper seller amused his morning customers by writing across his billboard "Good Yawning!"

Messerschmitt 'planes have been named "Jitterschmitts" by British children.

The Busy Beaver

An aged civil servant, who had been transferred to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, commented on Lord Beaverbrook's methods. "You'd hardly believe the appalling state of the office; the place is complete chaos," he told a friend. "Isn't the Beaver producing 'planes'?" the friend asked. "Oh, yes, he's producing them. But my dear fellow, the methods; they're dreadful."

Sea-gulls now warn Britons of approaching enemy raiders by flying inland, but the war has been hard on the birds. When they dive for fish which have been killed by exploding mines and depth-charges, the birds are trapped by oil from sunken ships. A Cornish woman has made a hobby of cleaning disabled birds. She and her two daughters clean as many as 700 birds a day.

Because of the enthusiastic reception given in Britain to the "Give 'tler 'ell" speeches of the Minister of Labour, Mr. Ernest Bevin, he is considered one of the best bets as the next British Prime Minister.