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completely transforming the body within it. To casual onlookers they, therefore, seem slow. But anybody who has travelled extensively about Britain, knows that unresting winds of progressive change sweep across the land. Ardour for betterment in education, working conditions, humanitarian fields, and the social system generally is keen and infectious.

Britain has her evils and her shortcomings. But she has rural electrification and rural mechanisation far surpassing our own; she has schools that, with free milk, hot lunches, free health services, and progressive educational ideas, yield to none; she has community restaurants, baths, and recreation centres; she has a system of social insurance that in some aspects leads the world. Her middle-class accepts the rise of the working masses towards equality of income with far more equanimity than our own does. In remote nooks, vestiges of the Victorian era can be found. But most of the country has little of the spirit of 1890 left; it is rather more like what America, if it moves ahead steadily, may become by 1950 or 1960.

British Illusions

On the British side, a large number think of our country as afflicted with brassy millionaires, labour racketeers, and other gangsters, corrupt politicians, Western bad men, third degree policemen and Florida promoters. Their resultant concept is of an American intent upon the gratifications of the moment and selfishly indifferent to the outer world.

Those who attack this British misconception have to realise that it is founded upon American data. What of the movies that show G-men and gangsters, district attorneys and racketeers, sheriffs and cattle rustlers? On hundreds of British screens every night our slangy and vulgar heroes oscillate between Fifth Avenue apartments of regal splendour and the darkest haunts of vice and crime. Most Britons are familiar with our protests against Upton Sinclair. But, they ask, can we shrug away "The Grapes of Wrath," "Elmer Gantry" and "Tobacco Road"? Does or does not the "Studs Lonigan" trilogy give a true picture of one side of Chicago? And is not part of the whole school of violence and horror fiction typified by "Sanctuary" and "The Postman Always Rings Twice"? Did not two of our oldest and proudest States make the names Sacco and Vanzetti and Hall and Mills world famous? We are convicted out of the mouths of our tabloids, fiction writers and talkies.

The Two Stereotypes

The defect of the American stereotype of English is that it is out of date by a full generation; the defect of the British stereotype of America is that it is all too falsely up to date. We think of Britain too much in terms of one side of her history; the British think of us without enough attention to our history—for they hardly know we have any. How, whispers the misinformed Briton to himself, can so crude, violent, and boastful people make dependable allies? How, asks the misled American, can a land honey-combed with Jeames, yellow plush, caste, and enfeebled by vicarage tea, be a virile fighting partner? A member of the War Production Board

who had been studying the machine-tool situation in British factories told me he met an American aviation expert who had just arrived in England. "I guess this country is too slow to show us much," said the expert. The War Production Board man, who had learned how superior certain British methods and products are, blazed up wrathfully. "If that's your view, the quicker you get home, the better," he snorted.

The Newer England

It is important for Americans to learn more about the Britain that has come into existence since Lloyd George blazed into the Radical leadership before the first world war. The more they know about this new England and Scotland, with its multiplex experiments, its thirst for reform, and its rising standard of living in face of adverse conditions, the less they will be apt to think of Britain as stuffy and lethargic. The more they know of the profound changes of 1910-40 the better they can grasp the

Alan Loveday

"ALL fine, Alan five-foot eight, plays all big concertos from memory, hot snooker and billiards player, finance OK": so ran a cable from the father of Alan Loveday, the Palmerston North prodigy violinist, which was received recently by Mr. Bert Loveday, of Wellington.

It is four years since Loveday went to England with his father, and he studies with Albert Sammons, who, according to the uncle, thinks a great deal of the boy's playing, and has been teaching him free. Loveday has been living with Sammons in Sussex, and has made a few public appearances, playing such works as Mendelssohn's violin concerto.

fact that Britain to-day, far from being inefficient, has become in some ways a perfect miracle of organisation.

Conversely, it is important for the British to learn more about the American past. Once they comprehend that we have a long and dignified history—political, social and cultural—they can put transient modern blemishes into proper perspective. Once they are properly informed upon Jefferson and Lincoln, Emerson and Whitman, Hawthorne and Howells, Morse and Edison, they will understand that the blatantries of pulp and celluloid have nothing to do with the real spirit of America.

It is important also for the two peoples to grasp one simple, unquestionable, and profoundly significant truth; that for a full half-century they have in most respects been growing more and more akin. When the United States was a simple agricultural republic and Great Britain a crowded industrial monarchy, one essentially democratic and the other essentially aristocratic, they stood far apart. But the United States has also become a crowded industrial state. In the process we have acquired most of the social problems which Britain has long faced, and have had to attack them with British expedients. We also acquired an unhealthy amount of economic and social aristocracy. The British have

steadily advanced toward political and economic democracy, and possibly have more of both than we.

Mutually Indispensable

America could suffer no external calamity so great as the destruction or enfeeblement of Britain. Britain could suffer no external calamity so great as the crippling or estrangement of America. Even were both not menaced by powerful enemies, this would be true. Nations so mutually indispensable ought to cure the worst short-comings in their knowledge of each other. Americans already know something of the storied past of Britain, her glories of art, poetry and romance. If they mastered some of the recent British advances in many fields they would have a healthier respect for their allies.

Britons already know, a good deal about American energy, resourcefulness, and capacity for great undertakings. If they comprehended that the roots of American optimism, initiative, and idealism reach deep in the past, they would have deeper respect for us. Out of this fuller respect would grow genuine liking—a liking not to be shaken by petty divergences, and not to end when the firing stops. Out of it would grow a sense that the Briton who confesses to dislike of Americans and the American who confesses to dislike of Britons, are confessing their ignorance.



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