

LORD BLYTH ON W. H. PAGE

Englishman's Tribute to a
Great American Am-
bassador

"Thank God, We're In!"—
A Man Who Widened the
Outlook of the English-
Speaking Races—Tablet
in Westminster Abbey.

To the Editor of The New York
Times:

Sir:—The genial and versatile personality of Walter H. Page was at his death as well known to large numbers all over this kingdom as well as throughout America that there is probably not one but would agree that among his many eminent predecessors none more worthily upheld the high traditions of the American Embassy in London.

Just as it was my pleasure to have been introduced to several distinguished holders of his office on taking up their duties, including such well-known representative men as Bayard, Hay, Choate and Whitelaw Reid, and from time to time to receive each of them as an honored guest, so it was my equally good fortune to make the acquaintance of Mr. Page immediately after his arrival, to come in contact with him occasionally before the great war and to benefit by his erudition and the vast fund of information with which he illumined every topic of conversation.

It was, however, after the world conflict had begun, and especially during the crises of the fearful struggle, when civilization itself seemed doomed, that it was my privilege to meet him more frequently and to estimate at close range the measure of the man and his Olympian labors for the ideals of liberty, peace and fraternity. Among these valued opportunities were two simple incidents which stand out by themselves and have been indelibly impressed on my mind.

The occasion of the memorial to Edwin Austin Abbey, the Royal Academician, who hailed from the States, was one of these events. The unveiling

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I had two favors to ask. I called at the embassy and was delighted with his breezy greeting: "Both favors are granted. Now tell me what they are." My first was that he would honor me with his presence at this little function, the second that he would support Mr. Balfour (as he then was) in wishing Sir George a hearty godspeed on his momentous mission. The whole matter was discussed and decided in less than five minutes. But I continued to enjoy many more minutes of his sparkling conversation and sagacious comments on public affairs, both British and American, which we may now hope are daily becoming more practically one.

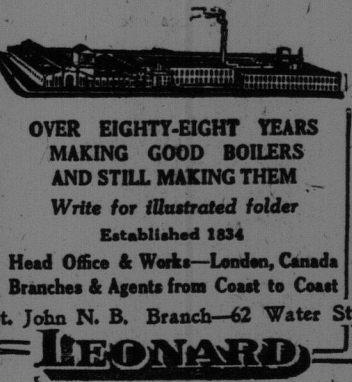
My second petition, equally readily granted, was not to be fulfilled. Mr. Page was the first to arrive at the Athenaeum, the last being Mr. Balfour, who at once took me aside, stating that he had been detained at a meeting of the Cabinet, and it had been impressed on him that there must be no speeches and no press representatives at the gathering if another Lusitania tragedy was to be averted, or Sir George Reid's services might be altogether lost to us. Nothing, however, could ruffle the chery urbanity of the American Ambassador as he moved among the guests, who joined me in doing honor to our gifted emissary from Australia. The company, in addition to Sir George Reid, Mr. Page and Mr. Balfour, included the Japanese Ambassador, the Greek Minister, the Portuguese Minister, the Bishop of London, Lord French, Lord Jellicoe, Lord Curzon, Lord Crewe, Lord Lincolnshire, Lord Milner, Lord Burnham and Ian Macpherson, together with the late Lord (Charles) Bessford, the late Lord Downham and

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the late Lord Bryce, who, as is well known, for the seven years previous to the war had been our Ambassador at Washington.

The remarkable "Life and Letters of Walter H. Page," recently published, reveal the many-sided activities of the



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PRAISE FOR CANADIAN.



The Manchester Guardian has high praise for ex-Mayor R. D. Waugh of Winnipeg, who is now on the Sarre Valley Commission. "He is one of the bright spots in the Sarre, the one person in authority for whom the governed have any respect," the paper says.

man whose kinship will remain with hundreds of thousands a source of happiness if not of pride. The soundness of his judgment, his penetrating analysis of great issues, the concentrated wisdom of his writings and utterances, his kindness in others' troubles, his courage in his own, and his unflinching good nature under all circumstances must compel the unstinted admiration of readers of these inspiring books. No public man was ever more prodigal of his talents for the good of others, nor more profoundly in earnest in advocating a communion of aims and ideals among the people of the Old World and the New.

Few there have been who have so stirred the heart of civilized humanity by noble utterances in noble yet homely prose as did our great American kinsman; and probably to no other's language could the lines of the scholarly Dean Alford be more aptly applied:

Once in a lifetime is uttered a word
That doth not vanish as soon as 'tis
heard:
One in an age is humanity stirred.

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IT may be in the garden or it may be on the golf links, but in summer we take more exercise than in winter.

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Once in a century springs forth a deed
From the dark bands of forgetfulness
freed.
Destined to shine, and to help, and to lead.

There are no doubt large numbers in this kingdom as well as in the United States whose recollections of Mr. Page are fully as delightful as are my own and whose more or less intimate association with that master mind would enable them to recall countless memories of incidents, occasions, sayings, reports that were of far more than passing or merely personal interest and were often identified with acts of great public usefulness. I cannot help thinking, therefore—now that our indebtedness to America has been happily and finally adjusted—that these should be collected and included in a little volume, which, together with other gems

from his admiring biographers, would provide a treasure house of thought that would undoubtedly widen the outlook of the English-speaking races, promote the harmony of the Anglo-American relations and, mayhap, influence the peace of the world.

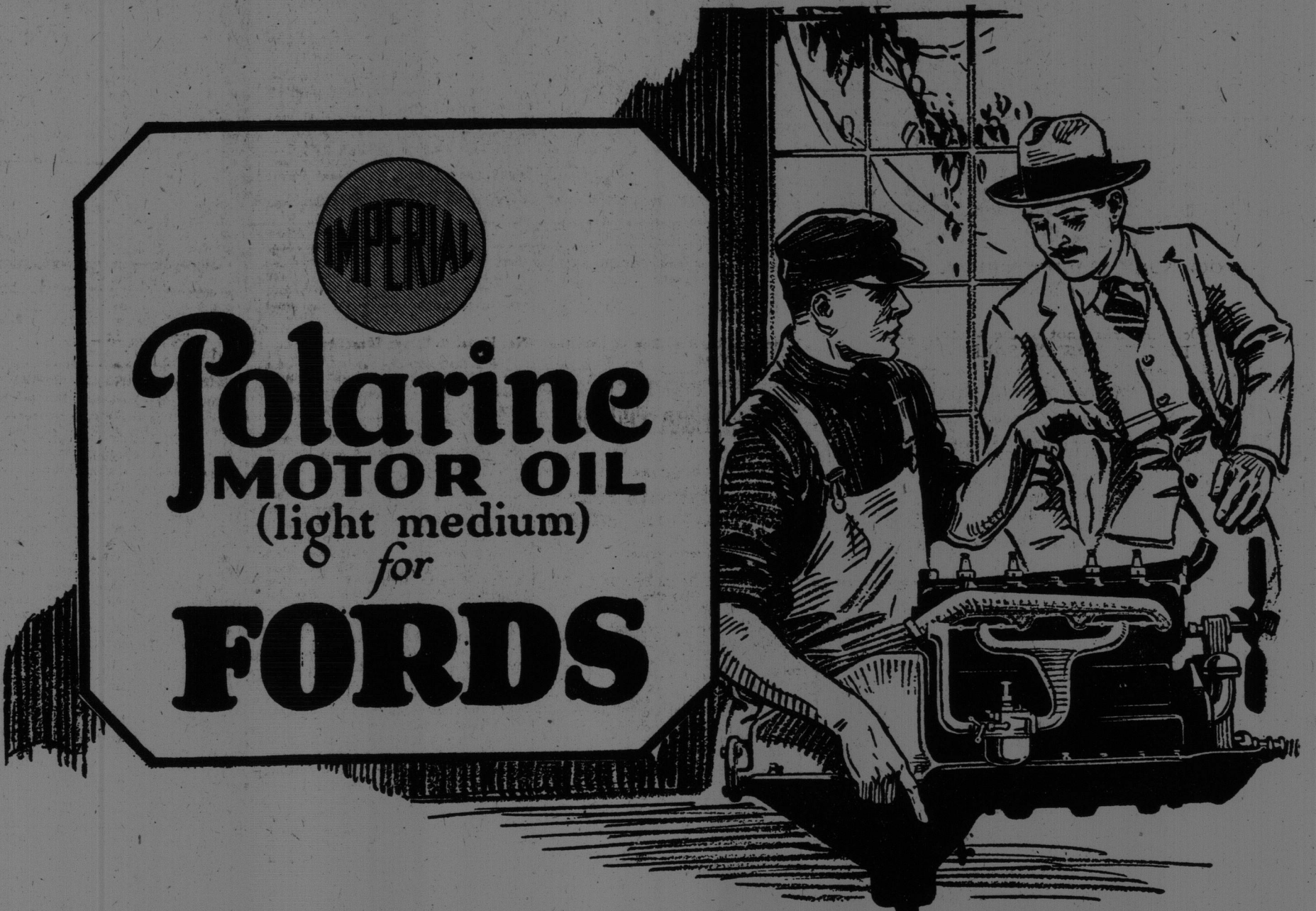
Not a few countries both in the Old World and the New have produced great men whose work and example have been of permanent benefit to the land of their birth, but with only a limited proportion of such did the sphere of their influence extend far beyond that of their own nationality. Of a still lesser number could it be said that they exercised themselves for the advantage of all mankind; and among this select few Page will ever have a place selected and unquestioned.

London, June 8, 1923.

(A tablet in memory of Mr. Page will be unveiled in Westminster Abbey on July 8. It is a tribute of English people of all classes.

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