

The American People Analyzed

By SIR PHILIP GIBBS.

During three visits to the United States since the war, lecturing from New York to San Francisco, I often wondered whether the differences between the British and American people, in mind and habits and outlook, are more than their similarities. Certainly my first contact with the newspapers of New York and my plunge into the whirlpool of its life shocked me with a sense of enormous difference. It was to me, actually and truly, a New World of civilization was different from anything I had seen. For a little while I felt more of a stranger in New York, more of an alien, than in any other city to which I had ever come—even Constantinople.

Similarities and Differences.

That feeling of strangeness wore off when I met many people who spoke the same language as myself, who had strong accents, who had read the same books, who seemed to think very much as I did, who claimed the same heritage of tradition from the same stock. In every city I met people, that, some hundreds of them, I forgot the differences, which seemed trivial and accidental, and was conscious only of the similarities.

On other times, especially in the smoking-cars of long-distance trains, where American business men talk unreservedly and where I listened quietly, I was aware again of the differences—wide and profound—between their way of thought and that of my own folk, their manner of speech, their "viewpoint," as they would call it. They were foreigners to me and I to them. We spoke the same language, with a difference of accent, but quite often the words meant different things. They were as ignorant of Europe as I was of America. They spoke things about England which showed a complete misunderstanding of our character and ideas. Just as since then I hear English people speak things about the United States which I now know to be utterly untrue.

"The Contrast."

The penetrating and analytical mind of Mr. Hilaire Belloc has been writing over these differences and similarities. In a brilliant book called "The Contrast," he sets himself the following question:—
"Have the United States and Great Britain any common ideal, which will make them to work together for mutual security and world peace, or are the two nations essentially different and contradictory in character, bias, and ambition?"

By emphasizing the differences and pointing the similarities he produces a very glaring contrast indeed between the character of the two peoples, and reaches the conclusion that they are so utterly different that the United States to Great Britain would be to secure the co-operation of the United States in the settlement of European problems or to involve American arbitration in European disputes.

An Electrical Atmosphere.

Apart from scenery, which has a tremendous influence on the minds of men, there is climate. Belloc calls it "metabolic." I prefer to call it "electric." At least, from New York to Kansas City through the Northern States, there is a snap in it, quite literally if one touches a doorknob or a friend's coat. One's hair

leaps to the comb with a crackle. One's whole system is electrified. One's vitality is increased, and burns faster. Scenery and climate far more than race and stock have produced a distinctly American type, indefinable but clearly recognized, unmistakable among Europeans.

Then there is what Mr. Belloc calls the Social Contrast. It is, in his opinion, and in mine, the difference between the intense individualism of the English character and the closer, more frequent contact between mind and hand in the United States. The American citizen establishes contact with his fellow-countrymen by the intense publicity of the Press, by advertising, by clubs, by endless chains of intercourse, which make the same ideas dominant in the majority of minds at the same time. In the book line a "best seller" sweeps the United States like a prairie fire, not because it is essentially good, but because people want to read what the other folk are reading and react to the stimulus of the same idea.

The Dumb Englishman.

Americans fall into talk with each other and do not resent the familiarity. They resent the silence of the Englishman in the railway carriage and accuse him of being "dumb" or having no ideas. The American when he becomes rich and builds a big house with a garden in the best "residential section" does not divide his lawn from his neighbours'. The American does not want to be different from his neighbours.

He is not secretive, but has a wonderful candour in the revelation of his own private affairs, the amount of money he is earning, his humble origin, his rise to wealth, which an Englishman conceals with infinite jealousy. This candour makes them a happy people, the happiest in the world, thinks Mr. Belloc, because it has a simplicity which we have lost, and a hopefulness, and sense of equal opportunity, which is not ours.

It is a great mistake to think as most English people do that Americans worship Mammon or the Almighty Dollar. English society pays far higher respect to the rich man. The Americans idealize the making of money not for what it buys, but for its adventure, for its test of a man's quality and efficiency in the struggle of life, not at all for the authority it gives a man in the State. In the political world, Mr. Belloc finds the greatest contrast in a way that will startle most readers, and especially the Americans themselves. "The United States," he thinks, is the greatest monarchy in the world. By monarchy, he does not mean kingship with courts and insignia and ritual, but one-man Government. They believe profoundly in the principle of executive responsibility vested in one man.

Law and Order.

The mystical reverence which Western nations had in old days for the office and dedicated character of kingship the Americans have bestowed upon their constitution, which to them is invested with a sacred authority acknowledged even by those who break its laws. There is a good deal of lawlessness in the United States, many acts of violence, but they do not effect the general principle.

Of the two American phenomena, lawlessness and adoration of law, the latter is far more remarkable. A man of doubtful morals respecting a lone letter-box in a desert State, a lady man mending his allotted piece of road on a mountain trail, impress me more than a lynching or a shooting affray in the same country.

I have no space to enter into Mr. Belloc's discovery of the contrast in religious influence and military experience, but his chapter on the literary differences between the United States and England is illuminating. In spite of the heritage of language and literature from England, he believes that the American people are becoming less and less influenced by English traditions of prose and poetry, and are developing a literature of their own so essentially local in its language and ideas that on this side of the Atlantic it is utterly foreign and incomprehensible.

Out For World Peace.

All this argument and evidence produced by Mr. Belloc is to prove that the average British idea of the United States as merely a lost province of this Anglo-Saxon world, speaking the same language, thinking the same thoughts, and inspired by the same ideals, is a most preposterous and dangerous fallacy likely to let us down with a bump if we count too much on comradeship and co-operation. Many Americans I have met would agree with me heartily, and many more derived from the English and Scottish stock—grudgingly.

Personally I disagree strongly with Mr. Belloc's conclusion, though he calls all men liars who disagree. I believe that American civilization and popular thought are, in spite of many cross-currents and countervailing forces, mainly on the side of fair play to all people, mainly in favor of giving a decent chance to the common folk of the world, mainly out for the world peace, and the progress of the world folk towards a better distribution of the comforts, decencies, and securities of life. They are not selfishly centred in their own material interests, but it will take a big chance now and then to put over some great act of international charity and goodwill at some sacrifice to themselves. Have they not done so in feeding the starving folk of Europe? The arbitration of a people like that in world conference is, to my mind, not highly dangerous, but enormously desirable, not only to England, but to all the troubled countries of Europe.—John O'London.

Diamonds in History and Romance

The diamond has been the most popular and valuable of precious stones since early times, when it went by the name of "adamant," owing, no doubt, to its invulnerable hardness, wandering through several variations, the word finally settled down to "diamond."

In the Middle Ages this stone was credited with magical powers. Its possession was believed to avert insanity, to render poison harmless; indeed, many and various were the virtues attributed to it; one, that it acted as peacemaker between husband and wife, might with good reason be credited to-day.

Many diamonds are famous for their size and flawless quality, two of the best known being the "Hope" and the "Koh-i-noor."

The "Orlov" would seem to be an adventurous stone. In the first place stolen from the eyes of an idol in a Brahmin temple by a soldier, and again stolen from him by a sea captain, it was bought as a gift for the Empress Catherine II. for the sum of £20,000, and became one of the Russian crown jewels.

The world's largest diamond was the "Cullinan." Found in the Transvaal, it weighed 3025 carats or 1 1/4 lbs. It was presented to King Edward VII, who had it cut into nine large stones and a number of small brilliants.

The study of the properties of the diamond is of special interest to scientists, being chemically identical with blacklead and charcoal. Its beauty and brilliance remain Nature's secret.

The manufacture of diamonds by artificial means is at present of interest purely as a laboratory experiment. It having been found impossible to make stones large enough for use, besides which, the cost of production is far greater than the cost of the real and natural stone.

Similar Tactics

NEW YORK.—(By Can. Press).—Theodore Wulp, Vice President of the North Avenue Bank, New Rochelle, and Mrs. Sophie Lake, of No. 27 Lorain Street, were married recently in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New Rochelle. As they were leaving, the wedding procession was interrupted by Franklin Pierce Wulp, son of the bridegroom, who drew his father aside and told him that three days previously he and Ida Sophie Lake, the bride's daughter, had been married in the same church. Both couples went to the Wulp home, where a double reception was held, and then all four left for a honeymoon.

Pancreatic Panic

Makers of insulin use large quantities of pancreas and as a result the price of sweetbreads in England has advanced in price and soon this delicacy may not be obtainable. In London the price has jumped from about thirty-five cents to about one dollar and one-quarter each.

23,000 Pound Salvage Award

SERVICES TO GLASGOW YVESSEL.

In the Admiralty Court, London, a week ago, the President, Sir Henry Duke, sitting with Elder Brethren of Trinity House, awarded £21,500 to the owners, £500 to the master, and £1000 to the crew of the London steamship San Onofre for salvage remuneration in respect of services rendered to the Glasgow steamship Melahie. Mr. Justice Ballhache had previously decided that no salvage service was rendered, but this decision was reversed by the Court of Appeal, who remitted the case for assessment of the award. Counsel for defendants now gave notice of a fresh appeal.

The litigation was the outcome of a collision which occurred in the Bristol Channel in December, 1916, between the two vessels, for which collision the Melahie had been pronounced alone to blame. Following the impact the master and crew of the Melahie climbed on board the San Onofre, and the master reported that his vessel was sinking. The master of the San Onofre, however, determined to make an effort to save the Melahie, and took her in tow. The weather was foggy during towing. First the Melahie and then the San Onofre stranded about two miles west of Breaksea Point, and remained fast. From this position both vessels had to be assisted by salvors.

Warns Auto Owners

OF DANGERS LURKING IN CARBON MONOXIDE.

Four rules for protection against deadly effects of poisonous gas, carbon monoxide, always present in exhaust from gas-driven engines, issued by U.S. Bureau of Mines: NEVER run automobile engine in closed garage; OPEN DOORS WIDE.

NEVER crawl under car with engine running, EVEN if car is in open air.

NEVER sit in closed car with engine running, EVEN if in a ventilated garage.

NEVER sit in closed car with engine running and all windows shut, EVEN if car is in open air; always have windows open.

PITTSBURGH.—(A.P.).—So many deaths from Carbon Monoxide, a gas present in the exhaust from automobiles, have occurred throughout the country during the past few months that the Pittsburgh station, U.S. Bureau of Mines, has been prompted to call the attention of the public to its danger.

Seldom a day passes at this season, but the death of one more person is recorded. Fatalities are particularly noticeable in the natural gas belt of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, while deaths from the exhaust gas of automobiles are increasing. Carbon monoxide is given off in quantities by burning natural gas, while it is practically always present in exceedingly dangerous quantities in the exhaust from spark engines.

Thousands of houses in the natural gas belt have no flues for carrying off waste gases, which, in such cases, pass off into the room where the fire is burning. If all windows and doors are closed, they may be in cold weather when gas is being consumed, the effect sooner or later becomes apparent on the occupants. They become dull and sleepy and, if not aroused, may pass into unconsciousness and eventually die.

The bureau recommends that when a gas heater without a flue is used, a window or door be partly open at all times; half an inch or so will answer. The bureau has found that the air in a room should be changed every hour; that is, the foul air should be completely displaced by fresh air during that period. But if there is a continuous fresh inflow, this will counteract the poisonous gas unless the individual is so close to the source of the waste gas as to breathe it before it is sufficiently diluted with fresh air. The bureau sounds a warning never to go to bed with a heater burning and the windows and doors closed; to do so would be "fighting with death."

The danger from waste automobile gases is no less real. If the engine has to be kept running in the garage, the garage must be ventilated. Drivers are warned never to crawl under a car when the engine is running, no matter how good the ventilation. And sitting in an automobile, in a garage, with the engine in motion, is distinctly a dangerous thing to do.

Another hazard of exhaust gas is that of sitting in a tightly closed automobile, on a highway, or elsewhere, with the engine going. The car may be fitted with a leaky heater, through which the exhaust gets into and concentrates in the car, or the exhaust from the muffler, in some manner, gets in and accumulates in its confinement.

"If people must sit in an automobile," says the bureau, "they must have some fresh air entering the room. Otherwise they are playing with death."

KYLE DUE TO-NIGHT.—S. S. Kyle, with mails and passengers is due in port at 11 o'clock to-night.

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Britain and Brazil

A British Financial Mission is about to visit Brazil. Many people may regard the expedition as a waste of time and money; but Brazil presents an almost unlimited field for profitable enterprise. Its area is 3,300,000 square miles, or one hundred and fifty thousand more than that of Australia. The population, 30,650,000, is considerably more than double those of Canada and Australia combined, and both in population and extent it is overwhelmingly the largest State in South America. On this account it typifies, in an exaggerated degree, the backwardness and the potentialities of that great Continent. Time, no doubt, will show a development in South America no less astounding than that which has taken place during the last fifty years in the United States. Even now the wealth and splendour of the principal cities are almost dazzling to European eyes. In Brazil the mineral wealth, as yet virtually untapped, includes gold, silver, iron and various precious stones. The value of the total exports increased between 1921 and 1923 by nearly ten million pounds. Imports from the United Kingdom showed an increase of over two hundred thousand pounds and exports to these islands increased by over two million seven hundred thousand pounds. Even such bald figures as these show, without elaboration, the importance of contact with the development of such a country. British influence was powerful at one time in Brazil, but it is in grave danger of eclipse. Other countries—the United States, France and Germany—have been far more enterprising in recent years and have conducted commercial campaigns with which Great Britain has made no effort to compete. The Financial Mission represents, we hope, the beginning of a very different policy.

Posed for U.S. Dollar Design

PHILADELPHIA.—(By Can. Press).—Miss Anna W. Williams, supervisor of kindergartens of the Philadelphia public schools, and whose profile was used for that of the Goddess of Liberty on the U.S. silver dollars, first coined in 1878, has just withdrawn from active service. Her retirement on a pension marked the close of forty years in kindergarten work. For twenty-six years ago Miss Williams was selected from thousands of applicants to pose for the U.S. dollar. The designer, George Morgan, said Miss Williams' head was the most perfect he had ever seen. In 1922 the dollar upon which her head appeared, was replaced with a new design.

Firemen Inspect Churches

On Sunday, January 27, sixty-eight investigators from the office of Assistant Fire Marshal John C. McDonald, chief of the fire prevention bureau of Chicago, Ill., visited some 600 churches of the city during services, about half of the number of Chicago's places of worship. According to Chief McDonald complaints had been received that many of the churches were old, dilapidated and unsafe in case of fire. He plans to complete the investigations the following Sunday. Public schools and theatres have also come under the eye of the officials and are to be carefully investigated.

Executioner Kills Himself

Berlin.—Paul Spathe, the executioner, shot himself dead recently. During the last few years he had executed 46 persons in various parts of Germany and his most treasured possession was a paper given him by the Prussian authorities, which read: "The executioner, Paul Spathe, of Breslau, is hereby informed that he has worked well and perfectly. He would read out these words to friends in his little beer shop in Breslau and linger lovingly over the word 'perfectly,' which he would explain was the highest praise an executioner could have. His wife died on January 7, and ever since he has been in a state of deep melancholy."

The Vigil of Isis

It is difficult in these days to stir the imagination of civilized man. In times when half the surface of the globe remained unrevealed, and the faculty of belief was limitless, men kept the gift of wonder. Now every cranny of the world has been explored, and while science daily produces new marvels—"broadcasting," "television" and the like—we expect so much from science that we have ceased to marvel at them. Even the discovery of Mr. Well's time machine or of the philosopher's stone (which indeed, is half-discovered) would produce only a casual sensation. Yet in these latter days one thing has happened which, we think, really has lifted the "man-in-the-street" to the sphere where poetry is created—really has flooded his soul with the light that never was on sea or land. It may be humanity's last general emotion of the sort; for such another event as the finding of King Tutankhamen's tomb is improbable, and we may suppose that the process of man's sophistication will continue with increasing speed. Just a month ago Mr. Howard Carter opened the innermost chamber which contained the King's sarcophagus. The great stone casket was encased within four several shrines. Recently the last of these was removed with infinite care, and living eyes surveyed the coffin for the first time in three thousand two hundred years. There is no doubt at all that it contains the body of the King. It is a beautiful casket of rose-tinted sandstone, bearing at every corner, carved in high relief, the figure of a goddess. The arms of the four goddesses are outstretched in such fashion that they encircle the sarcophagus with a protective embrace; and it was one of these exquisitely moulded arms that met the flash of Mr. Carter's torch when the last shrine was removed. Surely the man who is not stirred by the high wonder of the ward of those protective arms through three millen-

natts of time is fit for treasons, stratagems and sorcery. They were there in their rigid, yet graceful, pose—a barrier against disturbance of the sad, young Pharaoh's sleep—when the long-haired Achaean fought on the rising plains of windy Troy. They held their patient vigil when Herodotus questioned in Egypt, when Cleopatra sailed upon the Cydnus, when Christ was born at Bethlehem, when Mahomed raised his banner, when Western chivalry poured to the Crusades, when the Turk stormed the gates of Europe when Nelson fought at the Nile, when during the last and greatest of a hundred wars Australian troopers fested in the streets of Cairo. Those steadfast arms clasped their King's tomb while Greece's glory and Rome's grandeur came and went. The graven goddesses were as patient and changeless as their own Egyptian fellowmen. Now the fellahs have entered into the dubious privilege of self-government and the tireless arms are to be relieved of their precious burden.

Compulsory Rest Day in Turkey

CONSTANTINOPLE.—(A.P.).—The compulsory rest day law passed by the National Assembly will not effect American interests in Turkey. The Standard Oil Company of New York, the American Express Company and other American business concerns are observing Friday, the Moslem Sabbath.

Woman Heroine

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Mrs. E. Topper, 104 years old, was the heroine of a recent fire in the Hospital of the sons and daughters of Israel, a home for the aged. She prevented a serious panic among the inmates by going through the wards and assuring them they were in no danger.

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