



MRA

INFORMATION SERVICE

MERSEYSIDE—'FIRE TO CURE BLOTS ON COUNTRY'
SICILY AND SOUTH STIRRED BY LATIN AMERICANS

'HOW BRITAIN CAN BE GREAT AGAIN'

'THROUGH THE GARDEN WALL' IN BLACKPOOL

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'Unemployment can be lifted through new spirit'

RISING UNEMPLOYMENT figures and the appointment of Lord Hailsham as Minister for the North-East have fixed the attention of the entire nation on the vast industrial area between Tyne and Tees.

In West Hartlepool the famous shipyard of William Gray and Co., which in a hundred years has built 1,300 ships, today stands silent and deserted. Unemployment in the Hartlepoons has risen to 12.2 per cent—about four times the national average. Nine hundred children who left school last summer are still without work. When the Norwegian ship 'Essi Gina', the largest ever to be launched on Tees-side, slipped into the water on 25 February, the event brought not joy but fear to the hearts of thousands, because it represented the completion of the last order on the firm's books, and made 700 men redundant. The great steelworks of Dorman Long, which made the steel for the Sydney Harbour Bridge, are now operating at 60 per cent of their capacity.

Lord Hailsham, whose determination to tackle the unemployment problem is admitted even by those who disagree with his politics, sees it as a challenge and an opportunity. 'There is hope for men and women of vision and courage, and in the end the future will be what we choose to make it,' he said recently. 'We must begin the construction of the Britain we want to see in thirty years' time.'

North-East leaders present

On the day that the launching of the 'Essi Gina' threw 700 more men out of work, *Space is so Startling* opened at the Hippodrome Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, before a large and representative audience which included the civic leadership of an area extending from Tees-side to the Northumberland coalfield. In the course of the week 5,300 people saw the play. Many commented on the zest, faith and dedication which they saw on the stage—a spirit in which the most intractable problems could be tackled and cured.

The Mayors of Stockton, Middlesbrough and Dar-

lington received the members of the cast in their Town Halls. The senior Alderman of Stockton, a former colleague of Ernest Bevin in the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that he had never seen such a spirit of dedication since his young days and had almost despaired of seeing it again.

In the audiences were several hundred unemployed men and their families who were enabled to see the play without charge, thanks to a fund launched by a trade union official, to which scores of people contributed.

Thousand men still working

Writing in the Middlesbrough *Evening Gazette*, the National Union of Mineworkers Branch Secretary for a Northumberland pit declared, 'As a man with twenty-six years' active membership in the Communist Party, I can say that this is the answer that I was looking for. . . . I am confident that if we, as trade unionists, were carrying out the ideas of this play, we would then be able to solve unemployment. I have personally put MRA into operation and it works, and the thousand men I represent are still working today.'

As guest of honour at a luncheon in Stockton, Mr. Peter Howard, author of *Space is so Startling*, told civic and business leaders: 'The threat of unemployment in the North-East can be lifted within six months. Order books and pockets can be filled, but it will take a new spirit. It will not be done by whip or wheedle. It will be done as management and labour in the North-East tell Britain and the world three things:

1. All contracts will be completed on time.
2. There will be no unofficial stoppages.
3. There will be first-rate craftsmanship.

And as they take on together the business and economy of the nation, making it their own. Then Britain can end being a nation with small aims and big fears, and become a nation with a big aim and no fears.'

Merseyside—'Fire to cure blots on city and country'

THE LORD MAYOR of Liverpool, Alderman David J. Lewis, welcomed the cast of *Space is so Startling* at a reception in the Town Hall. He wished them every success 'in the dynamic role you have taken on'. 'Unless it is successful, the nemesis of history is around the corner,' he said.

Twelve mayors and chairmen of urban district councils were present at the opening performance, along with fifteen chairmen and secretaries of trade unions from the great Merseyside industries.

Over a thousand young people poured into the theatre during the week. Many stayed long afterwards to talk with the cast. Parties came from twenty-seven schools

and colleges. A hundred and fifty students came from one school alone.

'You have given fresh verve and fire to a generation that has become hopeless and despondent,' Mr. Alfred Stocks, Assistant Town Clerk to the city of Liverpool, told the cast. Referring to the 43,000 unemployed and 80,000 families living in condemned homes in the Merseyside area, he said 'This play will kindle a fire in the hearts of men to remove these blots in the life of our city and country'.

Coach parties were arranged to take people every night to the opening run of Peter Howard's new play, *Through the Garden Wall*, in Blackpool.

Sicily and South stirred by Latin Americans

WITH the Italian national elections only six weeks away (28 April), the correspondent of the principal Rome evening paper, *Il Giornale d'Italia*, visited Calabria. This province is the toe of Italy, in the 'Mezzogiorno', that South which is such a touchstone of success or failure for any government or would-be government in Rome. The last election massed 11 million Communists and Nenni-Socialists against 12.5 million Christian Democrats. The South's condition and attitude will be an important factor in the coming contest.

The correspondent of *Il Giornale d'Italia* reported on 4 March, 'Here is an electorate that is hard to win. In Calabria promises are no longer believed at all.' The public, he wrote, regarded the pre-election battles 'with the most complete lack of interest and showed a mistrust and weariness with which everyone will have to reckon'.

Anything but apathetic

This apathetic electorate, however, proved to be anything but apathetic towards the recent two-and-a-half-months' action of a Latin American force with the play *El Condor*. The *Gazzetta del Sud* wrote of the 'unanimous consent' they had won. A banker in the strongly Marxist town of Palmi remarked, 'Never in the history of Palmi has anything succeeded in capturing the attention of the city in this way. You have won the whole city.'

Seven weeks after their arrival the Prefect of Reggio, one of the key figures in this highly centralised country, and the Archbishop thanked the visitors for 'the penetrating work you have done in Reggio and the communities of the province'.

The Prefect sent a special edition of the *Corriere di Reggio* on MRA to every Prefect in Italy and to every mayor in the province. The editor sent it to every newspaper publisher in the country.

This edition also went to 20,000 people in Palmi amid its vast orange orchards, its olive groves and its vistas

of Sicily across the Messina Straits.

Normally opposed factions of right and left delivered it to each white house of nearby Bagnara, whose people are of Greek origin and famed as harpooners of the 600-pound swordfish that come from the Arctic seas to spawn here. They stand with heavy twelve-foot spears in the bows of their boats while a look-out on the mast guides them to their quarry.

Here, as everywhere in Calabria, the plays *El Condor* and *The Ladder* were greeted by enthusiastic crowds in towns and villages. Despite intense cold, open-air showings were crowded in towns where two-thirds of the working population leave for nine months every year to find work in the North and abroad.

In the vendetta-ridden South, where murder is a main problem for the police, the message of the two stars of the film *Men of Brazil* went home. Damasio Cardoso, dockers' union leader, had in real life gone to liquidate his rival unionist, Nelson Marcellino with two bodyguards, two guns and a knife. Nelson disarmed him of his hatred and won him for a common fight for justice, armed with a new spirit of unity.

Sicily has welcomed the Latin Americans with the same eagerness as Calabria. They have begun in the hill town of Caltagirone, where the statesman-priest Don Luigi Sturzo was Mayor for sixteen years. Don Sturzo, who developed the Christian Democratic philosophy that guided Schuman, de Gasperi and Adenauer through the crucial post-war years, described MRA as 'fire from Heaven' and on a level with the great struggles to end feudalism and slavery. From his home town this fire has now been launched into Sicily, where Garibaldi, a century ago, fought his first battles for the liberation of Italy.

The Prefect of Palermo, the Provincial Government and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in Sicily have all hailed the Latin Americans' visit as an historic event.

'HOW BRITAIN CAN BE GREAT AGAIN'

A NATION THAT DECIDES to live by bread alone will sacrifice character for a larger slice of the cake, Mr. Peter Howard told pressmen in London last week. If Britain showed that nations can live for something more than bedrooms, boardrooms, bread and banknotes, she would pioneer the path to national happiness and world peace. He was addressing newspaper proprietors, editors and news editors at a lunch in 45 Berkeley Square.

What is greatness? asked Howard. Disraeli had said, 'The mark of a great man is to change the spirit of the age.'

Bonar Law, when he became Prime Minister at a time when Britain stood on a pinnacle of power, was encouraged by Lord Beaverbrook, who said to him, 'Remember, you are a great man now.' Bonar Law had replied, 'If I am great, then all great men are frauds.'

Could greatness in nations be fraudulent? Howard continued. Did greatness mean that by a combination of natural resources, population and the stars some nation for a time is able to dominate other nations? Then the stars changed, wars came, scenes shifted and nations declined. He did not think that was real greatness.

'There was greatness,' he said, 'in an Empire which, having defeated all its foes, then of its own free will proceeded to hand back liberty to every single one of its colonial possessions, not because it feared to maintain them, not because it felt this course of action would pay, but because the mass of our people believed it to be right. No other empire in the whole of history has done this.'

'A nation is as great as it decides to be. It is as great as the idea which runs it. What idea runs Britain today? What do we stand for in the eyes of the world or in the eyes of our own citizens? The answer is contained in the slogan with which Mr. Macmillan won the last election, "You never had it so good." It is not a party matter. All political parties base their appeal to the public on how much can be got from the nation.'

Character for cake

'One point is absolutely clear. If our high standards of life mean so much that rather than sacrifice any portion of them we allow the White House or the Red Square or any other foreign power to dictate and influence our policy and principles through offers of trade or through threats of economic pressure, we shall become a stooge of history. A nation which decides to live for bread alone will sacrifice character for a larger slice of cake.'

'The influences to demoralise Britain in the last quarter century have been extreme. I suppose Aldous Huxley played as big a part as any in inducing people to believe that absolute right and absolute wrong no longer existed. In his book, *Ends and Means*, he tells us why:

"I had motives for not wanting the world to have a

meaning, consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. . . . For myself, as no doubt for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom."

'So you get the situation today where churchmen and Quakers in the name of charity say that adultery and homosexuality are far from evil. The bastardy rate in the country has risen to 10 per cent in some great cities. A quarter of the unmarried mothers are between 13 and 19, and most of the rest between 20 and 24.'

Well-organised campaign

'Parnell was ruined because he had an affair with Kitty O'Shea. If divorce was a bar to public life today there would be by-elections in half the constituencies in the country. One of the greatest names in our land said recently to a friend of mine, "It must be awful to be morally fit".'

'Then Communism comes in. Lenin said, "Our revolution will never succeed until the myth of God is removed from the mind of man". You have the resources of vast states sincerely trying to remove God's morality from the world. What success does it have in Britain? People are blind to it, but Arthur Koestler, the distinguished author who fled from Hitler's Germany, recently wrote this:

"Communism increased with growing prosperity and full employment; today it is the dominant factor in industrial relations, and its disruptive effects are more strongly felt in this country than anywhere else in Europe. They are the result of a planned, centralised and extremely well-organised campaign. It is unthinkable that Guy Burgess and John Gollan should take over Whitehall by a political putsch supported by the Red Army. The real danger, if the present drift continues, is a situation patterned on the 1926 General Strike but with more disastrous consequences."

'A nation's thinking is in ruins before its economy is in ruins. A nation's thinking must be straight before this land can recapture true greatness. Dr. J. D. Unwin, in his book, *Sex and Culture*, described by Aldous Huxley as "of the highest importance", writes:

"Sometimes a man has been heard to declare that he wishes both to enjoy the advantages of high culture and to abolish continence. Any human society is free to choose, either to display great energy or to enjoy sexual freedom; the evidence is that it cannot do both for more than one generation."

Continued over

'Through the Garden Wall' in Blackpool

REFRESHING Change from Kitchen Sink Drama' was the headline in the *West Lancashire Evening Gazette* on *Through the Garden Wall* by Peter Howard. The play has been running this week at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool before opening at the Westminster Theatre in London on 20 March.

'This provocative play should set theatre-goers talking,' says the critic. 'Mr. Howard gets home many home truths about life on both sides of the Curtain which provided the audience with plenty of food for thought.'

The *Lancashire Evening Post* wrote: 'Neighbours at loggerheads with each other. The teenage son at one house and the pretty daughter at the house adjoining desperately in love, yet facing the prospect of their romance being ruined because of their respective parents' animosity. Peter Howard seeks to picture some of our international problems in *Through the Garden Wall*.

'With delightful clarity the author of this beautifully acted piece has spotlighted many of the differences and misunderstandings that threaten world peace nowadays.

The play is a delightful combination of comedy, pathos and sombre truths.

'Phyllis Konstam touches great heights as Mrs. Fred Allways and her husband is neatly portrayed by Bryan Coleman. Oliver Johnston offers a fine character study as an old uncle making his home with them. Richard Warner submits a fine contribution to the play as the ferocious next door neighbour, while Vic Wise makes an amusing Silas, his brother.'

The play has also been widely hailed by the press of Japan, where it has been running since December:

Mainichi: 'The latest work of Peter Howard describes love, death, hate with laughter and tears and shows an answer to all division.'

Japan Times: 'Witty, shrewd and challenging, this play gives the simple secret of how every family, united, can have a part in creating a revolution which brings sanity and peace to a divided world.'

Hokkai Times: 'Extremely sharp satire which penetrates into the hearts of everyone and every kind of wall between men and nations.'

'HOW BRITAIN CAN BE GREAT AGAIN' (Continued from page 3)

'Men start by telling you that there is no such thing as black and white, but only grey. The next stage is when men tell you black is right and white is wrong. You are persecuted and bullied and gagged if you dare to stand for what once were called the ancient virtues of honesty, purity, patriotism, duty and honour.

'It is in that setting that intelligent reporters and observers of our times should survey the work of Moral Re-Armament. Through the crash of old standards and the disintegration of faith and manners the structure of a new world is rising in every continent.'

Howard then summarised the advance of Moral Re-Armament in Latin America, Africa, Asia and

in the countries of Europe.

'We can in this country become truly great,' he concluded. 'It will mean sound family life. It will mean an industry where management and labour learn to serve community rather than sectional interests. It will mean a unity in this United Kingdom brought by change in the hearts of men. No other road to unity will get us there.

'If Britain can show the world that nations can live for something more than bedrooms, boardrooms, bread and banknotes, she can, in the words of Disraeli, "change the spirit of the age". Britain all-out for the remaking of the world will pioneer the path that is the only path to national happiness and world peace.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

Conakry, Guinea—The African Film Distribution Agency announces that the film *Freedom* has met with great success in Conakry and other Guinea towns. It has also been shown in Senegal, Upper Volta and the Ivory Coast.

Santos, Brazil—The President and Directors of the world champion Santos Football Club welcomed Muriel Smith, star of the film *The Crowning Experience*, at the magnificent new club buildings. Before TV and press cameras the President introduced her to world champion players Pele, Gilmar and Coutinho. Pele said, 'At last I shall be able to see the film about which I have heard so much'. They accepted Miss Smith's invitation to see the film in Santos.

Chicago, U.S.A.—Senator Dirksen, U.S. Senate Republican leader, Senator Paul Douglas, leader of the Democratic Party's liberal wing, Mayor Daley of Chicago and the Governor of Illinois headed the committee sponsoring *Music at Midnight*. The Mayor proclaimed 4-9 March 'Music at Midnight Week'. The play, he said, 'is an initiative by the professional theatre towards a healthy and creative theatre'.

Wattenscheid, Germany—The Socialist M.P., the head of the Metal Workers, the head of the Association of Youth Organisations, mine management and shop stewards attended a showing of *The Crowning Experience* in this Ruhr coal mining town. *Westdeutsche Allgemeine*, largest Ruhr daily, wrote, 'A masterpiece, not only from the point of view of its contents but also technically'.

Phoenix, U.S.A.—'Superb professional touch marks *Music at Midnight*,' the *Phoenix Republic* headlined its review. The sponsoring committee included the Governor of Arizona, the Mayor of Phoenix, Senator Barry Goldwater and the President of the Teamsters (transport workers) Union Council for Arizona and New Mexico.