

AVERAGE MAN IN ENGLAND THINKS AMERICANS ROUGH

By Frank H. King
LONDON (AP) — The average Englishman regards Americans as coarseness—but the average Englishman doesn't care much for coarseness.

Common heritage of race, customs, laws and language and all the oratorical standbys of lectures, after-dinner speakers and hands-across-the-sea advocates fail to explain what the average Englishman thinks of America and Americans and why he thinks it.

But Amity Suffers
No two nations, it would seem, have a greater basis for understanding. Fundamentally, understanding exists. Superficially, Anglo-American amity suffers many hard knocks. Who won the war? War debts? The League of Nations, Ellis Island, Ireland, rum-running, prohibition, the gold standard, the world economic conference, the next world economic conference — these and a multitude of other controversial subjects have dogged Anglo-American relations the last 15 years.

Speaking something of the same language — this being admitted even by English, who think that the Oxford accent is universal throughout the British Isles — John Bull and Uncle Sam speak plainly to each other. Because they have a common tongue, however, kinship and similarity of viewpoint are assumed that do not exist.

Too Much Similarity
Viscount Lee of Fareham, who was one of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American war, speaking at the American Society's Thanksgiving day dinner in London this year, said that the very similarity of language created misunderstanding between Britain and America.

Manifold facilities for understanding exist. The two countries read each other's news, see each other's movies, exchange shiploads of lecturers, tourists and books. England gets more of the tourists, America more lecturers.

Wild and Woolly
Still, the old ideas die hard. The average Englishman always has believed that America is a wild and woolly land. Indians may have been displaced by machine-gunning gangsters, but the net result is about the same. Americans are rough and ready Yankee cousins, often a little uncouth, with more whoopee than sense in their makeup.

Americans still are "dollar chasers," and Englishmen continue to chase the dollar because, even if the dollars are baloney or rubber. They know the potential resources of the United States. In fact, they know the basic strength of the nation much better than they understand superficial America. That, perhaps, is a tribute to the British.

Roosevelt and Crime
Never has so much American political and government news been printed in the English press as since President Roosevelt's election. Roosevelt is America's biggest personality in British eyes.

But crime still tops all other news from America. The land of Sherlock Holmes and Edgar Wallace likes its murder mysteries.

American movies make big English news and dominate British screens. More than 75 per cent of all the movies shown here still come from Hollywood. Staid London just now is trying to decide whether she approves of Mae West.

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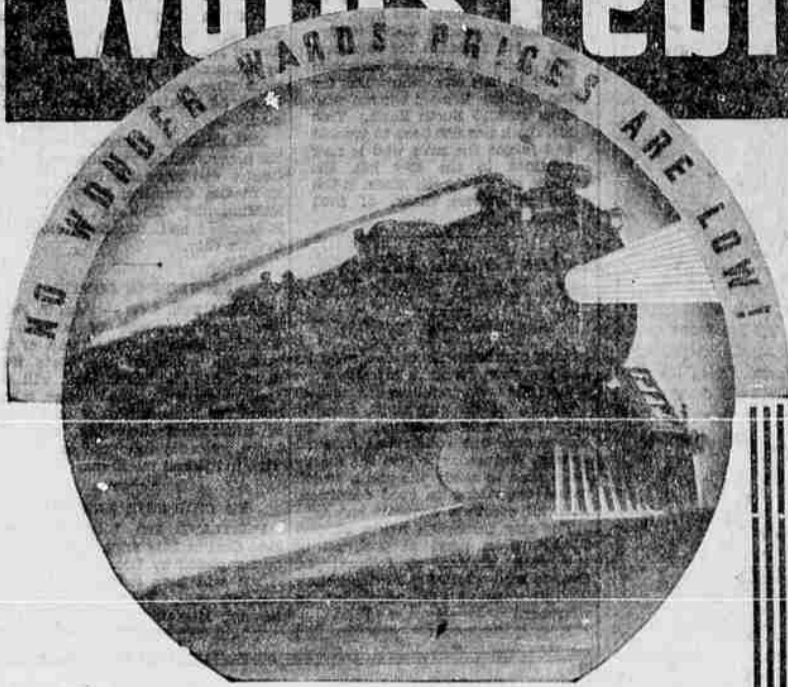
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