

Influence of Great Britain Disproportionate to Its Area

(Editor's note: "The world is getting smaller all the time," everyone agrees. Yet how much do most of us know about our neighbors in this even smaller world, even about those nations and peoples with whom we have the closest associations, upon whom our destinies may depend the most. (It is, in fact, a blurred or out-dated picture many of us have of other countries — a picture that is vague on geography, neglects or forgets history, ignores or is unaware of progress, dismisses or fails to account for change. (The dispatch that follows is the first of a series designed to sharpen your picture of the nations that share your globe, to bring it up to date without neglecting the past. They are sketches that may surprise you with some things you thought you knew — and didn't. Today: Britain.)

By ROBERT MUSEL
United Press International
London — (UPI) — Great Britain, the United Kingdom and the British Isles are not three versions of the same thing. Great Britain is an island composed of England, Scotland and Wales.

The United Kingdom is Great Britain plus northern Ireland.

The British Isles is the term properly applied to the United Kingdom plus the islands around it — the Isles of Scilly to the southwest, the Isle of Man to the west, the channel islands to the east and the Orkneys and Shetlands to the north of Scotland.

For all this impressive nomenclature, it is a small place — 75th in size among the nations of the world with a land mass of 94,285 square miles, roughly the size of the state of Oregon.

But its influence throughout history has always been disproportionate to its area. Great Britain measures only 600 miles from north to south but its sons have taken its language, system of government, culture and currency to the ends of the earth.

Produces More Milestones
You could lose it in many of the states of the United States yet it has produced more milestones in the history of invention than any other nation — the steam engine, the jet engine, the railroad, radar, television, penicillin, atomic theory among them.

It has only 54,000,000 people (ninth in world population) but it ranks second in world trade, behind the United States. It is the central banker of the sterling area which includes one-quarter of the world's population and carries on 40 per cent of the world's commerce.

The British consider themselves a seafaring race, partly because there are so many bays and inlets that no point in the land is more than 75 miles from tidal water.

The North Sea washes the northern shores, the Irish Sea the west. The Atlantic Ocean is to the south and to the east is the historic "moat," the English Channel which divides it from the northwest coast of Europe and its nearest neighbors, France, Belgium, Holland.

Narrow Channel Point
The channel is 21 miles at its narrowest point between Dover and Cape Gris Nez in France.

Because Britain grows only half the food it needs and has few natural resources other than coal and low-grade iron ore, it is the world's best customer — the largest importer of wheat, meat, butter, fodder grains, citrus fruits, tobacco, wool and hard timber.

In return it sells locomotives, aircraft, motor vehicles, electrical equipment, chemicals, textiles and most types of machinery.

The importing and exporting accounts for 10 per cent of the total trade of the world.

Britain is very densely populated ranking fourth behind only Japan, Belgium and the Netherlands. Few countries have as many people living in towns (80 per cent) or such a small proportion working in agriculture (4 per cent).

A British Tradition
Complaining about the weather is a British tradition but meteorologists consider it "temperate and equitable." The average annual temperature is 50 degrees. The annual rainfall of 40 inches is well distributed hence there is a long growing season, streams rarely dry up, grass is green throughout the year and there is scarcely a month without flowers.

Britons are mainly descended from the people who inhabited the island 900 years ago. The last of a long succession of invaders and colonizers from Scandinavia and the continent were the Normans who conquered Britain in 1066. They were a Viking people who settled and intermarried in France.



SURROUNDED BY NEW BUILDINGS—This picture of London shows St. Paul's Cathedral, now surrounded by new buildings, bordering on Cannon st. and Chesapeake in an arch which was levelled during World War II. In the center right with the square tower and steeple is Bow Church, whose Bow Bells are world-famed. (UPI)

Before the Normans came the Celts, the Romans in 55 BC led by Julius Caesar himself, the Anglo-Saxons and the Scandinavians including the Danes (King Canute was Danish). The English language, a marriage of Anglo-Saxon and Norman French, came to be predominate while dwindling use of Celtic languages continues in some areas in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

As the Romans found and

all invaders and would-be invaders have learned since, the British are tenacious of what they consider their rights and liberties. Wales conducted guerrilla warfare against the Normans from 1066 to the death of their Prince Llewellyn in 1284. Scotland did not yield to England until 1603.

And even today there are

The great majority of males over 15 are in fulltime employment and nearly all single girls and one-third of married women go out to work. The average male salary is about seven shillings (one dollar) an hour or 15 sterling (\$42) for an average work week of 42 to 46 hours. Women average eight sterling (\$22.40). There is no equality in wages.

The major recreations of the British are soccer and the cinema although attendances

at both are diminishing. This drop-off is attributed partly to television. The British are persistent drinkers of tepid (room temperature) beer—in preference to hard spirits—and spend a lot of time at their pubs. The per capita beer consumption in 1962 was about 19 gallons. They love dancing and more than 5 million go to the "palais"—as dance halls are known—every week.

British home heating and food are among the most crit-

icized and joked about in Europe. The British stubbornly stick to the coal fire which is inadequate in houses not properly weather-proofed; hence the constant complaints in cold weather. Buses, taxis and subways are also mostly unheated.

Still The Exception
The Caesars brought central heating with them but 2,000 years later it is still the exception in British homes.

The British diet is improving but many families, especially outside London, still rely on starchy, stodgy or fried foods and are suspicious of "continental" sauces and seasonings. They are beginning to learn, however, as they increasingly take their holidays abroad and London has developed several world class restaurants.

There are nearly 9 million children and young people in full time attendance in the schools, over 90 per cent of them in the free lower schools and the other 10 per cent in the private and preparatory schools. There are 23 universities, most of them assisting with state funds. Schooling till the age of 15 is compulsory and the ministry of education contends that there is, for practical purposes, no illiteracy.

Britain's economy is a mixture of free enterprise and socialism. The most dramatic example of the latter is the national health scheme which provides a comprehensive health service for every Briton from the cradle to the grave.

Presents Many Faces

Britain presents many faces to the world. To Napoleon it was contemptuously a nation of shopkeepers. This is partly true. It is also the nation that gave birth to Shakespeare and enriched the literary life of the world with Ben Jonson, Milton, Spenser, Kipling, George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells and Nobel Prize win-

ners John Galsworthy and Sir Winston Churchill.

Gainsborough, Constable and Turner were its greatest artists. It has never produced a great composer, yet its folk songs are among the most tuneful in the world.

Britain is a democratic monarchy. There is not written constitution and Winston Churchill once remarked the U.S. Constitution took thousands of words to say what the British constitution said in none. Queen Elizabeth is the nominal head of state. The throne is above politics. Under her is the actual government of the country, generally drawn from either the Tory (Conservative) or the Socialist (Labor) party which command about the same number of voters.

At the moment, and for the past decade, the Tories have held office.

Other Political Party

The only other political party of any consequence is the Liberal Party which holds seven seats in the lower House of Commons, the House of Lords is composed of peers of the realm. It has little power except to make Commons "think again"—by holding up legislation.

There are no Communists in Parliament and the Communist Party is small and influential only in a few industrial areas and some unions. The British have never taken kindly to extremes in politics or anything else.

If there is any one label that can be put on these 54 million people it is this: they are middle-of-the-road people. Incidentally Britons should not be called "Cockneys," except the very few who have earned the name by being born within the sound of the bells of the Church of St. Mary-Le-Bow in London.

Harold Wilson in Washington on First Visit

By ROBERT MUSEL
United Press International
London — (UPI) — When Harold Wilson was a young boy he liked to walk along the street mentally working out the square root of automobile license numbers.

In time he applied one of the most formidable brains in Britain to politics and now he is in Washington on his first visit to the White House as leader of the Labor Party and possibly Britain's next prime minister.

Wilson came to the United States this week end to discuss foreign, defense and economic affairs with President Kennedy, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon.

He will be in the United States about a week, returning for the introduction of the 1963-64 budget by the Macmillan government. Then, some time in the next two months, he will go to Moscow at the invitation of Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

Takes Over Leadership
What kind of man is Wilson? One can say quickly that he is a man who at 21 was one of the ablest economists of his time and an Oxford lecturer, at 31 became the youngest cabinet minister in 150 years as president of the board of trade, and one month short of his 47th birthday took over the leadership of his party as successor to the late Hugh Gaitskell.

But many Britons, including Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, will tell you these are only surface answers. There is an uneasy feeling among his political opponents — and also among some of his own associates — that they have never sheared through all the layers to the essential Harold Wilson.

Perhaps his discussions in Washington will provide some of the answers the Kennedy administration also is looking for. Certainly Wilson, who is sometimes accused of not taking definite stands on vital issues, will make clear exactly his views on the Anglo-American alliance, which he generally supports although not in all aspects of mutual defense policy.

A Grayling Man
President Kennedy and his aides will find Wilson a plumpish, grayling man looking older than his years, intently sucking a big pipe and given to such man-of-the-people dress habits as sweaters under his jackets and a veteran nylon pebble-grain overcoat with tartan lapels.

He will speak to Americans, as he does at home, in the broad, flat accents of his native Yorkshire although he has spent enough time at Oxford and in London to have lost it.

As far as Prime Minister Macmillan and his associates



HAROLD WILSON
Britain's New Labor Party Leader

are concerned the accent may be part of Wilson's protective coloration (like his careless dress). But they know, too, that cultivated accent or not, he is apt to leave to his feet in the midst of a complicated parliamentary debate and attack the government with a dazzling display of fact and wit drawn from a mind that never forgets anything it has learned.

No Use Checking
If Wilson says a certain statistic is on a certain page of a government report there is little use bothering to check. It's there. The years have only sharpened his memory.

Wilson's record en route to his present position as leader of "Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition" (an officer of the crown in the democratic monarchy) is almost unique in British politics. He was tipped for a cabinet post at 27, made it four years later.

He was only 32 when he took on the wily Anastas Mikoyan of Russia in exhausting negotiations. Mikoyan, a veteran at this sort of thing, thought he had the young Briton on the ropes but Wilson bought his first pipe and used to draw on it hour after hour keeping his blood pressure down while Mikoyan vainly tried to keep the tension up. Ever since, Wilson has rarely been seen in public without a pipe; it's part of his political equipment.

His sharpest memory of his youth, and one which colors

his thinking even today, is that his father was unemployed for two years. His father still lives and they appear to be close.

Macmillan and his party have been trying hard in recent weeks to force Wilson to make specifically clear everything he plans to do on the big issues of British politics if his party assumes power at the next election — and it has a 15 per cent lead in

popular polls at the moment. They are trying hard also to pin the label of unreliability on him as their best hope of encompassing his defeat.

Wilson's friends contend he is consistent, that it is his critics who cannot follow the logical unfolding of his attitudes. And he can be forthright. He demanded at a public rally this month that the government halt the export of arms to South Africa because of its apartheid policy.

Against Defense Politics
He also has been outspoken against Macmillan's defense politics and is understood to be in favor of dropping Britain's independent nuclear force.

He believes in some nationalization of industry — the official policy of the Labor party — but he laughs away as ridiculous a recent conservative party pamphlet which alleged that he planned to take over most of the big firms in Britain.

After the death of Gaitskell in January there was a three-way battle for leadership of the Labor party among Wilson, the Deputy Leader George Brown and James Callaghan. Callaghan dropped out after the first ballot and Wilson won a surprisingly large majority on the second ballot.

More Human Image

Wilson is married and since his elevation to party leader he has been busy creating a more human public image (he has very few close friends). Television viewers recently saw him perform his "party trick" — hitting a golf ball over the roof of his house with a masher niblick from a point only a few yards in front of it.

He was watched by a small

force of rooters — his wife and two sons.

He was also seen dancing at a reception with a party worker. He sang, so the microphones would pick it up,

a snatch of the song the band was playing.

It was "Mac the Knife" — which also happens to be a term the Labor party applies to Prime Minister Macmillan.

Recipients Would Lose Race Funds

Salem — (UPI) — Removal of eight recipients from State Racing commission funds has been recommended to the Senate State and Federal Affairs committee by Sen. Walter Leth (R-Salem).

Leth voiced support for a bill which would confine such funds to the State Fair, county agricultural fairs, the Pendleton Round-Up, and the Pacific International Livestock Exposition.

The bill would grant the State Fair and Livestock Exposition \$75,000 a year instead of the present \$35,000, the Pendleton Round-Up would continue to receive \$7,500 a year, and the rest would be distributed to the counties for fairs or agricultural shows.

Cut off from racing funds would be the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show at Union; the Mid Columbia Livestock Show at The Dalles; the Northwestern Turkey Show, Douglas county; the Merrill Potato Festival, Merrill; the Klamath Basin Roundup association, Klamath county; the Spring Lamb and Dairy Show, Canby; the Pacific Coast Turkey Exhibit, Yamhill county, and the Oregon State Corn Show at Oregon State university.

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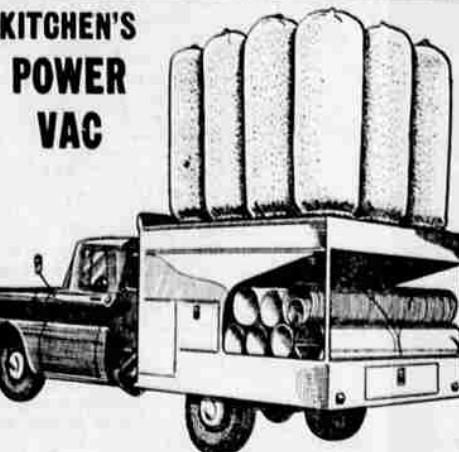
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