

★ **ARTHUR TRACY**
(THE STREET SINGER)
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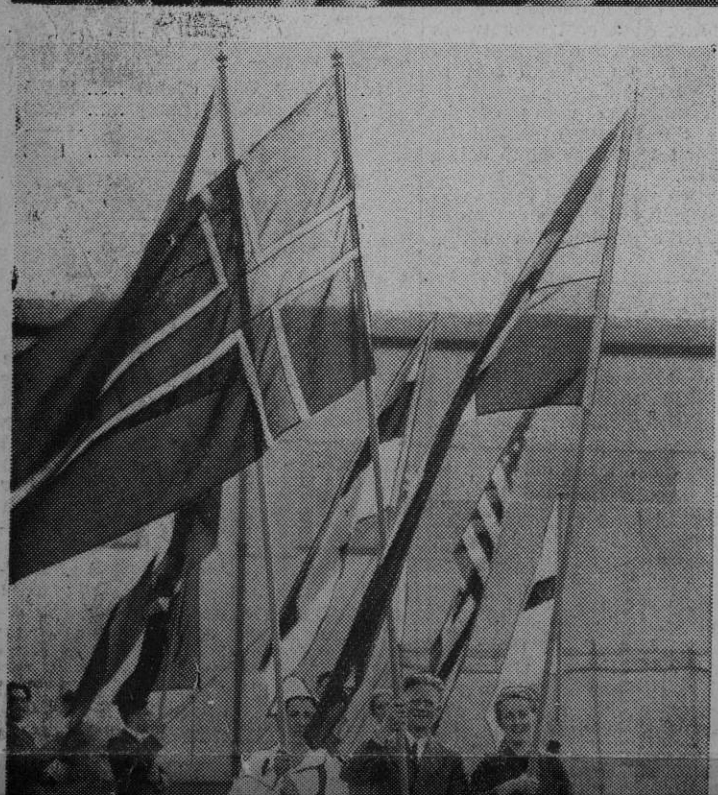
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THE SIGN OF
QUALITY
SEE PAGE FIVE

Oxford Group Assembly: Vast Audience at Castle Bromwich

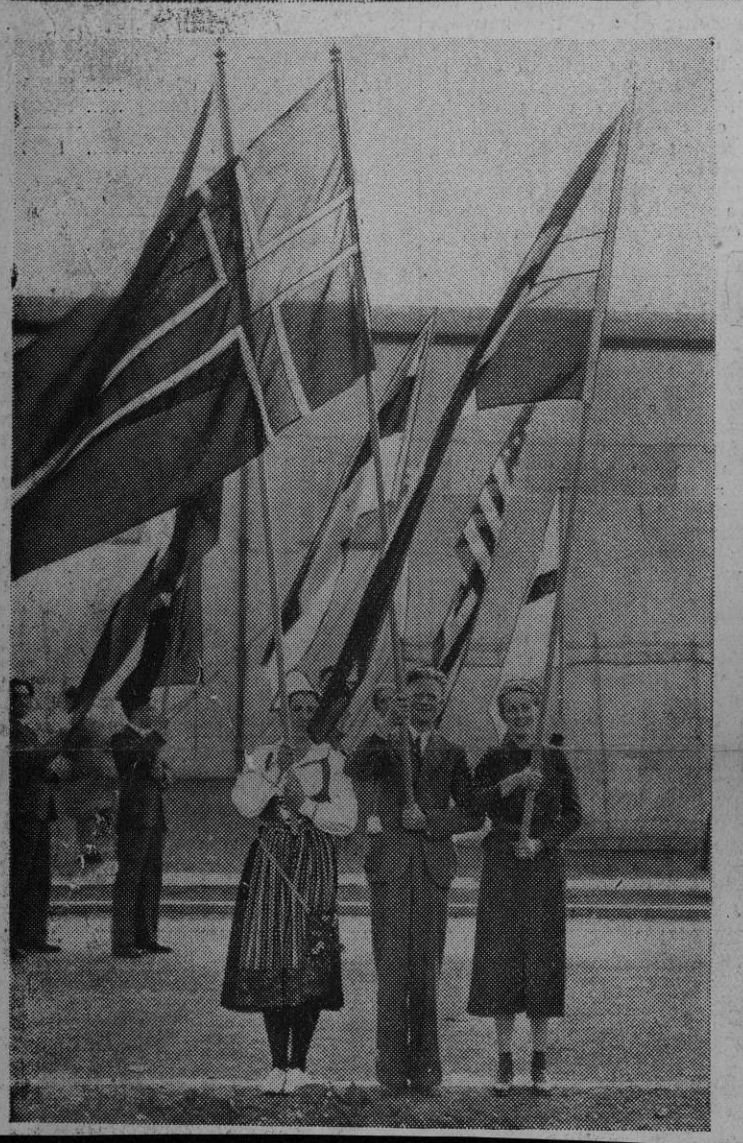


A GENERAL VIEW of the interior of the B.I.F. buildings at Castle Bromwich during the meeting of the Oxford Group yesterday. No fewer than 35 nationalities were represented in the vast audience. Left: Groupers from abroad, wearing national dress and carrying their banners. *Birmingham Gazette photograph.*





A GENERAL VIEW of the interior of the B.I.F. buildings at Castle Bromwich during the meeting of the Oxford Group yesterday. No fewer than 35 nationalities were represented in the vast audience. Left: Groupers from abroad, wearing national dress and carrying their banners. *Birmingham Gazette photograph.*



IMPRESSIVE SCENE AT MIDLAND INVASION BY OXFORD GROUP

BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM TAKES PART

Castle Bromwich Assembly World Broadcast

THE National Assembly of the Oxford Group at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, this week-end has been an amazing affair (writes a *Birmingham Gazette* reporter).

Here was pageantry impressive in every feature; here were men and women of every class, colour and country and thousands of them united in purpose.

Quite 25,000 people took part in the assembly. They came from 35 different countries and some had travelled 13,000 miles. Savings had been drawn out of the banks and valued possessions sold to enable many of them to be present.

Who were these 25,000 people? Several thousands, one imagines were people from the Birmingham district who wanted to know just what this Oxford Group is all about.

The rest were Oxford Groupers, peers side by side with ex-convicts, Fascists and Communists, Catholics and Protestants, Frenchman and Germans, "bosses" and their employees, bishops and athletes, factory hands and farm hands, captains of industry and men on the dole.

All out for the one end—expressed in their words as "God-controlled men and God-controlled nations."

There was no emotionalism. The huge crowd was light-hearted, good-humoured yet serious in its respect for the Oxford Group movement. There was no orthodox phraseology of Christianity. They were not converted sinners, but "blokes who had been changed." There was no call to prayer and meditation, just tributes to the essential importance of the "quiet time."

But there was all the fire of the old evangelists. Every minute evidenced the enthusiasm of these people who want to turn the world upside down.

A dozen times at least the great crowd sang the Group's theme song, "Bridgebuilders." It was broadcast yesterday to the far ends of the earth. Once heard it is never forgotten.

There were processions of youth, ex-Servicemen and nurses who served in the Great War, and Dutch visitors at both meetings yesterday, while a pageant of national flag-bearers marched through the singing congregation.

THE BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM

The Benediction at the end of a world broadcast was given by the Bishop of Birmingham (Dr. E. W. Barnes), who took part in the broadcast. Speaking later he said: "The supreme necessity of the world is peace. I would go further and say it is the knowledge of God that leads to peace."

under conditions like that so can the world if it listens to God.

Loudon Hamilton, in whose rooms at Oxford the movement began: There is an answer in the message of the Oxford Group for all the questions Vimy Ridge is bound to raise in our minds.

Roger Faure, French architect: There is no "absolute love" in my country; only fear and anxiety.

Franz Fuchsthaller, Austrian ex-soldier, whose words were translated into English by a German:

Please show friendship to us. We seek only a lasting peace. I will serve God and strive to bring about His Kingdom.

Thorkild Starper, a Dane: I spent many hours learning to use a machine-gun and a bayonet. I realise now the only way of securing real peace is by life-changing.

Jurrien ten Have (Holland): An enterprising firm of undertakers had as their advertisement—"You only just die. We do the rest." That is what God said to me and when my egoism had gone I became useful.

Alistair Dow (Scotland): My home used to be a parking place by night and a filling station by day. It is a real home now it is God-controlled.

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Alderman W. Locke): I tell all the conferences that meet in Newcastle—"When you come to knotty problems don't wrangle, bring God in."

Farrar Vickers, managing director of a well-known Leeds oil firm: It is not sufficient to provide steady work at good wages and under good conditions with safe dividends for capital. Management involves personal responsibility for persons.

Jack Ansell, chauffeur: I appeal to you all to become de-carbonised. You will run all the better.

GOD AND INDUSTRY

Austin Reed, head of the firm of that name: Business can't be run successfully solely on a profit basis. Industry can be brought into God's plan.

Teddy Galloway, unemployed for 5 years: I have found that I have a part to play. God runs my home, though it is on the dole.

Dozens of other speakers paid tribute to what the Oxford Group had meant to them—divorce papers torn up, homes and offices transformed lives changed in purpose and meaning, new adventures in living.

What does Birmingham think of it all? The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were there, so were local Members of Parliament, magistrates, industrialists. The Oxford Group wants Birmingham to be the leader of a new industrial revolution. Eyes are on the city to see what will happen now that

BIRMINGHAM'S FIRST THEATRICAL GARDEN PARTY



At Birmingham's first Theatrical Garden Party, which was held on Saturday at the Botanical Gardens under the auspices of the First Nighters' Club. The Lady Mayoress of Birmingham (Mrs. S. J. Grey) being initiated as a member of the club by Miss Irene Vanbrugh, who declared the Garden Party open. Among others in the picture are Miss Cora Goffin, Miss Neta Underwood and the Lord Mayor.

WEEK-END CARNIVALS

Processions and Folk Dancing

Kinver villagers on Saturday brought their first carnival to a triumphant conclusion, and as a result it is expected that the £200 required for a car for the district nurse will have been secured.

A heavy shower in the early afternoon threatened to spoil the procession but afterwards there was bright sunshine. The Carnival...

Most original tableau or group on foot.—1, G. Neville and party, Burntwood (Bidal Party); 2, Thirby's Burntwood Imps.
Best decorated house or business premises on route.—1, Mr. Clarke, Post Office, Burntwood; 2, Mrs. Johnson, 44, Chase-road, Burntwood.
Jazz bands.—1, Norton Dandies; 2, tie between Brownhills Jubilee and Brownhills Sylvians; 4, Sheffield (Militaires); 5, Walsall Wood Red Coronets; 6, Sheffield Jolly Tars.

WOLEY CASTLE GALA

Lady Godiva Miss Frances P.

Matthews, King's Bromley; 3, J. Bull, Bromley Hayes.

Best kept cottage flower garden: 1, G. Hasby, Bromley Hayes; 2, Miss Sheekleton, King's Bromley; 3, E. Smith, Handsacre; 4, A. E. Legge.

In the mounted sports the results were:—Children's riding class.—1, Miss Ann Featherstone, Sutton Coldfield; 2, Miss Cynthia Eagles, Erdington.

Open jumping class.—1, F. W. Foster, Etwell; 2, Raymond Cheshire, Derby; 3, A. J. Warrall, Derby; 4, Miss Connie Burley, Harborne.

Children's riding class.—1, Miss Kathleen Terry, Walmley, Erdington; 2, Miss Joanne Moyses, Streetly; 3, Miss Pam Jobson, Duffield.

Novice horse jumping.—1, E. Adcock, Thurmaton; 2, Raymond Cheshire, Derby; 3, N. Watson, Fradley.

WON TEN FIRSTS

HOSPITAL PROBLEM

Alternative Schemes for Halesowen

The question of a new hospital for Halesowen is under consideration.

At a meeting of the Hospital Charities Committee on Saturday night it was reported that at the annual meeting a committee was appointed to go into the matter of extending the present hospital.

Since then the committee had discussed the alternative scheme suggested by Dr. Blore for the erection of a new hospital on a fresh site.

DOCTOR'S VIEWS

Dr. Blore stated that at the request of the committee he had mentioned the matter to other medical men in the borough and found they were not very enthusiastic about the larger scheme at Cradley and Hill and Cakemore.

The doctors opposed it on the grounds that the needs of the former were met by Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, and the latter by the Birmingham hospitals.

The medical men were also opposed to building a new block at the present institution, and it was suggested that in any scheme provision would have to be made for midwifery cases, and facilities provided for open-air treatment as well as recreation for the nursing staff.

ALTERNATIVE PLANS

In the course of a long discussion it was explained that the alternative schemes were the extension of the present building at a cost of between £6,000 and £10,000, or the erection of a new hospital at an estimated cost of between £20,000 and £30,000.

It was felt that the views of the residents of the borough should be obtained, and it was decided to call a public meeting.

The committee were asked to prepare alternative schemes with the estimated costs of each for presentation to that meeting.

SMETHWICK DIVISION

Prospective Labour Candidate

MR. O. G. WILLEY

MR. O. G. WILLEY was yesterday selected as prospective Parliamentary candidate for Smethwick. The meeting at which this decision was made was convened by the Trades and Labour Council.

The proceedings were private, and at the close of the conference the announcement was made by Councillor Mrs. Farley, the Labour Party agent and secretary of the organisation in the borough.

Mr. Willey is the fourth candidate to have been chosen by the local Labour Party since Smethwick was created a Parliamentary Borough in 1918. Mr. John E. Davison was elected the first Member and he was succeeded by Mr. (now Sir) Oswald Mosley, who continued to represent Smethwick until he launched his new party.

CONSERVATIVE SEAT

That caused a serious breach in the ranks of the Smethwick Labour Party, and at the following election Mr. W. E. Lawrence was the Labour candidate. He was defeated by Mr. A. Roy Wise and the seat (which had always been held by Labour) has since been held by him in the Conservative interests.

The figures at the last General Election were:—

Mr. A. Roy Wise (Con.) 16,575
Dr. C. W. Brook (Lab.) 15,023

Maj. 1,592

BLACKSMITHS' COMPETITIONS

Birmingham Team Wins Shield

In the picturesque Warwickshire village of Wolvey, appropriately enough "neath the shade" of a spreading chestnut tree, within a few yards of the centre of the village, the Birmingham and West Midlands District of the National Master Farriers' and Blacksmiths' Association on Saturday held their annual horse-shoeing competitions.

Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Northampton and Wolvey were among the 18 teams entered.

The challenge shield went to Birmingham "B" team with 72pts., and the challenge cup to the Stafford team. Wolverhampton "A" team were third, Northampton "B" fourth, and Northampton "A" fifth.

In the individual competitions, W. Macklin (Birmingham "B") was first and S. Evans (Birmingham "E") reserve, while for the best hot shoe, W. Macklin was first, W. T. A. Caswell (Coventry) reserve, and W. Macklin (Birmingham "B") was second.

£10,000 CHURCH

Stone-Laying Ceremony at Solihull

An important stage in the history of Methodism was marked on Saturday when the stone-laying ceremony of a new church situated in field-road took place.

The church, which will be completed about nine months, is to seat about 100 persons and will cost £10,000.

The stones were laid at Saturday afternoon—three in memory of the late minister, Mrs. G. C. Dean and Mrs. J. C. Newey, and seven by Mrs. William Beaumont, Mrs. Crow, Mr. James Doubleday, D. M. Fell (a schoolboy), Mr. E. Morley, Mrs. C. V. Newey, E. M. Rand, and one on behalf of the congregation.

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Dr. Barnes said that God worked His purpose out on earth to those who tried to be loyal to Him. God would let us destroy ourselves if we denied Him or forgot His word. God was good, but there was something terrible in goodness. Terrible was the way He allowed evil to work itself out.

"We can find God as Christ did. He gives guidance to those who seek Him aright. I am here to-day because I believe the groups seek to find and serve the Lord . . . I pray God that you and those from every land who are here to-day may by the light and help you receive from God be enabled in this dangerous era to preserve His civilisation and to build the Kingdom of God upon earth."

The Bishop's contribution followed an address by Dr. Frank Buchman, the founder of the movement, whose words were given a world wide broadcast and translated into French, German, Dutch, Chinese, Greek and Danish.

LET THERE BE GOD-CONTROL

Dr. Buchman said: A country's safety lies in God-control. God-controlled individuals, God-controlled politics, God-controlled schools, God-controlled industry, God-controlled nations. This means that everybody takes his orders from God.

Everybody believes in honesty, purity, unselfishness and love for the other fellow. And some might even go so far as to wish it for the other nation! But the Oxford Group goes one better and believes that you might even start with yourself and your own nation.

Leaders everywhere now say that the world needs not only a moral, but also a spiritual awakening. They say it in the universities, in politics, in businesses, in chancelleries.

But the problem is still how. God will show us if we are willing. When man listens God speaks. When man obeys God works. The secret is God-control. We are not out to tell God. We are out to let God tell us. And He will tell us.

The nations must be governed by men under instructions from God as definitely given and understood as if they come by wire. This is the true dictatorship of the living God.

This is the true patriotism, for the true patriot gives his life for his country's resurrection.

The world needs a miracle. Miracles of science have been the wonder of the age, but they have not brought peace and happiness to the nations. A miracle of the spirit is what we need.

Divine guidance must become the normal experience of ordinary men and women. Any man can pick up divine messages if he will put his receiving set in order. Definite, accurate, adequate information can come from the mind of God to the mind of man. This is normal prayer.

There must come a spiritual dynamic which will change human nature and re-make men and nations. Only so will order come out of chaos in national and international affairs.

TESTIMONIES

Henry Poulson, Scottish rugger international: I trained for rugger in the mornings. I learned I had to train for God then, too.

Jens Tvede, of Copenhagen: You say here "Is it cricket?" In Denmark now we say, "Is it Oxford?"

Joe Darbyshire, unemployed miner from Bolton: Fellows from 17 nations have lived together in camp this week at Castle Bromwich. I have not heard a cross word. If we can live together

result it is expected that the £200 required for a car for the district nurse will have been secured.

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