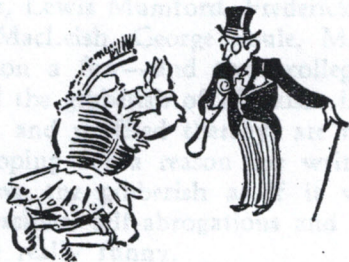


Sterling Patriotism in Ravaged England

WHAT SOME ENGLISHMEN are patriotic about is indicated in telling items that appear in our London contemporary, *Land and Liberty*, for December, 1940. We select a representative story.

The War Office needed land which belonged to the Shirley Park Estate in Croydon. "Compulsory powers" had to be exerted. The arbitration proceedings resulted in an award of nearly \$80,000 for 17.82 acres, more than \$4,000 an acre. That wasn't all. Compensation was demanded and given for the "consequential damage" to the remaining 116 acres of the estate (because of the part being used for military purposes) and that amounted to an additional \$35,000.



The total swag of about \$115,000 was paid for permission to use land needed for defense of the realm, land which, aside from a golf course giving the Estate an annual rental of \$8,000, was only partly developed for building purposes.

The land speculator's patriotism has a sterling value. It is a value which the War Office—the State—dare not destroy.

Of course, the land-patriots were not satisfied with the award. They wanted more. They complained that the eighteen acres taken for war purposes would leave them less building frontage and that the value per front foot would be reduced. "But," remarks *Land and Liberty*, "what is frontage but access to all the communications that society provides?"

The effrontery of land-patriots is colossal. In the hearings counsel for the Estate claimed higher compensation because the property enjoyed the excellent transport, shopping, educational, and recreational facilities of the town. He regarded the Estate as the most attractive one to the south of London, undulating in character, handsomely timbered and rich in soil.

"They pretend to be selling land, but they are selling all that the public authority and that nature have done to give the land its value," said *Land and Liberty*.

Peculiarly enough, though there is no land value assessment in England, these land-patriots had no difficulty in evaluating the social services centering in their site.

Query: If Hitler would and could guarantee to the land-patriots of England a continuance of their swag system how long would the Battle of Britain go on? Or, if the English people were to abolish this system, or threaten to abolish it, would the British land-patriots go Nazi, just as the Spanish land-patriots went Fascist?

P. S. While we are sermonizing about British land-patriots let's remember that their ilk in this country have a similar sort of patriotism.

A Light in the Darkness

IT IS A HOPEFUL SIGN when the heads of the Protestant and the Roman Churches in Great Britain put forward this joint proposal to insure a lasting peace:

"Resources of the earth should be used as God's gifts to the whole human race and used with due consideration for the needs of present and future generations."