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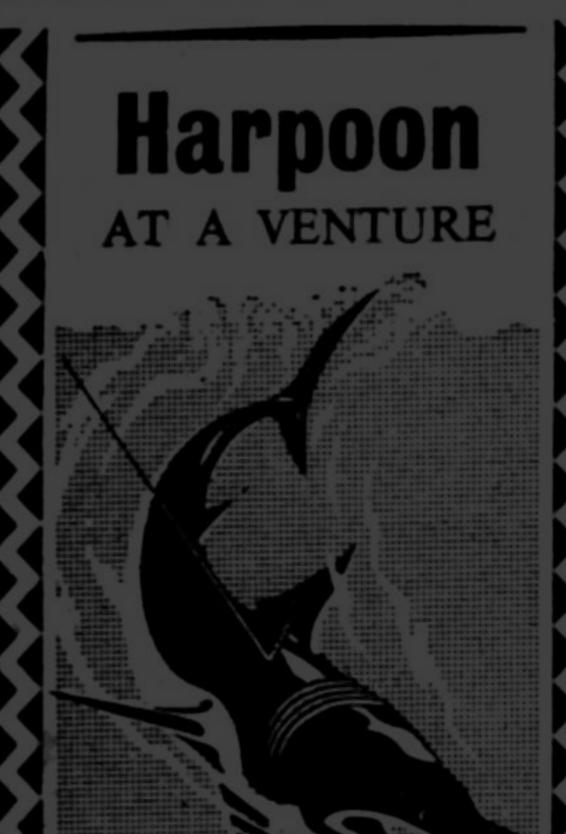
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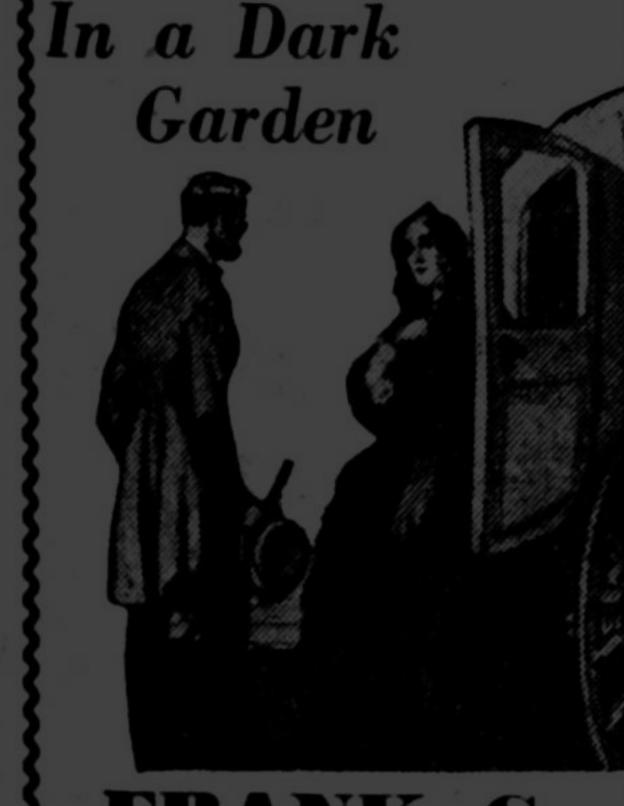
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Four Travellers in

Space and Time

O classify a work by Sacheverell Sitwell, to describe its contents or even to identify its theme is always perplexing, for his approach is so oblique, his presentation so subtle, his method so allusive that it baffles definition. Especially is this the case with "CUPID AND THE JACARANDA," but whatever the perils of exposition, there is no difficulty

for there seems no central purpose, no clear aim in the book. soned by critical tension, he pilots one from the Syracuse, where the It moves but achieves no goal; Greek tragedy was enacted in microit interests and sometimes enter- cosm, to the Palermo which marked tains, but leaves behind it no the nadir of Nelson.

coherent impression. of the author is such that, even when his eye is as careful of the wayside he makes a statement which, from flower as of the architectural mastera lesser writer, would seem outrage pieces—of both beauty and bathos ous, one accepts him as speaking which form the magnet at the strictly to the question rather than island's heart. as indulging in mere self-advertise-

of his subject and how far what the most successful passages in his may be termed the "creative imagi- "THE COUNTRY OF WHITE CLOVER"-A mere substitute but even a superior are those in which character is pergualification for the task in hand, mitted to quicken the already living He adduces on the side of creative description of the countryside.

Far and Wide

language

easily be discounted as an example into his later manner. of the policy of family-adulation, now hardened into self-glorification. 30 years ago. However credulously, I den of England? take this on its face value as an illustration to the thesis, and no more; yet, since it is so liable to misconstruction, I cannot but deplore the introduction of so equivocal a phrase. The book ranges far and wide: Italy, Hungary, Mexico, France; Jenghis Khan and the gods of Greece:

in the light of art. It is, however, not always consistent with (but consistency is that with which great minds have nothing to do, said Emerson).

Baudelaire."

talent which transmutes the hot ally pedestrian passages.

whatever in assessment: the book is—what he himself set south for readers from a more as his aim—a work of art. Coolly, with his admiration seafigures of history—Byron, Goethe, The stature of both the prose and Theocritus—are his familiars; and

BON VIVEUR

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is the Chapelle-és-Pécheurs

(above right). This tiny

thought to have been built

over long black embossments of rock and a gilt and azure sea. A

French chef lovingly prepared really excellent food-homard, ther-

midor, caneton à l'orange with sauce bigarade maison and soufflé

A La Carte Menu Till Midnight

ight seven days a week, are among the choice available to casual

iners and residents, who pay 12-14gns high season, 8-10gns low

season. No dancing here, but a pianist's or organist's muted music

of brigand and smuggler, lit by the glow of lights from Old Portelet

nn. Bernard Jackson, the proprietor, gave us fine suppers in our

irst post-war private visit in 1946 and now has prospered into th

ownership of one of the prettiest pubs imaginable. Flowers bloom in

five bars which are island musters of shining antiques, from 18th

entury flower-painted porcelain tables to Jersais farmhouse utensils

A goodly rendezvous when hydrangeas and fuchsias blaze on the

iffs, but surely delightful in winter too with a "special" bowl of

period, but small marvel this since shop windows bulge with Jersey

cream, 6s 6d a pint, goods stripped of purchase tax, like scents from

France (10oz duty free to bring home), bottles of every imaginable

161. Piccadilly, W.I. and Withy Grove, Manchester, 4, or by post (1s 3d

spirit and liqueur at around half price (bottle duty free), fine wines

Top price here for the best bedroom is 10gns; in winter, prices are from 6 to 7gns. It is charming, sunny, and thoroughly well run.

Next week Bon Viveur continues her "finds" on Continental Britain.

each, post paid), from Dept. "V" at these addresses.

It will be crowded in St. Helier's streets throughout the peak

These, culled from the à la carte menu which operates till mid-

Heading back to base, we saw small Portelet Bay, bygone refuge

in the 6th century.

ilters from the big lounge.

punch (2s 6d a head) before a blazing fire.

The Future of

the Sudan

Abbas. (Faber. 21s.)

we have a chance to hear

By RAINALD WELLS

Grand Marnier.

Kentish Lyric

For example, at one point Mr. Sit- H. E. Bates is, par excellence, a well discusses how far a writer re- writer of short stories; it is, therequires to have personal experience fore, scarcely to be wondered at that nation" of the poet may prove not a book hymning the beauty of Kent-

imagination the fact that he wrote | So far as an area so varied and an essay on Mexico without having elusive can be imprisoned between visited the country, and says: "I the covers of a book, Mr. Bates has believe that the essay on Mexican caught the spirit of Kent: its stubarchitecture in bornness, its graciousness, its idiosyn-Southern Baroque Architecture' is cratic flavour. His style is considerthe best description and interpreta- ably warmer than that which gave tion that has appeared in our him his fame; he is explicit rather than implicit, and the occasionally (but never undesirably) purple heat which his work on Burma introflat statement could duced has now been integrated fully The Chalet Hotel with its top-

His feeling for flowers is perhaps a little obtrusive—but what can you of which the Sitwells were accused expect from a gardener in the Gar-

Botanist's Paradise

enough, form the very spine of Frank Kingdon-Ward, but this is wider public than the small company of alpine botanists. It has in it a great deal of the country—set between Bengal, Burma and Assam; them fascinating, and, upon occa-

The writing ranges from the genu-Some of his specifically literary inely good—charged with imagina-judgments are open to question; as the tion and perception—to the clichés when he says that out of all the of the "Through Bonga Bonga with creative agony of Flaubert, "in spite Rod and Gun" school. of 'Madame Bovary,' there came no his habit of dragging in his wife as work of art to equal the poems of a source of light relief is to be de-

Sacheverell Sitwell is But the content of the book from oblique, discursive, intensely per- its record of heart-breaking, heartsonal and, however restrained, im-soaring quest to its description of plicitly a passionate writer. Peter local "elections," and the difficulties Quennell is direct, lucid, clear, and of sending off a registered letterbrings to "spring in sicily" a or even receiving one! — is sufficiently tranquil and almost contemplative exhilarating to carry the occasion-

NEW FICTION

Should Lives of Great Men be Turned Into Novels?

By JOHN BETJEMAN

The Restless Flame. By Louis de Wohl. (Gollancz. 12s 6d.) This is the Hour. By Lion Feuchtwanger. (Hutchinson. 15s.) A Time to Kill. By Geoffrey Household. (Michael Joseph. 9s 6d.) The Bogman. By Walter Macken. (Macmillan. 12s 6d.)

WISH I could see why Mr. Louis de Wohl wrote "THE RESTLESS FLAME." It is a life of Augustine of Hippo, the African Bishop and one of the greatest men of the world. As St. Augustine left his Confessions, which are as full an autobiography as has ever been written, it seems odd that

Mr. de Wohl should wish to cheapen this great work into a piece of modern fiction writ-

Christianity. Augustine himself, artist.

was co-eternal with God. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, first Buchan with Bournemouth and

saint "up to date," if he is in need of cattle ticks infected with a deadly and wooden character, a humourless was employed by the War Office

and one's neighbour as oneself. famous: "Thou has made us for take, he has married the wrong wife The author has, naturally enough. Thyself, and our heart is restless and set the whole village against

until it rests in Thee." regret the modern tendency to turn the lives of great men into ties, but the author does not de-I prefer straight biography velop them. which leaves a little to the imagina- atmosphere and gives a good picture tion and to the critical faculty. of a country village, where the young Must everything be served up to us people drift away. Feuchtwanger, the author of "Jew feelings spring up suddenly and Suss." has written in "THIS IS THE harden. HOUR" a painstaking account of the middle part of the life of Goya, the Spanish artist who had the fantastic imagination and intense feeling of Swift.

This is not a popular historical romance, though obviously many details and interpretations are imaginary. Nor is it a straightforward account of Goya; in fact it would have been more readable with a few dates and a clearer narra-It is really an interpretative study of the artist which attempts to describe his exciting and peculiar historical background.

The author shows us feudal Spain of the last part of the eighteenth century, with its proud figures like the dark, luxurious foreign Queen her lover, the upstart young Prime Minister, and the peerless Duchess of Alba, mistress and persecutor of Goya. He shows us the painter half reluctantly reflecting in his work and in his own life the splendours and horrors of his country, ridden by the nobility and the Inquisition. afraid to admit change, on the brink of invasion and destruction.

partial madness. To give us this lively picture of

the artist's background was worth

ten in the style of a magazine doing. But Mr. Feuchtwanger takes nearly five hundred pages to do it, including much repetition and in-The setting is the violent world of the late Roman Empire into which the Saint was born. In self remains a shadowy figure. The heresies book does not quite succeed either have swamped as a novel or as a study of a great

hold's direct adventure story " A TIME St. TO KILL." It is in the style of John true the Dorset coast instead of Scotland as a setting. Pink was an ex-Fascist,

Roger Taine, an ex-infantry officer. which is written with brevity and wit, and told with a fine sense of

"THE BOGMAN," by Walter Macken him. At last he is driven out and takes to the roads with the girl he

This story has dramatic possibil staged on an things count a great deal among a Lion few families, and where feuds and Detective Tales and Thrillers By GEORGE W. BISHOP

Viveur's reprinted articles—" In Search

HE Grampians in Arthur The Sudan Question. By Mekki Upfield's thriller "THE MOUN-TAINS HAVE A SECRET" (Heine-

Mary Roberts Rinehart, a past-

title tale is about the murder of a knife that more or less lead to the

LADY KILLER" (Hammond, 9s 6d), The further West you go the more and Van Thal, 9s 6d), by James M. in its dialogue.

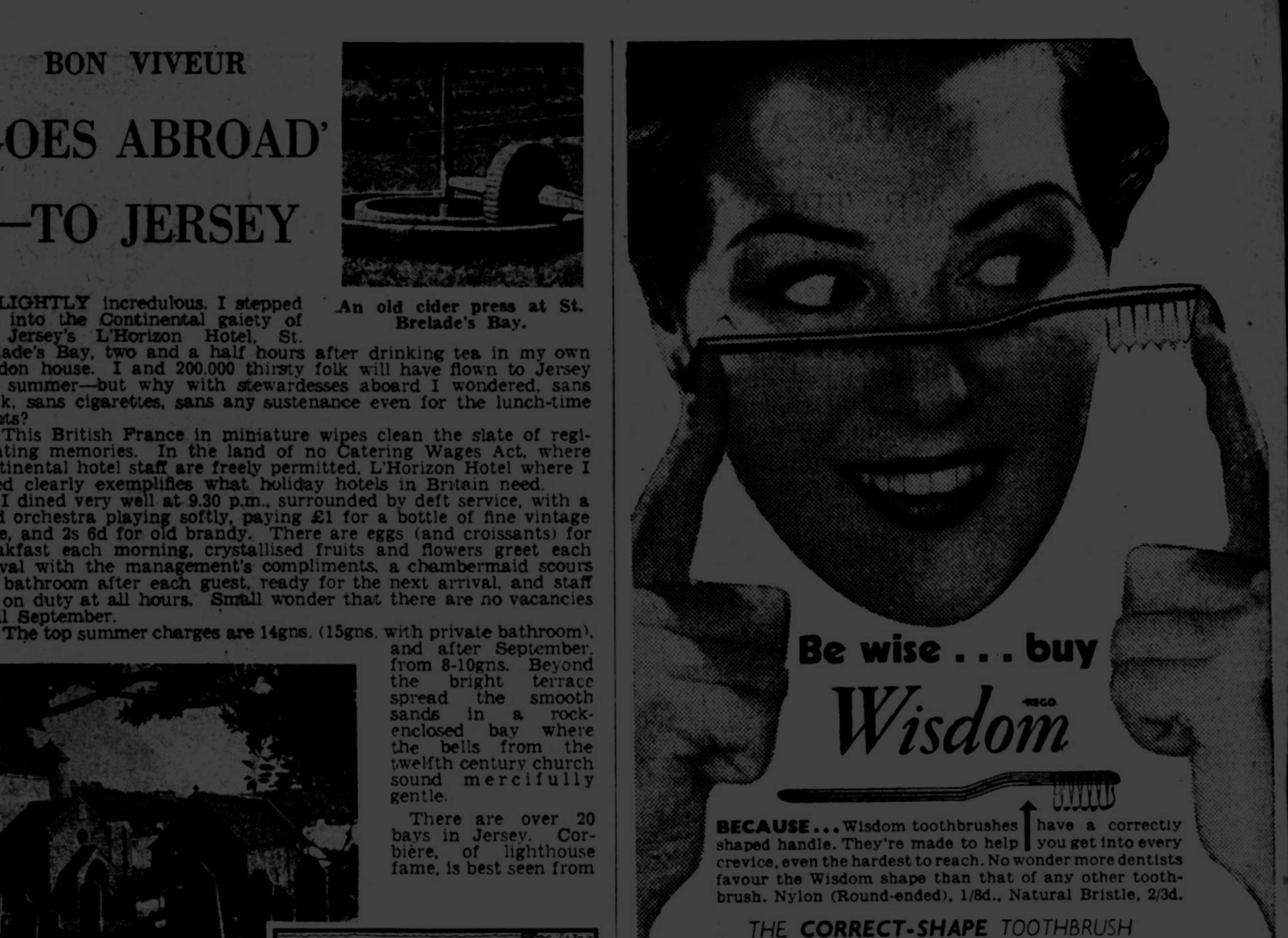
Hoxton to Westminster George Isaacs, Printer, Trade Union Leader, Cabinet Minister.

By G. G. Eastwood. Foreword by

Mr. Attlee. (Odhams. 16s.) fe story of George Isaacs, but of through the working class movement to high rank in the nation's affairs. The road he trod is difficult but not too narrow. In the words of Mr. Isaacs himself: "There's plenty of room at the top-that's why I'm there." The boy from Hoxton, unusually shy for a Cockney, who started work

in the newspaper world very early in life, and subsequently became general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants, chairman of the Trades Union Congress and Minister of Labour in the 1945 Government, is

If anyone blushes when he reads this book it will be the man who was at the Labour Ministry longer than any of his predecessors. H. C.



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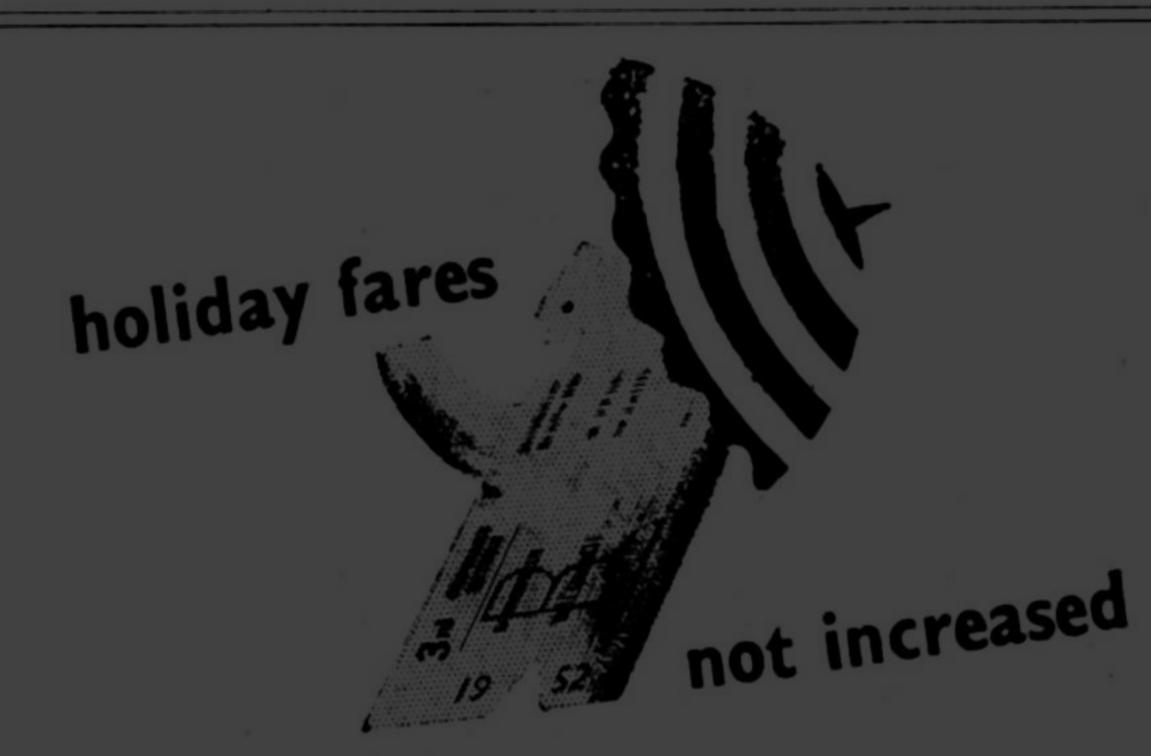
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changed at 19.1d (nineteen and one-tenth

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