

## WORKING MOTHER SEEKS LEISURE; BIRTHS DECLINE

British Committee Reports Spare Time Bought With Tin Opener and Birth Control and Trend to Small Families Continues

LONDON, May 7 (AP)—A long-term policy which aims at an expanding economy and greater opportunity as well as greater security is needed if there is to be a reversal of the trend toward small families in Britain, says the Standing Joint Committee of Working Women's Organizations.

The Committee submitted written evidence to the Royal Commission on Population which has spent some months investigating circumstances behind the falling birthrate.

"The only way in which the working mother can ease the burden of work and obtain some leisure is to have fewer children," said its brief.

"Labor-saving equipment has been greatly developed between the two wars, but has always been too costly for the great majority of women. Almost the only devices within their reach were the tin and the tin opener.

"In a period when nearly every section of workers was enjoying improved conditions through trade union and parliamentary action, those who were engaged in the biggest single occupation in the country—that of working housewife and mother—began to buy a little leisure with the tin opener and birth control.

"If this has led to unfortunate results for the community, the community must bear the blame for its neglect of the work of the home."

### Large Families Are Scorned

The committee said fear of war and fear of childbirth are unimportant factors in the decline of the birthrate. Scorn of the large family was listed as one reason for parents having fewer children.

"As the family of one or two children has become normal there has been a tendency to regard the family of several children with a mixture of pity and amusement and parents had to face not only increased financial worry but the scorn of others who knew better than that.

It is regrettable that the attitude of officials and members of some public authorities frequently encouraged this attitude. Parents with several children who were compelled to seek maintenance from public funds had to bear not only the injury of prolonged unemployment but insults from members of committees and investigating officers for having too many children."

### PNEUMATIC TIRE PIONEER

LEAMINGTON, Eng.—Arthur James Wilson who died at the age of 87 was the founder in 1905 of the Motor and Cycle Tires Benevolent Fund and one of the first men to use pneumatic tires in Britain.

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# "Sorry to bother you..."

The wards of the Military Hospital are silent. Dim night lights keep vigil over long rows of beds. In every bed a Canadian boy has taken a furlough from pain in the blessed oblivion of sleep.

As the electric clock points to midnight, the silence is broken by a flurry of movement. Doctors and nurses hurry to a bed at the far end of the ward. Screens are swiftly wheeled into place.

A few boys awake, and propped on elbows, peer through the half-light. They know the meaning of those white barriers. They know that life and death have locked in final combat.

The Padre strides quickly through the ward. As he approaches, the Doctor shakes his head and steps back. A nurse rearranges the pillows with gentle hands. Then the Padre is alone with a boy far from home. Against the white pillows his damp, curly hair looks vividly alive.

"I'm glad you came, Padre," he whispers. "Will you read me something?" Then almost as an afterthought he adds, "I'm dying..."

The Padre could only open his worn Bible and seek blindly for the 23rd Psalm:

*"The Lord is my shepherd:  
I shall not want..."*

As the gracious words of the Psalm whisper out, the boy's lips move in unison. Then the Padre prays—a short prayer for an airman on his flight to God. Peace, like a benediction, lingers on the pallid face. After a short silence, the boy looked at the Padre.

"I'm sorry to bother you... so late at night," he murmured.

He died as the first light of dawn filtered into the hospital ward.

.....  
He died thinking of others. As you live, do you stop to think of the thousands of young men who face death daily—for you? Can your war effort compare with theirs? Can you ever say, "I think I've done enough?"

Think of these men when the Victory Bond Salesman calls on you. Yours cannot be a token purchase—it must be an all-out effort. The most you can buy is the least you can do.

• This is the true story of a young airman from Southern Alberta as told by his Padre.

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