

THERE IS A WAR OFF.

It's true the war's over but no beer, no cigarfettes, no this, that and the other, is still the order of the day. In these austere times everybody is looking forward to the day when life will be worth living again. In the good old days the shops were packed with the things we all wanted, at prices most people could afford and the only way we can convince ourselves that it was really true is to glance back at the world as it was before the war. The world in which the shops begged you to buy more and the things that only plutocrats can obtain nowadays were in every home.

It was a world in which lovely women were not obliged to hide their beauty in uniform, a world in which the word of coupon was unheard. How long will it be before we get back to it again.

There were silk stockings galore and every now and then women showed themselves in their true light and besieged the sales.

Almost everybody had a car and the manufacturers changed the shape of the radiator every year to make earlier models ^{look} ~~XXX~~ old fashioned. Brooklands was the mecca of motor race fans.... It will all come back. We shall have the boat race again, with millions of people educated elsewhere fanatically supporting Oxford ~~at~~ ^{or} Cambridge.

We shall be getting our yachts out for a spot of sailing.

We shall revive that classic the penny-fathing race. Mr. Rip-Van Winkle to what do you attribute your amazing success, ↓

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We shall get tennis neck again at Wimbledon.

Next summer we shall see trooping the colour. These men are soldiers. That is the way they used to dress in the days of real soldiering.

~~in the days of real soldiering.~~

The bright lights will come back, without a thought about wasting fuel, The toy shops will be crowded - a treat in store for youngsters who've never ^{yet} seen a decent toy in their lives.

We shall stir a real Christmas pudding, make real mince-pies, see a real Turkey.

There'll be the debutantes ball, not for everybody of course, but very nice to look at all the same.

Then there'll be the Chelsea Arts' Ball, with very fancy dress. All these good things may not be just round the corner but they will come back. And when they do, don't let anybody say we haven't deserved them.