

THE NEWS YOU TALKED ABOUT

Talking point of the Christmas season for Britain was food. The people looked for signs of bigger rations. From Canada came news of a record sugar-beet crop. In Alberta, 2,000 Polish veterans are helping to gather this year's harvest. It is estimated to total more than 600,000 tons. A British Government delegation is at present negotiating in Ottawa for a new feed pact. They are showing special interest in the wheat harvest. What effect an agreement may have on the bread ration cannot yet be estimated.

The Poles went from Britain to Canada for a two year period in agricultural work, after which they will be allowed to settle in the Dominion.

While Canada's food production is geared-up to help Britain, news from Europe shows that there is not a shortage everywhere. In Brno, they celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Moravian confectioners guild. Everything you see - including the vase and the flowers - is made of chocolate. A shop window full of all the things we used to have - remember?

Display stands were packed with confectioners' exhibits. Everything on show was there to be eaten.

The doll's house was made of ginger bread. An up-to-date fairy queen gave out two months sweet ration - all at once.

As the confectioners left they took with them badges of gingerbread. Our cameraman has asked to go again next year.

The nation also talked of London's new £3 million underground extension. When Transport Minister Alfred Barnes turned the key at the opening ceremony, the first train prepared to move out on its four mile journey.

Mr. Barnes and London Transport Chief Lord Latham were the first passengers.

More than 120,000 people in Essex areas will benefit by the new service. It will bring them within half an hour of London's West End.

During the war years, the tunnels through which the trains now travel, housed a five-mile long underground factory.

Plans for the new tube extension were launched in 1935 with a £40 million Government guarantee. Additional lines to Epping and Ruislip are now being laid.

Gants Hill (one of the seven stations served by the extension) is built to a new design - an example of improved underground engineering.

In America, Pathe News, New York, wanted a new rooster for their trademark. So a call went out for the nation's best birds to compete for the honour. Here are some of the would-be stars.

While the roosters do their stuff, the hens put on a fashion show. For the girls, it's their finest hour.

Earl Kelly's champion "Bill" is "Mr. American-Rooster 1948." From now on in full glory he will announce from the screen America's Pathe News.

Back home, time brought the circus to town. Champion jockey, Gordon Richards met an unfamiliar mount, but felt as much at home on Sally as on any other two-year old. With the cameras in attendance, the season's most successful jockey launched the elephant act with vintage champagne.

Odds are against Sally ever meeting her rider again. For Gordon Richards, too, it was a strictly off-duty occasion.

It's official that Gordon is going back to horses for next year's Derby.

But the sporting world's main interest was centred on the football association headquarters at Lancaster Gate. 64 soccer teams went into the hat for the third-round draw of the F.A. Cup. 17 survivors of earlier rounds now join battle with First and Second Division Clubs. Chairman Brook Hurst makes the draw - Secretary Rous gives the teams.

From now on, cup interest becomes tense. The other sports event of the week was at Manchester's Belle Vue, where Peter Kane, in light shorts, defended his European bantam-weight title against Joe Cornelis from Belgium. For a championship, it was a tame affair and the crowd didn't see Kane at his best.

Round three found Referee Muir warning the Belgian for punching with an open glove. And that was the only excitement in an otherwise dull bout.

Kane tried to open-out at times - but his dancing tactics didn't upset the experienced Belgian.

The former blacksmith from Golborne showed none of his better punches, 30 year old Cornelis gave as much as he got.

After 15 dreary rounds, Kane got the verdict - on points. For Europe's No. 1 bantamweight, it was not world championship fern.