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WOT - NO CIGARETTES?

This would never have happened, if Sir Walter Raleigh hadn't come back from Virginia smoking a pipe. There would have been no cigarettes to tax and no cigarettes to queue for like today. But the spirit of Raleigh lives - the search goes on.

Some say that if women stopped smoking, there'd be no shortage. Others believe that if people between 16 and 60 were not served, tobacconists would have plenty. The Board of Trade says it's a seasonal shortage. The gentlemen who do their business on the black market say everything is fine. And there are some who have more than enough to smoke. The Reverend Cuthbertson is one - he grows his own tobacco in his vicarage garden at Tilty in Essex. He doesn't pay 3s. 6d. for 20. When he's dried and pressed his leaves - he lights up a packet of Cuthbertson's. And there are several thousand planters like him throughout Britain. They don't have to steep for their smokes. Tobacco wholesalers say that the 20% cut forced on manufacturers has caused the scarcity. Coinciding with the holiday period - the influx of visitors and the public's tendency to hoard, what was a scarcity has now become an acute shortage. Until things settle down, we have to make the best of it.