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From: Robert Williamson, press officer,
English-Speaking Union, 37 Charles Street,
Berkeley Square, W.1. (MAYfair 7400).

11, Charles St.

A statue of Sir Walter Raleigh will be unveiled by the American Ambassador, the Hon. John Hay Whitney, at noon on Wednesday, October 28. Standing on the lawn in front of the new Air Ministry building in Whitehall, it faces the Cenotaph and Downing Street, and is therefore near the site of the old Palaces of Whitehall and Westminster, with which Sir Walter Raleigh himself was familiar in the days of Queen Elizabeth I. It is now more than two years since Colonel John Dodge, chairman of the Ends of the Earth Club, suggested that a statue of Raleigh should be set up in London to mark the 350th anniversary of Britain's first Colony, Jamestown, Virginia; for the two ships whose commanders planted the earliest English Colonies in America crossed the Atlantic largely at Raleigh's expense.

Best Picture
Account of
Chief Works
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(Costume).

11. A.M.

(Movie news)

(I.T.N.)
B.B.C. Radio

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bought

Colonel Dodge's idea was taken up by the English-Speaking Union, whose treasurer, Sir Rex Benson, is chairman of the committee which has seen the project through. Supported by a large number of business organisations in the City, and by the members of the Union and the Ends of the Earth Club, they commissioned a statue of Raleigh from Mr. William McMillan, C.V.O., R.A., a septuagenarian from Aberdeen, who was sculptor of the statue of King George VI in the Mall. It is life-size, in bronze, with the famous cloak so thrown over one shoulder as to suggest that it was about to be swept off and laid down for the Royal feet. The simple inscription runs "Sir Walter Raleigh, 1552 - 1618".

The statue was at first destined to join Nelson and the others in Trafalgar Square. At one end of the space in front of the National Gallery is a statue

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of George Washington, presented to this country, during its tercentenary celebrations, by the Commonwealth of Virginia. It was felt that at the other end of this open space, Raleigh could appropriately balance Washington. This site was already occupied by Grinling Gibbons's statue of James II, claimed to be one of the finest in London. It had originally stood outside the Admiralty, before being removed, for safety during the war, to the National Gallery, pending a more suitable home. But the proposal that James should now withdraw in Sir Walter's favour raised considerable opposition in certain quarters, and it was decided to look elsewhere for his home.

It now has a permanent and honoured position near the Cenotaph, where it awaits its unveiling, and dedication. The ceremony will be brief and simple. Lord Baillieu, chairman of the English-Speaking Union, will introduce Mr. Whitney, and the Venerable F.D. Blunt, Chaplain General of the Fleet, will say the dedicatory prayer. Among those attending the Ceremony will be the Chief Warder of the Tower and the Yeoman Gaoler of the Tower, both in State dress; for Raleigh was Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard.

Press Notes:

SIR. WALTER RALEIGH'S STATUE

Unveiled by the American Ambassador, Mr. John Hay Whitney, on Wednesday October 28, 1959.

The statue stands on a lawn under a plane tree, believed to be 200 years old, on the lawn in front of the new Air Ministry building in Whitehall.

More than two years ago, Mr. John Dodge, chairman of the Ends of the Earth Club, suggested that a statue should be set up in London to mark the 350th anniversary of Britain's first Colony, Jamestown, Virginia. The idea was taken up by the English-Speaking Union who have seen the project through from then until today's ceremony.

The statue was commissioned from Mr. William McMillan, C.V.O., R.A., an Aberdeen septuagenarian who was sculptor of King George VI in the Mall. It is in bronze, 6 ft. 3 tall with the famous cloak negligently thrown over a shoulder.

At first it was proposed that the statue should re-place the one of James II outside the National Gallery, which is balanced by one of Washington at the other end; but the suggestion provoked a certain amount of opposition and it was therefore withdrawn in favour of the present site near where the palaces of Whitehall and Westminster stood in Raleigh's time, and much frequented by him. The unveiling ceremony will be simple. Twenty minutes before noon the Royal Marines School of Music; Deal will strike up. After the main body of guests have assembled, Group Captain Pirie, Mayor of Westminster, and Mrs. Pirie will arrive, with Lord Baillieu to meet the American Ambassador and Mrs. Whitney.

At noon Lord Baillieu, who is chairman of the English-Speaking Union, will introduce the Ambassador who will then unveil the statue. A dedicatory prayer will be pronounced by the Chaplain of the Fleet, the Venerable Archdeacon F.D. Bunt, and, after a fanfare by the Memorial Silver Trumpets of the Royal Marines School of Music the ceremony will close with the national anthems of the two nations.

Among others who have accepted invitations to be present are:- Lady Astor; the High Commissioner for Australia, Sir Eric Harrison; Group Captain and Mrs. Douglas Bader; Lady Baillieu; Sir Beverley and Lady Baxter; Sir Rex Benson, treasurer of the English-Speaking Union and chairman of the committee which has organised these proceedings, Lady Benson; Sir Harry Brittain; the Venerable Archdeacon F.D. Bunt, Chaplain of the Fleet; the Acting High Commissioner for Canada, Mr. G. Ignatiéff; Instructor Lieutenant P.D.L. Davey from H.M.S. "Raleigh"; Mr. John Dodge, chairman of the Ends of the Earth Club, who first suggested that this statue should be set up; Sir Francis Fogarty, director general of the English-Speaking Union; Mrs. W. Raleigh Gilbert, direct descendant of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Sir Walter Raleigh's half-brother, and Commander Raleigh Gilbert; Canon Selwyn Gummer, Rector of Gravesend, where Pocahontas is buried and Mrs. Selwyn Gummer;

Lord and Lady Hailsham; Mr. W. McMillan, the sculptor of the statue, and Mrs. McMillan; Sir Roger and Lady Makins; Mr. Philip Martin, High Sheriff of Devon, where Raleigh was born, and Mrs. Martin; Agatha Christie (Mrs. M.E.L. Mallowan) and Professor Mallowan; Dr. A. L. Rowse; the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, the Hon. A.J. van RHIJN; Lt. Col. V.B. Turner, Adjutant to H.M. Yeomen of the Guard; Sir Cecil Weir; the Chief Warder of the Tower, and the Yeoman Gaoler of the Tower, both in State dress. For Raleigh was Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard.

A complete list of acceptances will be available at the opening.

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The Rt. Hon.
Sir Evelyn
Crosby

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