

40

3/2

Gillian Brooker Greer,

52 Aeneas Crescent, Remuera,

Auckland, N.Z.

St. Cuthbert's College,

Auckland.

(Circled 'C' and 'Margaret')

"My Four Commonwealth Guests."

King
George VI

"Let us go forward as one man, a smile on our lips and our heads held high, and with God's help we shall not fail."

The strength of the British Commonwealth and Empire lies primarily in forming a firm bond of understanding and respect between its peoples of different nations, different colours and creeds. I feel, that if I could invite four young people from different parts of the Commonwealth to stay at my home in New Zealand, we could, by living and talking together learn about each other's problems and ideals.

After much thought I decided to choose as one of my guests, Alan Lawson, who lives in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He is a keen baseball and hockey player, also an enthusiastic skier. Alan goes to a High School which is provided by the Government. When he leaves school he intends to join the Royal Canadian Air Force which played a great part in the Battle of Britain, Canada in itself is a combination of

16
nations, all of whom must forget racial differences and think of themselves as Canadians. "Superficially Canadians are Americans, they have the same habits - a peculiar combination of feverishness and optimism and ambition. Canadian children listen to American radio programmes, read American papers and magazines, and talk with Americans." In spite of this, most Canadians dislike being mistaken for Americans and pride themselves on their links with Britain. Ottawa was chosen to be the centre of the British Empire if Britain should have fallen in the last war. Canada is our link between the Old World and the New.

Next I would invite Savitbra Parampalam, a Hindu from India. Sav is also a keen hockey player. He lives in a low bungalow on the crowded bank of the Ganges in Calcutta. India is Britain's strongest link with Asia as she has a powerful influence over the restless peoples of the East. Sav is very much a product of his time and country. He is ambitious and eager to learn and to improve the standard of living of his people. India herself became a sovereign democratic republic, and by choice, a member of the Commonwealth in 1950.

Originally India embraced both India as we know it today and Pakistan, but, in

Gillian Gaver.

1947, it was subdivided. At the moment India is undergoing an economic crisis. This is basically due to the fact that the second five-year plan is more ambitious than the first and there has been a fall in her trading balance. The aim of Mr. Nehru, her Prime Minister, is to keep India out of war; to make a success of the five-year plan; to strengthen democracy and to keep Communism at bay in India.

For my third guest I would choose Mahomet Hussein, a Moslem from Malaya. Hussein attends the Malay College in Perak. He has a warm brown skin, brown eyes, and straight black hair. He has a keen sense of humour and a strong pride of race along with a deep loyalty to his Sultan, his state and his country. His main sport is cycling. I myself lived in Malaya for several years and formed a deep affection for both the country and its people. In August 1957, Malaya declared her Independence and became a sovereign, democratic and independent nation within the British Commonwealth. The Government intends to concentrate on home affairs, to be a full independent member of the British Commonwealth. The Malayan Prime Minister said on Independence Day, "A new star rises in the Eastern sky. . . . This is the greatest moment in the life of the Malayan people, for at this stroke of midnight a new nation is born." Malays, Indians

Chinese, Arabs, Eurasians and Europeans
stood together for the National Anthem
"Negara Klu", My Country.

To represent the country which is
our strongest link in the Commonwealth and
which has influenced and aided us
most, I would choose Barbara Chester from
London. Barbara goes to a public school
and is very interested in athletics and
cricket. London, with her busy docks,
her crowded streets, and colourful
traditions still beats strongly as
the heart of the world. England,

H. E. Marshall "The little island to the west" has,
because of her people's unquenchable
spirit, their dauntless courage, and
their sense of fair play, long been
a country to which other nations could
turn in hope, and without fear. It is
to England that we, in other parts of
the Commonwealth owe our freedom. In
the twelve years since the Second World
War, when 100 million people were made
colonials of the Soviet Empire, Britain
has given full freedom to seven nations
and some 500 million people.

Alice Duer
Miller. "The tree of Liberty grew and changed and spread.
But the seed was English . . .
But in a world where England is finished and
dead,
I do not wish to live."

I think that if these four people
stayed with me, we would find many common
interests and would be able to broaden

Gillian Green.

our own outlooks by seeing each other's individual points of view. For added interest I could introduce my guests to my Maori friends. We would forget our differences of colour and religion and be four young people with a common liking for sport, and a sincere interest in each other, discussing our different countries and customs, forming a growing bond between ourselves and our friends, looking towards a common goal of Atlantic Charter "freedom from want and freedom from fear."

Today with the world divided between the conflicting ideals of Russia and the West, it is more important than ever for older members of the Commonwealth to understand the struggle of the Asian countries towards progress and stability. England is the country which binds our Commonwealth, Asian and European alike. Canada reflects American opinion and the might and power of industrial progress while remaining linked to us through tradition and affection. India, free and powerful, could reduce Russian influence in the East and help weld Asia into a solid union of independent countries each able "to sit in the councils of nations, to speak with authority." Malaya, the newest nation in the Commonwealth, with its many races and problems, and with the experience of Communist terrorism

W. O. Douglas.

so recently behind it, could achieve a miniature United Nations within itself.

Thomas
Jefferson. I feel that all of us, English, Indian, Canadian, Malay and New Zealander could share and give reality to the belief of Thomas Jefferson, "That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that amongst these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Books consulted or read:

- "The Young Traveller in Canada" J. H. Ingram.
- "Our Empire Story" H. C. Marshall
- "In Search of England." H. V. Morton
- "The Spell of London" H. V. Morton
- "His Majesty's Tower of London" Colonel E. H. Carbutt-James.
- "Let's Halt awhile in Britain" Adley Courtenay
- "The British Family of Nations" John Coatsman
- "The White Cliffs" Alice Duer Miller
- "Our Island Story" H. C. Marshall
- "North America" N. J. G. Pounds
- "Asia East by South" Joseph E. Spencer
- "Six years in the Malay jungle" Carveth Wells
- "Stories of Early Singapore" H. F. Pearson
- "Countryside Character" compiled by R. Harman
- "North from Malaya" William O'Douglas
- "The sword of Freedom" Major C. Gilson
- "Rabble in Arms" H. Roberts
- "Commonwealth and Empire, 1955"
- "Seeds that won the Empire" W. H. Fitchett

"Malayan Animal Life" M. W. F. Tweedle and
J. L. Harrison

"Johnny Sahib" Paul Scott

"The Gita" translated by Purshott Swami

"The Economic Development of Malaya" John Hopkins

"St. George for England" G. A. Henty.

"Under Drake's Flag" G. A. Henty

"Cornet of Horse" G. A. Henty

"By Pike and Rye" G. A. Henty

"Jack Archer" G. A. Henty

"Malaya and its history" Sir Richard O'Nest

"The Land and People of India" H. G. Rawlinson

"Blackwood's Magazine June 1957"

"The Geographical Magazine August 1957"

"The Eastern World" July 1956

August 1956

September 1953, 1956

October 1956

November 1956

December 1956

January 1957

"World Student News" No 10. Vol. 9. 1955

"History Today" June 1956

"National Geographic" February 1958

"World Student News" 1955