



*George Inn, one of the famous old landmarks of London*

vast Port of London. No city holds more for the New Zealanders than London, the very heart of the British Commonwealth and for centuries the champion of freedom and the democratic way of life.

Greater London is almost a nation in itself for within its boundaries live and work eight million people. The metropolis is divided roughly into four main parts—the City of London, the Port, the East End, and the West End. The City of London is actually only a small area with a residential population of 10,996 although there is an influx of 420,000 on a working day. Here are to be found the great markets and business houses—the banks, the Stock Exchange, Lloyd's, and other insurance companies, and the famous newspapers of Fleet Street. In fact, it is the heart of the metropolis and performs the duties of that organ, pumping life blood into enterprises not only in London but in other parts of Britain. Of similar importance is the Port of London, which handles nearly half the imports of the nation and over a quarter of its exports.

London began as a lighter port, but, since 1802, great docks have been built to handle the vast amount of shipping from all parts of the world.

A sharp contrast is provided by the East End and the West End. The former contains great areas that are drab and even sordid, although there are many spacious parks and many quarters that are interesting and colourful. It is in the East End that the dockers and riverside workers reside and it is there, too, that London's large foreign population lives. In the West End, on the other hand, are the fashionable residential districts—Park Lane, Mayfair, Belgravia, Kensington, and Brompton—and the great shopping area which extends from the Holborn viaduct westwards along Oxford Street to the Marble Arch and St. James's and starts again at Knightsbridge to continue through South Kensington to Chelsea. Such names as Regent Street, Oxford Street, the Strand and Piccadilly spring to the mind in thinking of the West End. It is there, too, that most of the expensive hotels, restaurants and theatres are to be found.

In spite of the war, there is plenty offering in entertainment in the London of today. There are innumerable theatres and cinemas, although it is extremely difficult to secure seats at the more important ones. There is grand opera at Covent Garden, concerts are held at the Royal Albert Hall and Queen's Hall, and famous among the world's music halls are the Coliseum, the Palladium, and Victoria Palace. Among the museums and exhibitions to be seen, one of the most entertaining is Madame Tussaud's famous waxworks exhibition. London, too, is the home of Twickenham where all important Rugby matches are played and where the New Zealand Services teams will be playing this winter. For the cricketer, Lord's and the Oval will hold a certain amount of interest as will Wimbledon for the tennis player even though it is the off