

中学生英汉对照小读物

短文故事精选

(四)

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民主与建设出版社

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The Welfare State

Every British citizen who is employed (or self-employed) is obliged to pay a weekly contribution to the national insurance and health schemes. An employer also makes a contribution for each of his employees, and the Government too pays a certain amount. This plan was brought into being in 1943. Its aim is to prevent anyone from going without medical services, if he needs them, however poor he may be; to ensure that a person who is out of work shall receive a weekly sum of money to subsist on; and to provide a small pension for those who have reached the age of retirement. Everyone can register with a doctor of his choice and if he is ill he can consult the doctor without having to pay for the doctor's services, although he has to pay a small charge for medicines. The doctor may, if necessary, send a patient to a specialist, or to a hospital; in both cases treatment will be given without any fee being payable. Those who wish may become private patients, paying for their treatment, but they must still pay their contributions to the national insurance and health schemes.

During illness the patient can draw a small amount every week, to make up for his lost wages. Everyone who needs to have his eyes seen to may go to a state-registered oculist and if his sight is weak he can get spectacles from an optician at a

much reduced price. For a small payment he may go to a dentist; if he needs false teeth, he can obtain dentures for less than they would cost from a private dentist. Various other medical appliances can be obtained in much the same way.

When a man is out of work, he may draw unemployment benefit until he finds work again; this he will probably do by going to a Job Centre (an office run by the State to help people find jobs). If he is married, the allowance he receives will be larger. Obviously, the amount paid is comparatively small, for the State does not want people to stop working in order to draw a handsome sum of money for doing nothing!

When a man reaches the age of sixty-five, he may retire from work and then he has the right to draw a State pension. For women, the age of retirement is sixty.

Mothers-to-be and children receive special benefits such as free milk or certain foodstuffs for which only a minimum charge is made. The State pays to the mother a small weekly sum for each child in a family. There is also an allowance for funerals, for the State boasts that it looks after people 'from the cradle to the grave'! There are special benefits for certain people, such as the blind and the handicapped.

The amount of money needed to operate these schemes is enormous and a large part of the money comes not from the contributions but from taxation.

Most people in Britain agree that there are still many improvements to be made in our national insurance and health

schemes, but it is also true that they have become a social institution that the great majority of the population wishes to see maintained.

It is this social insurance scheme, together with the Government's determination to see that there is full employment (or as near as can be), that constitutes what we call the 'Welfare State'.

福利国家

每个有职业的英国公民(或者自己经营的),每周都要义务向国民保险和保健机构交一笔纳金,雇主也得为他的每个雇员交一笔保险金,同时政府也拿出一定量的金额。这项计划是在一九四八年开始实行的,目的是保障那些需要医疗保健却又因为穷而没有此条件的人;确保失业者每周能领到一笔救济金维持生计;为那些到了退休年龄的人提供一小笔养老金。

每个人都可为自己选定一位医生,如果生了病,虽然要付一小笔药费,但上医生处就诊就不必花钱。需要的话,医生可把病人送到专科医生那儿治疗或者送往医院。这两种情况的治疗都是免费的。那些想请私人医生的病人,要支付治疗费的,而同时他们仍要向国民保险和保健机构交纳保险金。

生病期间,病人每周可领取一小笔钱来弥补停发的工资。要治疗眼睛的人可在国家那儿注册的眼科医生处治疗,如果视力减退,他可从眼镜商那儿以最低的价格买到一副眼镜。看牙科也只花少许钱,如果要装假牙,只用比在私人牙医那儿少得

多的钱就可镶上假牙。以同样的方法可得到各种其他的医疗器具。

当一个人失业时,他可领取失业救济金,一直领到他重新找到工作为止。失业者可通过求业中心(一个官方办的帮助找工作的办公室)帮助找工作。如果失业者已婚,那么他得到的补助要更多一点。当然,补助数额是相当少的,因为国家不想让人们不工作,拿了一大笔钱去坐享其成。

男人到六十五岁可以退休,然后有权领取国家的养老金,妇女的退休年龄为六十岁。

孕妇和儿童有些专门的福利,例如免费的牛奶或付少量的钱购买一定量的食品。国家为家庭中的孩子每周付给母亲一小笔补助金。此外还有丧葬费,因为国家夸口说过要把人们“从生到死”都包下来。也给某些象盲人和伤残人发特别救济金。

实现这些福利事业需要巨大数额的钱,而大部分并不来自保险金,是来自税收。

大多数英国人都一致认为在国民保险和保健事业方面仍有许多事情要改善,但事实上这已成为一种社会福利制度,绝大多数人希望它保持下去。

正是这种社会保险措施和政府贯彻充分就业(或尽可能就业)的决心一起构成了我们称之为的“福利国家”。

此处缺

Public Holidays

In England, Christmas Day and Good Friday have been

holidays (literally 'Holy Days') for religious reasons since the establishment of Christianity in this country. Christmas is celebrated on december 25, not Christmas Eve as in several other European countries. The other public holidays (or 'Bank Holidays') are easter Monday, May Day (May 1st), the Spring Bank Holiday (the last Monday in May), the Summer Bank Holiday (the last Monday in August), December 26th (Boxing Day), and New Year's Day. The term 'Bank Holiday' goes back to the Bank Holidays Act of 1871, which owes its name to the fact that banks are closed on the days specified.

Boxing Day takes its name from the old custom of giving employees or tradesmen (such as the milkman) an annual present or 'Christmas box' on that day. It has nothing to do with the sport of 'boxing'! If Christmas Day or Boxing Day falls at the weekend, the weekday which follows December 25th and 26th becomes a Bank Holiday.

Easter Monday is generally regarded as an unofficial consecration of Spring. In many towns there are funfairs with roundabouts, coconut-shies, switchbacks and other amusements. The fair on Hampstead Heath, in the north of London, is particularly famous. Easter Monday used to be the day on which the ladies would parade in the parks, wearing new dresses and hats. Although this custom is dying out, the tradition still provides the ladies with a pretext for buying spring clothes.

The August Bank Holiday is probably the most popular

one of the year, partly because it comes at a time when children are not at school. Very many people try to make this a long weekend, and go away to the seaside or the country (as they may indeed have done at Easter or in Spring). The result is that anyone who can manage to take a holiday at another time would be well advised to do so, for the roads get congested with traffic.

In recent years, there has been a good deal of talk of creating another Bank Holiday mid-way between August and Christmas, but nothing has yet been done. October would be a good month, as the weather is often very agreeable then. Many people would welcome an extra 'Bank Holiday' or two as England has fewer than most Continental countries.

In Ireland, St Patrick's Day (March 17th) is also a Bank Holiday. St Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. It is curious that St George's Day (April 23rd) is not a public holiday in England, for St George is the Patron Saint of England, and in addition that day is the anniversary of the birth of the most famous of Englishmen, William Shakespeare. However, the flag of St George (a red cross on a white background) or the Union Jack is flown on that day, particularly by churches of the Church of England.

The public holidays in Scotland are New Year's Day and the second of January (the third, if the first or second of January is a Sunday), Good Friday, May Day and usually the first Monday in August. There are local variations. New Year's

Eve in Scotland is an occasion for much joyous and noisy celebration. It is a Scottish tradition that the first person to cross the threshold of your house on New Year's Day should be dark-haired-such a person brings luck. In London, Scottish people gather on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral and sing 'Auld Lang Syne' at midnight. There are also large crowds in Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square, and New Year's Eve is a great occasion for parties and jollity.

When November 5th comes, many people feel that they should give their dog a sedative, for some dogs get very nervous when they hear loud bangs, and the evening of Guy Fawkes Day is sure to be noisy if there are children living in your neighbourhood in England.

November 5th is a day on which traditionally, children are allowed, under proper supervision, to let off fireworks, to make a bonfire and burn on it the figure of a ragged dummy (a 'guy') made of old clothes, straw, and -if possible-one of father's oldest hats. Even the smaller children are allowed to stay up until it is really dark, so that they can admire the rockets that burst in the sky and send down a shower of many-coloured sparks.

In the days before Guy fawkes Day, some children may be seen going about the streets with their faces blackened, and wearing some kind of disguise. Sometimes they have a little cart or an old pram, and in it there is a 'guy'; they ask the passers-by to spare 'a penny for the guy'. With the coppers

they get, they buy fireworks.

The origin of this custom lies in the Gunpowder Plot 1605. In that year King James I was on the throne. Harsh measures had been taken against members of the Roman Catholic faith and certain Catholics plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament on November 5th, when the King was to open Parliament and when, of course, all the Members would be present. The plotters had hired premises adjoining the House of Lords, and had been able to obtain access to a vault beneath the House. There, they had stored thirty-six barrels of gunpowder. These were to be blown up, when the time came, by a very brave, cool-headed man, Guy Fawkes. Unfortunately, according to the traditional account, the plot was discovered when one of the plotters wrote to warn a relation. On November 4th the vaults were searched, and Guy Fawkes was found and arrested. It is said that he had been warned that the plot had been discovered, but he gallantly persisted in his purpose, hoping against hope that he might be favoured by chance and be able to rid his country of men whom he considered evil. He was condemned to be hanged, along with others of his fellow-conspirators. He met his death with great fortitude.

It is the failure of this man, who was staunch in his faith though perhaps misguided in actions, that is perpetuated by the children's fireworks of November 5th. It is a poor tribute to Fawkes' courage that his Christian name, Guy, was long used in English to denote a person who is a figure of fun chiefly

because of his odd dress.

公共假日

在英国,自基督教被确立为国教以来,圣诞节和受难节由于宗教的原因而成了假日(按字面意思假日即“圣日”)。其他有些欧洲国家的人在圣诞夜庆祝圣诞,而英国人则不同,他们在12月25日当天庆祝圣诞。英国其他的公共假日(又称“银行假日”)有:复活节星期一,五朔节(5月1日),春季银行假日(5月份最后一个星期一),夏季银行假日(8月份最后一个星期一),节礼日(12月26日)和元旦。“银行假日”一词出于1871年银行假日法案,所以会称为银行假日,是因为那几天银行不营业。

节礼日源于旧的习俗,这一天向雇员或零售商(如卖牛奶的人)等赠送匣装节礼,与“拳击”运动毫不相干。如果圣诞节或节礼日正好是周末,那么12月25日和26日后的那一个工作日则为银行假日。

人们通常把复活节星期一看作非官方的春季祭祀日。许多城镇都有公共露天游乐场,里面有旋转木马,投靶游戏,环滑车和别的娱乐设施。伦敦北部的汉普斯代得·希思游乐场尤为著名。过去,每逢复活节星期一,女士们就身穿新衣、头戴新帽在公园里参加庆祝游行。尽管这一风俗正在逐渐消失,但·该传统却依然是妇女们添置春季衣服的好借口。

8月银行假日可能是一年中最受喜欢的节日,其原因之一是正值孩子们放假。许多人设法乘机度过一个较长的周末,去海边或乡村(实际上他们在春季银行假日和复活节时也可以

这样。)所以,如果能在别的时候去海边或乡村度假的话,最好别在夏季银行假日凑这个热闹,因为那时的道路交通拥挤不堪。

近年来,许多人谈及在8月和圣诞节之间再安排一个银行假日,但至今悬而未决。10月份气候通常非常宜人,是个美好的月份。由于英国的法定假日比欧洲大陆不少国家都少,许多英国人自然很乐意再增加一两个“银行假日”。

在爱尔兰,圣帕特里克节(3月17日)也是个银行假日。圣帕特里克是爱尔兰的守护神。圣乔治是英格兰的守护神,奇怪的是圣乔治日(4月23日)在英格兰却不是公共假日,何况这一天还是享有盛名的英国人——威廉·莎士比亚的生日。不过,圣乔治旗(白底上有个红十字架)或英国国旗那一天倒是在全国各地,尤其是在英国圣公会各教堂的上空飘扬。

苏格兰的公共假日有元旦和元月2日(若元月1日或2日适逢周日则为元月3日),受难节,五朔节,通常还有8月份第一个星期一(各地略有不同)。苏格兰人欢度除夕热闹非凡快乐无比。根据苏格兰传统,新年第一个跨进家门的客人应长着深色头发,因为这样的人会带来好运气。在伦敦,苏格兰人除夕午夜聚集在圣保罗教堂的台阶上高唱“美好的往日”,还有许多人聚集在皮卡迪利广场和特拉法尔加广场。除夕是欢聚的大好时光。

每当11月5日来临,许多人觉得该给家里的狗吃些镇静剂,因为有些狗听到乒乓巨响时会十分紧张不安。在英格兰,只要你家的四邻住有孩子,那么,盖伊·福克斯节之夜肯定会十分喧闹。

按照传统,11月5日这一天孩子们获准可以在一定的监

护下放烟火、燃篝火，并在火上焚烧一个穿得破烂不堪的假人（即一个“盖伊”）。这个假人用旧衣服和稻草扎成，如果可能的话，头上还戴着一顶爸爸最旧的礼帽。家长们甚至允许较小的孩子呆到很晚才睡觉，这样他们就能观赏烟花在空中绽放出满天五彩火花的美景。

在盖伊·福克斯节的前几天，人们就可以看到有些孩子涂黑了脸化了装在街上走，有时手里还推着辆小车或旧的婴儿车，车里放着一个“盖伊”。他们向路过的行人讨“一个给盖伊的便士”，有了钱之后就去买烟火。

这一风俗起源于 1605 年的“火药阴谋”。那一年，国王詹姆斯一世在位。由于政府采取了针对罗马天主教徒的严厉措施，某些天主教徒便密谋策划，准备在 11 月 5 日，也就是国王将宣布议会开会所有议员当然都会在场的这一天，炸毁议会大厦。密谋者租下了毗邻上议院的房子，并设法找到了通往上议院某个地窖的通道。他们在地窖里堆放了 36 桶火药，到时将由一个非常勇敢和冷静的人（此人即盖伊·福克斯）引爆。根据传统的说法，当其中某个密谋者写信告诫一位亲戚之后，这一秘密不幸败露。11 月 4 日，当局对议会各个地窖进行了搜查，盖伊·福克斯被发现和逮捕。据传，在这之前盖伊已被告知密谋已经败露，但他坚定不移，仍抱一丝希望，认为或许会天赐良机能为国家除掉那些他所认为的坏人。他和同谋者都被判处了绞刑，但他视死如归。

这位信念坚定、行为或许不当的人的失败，由于 11 月 5 日孩子们的烟火而永远不为人们所遗忘。长期以来，在英语中用福克斯的教名“盖伊”指代由于衣着古怪而显得可笑的人，这不能不说是贬低了福克斯的勇气。

THE HAUNTED MAN

BY GARY SMITH

Slowly, so the bed wouldn't creak, the millionaire who couldn't sleep rose and walked to the bookshelves. *Tonight Please let it happen tonight.*

He turned on the lamp. His eyes moved past the two framed rectangles on the wall-his college diploma, his teaching certificate-and fell upon a book. His thumb riffled its pages. *Don't force it. Just stay calm and let the words come in.*

How long would he have to play this game? All his life? He lay back down in bed and looked at his wife, Kathy. No one else knew his secret. Not his two children, not his friends. Not his old college professors, not the high-school students he'd taught for 18 years, not the business associates in his multi-million-dollar real-estate company in Southern California. Only Kathy knew.

They would take everything if they found out - the diploma and teaching certificate, the apartment complexes and shopping centers and rental properties, the luxury car and the big house overlooking the ocean. So he could play the part, trick them all. But at midnight, the moment of truth, the millionaire stood alone in his pajamas with a book in his hands. He knew what night sweat could do to a man.