

## Gold for American Employees Abroad

Many Americans are streaming home from European gold-standard countries, driven back by the plunge of the dollar which sent their living costs kiting. But what of those who can't leave? In this class are government employees. They have been so hard hit as the dollar shrank that now the State Department has decided to rush to their rescue.

Explaining the plight of employees abroad, the department takes the case of an American clerk in Paris who has a salary of \$2,000. This already had been reduced to \$1,700 by the general 15 per cent. economy slash.

"But instead of being able, as in this country, to apply that entire amount to his necessary expenses," said the department announcement, "he must in France turn his dollars into francs in order to pay his rent, living expenses and purchase such things as he may need.

"In this transaction he must now pay at the rate of \$1.45 for each twenty-five francs, where some months ago he would have paid only \$1 for the same number of francs. In this way the actual money which he has to apply to the payment of his expenses has dropped from \$2,000, the amount appropriated by Congress originally, to a little more than \$1,000, the value of the foreign

currency which he is able to apply to the payment of his expenses.

"This amounts to nearly a fifty per cent. reduction in pay instead of the fifteen per cent. applicable to all government employees in the United States. This not only is the condition in France but in a number of other countries where local currencies have greatly appreciated in terms of dollar exchange. Clearly Congress did not intend that employees should suffer this heavy reduction."

And so arrangements have been made to pay government employees abroad in gold.

"The no estimates of what it will cost the Treasury are available," says the Baltimore Sun, "and estimates would not be of much use anyway so long as the dollar is completely on the loose on the foreign exchanges, the sum will probably not be very formidable. And the advance of it will eliminate some very real hardship."

A number of papers agree with the Asheville Citizen that "the national Government is performing only 'an act of justice.'" As this paper says, "Our foreign representatives in the consular service and in some of the diplomatic posts are dependent on their salaries. It is only right that those salaries should be calculated in terms of what they will actually buy."

## Crisis in the American Experiment

(Continued from page 4)

by the building up of a pyramid of debt and a speculative inflation of profits. As the rising curve of debt and speculative profits and the declining curve of wages in manufacturing industries diverged there came a decline in production. Wages were reduced. Purchasing power shrunk more rapidly than the overhead burden on the excess plants which were capitalized at a high price-level.

As the New Deal theorists view it the depression revolves around an interplay of maladjustments of purchasing power and production, declining wages and prices and rigid overhead and debt costs.

From the view-point of those now in power the former Administration mistakenly sought to give relief by maintaining capital values with a view to aiding business and employment. The present approach to the problem is to rebuild purchasing power as the most effective means of helping both labor and capital. The change from debt relief to job relief has been credited by its sponsors with contributing to an upward reconstruction of capital values of agriculture and industry. It is described as a new economic and social technique appropriate to changed conditions and new conceptions.

Officials of the NRA are keeping their eyes fixed on charts which show trends of purchasing power, employment and production. They were distressed when prices and production increased more rapidly than employment and purchasing power. If the curve representing purchasing power can catch up with the more rapidly ascending curves of production and prices, they will

regard the great experiment as a success. If this does not happen, they will realize that something was wrong with their theories.

While the Industrial Recovery Act is limited to two years, its framers believe there never will be a return to the old order. Those who view such a possibility with alarm fear that this is probable. Their thought was expressed by Representative James W. Wadsworth of New York during consideration of the legislation in the House of Representatives on May 26, thus:

"Individualism in America will come to an end if legislation of this type and character is placed upon our statute books and kept there. I can not help but believe that this means the end of real liberty and the substitution of bureaucracy—the hard, heavy, cold hand of bureaucracy—upon the daily lives of millions and millions of Americans."

General Johnson has ventured the opinion that the good in the system will survive, while the bad will perish. The supposition is that there will first be an extension of the life of the act, and eventually the framing of a modified system for the permanent regulation of business. Such a modified system will embrace safeguards for labor as well as a continued relaxation of anti-trust laws under governmental supervision. In the World War General Johnson, then a young army officer, won laurels for brilliant conception and execution of plans for the mobilization of man-power and industrial power. In his present task he faces problems broader and infinitely more difficult of solution.

## HAY FEVER VICTIM!



This photograph of an actual sufferer from hay fever shows how unattractive in appearance it causes eyes to become.

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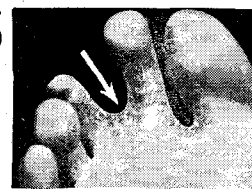
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## No Use for Parachutes

The House of Lords listened the other day to a speech by the Marquess of Londonderry, Secretary of State for Air, who objects strongly to the Earl of Kinnoul's plan for making parachutes compulsory on ordinary air-planes.

"It would be of no use," said the Marquess, "to have parachutes merely carried in the air-plane. The noble Earl has taken as an example the life-belt and other forms of insuring flotation in the water, but these are not carried by the passenger through the whole journey; they are put on if an accident occurs. Passengers at least would have to wear their parachute harness, which would have to be fitted and adjusted for each person before going on board. This would cause delay and annoyance to the passengers, and would greatly reduce the comfort of flying, as it would be difficult, if not impossible, for people to travel in their ordinary clothes. It would also give passengers an entirely wrong impression as to the danger of flying. I am sure that it would have a most detrimental effect on the development of commercial air services and flying generally.

"The number of accidents on regular air-transport service has been extremely small, and in my view air-transport is undoubtedly one of the safest forms of transport at the present time.

"It is obvious that the parachute is of no use in the case of an accident which occurs when the machine is taking off or landing, or in an accident which might occur over the sea. Even in the exceptional case of a fire or breakage in the air it is doubtful whether the parachute would really be of assistance."

## Beach Pajamas in England

Beach-pajama girls—and additional girls in gray flannel trousers—scandalized aristocratic Cowes the other day. True, they showed "commendable restraint," as a British paper phrases it, "by not standing beneath the terrace of the Royal Yacht Club at the start of the racing," but their singing when they marched along the promenade arm in arm was much too loud, and the London *Star* tells us:

"After they had passed, a man strolled down the center of the road carrying a gigantic placard bearing this quotation from Deuteronomy: 'A woman shall not wear that which appertaineth to man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garments.' Some of the more soberly dressed older women in the crowd cheered the bearer of this rebuke."

Aristocratic Cowes is not prudish, but Britons are valiant sticklers for good taste, and we wonder a little what will happen to the Very Rev. Hewlett Johnson, dean of Canterbury Cathedral, who, according to an Associated Press dispatch, announces that women will not be denied admittance to the sacred edifice, even tho they are attired in beach pajamas.

Meanwhile, London finds itself confronted with a still more troublesome in-

novation—the stockingless girl. Employers seem much concerned, and a *Daily Mirror* reporter tells us, "A horrified voice replied when I rang up Shell-Mex House and asked for an opinion. I was sternly informed, 'This is an office, not a bathing-pool.'" From Australia House came the answer:

"So far, none of our girls have come to the office without stockings, but if they did, we should have to forbid it. They are allowed to wear sleeveless dresses, but only in their own offices. If they go out into the corridor they must put on a coat."

Another voice, speaking for a well-known store, said, "We sell stockings, so naturally we don't want to encourage people to go without them. Besides that, we consider it looks unbusinesslike."

However, the Civil Service Clerical Association's secretary declared, "So far the question has not arisen; there is no regulation against women being bare-legged at their work," and an official of the Gramophone Company announced, "Our girls can wear whatever they like."

## From One Sack of Flour

A rather dolorous piece of news for the wheat farmers comes from Mrs. Loren Hargadine of Kinsley, Kansas, via the *Kinsley Mercury*, other near-by papers, and the editorial columns of the *New York Sun*.

Mrs. Hargadine has given a minute account of what she did with a forty-eight-pound sack of flour; and she makes it very plain that she is no inflationist. Here is what came out of that flour sack—

Twenty-three loaves of bread, fifty-four light-bread biscuits, fifty-six breakfast biscuits, ten medium-sized cakes and the pie-crust for seven pies.

So much for a start. Mrs. Hargadine also floured forty-four chickens for frying, made gravy thirty-four times, and noodles once, thickened puddings four times and canned vegetables six times, and made clothes starch three times.

Obviously, it seems to *The Sun*, no one jogged this housewife's elbow while she was at work.

## "O. K., Big Chief!"

Behold the effect of American films overseas! The other day an Ulster friend of St. John Irvine's asked a child to step out of the way.

"O. K., Big Chief!" said the child.

Writing in the *London Observer*, Mr. Irvine comments, "If the talkies are changing our tongue, heaven knows what they will change it to, but perhaps the new locutions will turn out, like many 'Americanisms,' to be old locutions that have been living in retirement."

Mr. Irvine continues, "Some professor may yet discover that 'O. K., Chief!' was first lisped by children dressed in wood, and who knows that Ethelred the Unready was not accustomed to remark, 'Hello, big boy or 'I get you, baby!' to his friends?"