

Britain Producing More Than It Ever Did, But Export Trade With Dollar Countries Slumps Heavily, Creating Serious Economic Crisis

By SAM DAWSON
NEW YORK, July 7 — (AP) — The British are producing more than they ever did before, and exporting as much as they ever did. And still they can't make ends meet. What's the trouble? One trouble seems to be Britain's loss of the huge sum of "invisible exports" which poured money into the tight little island before the war. Some \$17 billion worth of these assets, these British investments around the world, were sold to finance the last war. The earnings from these formerly British properties now go to others. They no longer flow back to Britain.

In 1938 the British listed their "invisible exports" at 232 million pounds — and the pound used to be worth \$5. The visible exports of goods were listed at 533 million pounds. In the first half of this year "invisible exports" are estimated at only 35 million pounds — and the pound now brings \$4 officially, and little more than \$3 in the "free" market. But so far this year their visible exports are running at an annual rate of around 1,800,000,000 pounds, compared with 533 million in 1938. Unfortunately, their imports now are topping all exports by 30 million pounds — they're running that much in the hole. But in 1938 they were running 70 million pounds behind.

Their second trouble is the changing character of their imports and exports. They may be running closer to balance in their over-all trade now than in 1938. But they are running far behind in their trading with the dollar area. **Sterling Area O.K.** Since the war a greater proportion of the things they must import come from the Western Hemisphere — the dollar area. And a greater proportion of the things they have to sell are wanted by persons in the sterling area. The British are doing all right in the sterling area, which includes their Commonwealth, except for Canada, and also includes part of the Middle East, and Iceland and Ireland. This area is buying much more from Britain than it is selling to Britain. And so are the nations in Marshall Plan area of Europe, on the average. From these two areas Britain is piling up a fine favorable trade balance.

But they are running far behind in the other areas, and are spending more dollars than they take in. And it is the dollar crisis that counts now. **U. S. Importing Less** Looking at the trade between the United Kingdom and the United States, and eliminating all the other dollar-area-sterling area trade, we find: The United States, in the first quarter of this year, exported to the British \$174,800,000 worth of goods. This was considerably down from the peak of \$330,900,000 in the first quarter of 1947. But the United States was importing from the United Kingdom in the first three months of this year only \$67,100,000 worth, and this has undoubtedly slipped since then. Our postwar top imports from the United Kingdom were \$75,700,000 in the last quarter of 1948. We aren't importing quite as much now as we did a year ago, when first quarter total was \$67,400,000, but much better than two years ago when it was \$47,000,000.

The things that the British have been buying from us have been concentrated largely in food and raw materials to stoke her factory workers and factory machines. The things she has been selling us are largely the products of these factories. But Americans make these things, too, and the British have to compete with American production to sell their products here. **Prices Too High, U. S. Says** Americans say the British prices are too dear. The British blame the cost of production for that — this includes wages paid British labor but also the prices paid Americans for the raw materials the British factories use.

The British government now proposes to cut these prices somehow. It announced a policy of no more wage hikes, lest they force prices higher. It says ways will be found to cut costs of production, to get more goods for a man hour of labor, and to avoid waste of materials and manpower.

However, the move comes at a time when world markets are slowing down, if only temporarily. That puts another hazard in Alexander the Great is said to have been so interested in discovering new kinds of food that he promoted soldiers who brought him an unusual meat, fruit, or vegetable.

the way of the British who are trying to make ends meet. Americans who have been back-seat driving the British crisis have various explanations for it. Official Washington is believed to regard the crisis as merely part of the switch-over from sellers' to buyers' markets around the world. Many American industrialists say the whole trouble is Socialism in England — that the

British could make ends meet if they used the American free enterprise system. Still others think the British are just having the natural experience of trying to get going again after paying for a costly war that trimmed their foreign investments and put the American dollar in the world's financial saddle in place of the pound sterling.

Pests Destroy \$15 Million Worth Of Food Annually In American Pantries

WASHINGTON. — Uncle Sam is urging housewives to go to war — on the pantry pests that destroy more than \$15,000,000 worth of grain foods in American homes annually, on the clothes moths, carpet beetles and other household pests.

The pantry pests are the bugs that get into cereals, flour, meal, cornstarch, crackers, breakfast foods, macaroni and spaghetti. They may also be found in spices, chocolate, cocoa, dehydrated foods, dried fruit, dry soup mixes, dog biscuit, bird seed, nut meats, cigarettes.

the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, described the pests as follows: 1. The drugstore beetle, the most pesky pest of them all. It gets its name from the fact that it was first detected in spices and herbs in the days when these items were sold in drug stores.

"Few people think of looking for bugs in spices, for example," Dr. Henderson told me, "but sometimes that's the way they're introduced into the pantry. Later they move into the cereals and flour."

small, almost black in color, are hard-shelled and have a cylindrical body. 5. The Indian meal moth. Its larvae is larger than the body of the beetle. It spins a webbing around itself of the flour or meal in which it lives. When you dip out the flour it is stringy and fuzzy. It's darker in color than the moths that get into your blankets, carpet and clothing and two or three times larger. And it doesn't eat anything but grain foods.

Pests Not Poisonous The pantry pests are not poisonous, says Dr. Henderson. Food, he says, is not ruined just because a few bugs have crawled into it. A few in the flour, for in-

stance, can be picked out, or the flour sifted. If the products are heavily infested however, they can be fed to pets, chickens or livestock.

To control pantry pests he suggests removing everything from the shelves or cabinets, thoroughly cleaning them, spraying all cracks and shelf space with a five per cent DDT solution. The spray will dry and leave crystals of DDT which retain the power to destroy insects crawling about on the shelving among food packages. But let the spray dry before you put the packages back. The dry DDT powder will not harm food inside packages.

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