

# Hosiery is Only Women's Wear Item That is Critically Short

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WASHINGTON, April 20 — The chances are that you have heard at least one woman remark, of late: "How can I go out? I haven't a thing to wear, and there isn't anything in the stores."

"Tain't so, generally. Production of women's woollen suits was up last year to double the pre-war normal. Production of women's rayon underwear is above normal. There are relatively plenty of dresses in the stores—at a price of a kind.

The difficulty is that both demand and prices are up. Where the price of a particular style and grade is not inflated, the less expensive grades aren't available and the housewife is forced to step out of her class. The only item of women's wear that is extremely tight is hosiery, where production is only two-thirds of normal. Don't shoot in this direction—we're merely reporting what we've heard—but there are those who claim that women don't actually suffer for lack of stockings. They can get enough, say these hard-hearts, for genuine need, though sometimes not enough to satisfy vanity.

The office of civilian requirements hopes, through the WPB program, to produce about 80 per cent of the normal supply of under-\$20 cotton and rayon dresses.

Can't Meet Demand  
There is no reasonable chance that there can be enough women's or children's clothing produced to satisfy current demand, however, because women want from 20 to 70 per cent more of various items than were available even before war production got top priority.

Almost any mother will tell you that children's clothing is almost unobtainable. Cotton knit underwear and sleeping garments are scarce. Also diapers. Store shelves appear to support this complaint. Yet the records show that production of underwear and sleeping garments is up a third, and of diaper cloth up to double the pre-war figures.

The number of babies taking 0 to 2 sizes has increased 31 per cent since 1937, and the underwear for such infants is up 42 per cent. There are no more children in the 2 to 12 size range, yet production of underwear for them is up 25 per cent. Doubled production of diaper cloth still lags 20 per cent behind prosperity demand for such material.

Surveys indicate that overall supply of children's clothing is lagging about 50 per cent behind stimulated demand. If the average mother will buy what she needs when she needs it, and not squirrel away a lot of things through fear of a coming shortage, the OCR thinks that about 80 per cent of demand can be satisfied.

In spite of the serious shortage of cotton yarn, 130 million yards of woven cotton has been allocated, during the first quarter of this year, to play suits, underwear, boys' shirts, pajamas, etc., to take up some of the lag. Manufacturers hope to improve even the existing record output of diaper cloth.

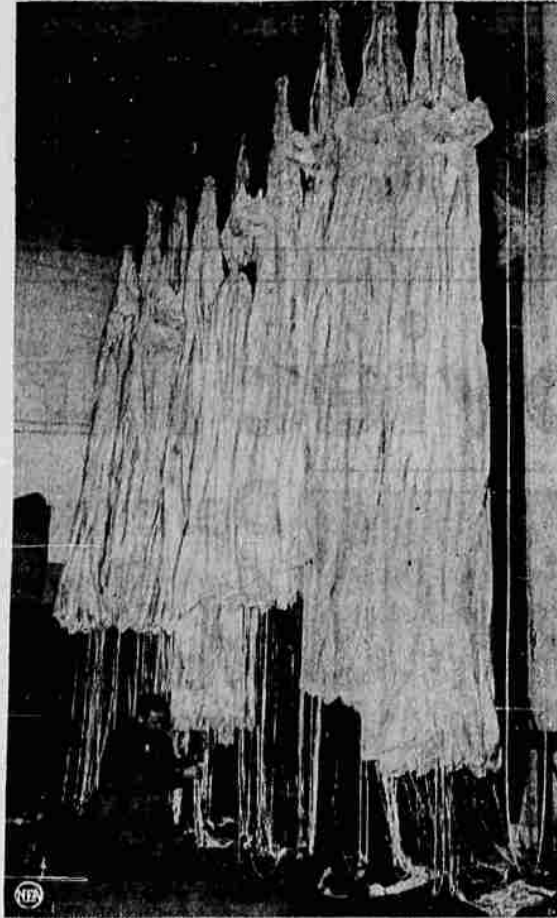
False Optimism  
The entire situation regarding clothing, as discussed up to this point, is current and historical, and when government agencies discuss what they will try to do they are talking on the only safe assumption, which is that the war in Europe will go on forever.

One reason for existing shortages in many lines, including clothing, is that both military and civilian leaders joined the general public last fall in a wave of false optimism, and began cutting back production on the theory that Germany would capitulate before the new year. It didn't, and now we are suffering for our error by seeking to catch up on what should have been manufactured before.

Misled by that over-confidence, perhaps, we speeded up the tempo in the Pacific. When Hitler clung on, we found ourselves with two major offensives to support simultaneously.

It is doubtful that either military or civilian leaders will repeat that mistake. They probably will keep producing fighting material at top speed until the Nazis actually surrender and are disarmed.

Then, whenever it may be, there will be cutbacks in war production and shifts to civilian goods output. How great these will be, and how quickly they will be reflected in retail stocks, none can predict. But the very fact that the nation's gigantic production machinery is being



Hosiery supply will not increase until demand for nylon parachutes diminishes.

## Bread Produced Locally by Eddy's Bakery to be Marketed Tomorrow

First locally manufactured bread will be placed on the market in northeastern Oregon by Eddy's bakery, new La Grande business, Thursday morning, Ralph Nelson, manager of the organization, announced today.

A general meeting of sales representatives from Baker, Pendleton, Enterprise, La Grande and surrounding points will be held in La Grande tonight at 7 o'clock to launch the sales and distribution program for the area, he said.

"Eddy's bread and bakery products have been served in this area for a long time," Nelson said. "Now we are set up to serve it fresh from our ovens in La Grande. Grocers throughout northeastern Oregon will have Eddy's bread on their shelves Thursday morning. We feel we have a superior product and are delighted to be able now to deliver it fresh in the area each day."

The local organization has been improving its facilities and acquiring new equipment since the bakery was purchased from K. J. McWilliams. Ultimate total employment will reach more than 30, Nelson said.

### DATES ARE TABOO

It is not considered conventional for Moslem men and women to make dates or be seen talking together. Should a respectable woman be found talking to a man of another family, scandal and bloodshed usually overtake at least one of the couple.

shifted to consumer goods should then stop "precautionary" or panic buying, release hoarded goods, and generally relieve the situation all along the line.

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## Superintendent Is Appointed For School in Cove

COVE, April 25 (Special)—The appointment of Firman Fowler of Astoria as principal and superintendent of schools for the 1945-46 school year has been announced by the trustees of district No. 15.

Other teachers to whom contracts for the next school year have been approved are: Mrs. Anne Johnson, high school; Mrs. Daisy Ronne, 7th and 8th grades; Miss Arline Anderson, 5th and 6th grades; Mrs. Leafy Sands, 3rd and 4th grades, and Mrs. Helen Conklin, 1st and 2nd grades.

**Commencement Is Set**  
May Day will be observed in the school gymnasium May 4 with a program which will include coronation ceremonies for Verna Towle, who will be queen of the May. Her princesses will be Marcella Neiger, Rhoda Lloid and Marie Kight. Floyd Robinson will be the queen's attendant.

Children of the elementary grades will participate in the program under the direction of their teachers.

The members of the royal court constitute the high school class which will be graduated at commencement exercises May 16 with Prof. Hawk of Oregon State college as the speaker.

Baccalaureate exercises will be held the evening of May 13 in the Methodist church with Rev. M. A. Talney of La Grande as the speaker.

The junior-senior dinner will be held Friday evening in Allen hall with the Baptist church women in charge.

## Trial of Master Of Tanker Drags

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25 (UP)—The government's case against Edward Crabtree, former master of an oil tanker that burned while docked at Portland, today was under indefinite postponement while attorneys threshed out the details.

Federal Judge Claude McCulloch yesterday ordered the postponement at the request of Mason Dillard, U. S. attorney, who sought time to prepare an argument in defense of the indictment which Crabtree's attorneys contend was faulty.

Crabtree was charged with embezzlement of \$1,650 in government funds, discovered to be missing from the ship's safe after a fire Dec. 26.



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## Meat is Destroyed As Plant Burns

PRINEVILLE, Ore., April 25 (UP)—Thousands of pounds of fresh meat burned in a fire that destroyed the plant of the Prineville Packing Co.

The plant—only one serving Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties—burned while two fire trucks from Prineville dashed back and forth over the two miles to Prineville for water, which was not available in nearby irrigation ditches. Only water with which to fight the fire was that in the fire trucks' tanks, which had to be replenished during the relays to Prineville hydrants.

## WPB Chief Denies Post-War Ships Are Being Built

WASHINGTON, April 25 (UP)—War Production Chief James Krug today denied a charge that American shipyards are building ships for use after the war by other countries.

Krug's denial was made at a house postwar economic policy committee hearing after Rep. Richard J. Welch, R., Calif., asked why thousands of workers were being used to build such ships if there is a steel shortage.

Welch said Dutch interests borrowed \$100,000,000 at 1 1/2 per cent for postwar ship construction and that the vessels were under construction at the Sun shipyards in Philadelphia and at yards along the Columbia river.

"No steel is being obtained for any ship unless it is needed in the international maritime shipping pool for prosecution of the war," Krug replied. He said steel will remain tight to the end of the Japanese war.

"I can substantiate what I say," Welch retorted. "If Mr. Krug wants to go with me to the Sun yards I'll show him."

When committee Chairman William M. Colmer, D., Miss., suggested that Krug investigate and report to Welch, the Californian said:

"Adm. Land is the claimant for all steel used for building ships," Krug said. "If the admiral is claiming steel for war shipping and turning it over to postwar shipping I'd certainly like to know about it."



## School Building Program Endorsed

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25 (UP)—Of measures to come before Oregon voters June 22, the Oregon state federation of labor favors the state school building program but opposes the cigarette sales tax.

J. T. Marr, executive secretary, today said support of the \$10,000,000 state school building fund was voted by the executive board "on the grounds of the extreme need of state educational and other state institutions for building expansion to meet the minimum of demands upon them for service to the public."

The proposed cigarette sales tax was deemed a possible opening wedge for a general sales tax.

Powder of precious stones, and the ashes of gold, silver and copper, are used in tonic medicines in India.

## SAWMILL IS BURNED

EUGENE, Ore., April 25 (UP)—Fire destroyed the Austr lumber company sawmill, in the southwest corner of Lane county, Monday night.

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