



Washington, D. C.

## FEAR OF COAL STRIKE

Biggest problem on the labor horizon is the definitely looming possibility of a national coal strike on April 1. Industry fears it, the government fears it, but even more, perhaps, other labor leaders fear it.

They fear that bull-headed John L. Lewis, head of the miners, will precipitate a strike which will blacken the eye of the entire labor movement, further undermining public confidence in labor. "Bull Jack" Lewis, as they call him, belongs neither to the AFL nor the CIO, and the executives of both are worried over the effect which a strike called by the miners would have on their organizations. For, they point out, the public does not discriminate between different labor unions in time of crisis.

Negotiations for a new coal contract are scheduled to begin March 1 between John L. Lewis and the coal operators. This gives 30 days in which to reach an agreement. Last year, however, the negotiations started earlier, and, even so, didn't conclude by March 31.

Meanwhile, Secretary Ickes, in order to head off a mine shutdown, has sent a letter both to the coal operators and John L. Lewis proposing that they continue the present wage agreement for another year. The coal operators are understood to be ready to agree to this proposal.

John L. Lewis's office, however, sent a delaying reply. His secretary wrote Ickes that Lewis was "absent from the city." This probably means that Lewis is conferring with his mine lieutenants before he sends Ickes a final decision.

## WHY RUSSIANS WAITED

U. S. military strategists now disclose two reasons why the great Russian winter offensive was delayed.

The first problem was one of supplies. Although the red army had the bulk of the equipment it needed, deliveries of several relatively small but highly important items were delayed.

One of the items they waited for was several million tons of canned beef which midwestern packing firms have been producing since Russia entered the war.

Red army front-line troops live almost entirely on this canned beef during offensives. The packers knew they had a deadline to make on their order, but couldn't get enough manpower to do the job. As the days rolled by, even office workers were drafted to the production line. However, the shipment wasn't ready until weeks after the date set by the Russians. The same was true of several other important products. In the end, the British dipped into their own stockpiles in England, and shipped the necessary material to fully equip the Red army.

Finally, when the great offensive was about to start in mid-December, an unseasonable thaw set in on the eastern front, bogging down the Red army equipment. The Russians had massed tremendous new Stalin tanks, larger than anything either the Germans or the other Allies have seen. These could not be moved except over frozen terrain. When the front froze again, Stalin gave the word and the long-delayed winter offensive began.

## BRITISH PROPOSE KEEPING HIROHITO

Very little appeared in the papers about it, but highly important policies regarding future relations with Japan were discussed at the recent Institute of Pacific relations at Hot Springs, Va. Most important of all was a proposal by the British to retain Emperor Hirohito and the Japanese ruling class in the post-war setup of Japan.

Sir Paul Butler, leading adviser to the British foreign office, led the appeal for Hirohito.

Behind closed doors at the swank Homestead hotel, Butler made this blunt pronouncement: "No alternative to a monarchical system, under the present emperor or some other member of his family, is likely to provide the focus of stability which will be essential if the state is not to dissolve into chaos in the impending crisis."

Other United Nations delegates also were vigorously opposed to the British policy of appeasing the emperor. Most significant of all was the position of the British dominions—Canada, Australia and New Zealand—which split with the delegation from the British Isles itself.

## CAPITAL CHAFF

New York's ex-lieutenant-governor, Charles Poletti, has been doing an A-1 job in Italy. But at first he got many a cold shoulder from Italians before somebody tipped him off to change the form of the proclamations he issued as military commissioner in Rome. Poletti began his proclamations with "Io, Carlo Poletti. . . ." For a score of years Italians were fed up reading proclamations which began "Io, Benito Mussolini. . . ."

## New 'At Home' Fashions Designed For Cozy Evenings Around Fire

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



ONE bit of good blown in by the ill winds of war is the rediscovery of the blessings and comforts of home. Now that families are spending cozy evenings at home and liking it, the powers-that-be in the fashion realm are meeting a new challenge that calls for apparel that tunes to fireside evenings and home entertainment.

It is not only that "at home" fashions must be charming but what with fuel restrictions, indoor clothes must be so warm and "comfy" that they defy the antics of a temperamental thermometer at the same time that they interpret style and good looks at a new high. The result is a collection of tea-gowns (yes, they're in style again), lounging pajamas and hostess dresses designed especially for comfort plus ultra chic and eye appeal.

The illustration presents a trio of interesting at-home fashions. For many a season the word "tea-gown" was almost obsolete, but this year it reappears in fashion's vocabulary in all its former glory. Milady to the right in the picture, makes a most gracious appearance in an attractive tea-gown. The sleeves in contrast color are long and full in true Cossack fashion, thus imparting a distinctive Russian accent. The jewel bracelets and the matching jewel ornament on the shoulders add the final glamour note.

The tea-gown to the left is of instant appeal to discriminating taste because of its exquisite simplicity and air of refinement. A princess style, it molds the figure closely and flares out in a wide skirt. The handsome crepe sleeves, narrowing at

the wrist, flare with pretty circular cuffs. A broad V-neck is framed by a deftly pleated deep collar.

Exciting is the word for the lounging suit centered in the picture. A bright colored blouse tops off the well-tailored black trousers. Buttons rank high in costume design and they give the "new" look to lounging fashions this season. The ones that trim this blouse are of the ornamental jewelry type. A thrilling note about this outfit is its hip-length cape. Something new in indoor costumes! The cape makes this slack outfit exceptionally wearable. Not only does it give an ultra chic accent but it underscores practicality. A little extra warmth needed and it can be thrown about the shoulders and throat, not only very protectively but very intriguingly.

While smart home fashions are being created of most any available material, ranging from satins to velvets and stunning cottons, chief among which are corduroys and velveteens, the top choices are either handsome rayon weaves or pure wools. It is characteristic of the wools that they are as a rule styled with classic simplicity depending upon line, color and originality for distinction. For instance an ensemble that tops long close-fitted trousers of pink flannel with a beautifully cut floor-length coat, or rather robe, of azure blue wool.

Yellow is quite a favorite for long house coats, either honey colored or sulphur-toned wool. Mauve crepe makes an exquisite robe and is particularly apropos now that the promise of spring is in the air. When ornate styles are shown they are apt to be very ornate, with bead embroidery and various glitter themes.

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

## Linen Is Big News



When you begin to plan your early spring frocks, the thing to do is to think in terms of pure linen. It's big news that pure Irish linen is available now for spring and summer fashions. This is something that has been sadly missed in the last several seasons. For this good-looking navy blue town dress, pure Irish linen as sheer as a handkerchief is used. It is dramatized with a white collar in sawtooth motif—the same repeated on the short sleeves. The button front and shirring at the waistline of this dress gives it a soft look, in keeping with the trend for more feminine treatment of beloved classics.

## Little Sailor Hat Takes First Honors

What fuss and furor the little sailor hat is causing! Already it is proving the "smash hit" of the early spring season. The type that outranks them all is the little "Sissy sailor." Narrow of brim and high of crown, it has a way of making the wearer look bewitchingly feminine and lovely whether worn smack on the back of the head as the younger set do, or forward-tipped. You love them the more because of their stunning ribbon trims, and their provocative little veils which add coquetry in that the filmy mesh is often tied in a huge butterfly bow over one ear. Wide plaid ribbons about the tall crown, brought to the back where it goes all aflutter with animated loops and ends, does something to these little sailors in way of chic and charm that baffles description. These little flirtatious sailors are going to team up with the new spring suits to perfection.

## Designful Pockets Adorn Spring Mode

This spring designers are focusing their genius on pockets. Eye-catching embroidery or braiding or fanciful design of all types are being lavished on pockets, making them a trimming theme of outstanding importance. Just one simple breast pocket embellished with design imparts to a simple suit a sophisticated look that women of fashion covet. Unique motifs, like whimsical little basket or heart-shaped novelties, or pockets made of ribbon or lace, trim youthful daytime frocks. You can buy these pretty trimmings at novelty and dry goods stores.

## SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS

## Tot's Frock for School or Play



**Play Frock**  
LITTLE daughter will feel quite grown-up in her apron pinafore to match mother's. The gay over-shoulder ruffles and sweet-heart neck are edged in bright binding. Ideal for school or play.

## Intricate Curtain

The largest and the most complex theatrical curtain ever made is in Radio City Music hall in New York, says Collier's. Thirteen steel cables, sewn vertically into the material nearly seven feet apart and raised and lowered by their own individual motors, make possible the arrangement of the curtain in thousands of contour patterns.

Pattern No. 8741 is designed for sizes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 2, with sleeves, requires 2 1/4 yards of 35 or 36-inch material; 3 yards trimming for ruffles and neck.

Due to an unusually large demand and current war conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular pattern numbers.

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1150 Sixth Ave. New York, N. Y.  
Enclose 25 cents in coin for each pattern desired.  
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**Strange, Did He Say?**  
"You have such strange names for your towns," an Englishman remarked to an American soldier. "Weehawken, Hoboken, Poughkeepsie, and others."  
"I suppose they do sound queer to English ears," said the American, thoughtfully. "Do you live in London all the time?"  
"Oh, no!" said the unsuspicious Briton. "I spend part of my time at Chipping Norton, and then I've a place at Pokenstog-on-the-Hike."

## Let's Go!

Jasper—I am not myself tonight.  
Joan—Then we ought to have a good time.

Some folks never stop to think; there are others who never think to stop.

## That Got Him

Joan—Why did your cousin quit his job as riveter? Was it too noisy for him?

Jasper—Oh, he didn't mind the noise of the riveting, but the fellow next to him hummed incessantly!

## Meet the Men

## WHO USE YOUR BATTERIES!



The Navy and Merchant Marine send rapid ship-to-ship messages by battery-powered flasher signal lights when radio communication might give a ship's position to the enemy.



It's difficult to locate men drifting in the sea! Water-tight battery lights on buoyant lifesaver suits have meant the difference between life and death for many Merchant seamen.



For emergency communication by voice, the Merchant Marine uses a portable megaphone to broadcast orders and instructions. Dry batteries give necessary power to the megaphone.



Two men and a bazooka make a winning team! But it takes large quantities of ammunition and dry battery power to keep these portable, hard-hitting weapons firing at the enemy.



Deadly flamethrowers are blazing the road to Victory! Dry batteries help to create the spark that sends these efficient weapons into instant, flaming action against the enemy.



The Signal Corps man with a Walkie-Talkie has freedom of speech as long as he has plenty of dry batteries! Handie-Talkies also use thousands of war batteries to power vital communications.

When they come Home—Burgess Batteries will be back again, too . . . powering flashlights, radios, telephones, instruments and controls for millions of homes, farms and industries throughout America.



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