

# How Seven Live On \$13 A Week

By MILTON BRONNER  
NEA Service Writer

London Sept. 5.—It isn't always easy for the American workman to make ends meet.

But the lot of the British laborer is far harder still.

Take Alfred E. Mummery, for instance. He is feeding, housing and clothing himself, his wife and five children on \$13 a week.

And there are thousands of less fortunate than he.

For Mummery, employed by the street cleaning department of the Borough of Southwark, which is a part of big London, gets more rather than less the ordinary unskilled worker. He's just an average British workman.

On the job 25 years, he probably will stay at it as long as he can work. It is the one thing he knows how to do. And it is a safe job. Which is something to consider in these days of unemployment in Great Britain.

Lucky to Have Three Rooms

But to get back to his living problem in "after-the-war" expensive England.

Mummery lives in the Walworth district. His home is on the top floor of a tenement building.

There are three rooms—two bedrooms and a room the family uses as a kitchen, dining room and sitting room. It is in the latter his children study their lessons every night after supper.

"We rented the flat before the war," Mummery explains. "We are lucky to have it."

"Under the law, the landlord cannot put us out, so long as we pay our rent, and he can't get over 20 per cent more than we paid before the war."

"Most landlords nowadays, when they get an unfurnished flat vacated, put a few things in it, call it furnished, and ask almost any price they want. And they can put you out almost any time they wish."

"Our landlord installed in our flat a coal stove—and also a gas stove with a penny-in-the-slot connection for our gas supply. We pay him nearly \$3 a week."

"In case I get sick, the borough will pay my wages for six months. If anybody in my family takes ill, we get doctors and medicine under the national health act. If we need dentists we get them free through the London County Council."

"The nine shilling (less than



\$13.00

Breakfast

Alfred E. Mummery

Repairs family's shoes

12) that I keep for myself. I use partly in keeping up my dues in clubs that pay benefits in case of illness or death.

"Now I suppose you wonder what we eat. Well, here's about how it runs:

"Breakfast—Tea, bread and oleomargarine.

"Noon dinner—Meat, greens or cabbage, potatoes, tea.

"Five o'clock tea—Bread, oleomargarine, tea.

"Eight o'clock supper—Bread, cheese, tea.

"My wife uses three or four pounds of tea a week costing one shilling and four pence (30 cents) a pound. We have about eight or nine pounds of sugar a week at 7 1-2 pence (about 15 cents) a pound.

"When we have meat it is bacon, or mutton, or sometimes beef at one shilling and four pence a pound. We get greens at a penny ha'penny (approx-

mately three cents) a pound. "Potatoes don't cost us much. We get three pounds for tuppence (about four cents). We need about five loaves of bread a day. They are small loaves costing 4 1-2 pence (about nine cents) each. And our oleomargarine—running about three or four pounds—costs us six pence (about 12 cents) a pound."

Clothing and shoes for himself and his family, however, form Mummery's big problem. He tries to meet it by paying some of his spending money into boot and

clothing clubs. That costs him about 12 cents a week.

"When he has paid in a certain amount, he is entitled to boots or clothing equal to that amount.

Church Fees Their Amusements "But we make ours last a long

time," he says. "I always can buy leather fairly cheap, and I repair the shoes of all the family. And my wife is mighty clever at patching up the clothes."

Mummery, unlike many British workmen, doesn't spend his spare time at the "pubs," public houses or saloons. He neither drinks nor smokes. And he doesn't go to the movies.

"There are some," he declares, "who spend their money at the 'pubs' and on shows at the cinema (movie houses)—money they really need for their families. Result is some of the poor kids often go to bed without supper. Mine never have. The mission and I see to it that they get plenty to eat."

Mummery is religious. He is

a regular churchgoer. And he and his brood look to the church festivals for all their amusement.

"We go to the concerts and the services at the Browning Settlement, which is near where we live. These entertainments don't cost anything, and they are pleasant."

"They often have lemonade and cake and the cost is so small that anybody can afford it if he has a regular job."

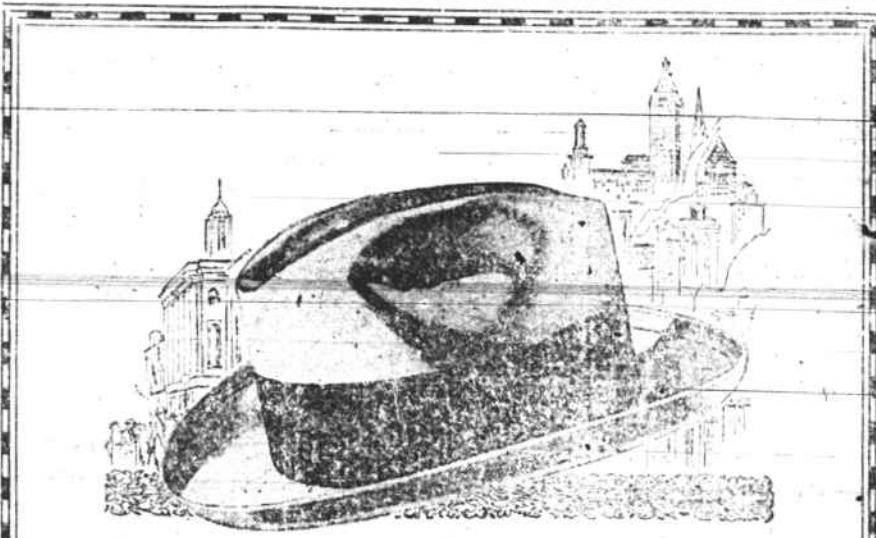
That, in brief, is how a man is supporting himself, his wife and five children on \$13 a week.

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## Two Extremes



Age will vie with youth in the International Air Races at Wilbur Wright Field, Dayton, O., the next week in October. Here are the oldest and youngest contestants—Ralph Dickson of Chicago, who admits 60 years, and Ted Meilendick of Wichita, Kas., just 17.

## MORRISON WILL FIRE OPENING GUN

Raleigh, Sept. 5.—Announcement was made yesterday by General Albert Cox that Governor Morrison will fire the opening gun in the fight for the Port Commission Bill in a speech next Monday night at Rockingham and will speak four times next week.

## New Fall Styles

For Men! Young Men, 33 to 46.

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## Handsome!



Here is the handsomest man in Washington. His name is John W. Clark. Thirty-nine shooks were eliminated before the judges decided to award the prize to John. But listen girls—John's married, and his wife is chaperoning him every time he ventures downtown.

## WEDS PHILADELPHIAN

Southern Pines, Sept. 5.—Miss Kate Raoboteau Page, daughter of former Congressman Robert Newton Page, was married yesterday to Livingston Ludlow Riddle, Jr., son of Anthony Drexel Riddle of Philadelphia.

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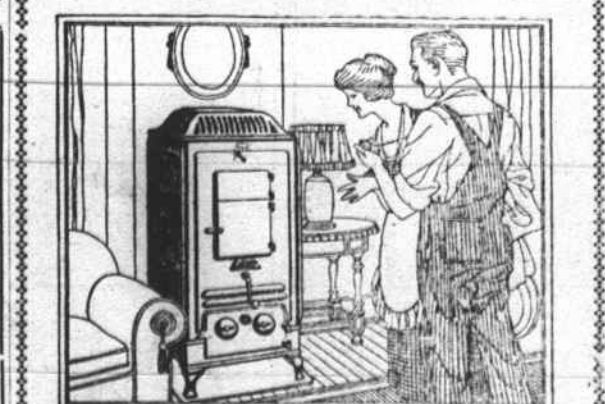
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