

The Mythical Gold Ruble Is Abolished In Soviet Russia

New Valuation Is Placed on Paper Ruble For the Foreign Trade.

Moscow. — The Soviet Union abolished the old mythical gold ruble and stabilized the paper ruble for foreign trade as well as domestic at the rate of five to the dollar, which went into effect February 1.

The new valuation will apply on foreign transactions beginning April 1. The action, though a logical development of the stabilization movement begun a month ago, brought additional confusion to resident foreigners who are already groggy over the abolition of the Torgsin and liquidation of the black bourse (where one bought rubles at their actual buying power) and consequent quadrupling or quintupling of most of their expenses. For no foreigner here understands the new regulation and such Soviet officials as could be reached could shed little light.

The decree announcing the move directs the Commissariat of Foreign Trade and of finance to apply the rate of exchange of one ruble for three francs in all settlement of export and import organizations and in all other currency operations. It further instructs the State Bank to carry out purchase and sale of foreign currency from both export and import organizations and in all other currency operations at this exchange rate. It is to revalue its balance of currency and gold resources as of next April 1.

The decree was read with vital interest by foreign diplomats and the few remaining representatives of foreign business interests here.

Questioned whether the new decree meant the Soviet would now pay for goods bought from abroad with a ruble officially worth 20 cents and in buying power here about 4 cents in place of the gold ruble worth 87 cents, one official said he believed such would not be the case, as payments for imports are made in foreign currency.

The gold ruble probably is the world's queerest money because it does not exist but is simply a bookkeeping term. The ruble has an arbitrary value of about 87 cents and since it is purely imaginary is always paid in foreign currency. And also because it is entirely imaginary, it is as free from fluctuations as the Ten Commandments and therefore the most stable currency in the world.

LONG WALKS

Speaking on the subject of the local veto, a temperance advocate remarked—"If our town went 'dry,' even if all the others were 'wet,' we should gain something." "Aye," said a sad voice, "exercise."

PERHAPS

Counsel—"Please remember that you are on oath. You understand the nature of an oath, do you not?"

Girl Witness—"Profane, isn't it?"

QUITE ANOTHER BUSINESS

"I'm planning to travel on one of those stabilized steamships." "It will cost you more." "Maybe, but expenses aren't what I have to keep down on my sea trips."

LOCAL SCENERY

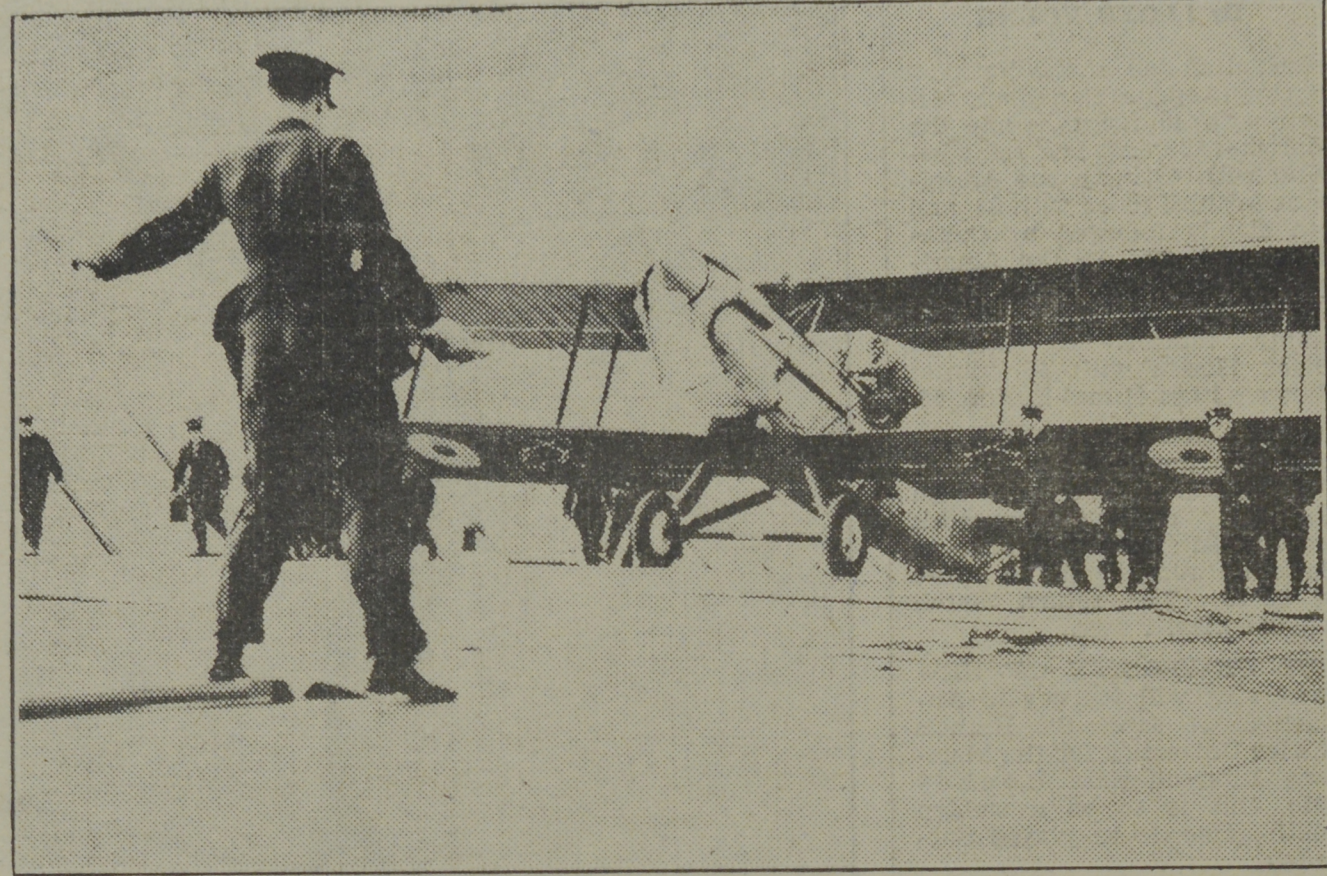
"There'll be one good thing when the season's over," remarked the farmer who took summer boarders. "I can shave this bunch of spinach off my chin and pull my trouser legs out of my boots."

THE SAME FISH

Diner—"This salmon isn't nearly so nice as that I had a week ago."

Waiter—"It should be, sir; it's from the same fish."

ROYAL AIR FORCE PILOTS HAVE STRENUOUS COURSE



Taken aboard the British carrier, "Furious," this picture shows an aeroplane taxiing up to the elevator after landing on the giant boat, during strenuous practice while engaged in recent manoeuvres in the Mediterranean.

fifty Years Ago in New Brunswick

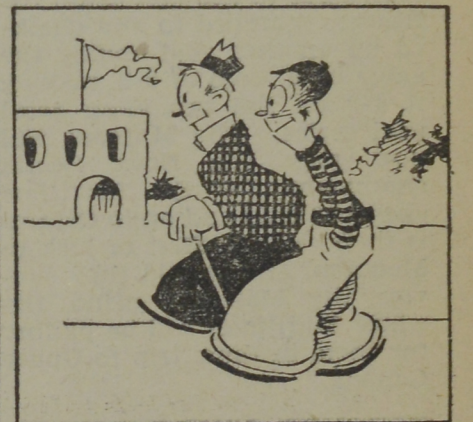
By GEORGE I. HIGGINS

CHATHAM

Chatham, N.B., situated on the right bank of the Miramichi River, 12 miles from its mouth, is the largest and most enterprising town on the North Shore of the Province; contains many fine buildings; is lighted with gas. Business is brisk and money plentiful. Lumbering, shipbuilding, and fishing are the principal occupations. Lumber is king, millions of feet of lumber being exported annually and the fish trade is also very large.

There are several foundries, saw mills, machine shops and tanneries in the place. Population 6,000. Steamers run between Chatham and Newcastle, six miles; Indiantown, 26 miles, and Bay du Vin, 25 miles. A branch railway, six miles long, connects the town with the Intercolonial Railway at Chatham Junction.

PRETTY FAST



George—"Is that college girl good on the track?"
James—"Ought to be—she's pretty fast."

SOME JUMP

An Irishman who had been in Alaska told the following story: "I landed me boat on an island, I went ashore and when I got up to about the middle of the island I met the biggest bear I ever seen in me life."

"There was one tree on the island and I made for that tree. The nearest limb was a big one which was about 20 feet from the ground and I jumped for it."

Somebody listening to the story said: "Did you make it?" The Irishman replied: "I didn't make it going up, but I caught it coming down."

UNRELIABLE

Football Player (after missing kick)—"I could kick myself for missing that shot."

Captain—"You'd better let me do it. You'd probably miss again."



"How about this daylight saving scent—what shall we do about it?"

"Set the clock ahead about a fortnight."

A POOR SHOW

"What did you think of the big fight last night, Bill?" asked the navy of his pal.

"Fight," replied Bill scornfully. "If the missus and me 'ad put up a show like that on a Saturday night the kids would 'ave booted us."

NICE OF HIM

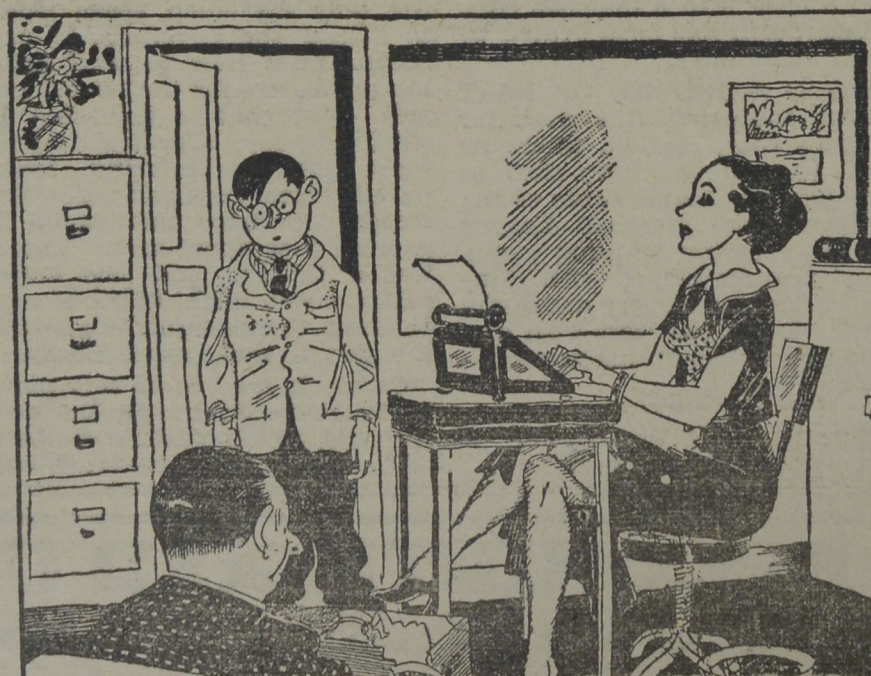
Mrs. Jones—"I understand you have got your divorce, Sally. Did you get any alimony from your husband?"

Laundress—"No, Mrs. Jones, but he done give me a first-class reference."

JUST AMONG US GIRLS



Watches are like husbands. You can tell what they're worth by the hours they keep.



Office Boy—"Mr. Guggenheimer will see you now."
Traveller—"All right; I'll wait."

—Smith's Weekly, Sydney, Australia.

SMILES

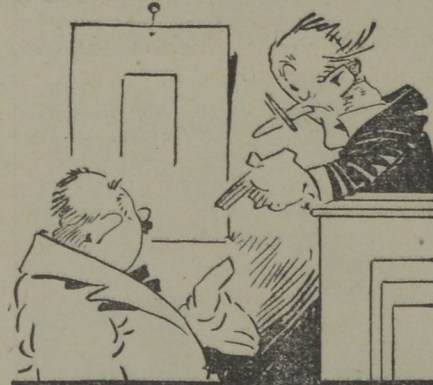
MAYBE, YES

She was bidding her lover a fond farewell, for he was going on a business trip around the world.

Tearfully she clung to him and asked: "My darling, will you be true to me when you are far away? Promise that you will write to me from every town you visit!"

And as he gathered her in his arms, he cried: "Oh, Ada, is it love that prompts you to say this? Do you really love me, or are you merely collecting foreign postage stamps?"

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION



"On what grounds do you seek a divorce, Mr. Jones?"
"Incompatibility. I want a divorce and my wife doesn't."

ONLY ONE

Tommy was entertaining his maiden aunt.

"Say, Auntie," he said excitedly, "Dad says there ain't another woman in the world like you."

"Why, that is very flattering of him I'm sure," she answered. "Yes, and he says it's a good thing, too."

MADE TO FIT

A secondhand clothes dealer was endeavoring to sell a suit to a very meek and apparently easily satisfied customer.

All went well until the pants were tried on.

"Aren't they a bit on the big side?" asked the customer, timidly.

"Big? No fear, Beautiful fit. Let me brace 'em up for you. There! Now they're lovely and comfortable, ain't they?"

The customer wriggled. "Not bad," he said meekly, "but a little bit tight under the arms."

WAS BUSINESS GOOD?

Counsel—"On the night in question, did you not have several drinks of whisky?"

Witness—"That's my business."

Counsel—"I know it's your business, but were you attending to it?"