

## ENGLAND PAYING \$4.37 A WEEK TO 827,000 OF 1,255,000 IDLE

### Allowance is Part of Unemployment Insurance Scheme in Effect Since 1911 --- Private Domestic Help Excluded

The latest official figures—which indicate improvement in nearly all the principal industries—place the number of registered unemployed in Great Britain at 1,254,646, or 376,787 fewer than a year ago. This 1,254,646 represents about 13 per cent of the total number of insured workers, a category comprising about two-thirds of the wage earning population.

The two most numerous classes still excluded from the unemployment insurance scheme are domestic servants in private employment and non-manual workers receiving more than \$1,250 a year.

In the 10-year period 1927-1936 the average percentage of unemployment among insured workers in Great Britain between the ages of 16 and 64 was as follows:

In 1927, 9.6 per cent; 1928, 10.7; 1929, 10.3; 1930, 15.8; 1931, 21.1; 1932, 21.9; 1933, 19.8; 1934, 16.6; 1935, 15.3; and 1936, 13.0.

Viewed in terms of insured workers in employment in these years the percentage represents 10,015,000 persons in jobs in 1927, 10,019,000 in 1928, 10,220,000 in 1929, 9,797,000 in 1930, 9,421,000 in 1931, 9,348,000 in 1932, 9,681,000 in 1933, 10,139,000 in 1934, 10,377,000 in 1935, and 10,896,000 in 1936.

#### Insured Workers Increase

There is every prospect that the number of compulsorily insured wage earners will continue to increase, as all political parties favor such a course, and several classes of workers now excluded are anxious to come within its orbit. When first introduced in 1911 the insurance scheme affected only 2,500,000 persons, but shortly after the war the number had risen to 11,000,000 and now stands at roughly 14,000,000 because of the inclusion of juveniles of fourteen in 1934 and some 600,000 agricultural, horticultural and forestry workers in 1936.

During last year the average weekly number of claimants to whom benefit was paid was approximately 827,000, and the average weekly amount per head was the equivalent of \$4.37, compared with \$4.35 in 1935.

According to some estimates, this would add between 700,000 and 800,000 wage earners to the insurance scheme roster. There are, it is claimed, fully 800,000 organized non-manual and professional workers in Great Britain.

#### Seeks Domestic Servants

As many of the white-collar fraternity live on a scale above that of some other categories of workers, the scale of benefits paid them when unemployed would be higher, but if so they would be called upon to pay higher weekly contributions to the insurance fund when in employment.

Of Britain's 20,000,000 or more employables (insured and otherwise) domestic servants in private service number nearly 2,000,000. The Minister of Labor is now proposing to bring into the insurance scheme fully 200,000 persons in certain kinds of "domestic service" because they are declared to be employed in a trade or business not carried on for the purposes of gain.

#### Those Excluded Now

The third group is already included in the unemployment insurance scheme, and the second is expected to be, thereby "ironing out" certain anomalies. For instance, it is the present plight of attendants, porters, messengers, stokers and bakers employed by Government departments or local authorities to be excluded from insurance, as are cooks, waitresses and kitchen hands employed by such organizations as the Navy, Army and Air Force Institute, or by a sailors' home. Yet if such workers were employed in similar capacities carried on by business undertakings they would be included.

This problem of anomalies is very much of a jigsaw puzzle to the average person, especially when it is realized that a steward, waiter or other servant employed in a proprietary club run for gain is now an insured worker, but would not be so if employed in similar capacities in a members' club. Then again a housekeeper, waitresses housemaid employed in a hotel is insured, but would not be if she had a job in a hotel or institution maintained by a charitable organization. A whole-time cleaner employed in a restaurant is insured, but she would not be if her place was a Government office, a school, college or church hall. The gatekeeper, watchman or motorvan driver employed by a factory is insured, but not so if he were employed in a hospital, workhouse or infirmary.

Under a particular section of the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1935 the Minister of Labor has the authority to do much to remedy such anomalies as have been cited and there are evidences that he means to exert it.

#### No Longer a 'Dole'

There was a time—and not very long ago at that—when the word

"dole" was the label attached to unemployment insurance benefit. It is not so today, however, because the insurance scheme has become actuarially sound; so much so that it had accumulated a surplus of \$220,000,000 by April 24, 1937, and this despite last year's cut of two cents a week in the payments made by employers and employed (which represents an expenditure approaching \$32,500,000 a year) and the setting aside of \$25,000,000 annually to pay off the principal and interest on the debt of \$575,000,000 which the fund incurred in the past.

In the eleven years, 1921-1932, the insurance fund expended \$575,000,000 more than its revenue, largely in what is known as "transitional" allowances or benefits—payments to registered jobless persons no longer eligible for insurance benefit. The State was then called upon to provide more than \$5,000,000 a week to cover such charges. It was then, too, that the word "dole" gained such widespread use when unemployment insurance was discussed.

#### Reasons for Solvency

The fund has become solvent through increased employment, the scale of relief payments and the dispensation of transitional benefit under a uniform national system. It cannot be said that labor regards the scale of relief payments as adequate, or that transitional benefit is dispensed under a popular system. Also there is a feeling that instead of reducing weekly contributions by two cents in 1936 there should have been an increase of two cents in relief payments. But the government of the day argues that it is very difficult to cut down the scale of payments once they are increased.

It is the opinion of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee that if unemployment, now affecting 13 per cent of insured wage earners, were to rise to 16.75 per cent, over the eight-year period 1936-1943 the insurance fund would still be able to meet all its liabilities under existing safeguards. The hope, however, is that fluctuations will be downwards rather than upwards.

The income on the general account in 1936, according to the Ministry of Labor's latest report was \$528,536,190 which was \$4,680,455 more than in 1935, due mainly to the increase in contributions by reason of the normal growth of the insured population and the decline of unemployment. The increase, it is explained, would have been greater had it not been for the two-cent weekly reduction in contributions as from July 6, 1936.

### Northern Ontario's Black Flies Terrorize Winnipeg Main Street

WINNIPEG, June 12—The Northern Ontario black fly scourge has made its appearance in Winnipeg, and has taken the fun out of spring for those who want to bask in the sun.

The pests go through mosquito netting with ease, and their bites leave the hardest of Manitobans in misery.

"Mosquitoes are gentle compared with these flies," said one woman sufferer, whose eye was badly swollen. Although the bite is merely a pinprick, inflammation sets in around the wound, and in some cases the victims are affected with a slight fever. Prof. A. V. Mitchener of the University of Manitoba identified the insect as a black fly.

"It is the first time I have known people to have been attacked in the city, and there's little that can be done about it except to grin and bear it," he said.

### Hordes Caterpillars Slow Up and Deadly Parasite Gets Credit

SUDBURY, June 12—The fact that many caterpillars have been peculiarly inanimate the past few days, led suburban dwellers to hope today that the much-prayed-for parasite which is known to attack them had arrived at last and was doing its deadly work.

Today, throughout areas where the worms marched relentlessly a few days ago the caterpillars were scarcely moving. In fact, they seemed glued to the tree trunks and in many places their dead bodies fell away from the trees.

This condition was reported in various sections of Sudbury district. The caterpillars have already accomplished deadly work by stripping hundreds of thousands of poplars of every vestige of foliage. Most of the trees will leaf again, but many will die because they are not strong enough to withstand three successive years of gorging by the caterpillars.

## SIDEWALKS OF TORONTO TEEM WITH NIGHT LIFE

### Warm Summer Evenings Bring Out the Petty Crooks, the Good Old Men and Playful Kids

TORONTO, June 12—Summer nights—life in downtown Toronto. Crowds idle along the streets. At the City Hall a dozen men are perched on the stone steps, smoking, chatting, killing time.

An elderly man, thin and stooped, comes along Queen Street. He's carrying half a small paper box. He stops at the drinking fountain at Queen and Bay, tips the box into the spouting water, fills it. His hand shakes as he holds the box, and water jiggles out and drips over his coat. He balances the box like a waitress carrying a soup plate. He strikes off across the cement towards the Cenotaph. He goes at a dog trot and water slops out of the box. But he manages to save an ounce.

At the base of the Cenotaph there are six wilting tulips, drooping in an old tin. Very carefully the old man tilts the box, spills the ounce of water over the tulips. Then he tucks the flowers in a little closer together in the tin. He takes off his hat, and stands for a moment with his eyes shut. Then he goes off along Queen Street again.

#### A Policeman Watches

Summer nights—and life in downtown Toronto. A young man sits on the steps of an office building across from a hotel. His trousers are hitched up high displaying canary-colored socks that would knock your eye out. He wears his hat on the back of his head, and he's chewing gum very enthusiastically. He might be in from the country, waiting to be taken by a city slicker. But he's a dick, not a hick. He's a new and youthful member of the Police Force, watching some petty chiselers who hang around the hotel corner. He thinks he is disguised, and he doesn't know that the crooks are wise to him. They know him, for he used to be a Life Guard at Sunnyside. And even crooks go swimming.

Summer nights—and life in Toronto.

A sparrow clings to radiator of a parked car. It is pecking away at the moths and bugs caught in the mesh of the radiator. The bugs are cooked to a turn. And they're im-

## Snake's Mouse Dinner Prevents Its Escape From Vestry

COLUMBIA, Tenn., June 12 — A mouse was snaking its way around the vestry room of St. John's Episcopal Church today.

The mouse and a three-foot garden snake entered the room separately. The snake ate the mouse and started back for his garden, but, with the mouse inside, was unable to leave by the way he had entered.

ported delicacies for the bird. Really much nicer than the bugs that flit about downtown Toronto. For the car is from Illinois, and it brought the sparrow a meal fresh from the country.

#### Ragged Youngster

And up Yonge Street from the lake front comes a dirty faced urchin. He's heading for the "Ward." The street lights have just come on, and in their glow the kid looks sleepy eyed. He is no more than seven. He wears no stockings, and his pants are tattered. His sweater is ragged. Across his back is slung a bow, home-made from half a barrel hoop. And stuck in the old valise strap that serves as a belt are three arrows. His face is smudged with dirt—but it's war paint to him. Heaps Big Injun Chief is headed for his tepee.

## SPY MANIA IN RUSSIA

Spy mania is responsible probably for malicious persons or unbalanced for as much cruelty in human history as witchcraft delusions or heresy hunting. There was a refreshing note of sanity in a speech made to the Governors of prefectures in Japan this week by Foreign Minister Sato, who called on them officially to discourage spy hunting by petty officials in their dealings with foreign tourists.

The military councils will include the army commanders in their districts, but no order by a military commander will be valid unless countersigned by some member of the council who is in close contact with the Communist party. The councils have full jurisdiction over military morale and training, and are directed to carry on "a merciless struggle against the enemies of the people, spies, wreckers and diversionists," that is, Trotskyites.

The Bolshevik mentality in these matters is illustrated by the official praise given to a boy, a member of the Young Pioneers, who, after spying on his father, caused his arrest on a charge of taking leather from a factory in which he was employed and selling it. The Young Pioneer's exploits included intercepting a letter sent by his father after he had been jailed to his mother, and turning it over to the police, whom he also furnished with a diagram of his home showing where the stolen leather had been secreted.

There may have been some actual guilt among the victims, but it is inevitable that in dragnet arrests and trials innocent persons should be condemned on unwarranted suspicion or false evidence. The Soviet Government is organizing an enormous spy hunt, and has issued millions of copies of a manual giving information as to how spies may be recognized and apprehended. Under such circumstances the way is open

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