Shortages Are Still Heavy Burden On Women of Britain

Slight Improvement in Basic Rations During 1946 Countered by Cuts in Other Commodities

By DENISE DALTROFF
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON (CP) — Gilbert and Sullivan today could parody their own "Pirates of Penzance" to say, a British housewive's lot is not a happy one.

Even the speech from the throne opening Labor's second session drew attention to her difficulties.

"My ministers recognize that the housewives of the nation have had to bear a specially heavy burden owing to the shortages of houses, of foodstuffs and other consumer goods," it said.

"It will be their constant endeavour to alleviate the hardships and inconveniences caused by this legacy from the years of war."

During 1946 this legacy was lightened only slightly. There are hints of more sugar and jam next spring, but meantime basic rations are no better, on the whole, than when the war was on. The few increases have been countered by cuts in other commodities and the bringing under "points" control of many extra foods.

There is more fruit, and more fish—important in a country where each person gets only 1s. 4d. (27 cents) worth of meat each week. Kitchen equipment can be bought again.

This is one of the sure signs that store shelves are being filled as industry completes its reconversion. Scores of things that couldn't be found a year ago are available now. Everyone has a few more clothing coupons this rationing period, and the indication is the allocation will go up again in early 1947.

Even a few nylons are on sale—but just a few, with no promise of enough for all until 1948.

Still Needed In Industry

But despite the housewife's obvious difficulties, women still went back into the home during 1946—faster than Prime Minister Attlee's government, faced with a serious over-all manpower shortage—liked to see.

The Auxiliary Territorial Service, Women's Auxiliary Air Force, and Women's Royal Naval Service cut their strength almost two-thirds, from 296,000 at the end of 1945 to less than 110,000. Despite this extra manpower, the number of women in industry dropped by about 1,000,000, mostly because married women left industry.

These were other developments affecting women and children during 1946:

Equal Pay—A Royal Commission headed by Lord Justice Asquith ended two years' work divided on the subject. Five commissioners found "substantial difficulties" in the way of early application of the equal pay policy between men and women, but three women members filed a memorandum of dissent.

Family Allowances— Payment of 5s. ($1) a week for each child after the first was started by the Treasury in August and more than 2,000,000 families now are receiving benefits.

Pensions—Old-age and widows' pensions were increased in October, first step in application of new social legislation under which women later will receive higher mothers' pensions and new maternity grants.

Child Welfare — A report on orphanages, presented to parliament, focussed attention on the need for better treatment of children. Even before that report, child welfare clinics, almost non-existent before that report, were started all over England to give mothers and expectant mothers free advice.

Education — Effective next April, the school-leaving age will be raised from 14 to 15, with another raise to 16 scheduled for as soon as schools and teachers are available.

EARLY GOLD FIND

Gold was discovered in New Zealand's South Island in 1861.

MIXED LIVESTOCK LEAVES CANADA BY AIR — The first mixed-livestock air shipment ever to go from Canada left Walton, Ont., recently, and included Holstein cattle, pigs and rabbits. The old Bar-X in his DC-3 is how Capt. Frank Hughes, pilot, found things. He flew "The Hump" with U.S. army air force taking supplies out of India to troops in Burma and China, and they included almost everything but never before had he flown rabbits, Holsteins and pigs. Chatting over "corral" fence is George Gibb, left, president Alberta Holstein-Friesian association, on hand to see shipment off, and centre Harry Hays, Brampton, Ont., who made shipment.

HEATED LINOLEUM

Linoleum can be cut and handled more easily if first placed in a warm room or sunlight for a few hours.

AID TO PIANO

In a hot, dry room, a pan of water on the floor behind the piano helps to keep the sounding board from drying and cracking.

Cambrai Chapter Children's Party

Chief business of the December meeting of Cambrai Chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, in the Civic Centre Tuesday evening was making of arrangements for the children's fancy dress party to be held December 27 in the Civic Centre for children between the ages of three and 12 years. The event will be for all the younger children in the city. Games, music and refreshments will be provided and there will be a grand march with prizes for the best costumes. The post-war convener reported that another shipment of quilts, knitted articles and children's clothing had been made. Winner of the raffle of Hudson's Bay blankets was P. Lien with ticket No. 251.

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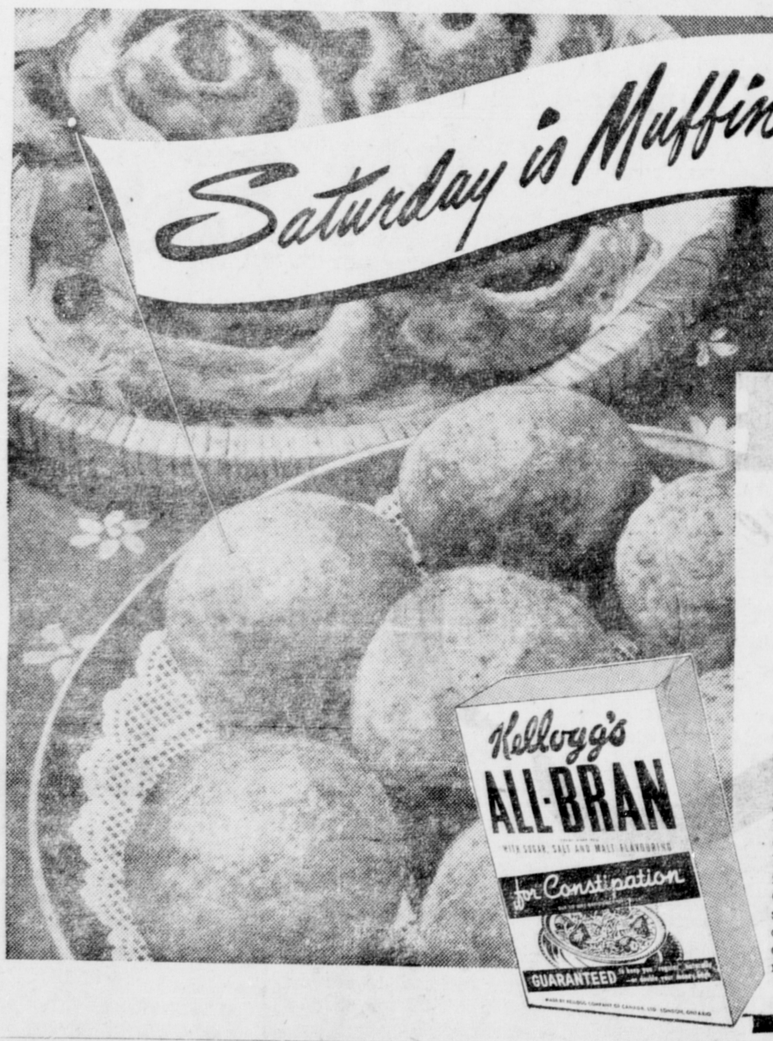

RECIPE

From ONE easy mixing—THREE days' baking!

Luscious raised muffins for Saturday lunch . . . tempting fruit whirls for Sunday breakfast . . . and a rich, tender loaf that's perfect for the lunch-box sandwiches—all from *one* batch of dough! Clip this easy recipe *now!*

BASIC 3-WAY RECIPE

3 cakes compressed yeast*
2¼ cups lukewarm water
⅓ cup molasses or brown sugar
2 teaspoons salt
6½-6¾ cups sifted flour
2 tablespoons melted shortening
3 cups All-Bran

If you do not plan to store dough in refrigerator, use only 2 yeast cakes

Crumble yeast into large bowl; add lukewarm water; stir until yeast dissolves. Add salt, molasses or sugar, add 3 cups flour; beat well. Add shortening; beat well. Add *All-Bran* and remaining flour; mix thoroughly. Sprinkle with flour, turn out onto board; knead until smooth and elastic (about 10 minutes). Put in bowl *twice* as big as mound of dough; brush with melted fat. Dough may now be stored, if desired. (To store, cover with waxed paper and store in refrigerator.) If dough, or part of dough, is to be baked at once, let rise until double in bulk. Punch down. Let rise 15 minutes, shape and bake according to the following directions. (If just bread or muffins are desired, make only half the recipe.)

ALL-BRAN RAISED MUFFINS: Form ⅓ of dough in balls to fill greased muffin pans ½ full. Brush with melted fat; let rise to double in bulk. Bake at 425°F. about 15 minutes.

ALL-BRAN FRUIT WHIRLS: Roll ⅓ of dough ½ inch thick. Spread with fruit filling. Roll up and cut in inch slices. Place on greased cookie sheet and brush with melted fat; let rise to double in bulk. Bake at 400°F. about 20 minutes.

ALL-BRAN BREAD: Form ⅓ of dough in loaf; place in greased bread pan; brush with melted fat. Let rise to double in bulk. Bake at 400°F. for 15 minutes; reduce heat to 350°F. and bake 45 minutes.

P.S.—Kellogg's *All-Bran* is guaranteed to keep you regular *naturally* or double your money back!

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