

CAN YOU DRESS ON \$125 YEAR?

Question Is Answered in Figures by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

FASTEN DOWN SPINAL COLUMN

New Fashion for Frocks and Coats Revived From an Old One—Skirt Lines Must Follow Lines of the Body.

New York.—Since the days of the Roosevelt administration in Washington depressing statements have come from the social center about the cost of being well dressed. Depressing for the reason that they were so appalling. Nothing so produces discouragement in humans, writes a fashion authority, as to be told that they should and can accomplish a desired result on a sum of money that they consider almost too small for the preliminaries.

You as a woman know that full well. What would reduce you to greater rage or a feeling of utter hopelessness than to be told by the head of the family of the amazing achievements of another woman in regard to money, to clothes, and to food?

You have done your best with your allowance, of that you are sure. Such is the feeling that surges in every woman's mind and heart when Washington informs us, infrequently, what can be done in our own chosen line of work at a slight expenditure of money.

Now, when Washington—through the bureau of labor statistics, not through the White House—gives as the average cost of being well dressed the following figures, one feels like giving up the whole problem of how to look well on little. The total yearly allowance for dress of these women

range of from \$50 to \$60 for these articles, which as a rule have to be replaced each year.

"Combining these two amounts—outside clothing \$70 to \$75, and other articles of dress \$50 to \$60—the total yearly expenditure would range from \$120 to \$135, averaging approximately \$125."

True, these are wage-earning women, the story points out; but it adds that they are as well dressed as the immense majority of women who have no more, and often not nearly as much as the wage-earner to spend on clothes, and furthermore, as fashions are rare these days, the budget may be taken as intended for the average woman. No one includes the millionaire in any form of appeal, information, or advice to women on the matter of clothes.

That Unconcerned Figure.

Figures belong to the individual, but fashions to the multitude; therefore it is easier to be dictatorial about the latter than the former. The law is better established; the mathematical average has no part. Fashions are, or they are not. They are launched even if they do not succeed; and the exciting interest in them is often caused by the great gamble which is connected with them.

The director's inspiration in the unconcerned figure is a gamble, roughly speaking. It was launched some months ago, but the public thought it one of those revivals that rarely get beyond the salons of the extreme designers. Yet this inspiration has survived the months, and it grows in fashion, if not in grace. "We call it director's merely because that epoch in dress exploited it, along with a host of other fashions that were taken up in the name of 'classic.' It started as a reversion from the furbelows of the pre-revolutionary time, as worn by Marie Antoinette. It was called the Greek costume, and the historians tell us that it came about through the attempt of two famous young sculptors to cut a pattern for such a robe for a stout and matronly 'mere de famille,' who insisted upon it.

The clinging effect of the skirts is as strongly accentuated now as then, and we, like the women of that day,

CHIC DANCE DRESS

Frock May Be Made of White Chiffon or Other Material.

Garment Is Trimmed Very Simply With Rows of Inch-Wide Glossy Ribbon in Color.

The little dance dress shown in the sketch may be made of white chiffon, net georgette or silk tissue, and it is trimmed very simply with rows of inch-wide glossy ribbon in color. Rainbow colors may be selected for the ribbon, two or three of these dainty pale



Ribbon-Trimmed Dance Frock

shades being used with very good effect. If desired, the fabric of the gown may also be in color, and the frock be a genuine rainbow affair.

A foundation of sheer silk should be used for the dress, and it may be made a slipover by running an elastic in at the waistline. Two or three ribbon straps hold it in place over the shoulder, and a ribbon girle with long ends circles the waist.

A dress of this kind is easy to make and may be very inexpensive. Spending a great deal of money on a dance or evening dress is never really necessary and at present it is poor taste.

There will be few formal evening functions during the coming winter season, and the simple dances scheduled call for simple costuming.

An all-over lace dress is always pretty, and many lace dresses are being featured for the coming season. Extreme simplicity is the rule in designing these frocks. Frequently the bodice is merely a wide girle of silk or satin topped by a frill or yoke of lace and with short lace sleeves. The skirt may be a single length of lace, or it may be formed of two or three lace flounces. A ribbon sash or girle finishes the dress.

Ribbon trimming is extremely popular this season. Plain bands of ribbon are used on frocks for both daytime and evening wear, and ribbon flowers, bowknots, etc., appear on innumerable evening dresses of sheer materials.

Very narrow "baby" ribbon is often knitted to form cuffs and collar for a street suit or frock, and the knitted ribbon sweater has been worn for months. During the summer it was merely a sweater, now it appears as a sleeveless vest to be worn underneath the suit jacket.

APRON DRAPERIES ARE SMART

Tablet Is Really Only a Panel—Arrangement to Be Much in Evidence This Winter.

Apron draperies appear on so many things that they may be considered a distinct fashion. They may be short or long and they may or may not have the slightest connection with the dress soft materials are preferred. Satin proper. It is as if one had really pane velvet and chiffon velvet arranged more than other fabrics for those frocks.

Chiffon itself has taken a second or third place, and dyed lace is pushed forward as a substitute. Even crean the narrowest of string belts. Again it does not have the prestige of gray; the hem is folded back on the bottom or brown. Both these colors are draped over tulle or satin in the same or in contrasting color.

The odd feature about this revival of an old, old style of fastening is that the exclusive tailors have applied it to coats. In that touch we get something novel. Jackets of peltry are fashioned in this manner, and there are combinations of velours and soft fur that are put together like a cuirass blouse, in a very loose fashion, to go with skirts of the cloth, but they rank as coats and not blouses.

Heavy furs are worn that give sufficient protection in the open. And this verdict for peltry placed on peltry pleases the public. Some women look like pack-mules with an overload. Copyright, 1918, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

LACE ON THE CURVED EDGE

How to Overcome the perplexing Task of Putting the Straight Material in Place.

Have you often been troubled in putting straight lace on a curved edge? You have been if you have ever tried putting clumsy, for instance, on the outside edge of a big round centerpiece.

This is an easy way to overcome the difficulty. Roll the lace in a little tight roll. Wind it tightly about the center with a stout thread. Then dip the straight edge in water to about half the width of the lace. Let it dry and you will find a piece of lace ready shaped to your liking. You see what happens is that the straight edge, being wetted, shrinks, and so can be easily adjusted to the curved edge of the centerpiece.

If you have any new table linen—cotton, perhaps—to hem, try this method. Trim such edges as need trimming and then run them through the machine hemmer, with a fine needle, unthreaded. This will cross the hems with perfect evenness and will also punch holes through the fabric with the unthreaded needle. Then you can turn the hem back and overhand the hems through the little holes with the least expenditure of effort.

Remember in many heavy materials that must be laid in platts and then pressed that pins can be used to fasten the platts into position until they are pressed. Then, as you press, take out the pins and press the material into position. You can do this with less marking than basting thread heavy enough to hold the fabric makes. Of course if you want to you can use the heavy basting thread and snip it and pull it as you go along.

METAL AND COTTON THREAD

Combination Is Effective and Affords Charming Variations; Suggestions for the Needlewoman.

There is an increasing vogue for combining metal thread with silk, wool, or cotton embroidery. It is tremendously effective and capable of such charming variations. Here are some suggestions for the needleworker who is interested in the unusual.

Say, suppose, you have some "solid" work in silk, cotton or wool. You don't know how very effective it can be made by an outlining in either gold or silver thread. The idea can be further carried out by adding French knot centers to the flowers of the same.

Where the embroidery is done entirely in outline, and particularly if it be the heavy wool or cotton kind, couching in metal is a mighty successful addition. In fact, if the wool or cotton embroidery isn't already done, try couching it on with the metallic stuff and just see if it isn't vastly more decorative.

Another suggestion for introducing the metal is to "whip stitch" the other thread with it. Wool whipped on the bias, spiral effect is the most fascinating thing ever.

ATTRACTIVE COAT OF MOLE



All the way from France comes this extremely chic coat of gray velvet with gray velvet hat of mole, ornamented by silver flowers.

Narrow Ribbons on Hats.

Not only are narrow ribbons—usually half an inch to an inch wide—being used more or less in making hats for women, but on both popular-priced and expensive models gold or silver ribbons of the same widths are employed as trimmings. Either they are drawn around the crown and finished off in soft bows or streamers or they are fashioned into flowers laid flat on the rims or around the crown. These trimmings are said to be especially effective when worn on dark hats.

PEACE ADDS TO U. S. FOOD TASK

Europe Needs Nearly Double Last Year's Supplies From America.

ECONOMY MUST CONTINUE.

World Survey Shows Sufficient Wheat, But Shortage of Fat—Government's Stimulative Program Justified.

With the return of peace America is confronted by a food problem even harder of solution than that with which we coped in time of war. We have an entirely new world situation in food. It will mean essential changes in our domestic program. But more important than this, it must of necessity require increased export.

Last year we shipped 11,820,000 tons of foodstuffs to the European Allies. Had the war continued we would have increased this enormous figure to 17,650,000 tons in the present year. Now, with the responsibility of feeding millions of people liberated from the German yoke, our exports must be brought up to at least 20,000,000 tons—practically the limit of loading capacity at our ports.

World Food Demand Increased.

The end of the war will create an enormously increased demand for food. Humanity demands that the starving millions freed from Prussian oppression shall have sufficient supplies to assure their return to health and prosperity. If these liberated nations are faced with starvation they cannot establish orderly governments. Hunger breeds anarchy in a people. The war to free the world for democracy will be lost after it has been won. America must continue its work to liberate and by sharing its food make democracy safe in the world.

In order to meet this new situation the Food Administration has made a careful survey of the food resources of the whole world in relation to the total demands. Comparing supplies on the basis of the avoidance of waste and war consumption, it is found that wheat and rye may be obtained in sufficient quantities to meet economical world consumption; high protein feed for dairy animals will show a shortage of about 8,000,000 tons, while there will be sufficient supplies of other feeds to allow economical consumption; beans, peas and rice will also be found in sufficient quantities to maintain economy in consumption; there are sufficient supplies of beef to keep pace with the capacity of refrigerating space.

Great Fat Shortage.

The most distinct reversal of policy will come with pork and dairy products, vegetable oils, sugar and coffee. Utmost economy will be required in the use of fats and oils, in which there is a world shortage of about 3,000,000,000 pounds. There are sufficient supplies for us to return to our normal sugar consumption if other nations continue their present short rations, or even if their rations are slightly increased. If the European countries, however, are to resume their normal sugar consumption it will be through our continued conservation in order to share with them. There is a surplus of coffee.

Of the world total required to produce these results North America will furnish more than 80 per cent. The United States, including the West Indies, will be in a position to furnish a total of about 20,000,000 tons—against our pre-war exports of about 6,000,000 tons.

The bread grains situation allows the world to abandon the use of substitutes in wheat bread. Large supplies have accumulated in the Argentine, Australia and other hitherto inaccessible markets. A continued high milling percentage, economy of consumption and elimination of waste make it possible for the world to return to a white wheat loaf.

Of all our export possibilities in fats, the largest and most important item is pork. While we cannot supply the world deficiency, we will be able to help it enormously because of the past policies of stimulating production and restraining consumption. The government's policy with regard to stimulating the production of wheat and of pork, the readiest source of fats, is thus amply justified by the situation upon the return of peace.

Famine Specter Still Stalks.

The people of the United States must continue care and wise economy in the use of food in order to complete the work of liberating the world. But even with the utmost conservation and production in this country there will be in Europe for the next year or more starvation beyond all human power to ally. In North Russia there are 40,000,000 people to whom food cannot be made accessible this winter. Their transportation is demoralized in complete anarchy. And even if internal transport can be assured their ports of entry would soon be frozen. Millions more who have felt keenly the oppression of war will be beyond reach of assistance.

We must realize that upon our shoulders rests a greater responsibility than we have ever before been asked to assume. We must realize that millions of lives depend absolutely upon the continued service and sacrifice of the American people.

We must realize that the specter of famine abroad now haunts the abundance of our table at home.

WHEAT SHOWED SPIRIT OF U. S.

Sacrifice to Ensure Allied Least Greatest Single Food Achievement.

SUFFICIENT SUPPLY NOW.

All the Nations Will Be Able to Return to Their Normal Supply of White Bread.

Overshadowing all other accomplishments of the American people under the leadership of Food Administration is the history of wheat exports in the past sixteen months. Our wheat export program proved conclusively to the world that America was in the war from start to finish and willing to make any sacrifice that will hasten victory or maintain the health and strength of people overseas, upon whom rested the heaviest weight of our war.

Now that pressure on ocean tonnage is eased by the stopping of large movements of troops to Europe, we may relax our efforts to save wheat. The accumulated surplus in Australia, Argentine and other hitherto inaccessible markets will become available, and probably no more than our normal supply will have to leave this country. We in America and the nations which have won the world for freedom will be enabled to eat their normal wheat loaf at the common table of the peoples of democracy.

We entered the past crop year with a wheat supply which gave us only 20,000,000 bushels available for export. When the crop year ended, we had sent 141,000,000 bushels of wheat to Europe. The American people had saved out of their normal consumption 121,000,000 bushels.

A survey of export figures shows that the conservation of flour brought about by the wheatless weeks, wheatless days, substitutions in our breads and bakes, enabled us to send to our allies and the allies 20,000,000 barrels of white flour—wheat grain as flour. Had we exported only our visible surplus, we would have been able to ship less than 4,500,000 barrels.

Before the 1st of December our surplus had gone overseas, and an additional 36,000,000 bushels had been taken from the stock reserved for home consumption and added to the surplus already shipped to the allies. It seemed hardly possible that we could bring our total exports above 100,000,000 bushels by July 1. But in January the late Lord Rhondda, then British Food Controller, cabled that unless we could send an additional 75,000,000 bushels he could not take responsibility for assuring his people that they would be fed. The American people responded by sending 85,000,000 bushels of wheat, saved from their home consumption, between the first of the year and the advent of the new crop.

October 10, 1918, we had already shipped 85,000,000 bushels since July 1. Absolutely the only limitation upon our wheat exports since the latest harvest has been the scarcity of ocean tonnage. If exports continue at the present rate, by July 1 of next year we will have sent more than 237,000,000 bushels to Europe.

Thus are we making good America's pledge that the bread rations of Allied Europe shall be maintained.

A Memorable Achievement of the Titanic Struggle

America saved and sent to Europe in a year of crop failure 141,000,000 bushels of wheat, which saved Europe.

A GERMAN HOPE DISPROVED AND A GERMAN FEAR CONFIRMED

A statement made by a prominent German official soon after this country was declared in a state of war with Germany shows that even in the enemy country clear thinking students did not undervalue the strength of the American republic. Only in his confidence that we could not land in Europe sufficient troops to affect the final decision was this German mistaken.

"I do not fear the American soldiers," he told a high official of our government, "because they cannot arrive in time. What I fear is the intelligence and devotion of one hundred millions of original minds and people trained to a faith in individual initiative. The day that this people, now so materialistic in outward appearance, are stirred spiritually, that day is the day of Germany's doom."

Save food
Who shares in the struggle Will share in the triumph