CHARLIE'S "MOTHER"

A new "boss" for Charlie McCarthy was revealed with disclosure of the marriage of ventriloquist Edgar Bergen, 40, to Frances Weston, 22, former model, in Ensenada, Mexico, last June 23. The newlyweds are pictured, above, in a night club. It was the first marriage for both.

'SHORT' ATTIRE FOR MEN

Bare facts of the men's clothing shortage are revealed in this photo of a fashion show put on by Washington war vets. There just isn't enough rayon to fill demands for suit linings as well as tire fabrics, and clothing is getting the shorts end of the deal.

NEW YORK — Men's clothing racks are empty because automobile tire racks are filling up. So men who need both new suits and new tires must take their choice—they can't have both.

Rayon, used to line men's suits and overcoats, also is in great demand as a fabric for the casings of new synthetic tires. Natural rubber tires used cotton cords, but the synthetics gain increased durability with rayon, producers claim. For that reason the tire industry has become an important rayon buyer, and Akron is ordering tremendous quantities of the yarn.

Clothing manufacturers say there is no feasible substitue for rayon linings. Silk is equally scarce, and alpaca, a high grade mixture using cotton, has been discontinued by mills. Clothiers need approximately three yards of rayon lining for very four yards of suiting. The rayon demand of the clothing industry will be doubled. The supply has been cut in half.

RAYON FOR TIRES

So, severe is the shortage of men's wear, manufacturers say, that not even the veterans' demands can be met. Satisfying normal civilian requirements is an impossibility under present conditions, they declare. Since veterans get no priority in the clothing market, the inevitable scramble may make the clothing problems of ex-servicemen nothing short of desperate.

Clothing circles estimate that on the basis of two suits per veteran 24,000,000 garments must be produced. Civilian demand is estimated at 16,000,000 suits. This total of 40,000,000 compares with a peak production of 25,000,000 in 1941. The story in topcoats and overcoats is almost as bad.

While producers of rayon yarn are expanding their capacity, clothing manufacturers declare it will be a year before increased production is realized. In view of the retarded production of new automobiles they feel that the rayon for rubber tires should be allocated to clothing to fill an imperative demand.

The clothing industry uses approximately 100,000,000 yards of rayon in a normal year. Manufacturers, faced with almost twice the normal demand for clothing, say they will be fortunate to realize 40 to 50,000,000 yards this year. The supply is rapidly dwindling.

MORE WOOLENS

A further complication is the dissatisfaction of rayon mills with Office of Price Administration ceilings on linings for men's clothing. A greater return can be obtained by selling the finished cloth to other markets.

Two government agencies— the Office of War Moblization and Reconversion and the Civilian Production Administration—have become so alarmed that specific rayon lining output has been ordered channelled to men's clothing manufacturers. This move has caused women's clothing producers to protest, since they in turn will suffer under the new allocation.

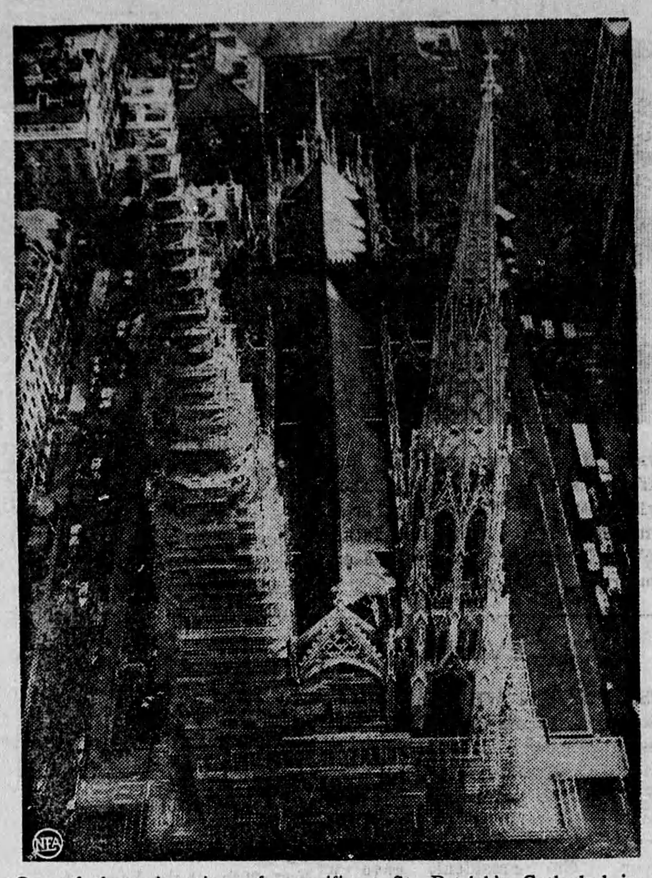
The entire picture contrasts with the situation in woolens, which is improving. Although the government took 100 per cent of all worsted production for the armed forces from January to August, 1945, mills have resumed production for civilian use. By January the shortage of fabrics is expected to be eased.

There will be no new suits, however, unless rayon for linings is made available.

FIRST IN TOKYO BAY

Mount Fujiyama was a fitting backdrop for the Pacific Fleet as it gathered in Tokyo Bay, marking the sunset of Japan's dream of world conquest. The cruiser San Diego, flagship of the Tokyo task force, was first of the "big boys" to anchor here, but tars of the minesweeper fleet say they cleared the harbor.

STEEPLEJACKS RENOVATE N.Y. CATHEDRAL



One of the twin spires of magnificent St. Patrick's Cathedral is already shrouded in scaffolding as workers begin repairs which will take a year to complete.

NEW YORK—Bill Inglis is 63 years old, but he says he enjoys climbing around on one of the biggest tinker toy assemblies ever put together.

It covers the 330-foot steeple of St. Patrick's Cathedral, fronting New York's famous Fifth Avenue. Ninety thousand feet of pipe have been used and it is expected that more than 160,000 feet will be needed to complete the scaffolding required by workmen who are repairing the cathedral.

Putting all this pipe together will require approximately 25,000 couplers. It takes 10,000 to hold together the scaffolding on the church now.

It takes a lot of hustling to climb around the 34-floor-high tinker toy, but the average age of the workers is near 50. Some of them make the climb twice a day and foreman Bill got quite a chuckle out of the poor office workers when the New York elevator operators went on strike not so long ago.

"When we get up there we see lots and lots of taxicabs and lots and lots of people but some mornings it's so misty you don't see a thing," he said.

German Farm Split

The 5,000-acre estate of the descendants of Prince Otto Bismarck, famous German Chancellor, has been divided among the families of 102 agricultural laborers.

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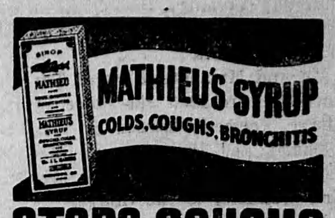
Russia is reported getting ready for mass production of passenger planes.



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That's why your Victory Bonds may save you *twice* what you've invested in them—if you hold on to them now. When tempted to cash them in—*think of tomorrow!*

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