

HOROLOGY

Daylight Saving Time Will Move Us Closer To England

But Unless Hawaii Adopts a Time-Saving Plan of Her Own, We'll Be Farther Ahead of Her; Name Undetermined

WHEN all clocks in the United States are set an hour ahead at 2 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 9, the whole country will be shifted an hour closer to England and an hour farther away from Japan and other points West.

With regard to England, we shall be right back where we always used to be, with Washington five hours behind London, instead of the present six hours, for London is already on daylight saving, with her clocks an hour ahead of her standard Greenwich time. Last summer she set her clocks two hours ahead and will probably do so again this summer. Unless we do likewise, this will set us back to the six hours difference in time.

But England may do more. She may eventually set her clocks three hours ahead. There has been agitation for this plan but it is not yet decided.

If London does this we shall hardly be able to keep up the pace and maintain the normal difference of five hours. London, nearly 800 miles farther north than Washington, has more daylight to save than we have in the summer time.

Hawaii is not covered by the Act. Unless Hawaii independently goes on daylight saving time, the five and a half hours that the Eastern time zone U.S.A. is now ahead of Honolulu, will be stretched to six and a half.

Japan, the Philippines and Singapore are a day later than the U.S.A., being across the international date line that runs down the Pacific, but their clocks are 10, 11 and 12 hours, respectively, earlier than E.S.T. Singapore is just half way around the globe from Washington. If these countries keep to the standard time of their time belts, these differences will be stretched to 11, 12 and 13 hours.

Australia, though a small continent, nevertheless has three time belts as compared to the four of the United States. Standard time there is 9, 10 and 11 hours earlier than in Washington, but a day later.

No one knows just what to call the new time-baby.

Will it be called daylight saving or standard time? Alas! No one seems authorized to do the christening.

The Interstate Commerce Commission merely fixes the boundaries of the time zones. They disclaimed any authority to specify the sort of time to be used in them or to give it a name.

The U. S. Naval Observatory furnishes correct time to each zone according to Government specifications, call it what you will. They use Greenwich time themselves, the time all astronomers use based on zero degrees longitude which runs through Greenwich Observatory, near London.

The broadcasting stations had received no official word. They hadn't even begun to consider the matter. Columbia as-

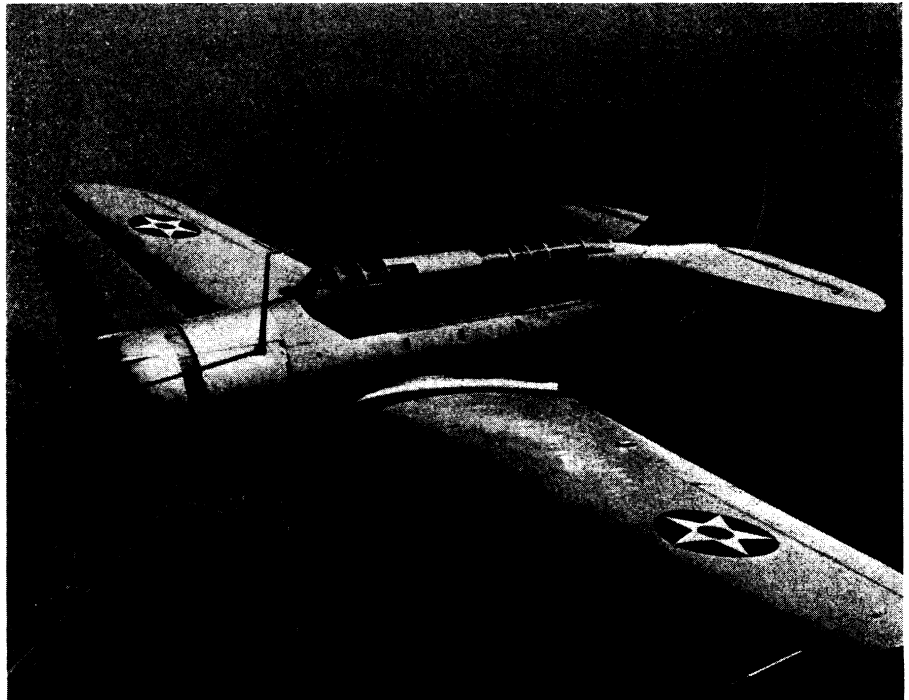
sumed that it would be called daylight saving time as it always had been. At NBC the opinion was that it would be called standard time.

Since the one-hour shift is to be made all over the country, the nation will have simply a new standard time, for the duration, in place of the old standard time. There will no longer be any need for a distinction between daylight saving and standard time, they believed.

At the National Bureau of Standards, on the other hand, it was claimed that lack of such a distinction would be very confusing to historians, statisticians and business men in dating past events and calculating time intervals between them.

The act authorizing the change does not give much light. It styles itself an act to establish daylight saving time. But the bill itself merely states that "the standard time of each zone . . . shall be advanced one hour." And after the end of the war "the standard time of each zone shall be returned" to what it was before the war, unless Congress decrees otherwise.

In March 1918, toward the end of World War I, Congress passed "An Act to save daylight and to provide standard time for the United States." The clocks



HELLDIVER

This Wright-Cyclone powered airplane was designed by Curtiss-Wright to provide the U. S. Navy with a "super" dive-bomber that would out-perform any other plane of its type in the world.

then, too, were set an hour ahead all over the United States. Everybody called it daylight saving time, which to most people was then an entirely new expression. In Congressional discussions, legal documents and in the newspapers, the same expression was used.

There was, however, a difference then. Everybody knew that the advanced time was to apply only to the summer months. The law was in fact repealed in the Autumn of 1918. The present law is to apply to the year round, and may be made permanent.

Another curious point is that what is popularly referred to as Eastern Standard Time is called in the new act, and also in previous acts, Standard Eastern Time.

It is likely that a conference will be called between the Bureau of Standards, the Naval Observatory and the Interstate Commerce Commission to decide just what the baby will be called, or at least to establish a common usage among the Federal offices. The most likely title at present appears to be Eastern Standard Daylight Time, ESDT, for the eastern zone. Next April, some communities may wish to advance their clocks an hour beyond Standard Daylight Time, in which case their own variety could be distinguished as Daylight Saving Time.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1942

PUBLIC HEALTH

Bakers and Public Backsliding On Use of Enriched Bread

But Although Food Prices Are Rising, Cost of Vitamin Has Actually Gone Down; Use Is Patriotic Duty

HERE'S good news. Food prices are rising, but the cost of one important food ingredient, the morale vitamin B₁, or thiamin as it is scientifically named, has gone down.

The wholesale price of this vital food chemical, it has just been announced by the manufacturers, has dropped from 60 cents a gram to 53 cents a gram (about one-thirtieth of an ounce). One gram of thiamin would supply the average grown man with all he needed of this vitamin for 500 days.

Both bakers and the public are backsliding on the making and eating of enriched bread which contains the morale vitamin, Dr. W. H. Sebrell, U. S. Public Health Service nutrition authority, finds.

Besides the morale vitamin, enriched bread and flour contain pellagra-preventing nicotinic acid, or niacin as it has been rechristened, and iron to ward off

shortage of this metal blood-builder.

The program for enriching white bread and flour started almost a year ago as a means of improving national nutrition for defense. But today only about 30% of the nation's bread is being enriched. One large baking company which was among the first in the nation's capital to enrich its bread has now gone back to producing plain white bread without the extra vitamins and iron.

"The time has come," Dr. Sebrell declares, "when it is the patriotic duty of every American to eat enriched bread. Don't buy plain white bread.

"If your grocer does not have enriched bread, he can get it for you," he advises.

Even though the cost of thiamin has gone down, the cost of enriching bread has gone up slightly. This is because of the increased cost of making the high vitamin yeast which is what most bakers use to produce enriched bread.

Of the 30% or 35% total increase in the present cost of making bread, however, only 3% can be charged against enrichment.

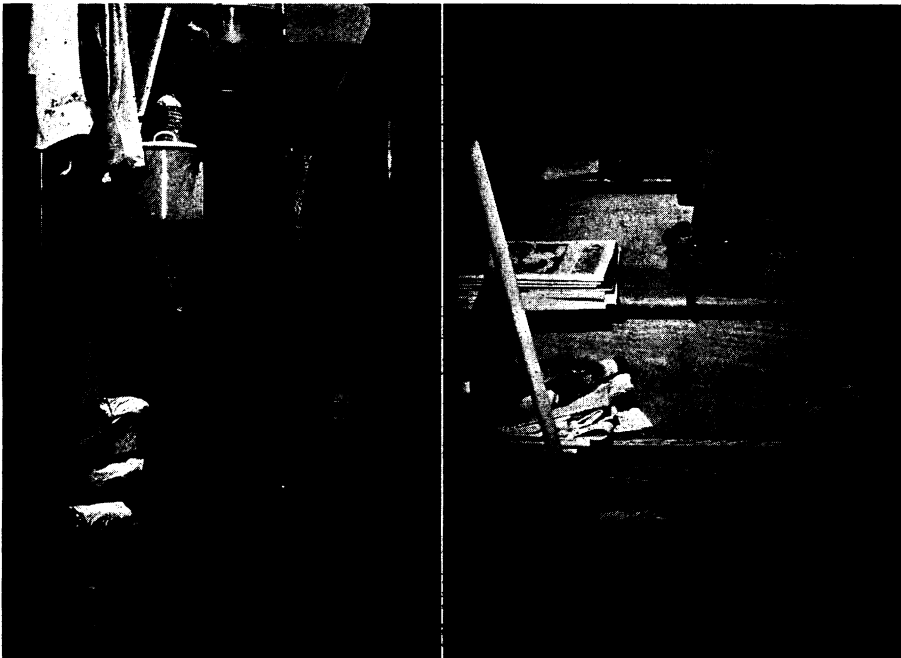
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ENGINEERING

How To Guard Against Home Blackout Accidents

WHILE you are making preparations for blacking out your home be sure to make it safe against accidents that may occur in darkened or dimly lighted rooms. Accidents in homes that were not under any war time blackout killed 33,000 persons in the United States and permanently disabled another 140,000 in the year 1940, to say nothing of the nearly 5,000,000 persons who suffered some degree of temporary disability.

Disorder, poor housekeeping in the part of the home where the accident occurred, was the mechanical factor most frequently involved in these peace time home accidents, causing nearly one-fifth of them, according to figures from the National Safety Council.



HAZARD

If you have to blackout your home, will you face the danger of falls because your stairs are cluttered as these are? Americans used to plenty of light at their fingertips now should learn how to make homes safe for darkness. Photographs from National Safety Council.