

**BIG SHIPBUILDING PRICE CUT PLANNED**

U. S. Basic Rates of \$150 a Ton May Be Result of Piez's Conferences.

**COMPETITION TO BE MET**  
Government to Abandon Risk on Material and Labor in Future.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Readjustment of shipbuilding costs to peace time production is expected by experts of the Shipping Board to establish a basic price in the neighborhood of \$150 a ton for future contracts let to American yards.

Recent conferences here among General Manager Piez of the Emergency Fleet Corporation and representatives of Pacific coast builders were said to have developed virtual unanimity of opinion that high cost methods of production which prevailed at a time when the national emergency demanded speed in production above everything else, should be eliminated as quickly as possible to obtain a return to sound business practice. Prospects of keen competition in world trade routes, the Western men were told, made it necessary to hold construction costs to a figure which would permit the payment of dividends from competitive rates which would have to be established in order to get business.

**Price Basis Fixed.**  
The Pacific coast representatives, it was said, agreed that a reduction in cost was necessary, and while no attempt was made to obtain an approval of any definite price for future contracts, the suggestion was made that \$150 a ton, which is about the same as the average British price of £30, would be an average rate, with increases according to the situation of the various yards.

Cancellation of orders which had been placed for many thousands of tons of shipping was discussed at length. It was explained that the end of hostilities made necessary the cancellations as a matter of economy. While the war continued costs were kept to a minimum, but with less consideration than construction of bottoms, whereas now the imperative need has passed the Fleet Corporation desires to place contracts at as favorable a figure as possible. It was said there was no intention of permitting any steel ways to remain idle, however, especially so long as the prohibition against acceptance of contracts for foreign governments remains.

The cancelled contracts will be replaced with new orders when the steel are empty, but they are expected to be considerably below those prevailing during the war, which sometimes ran as high as \$350 a ton.

**Policy Concerning Costs.**  
Government assumption of labor and material hazards also will be abandoned in the future. During the period of hostilities the Shipping Board adopted a policy of absorbing increased costs. Increases in wages and overtime pay alone amounted to \$300,000,000. Hereafter shipyard operators will assume the risk of a rise in the price of material or of demands for more pay from their workmen, the Government withdrawing its supervision over such questions and treating the industry like any other with which Government orders are placed.

Readjustment of production costs is expected to be facilitated by new prices for steel, though the reductions scarcely will affect that part of the shipbuilding programme now under construction. Most of the steel ships now being built were contracted for at a lump sum, but the Fleet Corporation is expected to benefit in the remaining contracts, based on the cost plus system.

"In most instances the yards have purchased their steel and the new prices will have little effect upon them," it was said by D. H. Cox, manager of the steel ship section. "All future contracts will be ruled by the new rate."

It was said the Shipping Board regarded the cut in prices as likely to encourage more shipbuilding.

**DOUBT "JAPANESE" STORY.**  
State Department Skeptical About Mexican Land Deal.

Special Despatch to This Sun.  
WASHINGTON, March 21.—Although the State Department has made inquiry of the California and Mexico Land Company regarding a report that the company contemplated selling 500,000 acres of land in Mexico to a Japanese syndicate, the matter is not taken seriously here by officials. They do not believe that any such undertaking is seriously under consideration, despite the fact that Senator Phelan (California) has called attention to the report.

There have been similar reports current periodically during the last ten years or more and in each case investigation has shown that they were without foundation.

**\$100,000,000 IS PAID TO RAILROAD BOARD**

War Department Provides Money on Account of Bills Now Due.

**MORE MILLIONS RECEIVED**  
Total Sums, Including Loans, Expected to Meet Current Cash Needs.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The urgent need of the Railroad Administration for ready cash with which to meet current obligations was partially met to-day through payment of \$100,000,000 by the War Department on account of transportation of troops and war supplies.

The payment, it was announced at the War Department, covers bills already approved, and anticipates bills which ordinarily would fall due in the next three months. War Department accountants have computed the amount now due from the Department to be \$55,000,000, while the Railroad Administration estimates it at \$80,000,000.

**Unexpended Funds Used.**  
Acting Secretary Crowell in announcing the payment, said the sum had been made available by the shifting of funds heretofore appropriated but unexpended. Ordinarily, Railroad Administration officials explained, the War Department would have made payments direct to the railroads rendering service, but the aggregate payment direct to the Railroad Administration was arranged to aid the administration in its present financial situation.

The payments also would have been spread over the next three months in the ordinary course of business and consequently this amount must be subtracted from railroad receipts for this period. The money will be distributed by the Railroad Administration to meet the current cash requirements of treasurers of individual roads.

**Enough to Meet Needs.**  
With this payment, the \$50,000,000 advanced by the War Finance Corporation, a payment of \$10,000,000 recently by the Navy Department on account of transportation, and various loans to be repaid by railroads in the next few weeks, the Railroad Administration expects to have sufficient funds to meet its current cash requirements.

Trade acceptances are to be used in financing equipment purchases, and certificates of indebtedness are to be given to railroads for amounts due from the Railroad Administration on last year's accounts. Detailed plans for the issuance of these certificates of indebtedness which will be used as collateral for loans to individual railroads by the War Finance Corporation, are to be announced soon.

**DECISION RESERVED ON PAPER REHEARING**  
Counsel Says Newspaper Manufacturing Costs Are Lower.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Reopening of the Federal Trade Commission's investigation of the cost of manufacturing newspaper, paper, with a view to reducing maximum prices fixed for the summer months of last year, was argued to-day before the commission, which deferred decision.

"An investigation in Canada shows there is no increase in manufacturing costs, but a decrease," declared G. W. Wickersham, formerly Attorney-General, appearing for the American Newspaper Publishers Association. This is true, he said, of four of the big newspaper companies and a new question for the commission's consideration.

Henry A. Wise, counsel for the manufacturers, opposed the publishers' application for renewal of the commission's inquiry, contending that its decision was final, and that accountants for the publishers, the manufacturers and the commission had investigated the Canadian companies before the price fixing decision.

Chairman Colver withdrew from the case, explaining that he regarded a statement made by Mr. Wise before the New York Circuit Court Judges, on an appeal from the commission's findings, as reflecting on his "fitness as an arbitrator." Mr. Colver said that before entering the case he had explained his ownership of newspaper properties, and that the manufacturers' counsel had offered no opposition to his acting as an arbitrator. Mr. Wise replied that his remark that he "would rather go to war than before the commission" was jocular.

Victor Murdock, another commissioner having newspaper interests, asked Mr. Wise if there was any objection to him and Mr. Wise replied there was none.

**Porto Rican Troops Leave.**  
PANAMA, March 21.—The last detachment of Porto Rican soldiers who formed part of the garrison of the canal during the war sailed for home to-day. Many of the men married here and are taking their wives back with them.

Broadway at 34th St.

**Saks & Company**

In the Heart of New York—Direct by Subway, Tube and "L"

'Phone Greeley 2626

Five New Styles selected from 1,000

\$5.95

**Wonder Hats**

On Sale at Saks Today



A smart drooping dress Hat of Lisere Straw, with edging of Hair Lace. Faced with Georgette Crepe, and trimmed with Ostrich Plume and Velvet Ribbon. 5.95.



One of the very new "Bow" Hats. Made of Georgette Crepe and Gros de Londre Silk. Very youthful. 5.95.



A distinctive small type sailor, with hand-made brim. Developed in Lisere Straw, with Ostrich Crown and Plume. Faced with Georgette Crepe. 5.95



A stunning Chin-Chin Sailor, with transparent Hair Lace Crown and straw brim. Trimmed with Velvet Ribbon and wreath of colorful flowers.



A new plateau Turban of Lisere Straw, finished with Silk Ribbon and Burnt Fancy Feather. One of the smartest hats seen this Spring. 5.95.

**Saturday on the Second Floor**  
**New Tailor-Made Suits for Misses**



Duplicates of models by Jenny and Lanvin  
**At \$39.50**

These world-famous couturiers put both youth and distinction into the originals of these wonderful models—the choicest of "tailor-mades" shown this Spring for the youthful Miss. The selection shows new phases of the

Short box coat idea, Russian blouse, belted and sports models, together with most exquisite tailleurs

displaying detachable Gilets of tricotette, moonglo-silk, pongee, and bright-toned linen. The materials are those now very much in demand—

Tricotette, men's wear serge, snowflake burra, wool Jersey, imported tweeds and black and white checks.

Exceptional Value—

**Misses' Smart Frocks**  
**At \$25**



Styles that are full of the vivacity of youth, in straight silhouette, distinctive Bouffant, Pannier, and gracefully draped effects.

Fashioned of lustrous satin, chiffon taffeta, figured foulard, Georgette crepe and satin combined,

tastefully trimmed with silk embroidery, pinched tucks, ruffles and silk feather stitching. Sizes 14 to 18 years.

**Misses' Fashionable Capes and Cape Coats**

will be found in a very wide assortment on our second floor. The models are among the choicest shown by leading European and American couturiers, developed in Evora, Bolivia, silvertone, tricotette, silk faille, Poiret twill, wool Jersey, and fine serge. Sizes 14 to 18 years. Priced very reasonably From \$15 to \$98.50

Saturday—In the Saks Greatly Enlarged Department for Girls—Second Floor

**A Very Youthful Cape**  
**At \$13.75**



simply wonderful in its styling

A new full-sweep cape that is real girlish in effect, yet has all the graceful lines of those created for "Big Sister."

Fashioned of navy blue serge, showing quaint hood, lined throughout with foulard silk and finished with tassel.

Another model at \$13.75

just teems with individuality. It is in smart yoke effect, with the very successful belted front. Sizes 6 to 16 years.

**Winsome Serge Capes for Junior Girls at \$18.75**

Stunning shirred back model with vestee front and shawl collar. Beautifully made—assuring the best of service—and lined throughout with silk foulard. Sizes 12 to 16.



Very practical—Yet Decidedly Individual

**Girls' Crepe Frocks**  
**Saturday at \$7.50**

Delightful loose-fitting Bishop style frocks, in a variety of youthful colorings, trimmed with hand-embroidery in contrasting color, and finished with dainty ribbons at side to match embroidery. Sizes 6 to 10 years.

For Today—  
**BOYS' Serviceable Suits**

Some With Extra Knickers  
**At \$13**

Tailored to withstand the hard usage boys give to their clothing, by men who have made the production of boys' apparel a life study. Splendid assortment of materials. Sizes 8 to 18 years.

**Boys' Suits**  
with Extra Knickers  
**At \$18.75**



Clever waist-seam and Norfolk styles, featuring a variety of new treatments and tailored according to a very high standard of workmanship. Mixtures of the finest grades. Sizes 8 to 18 years. Pictured.

For Cool Spring Days—  
**Boys' Reefers**  
Very Special  
**At \$8.50**

The ever practical Spring garment, in a variety of new models, tailored in Fancy Mixtures of known dependability. Sizes 3 to 8 years.

**BOYS' Blouses and Shirts**  
Special \$1.15

Well-made Blouses in colorings active boys lean toward. Some in sports effects, others in Eton style, and still more with collars attached. Sizes 6 to 16 years; neckland in shirts, 12 to 14 1/2.



**The Hat Pictured**  
is one of a large collection for Girls

assembled on the Second Floor.  
**At \$5.75**

We are making a special feature of Hats at this modest price, the variety of styles, and the values exceeding anything before shown.

Fashioned of the Newest Girlish Braids, trimmed with Flowers and Ribbon Novelties

Also a splendid assortment of tailored Hats  
**At \$3 to \$5.75**

We have made unusual preparations to present today  
Fifteen New and Very Charming  
**Spring Suits for Women**  
**At \$35**



Suits that have all the chic and beauty of their expensive imported prototypes.

Smart Russian Blouse, Box Coat, Belted and Straight Line Effects

with embellishment of rich embroidery, silk braiding, and vestees of silk tricotette, silk faille, khaki-kool, and a new striped material in Oriental effect.

THE MATERIALS: Poiret twill, gabardine, men's wear serge, tweeds, heather mixtures, wool Jersey, worsted checks.

Fourth Floor

**Saks & Company**

direct attention to a rare collection of

**Women's Exquisite Dolman Wraps**  
**At \$39.50**

Reproductions of costly importations by J nny, Lanvin Bernard and other well known couturiers, exhibiting many charming style innovations not before shown in wraps below seventy-five dollars. Beautifully tailored in the most successful materials:

Silvertone, duvet de laine, tricotette, gabardine, men's wear serge, and rich mixtures, all lined with plain or novelty silks

**Dolman Capes and Coats**

are the mode of the hour—Saks present a splendid assortment for women today

**At \$25**

Coats and Capes that have an unusual appeal because of their departure from the commonplace. They are moderately priced garments with all the character and grace expected at much higher cost. Fashioned of

wool poplin, men's wear serge, gabardine and wool velour

in every wanted color—sand, Overseas blue, rookie, navy and black. The style pictured is a straight line model, in wool poplin. Sizes 34 to 46.

**La Vida Corsets**

are favored by fashionably dressed women because of their perfect lines

La Vida are the best moderate priced corsets made. The new model for Spring are even more graceful than those previously introduced, helping wonderfully to idealize the figure and perfect the new silhouette. We are now showing these new models in coutil, satin, batiste, and broche.

**At \$5 to \$15**

Exceptional Value!

**Genuine Pink Shell Cameo Lavallieres**  
**At \$2.95**



Regularly \$6.50. Exquisite pink shell cameos (as pictured), on solid gold engraved mountings, suspended on solid gold chains. We have never before offered such splendid values in genuine cameos.

**Saks**  
CLOTHES OF CUSTOM QUALITY

WITH the coming of Spring we get into thinner fabrics and consequently onto thinner ice as regards shape-retaining tailoring. Lightweight clothes require all the cunning of a tailor's ten digits. Not hot ironing, but haute tailoring is what counts.

Suits: \$30 to \$65  
Top Coats: \$25 to \$45

**Saks & Company**  
BROADWAY AT 34TH STREET