

CLOTHES RATION COUPONS

All Clothing Is Covered By New System: Identity Cards Needed HASTY BUYERS WARNED

Clothes rationing will operate throughout Australia from next Monday. Today and tomorrow, ration books will be issued to all persons holding identity cards. Once the scheme is introduced, coupons will be needed for hundreds of articles which previously could be bought at will. Shops will not open until Tuesday, as Monday is a public holiday.

In each ration book are 112 clothes coupons, but it is emphasised that these must cover the requirements of each person for a year. Unwise buying will react to the buyer's disadvantage, as he may have to go without articles he may need later. Clothing cannot be had without coupons.

ONLY SECOND-HAND WEAR EXEMPT

Coupons must never be cut into pieces. Even if a small piece of cloth over a certain size is required to repair an article a coupon must be tendered. Coupons must be given for all goods delivered after June 15, even if they were ordered before then.

SPECIAL provision has been made for expectant mothers, but the only exemption from the coupon scheme is second-hand clothing.

Clothing coupons protect consumers' right to a fair share of the clothes available. Fewer clothes are being produced now for the civilian population than in peacetime. Less shipping space is available for importing materials, many workers have been transferred to war production and provision must be made for our own and visiting forces.

Nevertheless, there is enough to meet real needs if all share and share alike and coupon rationing will ensure that each gets his fair share.

The public must give up coupons to buy clothes, cloth (including linings), footwear and knitting wool. The number of coupons for any garment is set out in the tables on Page 7. When buying, the consumer must hand his ration book to the shopkeeper, who will cut out the correct number of coupons for the goods bought and return the book.

Except for mail orders, clothing coupons must not be detached from the book. When goods are ordered by post the correct number of coupons must be cut, and the purchaser should sign his name, write his ration book number clearly on the back of the coupons and post them with the order.

Should coupons be returned because the retailer is unable to supply the goods, these coupons can be used only for another mail order.

There are 112 coupons marked G and H in the book. These are

for clothing and must provide for all your clothing purchases for a year.

Coupons marked H are not for use until after November 15, 1942. Coupons marked G may be used at any time during the year ended June 15, 1943. Members of the same family living together may use each other's books for buying clothes. For this purpose a family means parents and children only.

Loose coupons are valueless except in the following cases:—

(1) Coupons may be detached for mail orders, provided they are used in the way described.

(2) In cases approved by the Commission, employers may tender coupons detached from books of their employees for the purpose of buying uniforms.

(3) In cases approved by the Commission, heads of institutions when buying clothing for inmates may tender with the order coupons detached from the books of inmates.

In all other cases loose coupons are valueless, and it is an offence to attempt to use them. It is an offence to give loose coupons to anyone, or to accept them as a gift, or to buy or sell loose coupons.

Coupons must never be cut into parts. When a piece of cloth, according to the scale, requires, say, one and a quarter coupons, only one coupon need be given up. If, however, the odd fraction is half or more than half, say, one and three-quarters then two coupons must be given up. If less than one coupon is re-

quired for the whole purchase, one full coupon must be given up.

If a number of purchases are made at the same time the coupon values may be added. For example, purchases requiring quarter of a coupon and one and three-quarters coupons respectively may be added and two coupons only surrendered.

There are 112 coupons to cover the whole year's purchases. The worst mistake is to rush in to buy without careful thought.

These 112 coupons have to provide clothing for next summer as well as the winter of 1943. Those who buy unwisely now may find later that they have to go without things they really need. People should get clothes when they need them, and if they don't need the clothes, leave them for those who do.

Rationed goods are listed on Page 7, together with the number of coupons required to purchase them. If a garment is not listed, but is really a substitute for one that is, then the unlisted garment counts the same as the listed one and requires the same number of coupons.

Household linen, furnishing fabric and drapery are unrated when bought already made up. Thus, table cloths, sheets, pillow-slips, cushions, etc., can be bought without surrendering coupons, but if a person buys material to make up these goods he must give up coupons corresponding to the amount of material.

The reason for this is that materials of this sort could be used for clothing and it would be unfair

to let people who could afford to do so get more than their ration by buying these materials.

Secondhand goods can be sold without coupons.

Coupons must be given for all goods delivered after June 15 even if they were ordered before that day. The only exception to this rule is for lay-bys made before May 8, provided that the goods are paid for and delivered before July 31.

In hire purchase, time payment and all credit and c.o.d. sales, the retailer must cut the full amount of coupons needed on or before delivery of the goods, irrespective of when payment for the goods is to be made.

Coupons are required for new rationed goods sold by auction.

Gifts between members of the public do not require coupons, but where charitable organisations give away new rationed clothing they must collect coupons from the recipients.

Institutions which supply inmates with new rationed clothing, whether free or not, must collect the appropriate number of coupons.

If a person has garments repaired or renovated he must surrender coupons for the amount of rationed material used in such repairs. Exceptions are:

(1) Small pieces of cloth not exceeding 72 square inches; e.g., 8in. x 9in. are coupon-free.

(2) Mending wool is coupon-free when sold in amounts not exceeding 1oz.

(3) Repairs to footwear and materials for such repairs are coupon-free.

NEWS TIPS

THE following Mirror readers have been successful this week:

10/- AWARD TO

T. McNAMARA, 88 Balfour Road, Rose Bay.
D. ANDREWS, 48 Stanmore Road, Marrickville.
MR. HEALEY, 7 Spearman Street, Chatswood.
MRS. R. SULLIVAN, 539 Pacific Highway, Artarmon.
JAMES RICE, 37 Goodwin Street, Rozelle.
DOUGLAS ANDREWS, 48 Stanmore Road, Marrickville.
WM. FINDLEY, 67 Mitchell Street, Enfield.
MR. L. THOMAS, c/o Post Office, Willoughby.
MR. R. THORNE, c/o Springfield Inn, Darlinghurst Road, King's Cross.

5/- AWARD TO

WM. NUNN, 34 Robert Street, Marrickville.
J. ALSBURY, 61 Rose Street, Leichhardt.

Other prizes are awarded for Hints, Letters, etc. These are published in each issue of the Mirror.

The abovementioned sums will be forwarded to prizewinners in due course.

Women Will Be Made-Over

By Women Staff Reporters.

The appearance of Australian women will be completely "made over" as a result of clothes rationing.

Hats, gloves and stockings are sure to be sacrificed in an endeavor to balance the coupons.

Since each yard of 36-inch material takes 34 coupons, frocks will be shorter, while flared and pleated skirts will be replaced by the "pencil slim" line.

Since two brassieres and one corset or girdle must last a year, if other essentials are to be purchased, figures are likely to be less trim, while the problem of a woman who puts on weight is likely to be a major tragedy.

With one pair of shoes taking eight coupons, choice is likely to fall on low-heeled, all-purpose styles, rather than on high-heeled fancy footwear.

Astonishment Caused

With publication of the official scale of coupons, women were astonished to see that there were to be no concessions for the woman who makes her own clothes.

A long-sleeved frock, for instance, takes 13 coupons; a dress length (average 4yds. of 36in. material) will also take 13 coupons.

Half a coupon is required for each skein of wool. A ready-made cardigan requires seven coupons. Twelve to fourteen skeins of wool are required for a cardigan, requiring six to seven coupons.

Hardest hit by rationing is the housewife who, out of her personal coupon issue, must find coupons for household piece goods, such as sheeting, towelling, and other manchester, when purchased by the yard.

The woman who must balance a limited financial budget has, in the past, found it possible to economise by making up household articles from piece goods. She will now be forced to purchase sheets, tablecloths, etc., ready-made, or, alternatively, to sacrifice her personal clothing coupons to buy the material by the yard.

Winter Shivers

"Shockingly inadequate" is the general impression of the clothing allowance for women.

Hundreds of business girls and housewives, who telephoned the Daily Mirror office today, pointed out that working girls, who, owing to the frantic rush of panic-buying were unable to purchase topcoats and other articles of warm clothing, must shiver throughout the winter if their coupon issue is to cover other necessities.

A topcoat alone takes 27 coupons—that is almost half the total coupon issue usable until November.

Waitresses and salesgirls, who are required to wear uniforms, are penalised by having to hand over the requisite number of coupons so that their employer may obtain the uniform.

Munition workers are also penalised, as aprons and overalls are essential to their job. They must expend five of their coupons for an apron, nine for an overall.

The following is a suggested list of essentials which can be purchased on the ration issue.

One suit, 23; two summer frocks (short sleeves), 24; one short-sleeved non-woollen blouse, 6; one woollen jumper, 5; two nightdresses, 22; one pair corsets, 4; two brassieres, 4; two pairs scanties, 8; one petticoat, 8; one pair shoes, 8; total, 112.

COUPONS NECESSARY FOR UNIFORMS

Where it is necessary for an employer to supply uniforms to his staff, he must arrange for coupons to be collected from employees' books and forward them to the supplier in the same manner as for mail orders. The coupons forwarded by the employer must be accompanied by a statement, signed by him, that the coupons were obtained to buy uniforms.

UNIFORMS are regarded as necessary for the following organisations: Fire brigades, police forces, uniformed staff of Government departments, uniformed staff of local government and semi-Government authorities, and such other organisations as the Rationing Commission may specify from time to time. Permission to collect coupons and other necessary information may be obtained from the office of the N.S.W. Deputy Director of Rationing (Mr. Hudson).

A special allowance of 100 clothing coupons will be issued to cover the needs of each baby from birth until he is six months old.

The expectant mother may apply for this special allowance at any time after the fourth month of pregnancy. The application must be accompanied by a doctor's certificate. In the case of multiple births, a further special issue will be made at birth or

earlier, if the doctor is able to give a certificate that a multiple birth is expected.

After the child is six months old the mother may apply for a further special allowance to cover its clothing needs until the beginning of the following ration year. The application must be accompanied by the child's birth certificate or the District Registrar's acknowledgment of registration.

A special allowance of 50 clothing coupons will be made to the expectant mother to cover her own additional clothing needs.

It is not intended that this allowance should be sufficient for all the clothes she needs to buy during pregnancy, but only to supplement her ordinary ration. The mother should apply for these coupons when she applies for the special allowance for the baby.

The mother may, if she wishes, use

some of these coupons to buy additional clothes for the baby, but the baby's allowance may be used to buy only infant's clothing or material suitable for making such clothing.

Growing children wear out clothing more quickly than adults. Provision is made for this by the lower number of coupons required for garments of the sizes and kinds usually worn by children.

Personnel discharged from the services will need extra supplies of civilian clothing and additional coupons may be obtained. They should apply to the Deputy Director of Rationing in N.S.W. Extra coupons will be available only for personnel discharged after May 1, 1942.

Immigrants and refugees who do not possess a ration book should apply to the Deputy Director of Rationing. They will be issued with a book and where they can show that extra

clothing is needed, additional coupons will be made available.

Service personnel are not issued with general ration books. Special arrangements are made for their clothing.

Special arrangements are being made to enable the Red Cross to obtain clothing and clothing materials. Members of the Red Cross who wish to obtain material for clothing for Red Cross purposes should get in touch with their local branch. These arrangements will cover the regular sending of parcels by next-of-kin to prisoners of war overseas.

The official representative of other voluntary and patriotic organisations may apply to the Deputy-Director for special consideration.

Special arrangements have been made to provide nurses' uniforms. Details will be available from the Nurses' Board.

REPLACING CLOTHING LOST OR BURNED

If clothing is lost or destroyed by fire, theft, enemy action or other cause, the person concerned may apply to the Deputy Director of Rationing. If he is satisfied that he has lost, and is in need of, essential clothing, he will supply him with coupons or a permit to purchase new clothes.

IF a person is called up for service in any of the armed forces he should take his ration book with him, as he will be asked for it.

If he is leaving Australia for more than four weeks he must hand his ration book to a Customs officer at the last port of call.

When a person dies, the person registering the death is responsible for seeing that the deceased's ration book is handed to the Registrar of Deaths, together with the identity card.

When a number of purchases is made at the same time, the number of coupons is decided by adding up all the separate items.

Persons engaged in occupations or industries requiring special or extra clothing should apply through their employers or their union for special consideration of their needs.

The Commission will consider special cases not detailed here. Information may be obtained from the Deputy-Director of Rationing.

Each identity card will carry the number of the ration book issued. A retailer may at any time demand to see a buyer's identity card, as well as his ration book. Officers of the Rationing Commission may also require customers engaged in buying rationed goods to produce their identity cards.

Everyone should always have his identity card with him when away from home. Have it handy when buying rationed goods.

If a book is lost, stolen or destroy-

ed, the loser will have to satisfy the Rationing Commission that the loss is genuine, otherwise new books will not be issued and will not contain the full number of coupons. A statutory declaration will be required in all cases, and a charge may be made.

If at any time a person wishes to complain of the treatment he has received under the rationing system or to make inquiries as to how he should proceed in certain cases, he should write to the Deputy Director of Rationing in N.S.W.