

SOAP TAKES A HOLIDAY

Monday was never the housewife's favourite in peacetime and little did any woman think she'd ever look back regretfully to the day when the line was full of washing. But such is life. Today the line is naked. Many a woman can't wash because soap flakes and soap have vanished. In many places they just can't be bought.

Soap, meanwhile, has come under coupon rationing, which still doesn't help if the shops haven't got any. So the Ministry of Food was rung up by ^{t indignant} Mrs. Housewife, now ~~feeling very sore about it.~~

X ^{has} All the little evacuees are back in town, playing about and getting dirty in the process, which means more soap wanted than ever. Laundries can't be very helpful. They often say they can't do washing in less than six weeks....

X It's not their fault. They're desperately short of labour. So much so that the Institute of Launderers ^{passed a resolution} ~~resolved to~~ ^{to} send a deputation to the Ministry of Labour to put their case, and ask for help in getting enough women to run their plants at capacity..... There's no soap shortage in the laundries. Their trouble is purely and simply not enough labour. The more work they can take the more soap there'll be for the housewife; laundries can use it far more economically than at home. Just now they're doing sometimes double their peacetime work, with half their machines idle because of no hands to work them. Priority army and hospital work ~~mountain~~ pushes ordinary washing into the background.... All of which doesn't appease Mrs. Housewife.