

OPERATION BOOTSTRAP

Faced with economic difficulties five years ago, Puerto Rico, Uncle Sam's "Little Nephew", has followed a master plan of economic recovery that has brought 50 new industries to the island.

Operating on a fiscal budget of only \$70,000,000 for its 2,000,000 population, the island has undertaken an impressive program of economic and social self-government. Its public debt of about \$8,000,000 is 75% under what it was less than ten years ago. It is now a major market for U.S. goods, buying at the rate of \$337,000,000 annually. Income has tripled since 1940 to a present total of around \$630,000,000.

The island has launched huge housing projects, is working out an electric power program, and is modernizing its water sanitation and irrigation services. Its new industries will boost industrial wealth by nearly \$50,000,000. Some of Puerto Rico's industrial and technical "know-how" is pictured here.



HOUSING PROJECT under way near San Juan. Mass production methods have helped provide more than 10,000 private homes in three years.



WELDING CLASS at the vocational trade school at Rio Piedras. The school, one of world's largest, has 3,000 students.



TRUCKLOADS of sugar cane roll to the centrales for grinding. Island ships nearly million tons of raw sugar to U.S. each year.



MODERN HOTEL goes up in San Juan. The 10-story, 300-room Caribe-Hilton hotel, costing \$6,500,000, opens on December 9.



KITCHEN and bathroom equipment is turned out at the Puerto Rico Clay Products Company.



SALT WORKER at Cabo Rojo where sea water is dehydrated to produce a valuable crop.



STREET SCENE, Traffic cop and row of cars in San Juan remind one of a U.S. Main Street. Modern stores line thoroughfare.

