

# THIS WEEK IN DEFENSE

The Supply Priorities and Allocation Board ordered its executive director, Donald M. Nelson, to compile an overall list of U. S. and lend-lease defense needs as part of a detailed master plan for the defense effort. The SPAB ruled that no materials will be allowed for new plants for civilian goods if the materials are needed for military purposes.

### Aid To Britain

British Foreign Minister Eden informed the United States all materials received by Great Britain under the Lend-Lease Act were used exclusively for war purposes and that none is being diverted to private channels. Secretary of State Hull said there had been some misunderstanding about British exports and the message explained what the two Governments are undertaking to do cooperatively.

Federal Security Administrator McNutt said the U. S. Employment Service plans to seek several thousand American specialists between 18 and 50 for employment by the British Civilian Technical Corps as radio and automobile mechanics, electrical wiremen, instrument repairers, metal workers and other technical tradesmen for service in England repairing vital equipment used by the British armed forces. Mr. McNutt said men needed for national defense jobs in this country will not be airtight but selective service headquarters have authorized local draft boards to grant deferment in Class IIB for men joining the C. T. C.

The Commodity Credit Corporation made available for Lend-Lease operations in the past two weeks 100,130 bales of cotton and 1,345,000 bushels of corn. The Red Cross announced it will send a delegation to Russia to study and report on most urgent needs in that country and how to meet them.

### Ships Built

The Maritime Commission announced the largest mass launching of ships since the World War will take place September 27 when 12 ships slide down the ways. Four other new merchant ships in the 560-ship long-range program are

being delivered to operators between September 11 and September 19, making a total of 110 vessels completed under the program. The Navy Department announced launchings of two cruisers and one minesweeper. The Maritime Commission said to meet increased demand for officers in the merchant marine it has opened competitive examinations for cadet appointments. Applications must be submitted to the Commission before November 8.

### Ships Attacked

The Maritime Commission announced the U. S. freighter "Steel Seafarer" was sunk in the Gulf of Suez. The State Department reported the "Sessa", operated by an American firm, was sunk near Iceland with 24 men lost and the "Montana", an American owned ship was torpedoed on the way to Iceland with a cargo of lumber.

### Army Safety

The War Department estimated that, despite rigors of field maneuvers this fall, there will be a considerably lower accident and death rate for the 752,000 troops participating than for a corresponding number of civilians. The estimate predicted 236 deaths and 40,000 admissions to hospitals for diseases and injury.

### Air

Assistant War Secretary for Air Lovett told the press Army War games will provide a preview of the "world's finest" military air-craft but "in point of quality... although production is now beginning to roll and... should enable us to equip combat units... one squadron every other day." The Air Corps announced it is testing a new four-engine flying fortress which is bigger and has more fire power than models now in use by the U. S. and Great Britain.

### Oil, Gasoline

The Special Senate Committee investigating the oil situation said the only shortage of petroleum products or of transportation facilities "is a 'shortage' in a large surplus which is desired." Acting Oil Coordinator Davies issued a statement saying, "the admittedly low condition of petroleum stocks on the East coast continues to mean shortage... (and) the necessity for public cooperation continues." SPAB refused to grant priorities on steel plates for construction of a 1,500 mile petroleum pipeline from Texas to New

York. Mr. Davies said the South-eastern pipeline between Port St. Joe, Fla., and Chattanooga, Tenn., will deliver 1,260,000 gallons of gasoline and other petroleum products daily to Georgia and Tennessee within 60 days.

### Prices, Inflation Control

The Labor Department announced retail food prices are at the highest level in 10 years—12.3 percent highest than a year ago. Treasury Secretary Morgenthau, speaking in Boston, said "inflation is no longer distant... we are facing it and... if we are selfish and shortsighted... the consequences may haunt us and our children for years, but if we look at the problem with firm resolve we can beat this thing."

Mr. Morgenthau said control of consumer installment credit, purchase of defense bonds and stamps and tax-anticipation notes are not enough to prevent consumer purchasing power from forcing prices up. He suggested extension and increase of social security benefits and unemployment compensation "wage" for the workers and reduction in non-essential expenditures in Federal, State and local governments. He also suggested release of Government help surplus stocks of food to hold down food prices.

### Priorities

Priorities Director Nelson made mandatory all priority ratings, issued ratings to assure civil air lines continued operation at high efficiency and to give assistance to 20 essential industries in obtaining repair materials.

### Priority Unemployment

The Bureau of Employment Security and representatives of the OPM Contract Distribution Division and Labor Division began a nation-wide survey to find jobs for workers laid off because of production curtailment due to shortages and diversion of materials to defense.

### New Plants

The Defense Plant Corporation and the War Department authorized

and awarded contracts for contracts for construction of six aluminum, magnesium and ordnance plants, totaling \$94,579,000. Opm recommended to the War Department construction of an aluminum plant at Troutdale, Ore., to produce 90,000,000 pounds annually.

### Farming Out

Acting Navy Secretary Forrestal announced creation of the vision to cooperate with the OPM in speeding up production by using facilities of small plants and employees whose industries are threatened by shutdown or dislocation because of priorities. Undersecretary of War Patterson directed the Army's 815 purchasing offices to bring more of the nation's industrial facilities into the defense program "to eliminate distress caused by loss of business" because of defense priorities.

### Defense Housing

The Defense Housing Coordinator distributed to all Federal Reserve Banks and branches application forms for special credit for the repair and remodeling of homes in defense areas.

Agriculture Secretary Wickard announced the 1942 farm program, calling for all-time record production—especially of hogs, eggs, evaporated milk, dry skin milk, cheese and chickens—to improve nutrition in this country and aid to other nations.

### Railroad Labor Board

President Roosevelt set up a five-man board to investigate the disputes between unions and railways and to report its findings

within 30 days. Wayne Lyman Morse, dean of the University of Oregon Law School, heads the Board.

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### Training For Defense

By Rufus T. Strohm

Dean, International Correspondence Schools



Rufus T. Strohm

It has to do with the big problem of American industry is to get the utmost production from existing machines and men. We could profit by a plan originated in Canada that is reported to be doubling the capacity for production of war materials.

It has to do with the repair shops of that industry were not in operation. When the resources of men and machines in the paper industry had been catalogued, the operators offered the government their facilities for the 16 hours daily to make airplane-engine parts, tank-engine parts, and fuses for shells and bombs.

Once the workers proved they could deliver parts to specification, the paper industry received a flood of sub-contracts from the government. Today this plan is providing a sizable part of the million and one-half man-hours needed for all-out aid to Britain.

Other Canadian industries which are not directly engaged in the production of munitions have volunteered their repair-shop facilities during stand-by periods. They also have offered to train unskilled men for war production. The mining industry, railroads, and public utilities now are following the same plan. This assures that every Canadian wheel is turning for defense.

The added man power comes from youthful and unskilled workers guided by skilled machinists. To qualify for the higher paying jobs, the unskilled men are required to study I.C.S. shop-practice courses in their spare time.

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