

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

Munitions Survey. Mass Production. New Plants Operating.

The new \$1,500,000,000 government owned munitions factories are beginning the mass production of the material needs of an army of four million men. While all of the plants are not yet in production, there has been an encouraging number to begin the manufacture of rifle and machine-gun ammunition, shells for infantry mortars, high explosive TNT for bombs, shells and large torpedoes.

It will probably be another year before the preparations will be complete to meet the wartime needs of our army, and at the same time, supply the needs of the nations fighting Hitler. The plants now turning out production were authorized about a year ago. Other plants, started afterwards, are coming along. Altogether, 67 government-owned plants have been provided for the ordnance department, eleven for the chemical warfare service and four assembly plants for the air corps.

A recent survey of the munitions picture, taking only major plants into consideration, shows that two high explosive plants, one for ammonia, two for small arms ammunition, two for smokeless powder, five for shell-loading, one for powder-bag loading and five miscellaneous plants are in actual production.

While the progress made may seem small to many Americans, it should be remembered that the United States is in the process of creating an armaments industry comparable to those that have been maintained by certain European nations for centuries. We started practically at scratch and, naturally, many months are required to plan and build the plants that must produce the munitions, equipment and instrumentalities of war.

Brig.-General Harry K. Rutherford, testifying before a House Military subcommittee, points out that present emergency demands the production of certain critical munitions, in unprecedented quantities and as early as possible. He includes ships, fighting aircraft, tanks, anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns and ammunition. To achieve the end in view, it will be necessary to utilize a much larger proportion of the productive resources of this country. He expressed the opinion that demands for munitions production will require use of all metal manufacturing concerns.

Selectees Unfit. Rehabilitation Plan. One-Half Needs Help.

The people of the United States should be deeply concerned with the fact that nearly fifty per cent of the 2,000,000 men examined for selective service have been found unfit mentally or physically.

Brigadier-General Hershey, Director of the Selective Service System, says that of the approximately one million rejected, 900,000, or about ninety per cent, were mentally or physically unfit. The physical rejections of registrants, he continued, were distributed as follows:

- Dental defects 188,000.
- Defective eyes 123,000.
- Cardiac vascular diseases 96,000.
- Musculo-Skeletal defects 61,000.
- Veneral Diseases 57,000.
- Mental and Nervous diseases 67,000.
- Hernia 56,000.
- Defects of Ears 41,000.
- Defective Lungs, including Tuberculosis 26,000.
- Miscellaneous 159,000.

Greatly concerned with the facts revealed, President Roosevelt has announced a program of rehabilitation for approximately 200,000 of these rejectees. Local physicians and dentists will give treatments, for which the Federal Government will pay as part of the cost of national defense. When the men reach the proper condition, they will be inducted into the service.

While there may be some doubt about the authority of the examining board to compel a registrant to undergo treatment, it is admitted that the registrant can be inducted into the Army and then compelled to undergo treatment.

It is interesting to observe that the Government, under the pressure of military necessity and events, is

getting ready to pay the cost of rehabilitation for something like 200,000 youths in order that they may serve their country.

The question immediately arises if the nation can spend this money to secure soldiers, can it afford to allow nearly fifty per cent of its young men to go through life with physical and mental deficiencies which can be alleviated by proper treatment? The President, in his statement, said that he would start a long-range program calling for the cooperation of State, counties, cities, townships and individuals, to remedy the underlying cause of the situation.

Neutrality Review. Policy Has Changed. Arming Merchantmen.

In connection with the discussion of neutrality, it might be well to recall that the first neutrality act came into being in the summer of 1935. At that time, the nation was isolationist and many of our citizens were convinced that the makers of munitions were largely responsible for instigating wars in the world. For this reason, the measure prohibited the export of armaments to belligerents. It was thought that such a ban would aid in the maintenance of peace in the world.

There are experts who maintain that the passage of the Neutrality Act, prohibiting the export of armaments, encouraged Hitler and Mussolini in their aggressive moves. To understand the argument, one should remember that certain nations in Europe possessed adequate plants for the production materials of war and that other nations, notably Great Britain, did not have the munitions industries.

Consequently, nations without munitions plants were rendered weaker, compared to those who possessed adequate industrial organizations for the output of munitions. The American neutrality law forbade the unprepared nations from purchasing armaments if they became belligerents.

Some revisions and amendments were made to the Neutrality Act in 1936 and 1937, but a major change was made after the World's War began in September, 1939. While isolationism was still strong, the arms embargo was replaced by a cash-and-carry rule, allowing the British and French to tap the resources of this country. This change was brought about, in our opinion, largely by the fact that a provision barring American ships from combat zones had expired and it was necessary to reenact this clause.

Under the Neutrality Act, signed November 4, 1939, by President Roosevelt, Congress placed bans on: (1) United States ships or citizens entering combat zones defined by the President; (2) on the arming of merchantmen; (3) on loans and credits to belligerents; (4) on the use of U. S. ports as supply bases for belligerent warships; (5) on American citizens traveling aboard belligerent vessels.

Subsequently, with the passage of the Lease-Lend Act last March, there was nothing left of the cash-and-carry provision, loans to belligerents were unnecessary and our drydocks were opened for the repair of British men-of-war. About all that was left of the Neutrality Act was the ban on American ships going into belligerent ports and the arming of merchantmen.

Some weeks ago, the President ordered American warships to shoot on sight any Axis raiders, in order to keep the seas safe for our merchant ships. Recently, he asked Congress for modification of the existing Neutrality Act to permit the arming of merchant vessels and indicated that the section prohibiting American vessels from sailing into combat zones and touching at belligerent ports should be repealed.

House Votes Funds. Aid For Russia.

Passage by the House of Representatives of the second \$5,985,000,000 Lease-Lend Bill, which brings to \$12,985,000,000 the sum appropriated to furnish aid to the countries the President deems vital to this country, by a vote of 328 to 67, is encouraging to those who hope that the nation can get together be-

hind the present foreign policy of the country.

It should be noted that 230 Democrats were for the bill and only eight against it. On the Republican side of the House, 96 Republicans supported the measure and only 56 went on record in opposition.

Observers noted that the three-day debate in the House was restricted generally to a discussion as to the amount of money to be granted for the program. It was generally admitted that the underlying policy of Lease-Lend was the law of the land under H. R. 1776, passed last March, and that the question of policy was not the issue.

Something of a fight was seen on the amendment to prohibit aid to Russia, which was offered by Rep. Rich, Republican, of Pennsylvania, but even this controversial proposal was defeated 106 to 21.

DEFENSE BOND QUIZ

Q. How do I get the highest return on my investment in Defense Savings Bonds?

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Q. Is the Government concerned over whether I buy my Defense Savings Stamps at post offices, banks, savings and loan institutions, retail stores, or elsewhere?

A. No. The Government is interested in having as many persons as possible take a hand in the National Defense Program. Toward that end the Treasury is making Bonds and Stamps available for purchase in the largest number of places possible.

Note.—To buy Defense Bonds and Stamps, go to the nearest post office, bank, or savings and loan association; or write to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C. Also Stamps are now on sale at retail stores.

SNOW HILL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Wallie Knight and daughter, of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end with Mrs. Knight's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wood.

Miss Eunice Harrell, of Norfolk, Va., is spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Harrell.

Mr. and Mrs. George Eure and son, Curtis, of White Hat, visited Mr. and Mrs. Moody Harrell Sunday afternoon.

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noon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harrell spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Barclift, at Nixonton.

Miss Lucille Cartwright was the week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Mason Sawyer, at Old Neck.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Benton, of Old Neck, visited Mrs. Mary Keaton on Sunday.

Mrs. Howard Matthews and children, of Norfolk, Va., were recent guests of Mrs. Mary Keaton.

W. M. S. MEETING AT MRS. LLOYD WINSLOW

The Up-River Woman's Missionary Society met Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Winslow. The devotional was conducted by Mrs. Ernest White and consisted of Scripture reading, singing and sen-

tence prayers. The lesson was given by Mrs. Arba Winslow. Miss Edith White read a poem. Miss Pearl White read a letter from Mrs. Ethel Payne, president of the Woman's Missionary Union, and gave the Missionary queries. Miss White also read a poem. Members answered to their names at roll call with a Scripture text containing the word "Love." Thirty-four visits to the sick were reported for last month and six hundred and eighty chapters of the Bible were read by members of the society.

A delightful social hour followed the program and business session. Mrs. Lloyd Winslow and Mrs. Ernest White as joint hostesses, served delicious refreshments.

One new member was reported as having joined during the month.

WHITESTON NEWS

Mrs. Milton Cullipher and son, of Merry Hill, spent a few days last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Riddick.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Winslow and daughter, of Norfolk, Va., Mr. and Mrs. Vann Spivey and daughter were week-end guests of Mrs. Verna Winslow.

Miss Doris Lane spent the week-end at Guilford College and attended Home-coming day.

William Winslow, U. S. Navy, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arba Winslow, during the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Arlan White, of Norfolk, Va., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mercer Winslow Sunday afternoon.

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