

4 STEEL FACTS in one minute

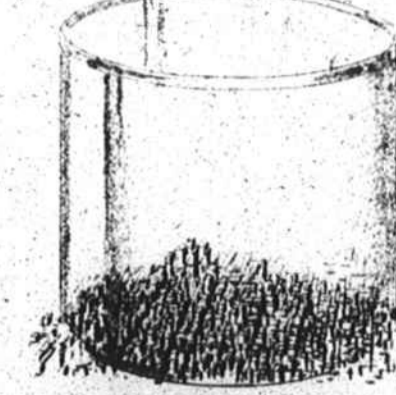
Steel Plants Now Running Night and Day
Steel plants run 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Employees average 5 days of 8 hours each.



Thomas Jefferson Manufactured Nails
The third American president employed 12 men on his plantation to make iron nails.

Steel Mills Could "Can" Pittsburgh

A year's output of the plants from American mills would make a great can 14 1/2 miles high and large enough to enclose Pittsburgh.



Steel Is Important Aircraft Material

About five tons of high grade alloy steels are needed to build a big bomber.

29 American Iron and Steel Institute

Washington Snapshots

(Cont'd from front page)
have a part in it. That approach is helpful to keep in mind if you want to follow defense news intelligently.

Washington observers, who have had the need for defense speed drilled in their ears constantly for the past few months, and who have had a good chance to watch the immense progress that has been made so far, feel pretty sure that any additional step-up in the program can only be achieved by men of the type now on the job.

Here is a little bit of history on this subject:

When our federal government began to "buy defense" on a large scale last June, it was putting the American public, which it represents, in business for itself in a big way. For the defense program was a kind of super-super enterprise that could only succeed if it were run along sound business lines of planning, coordinating, spending where it would do the most good, and producing the best possible finished product.

It was only natural, then, that business men should be put in charge of defense production and raw materials purchases and various other phases of this big industrial job. The presence of Messrs. Knudsen and Stettinius and Biggers and their compatriots gave the general public confidence and rightly so. These men were not primarily interested in performing interesting statistical tricks; they liked to see products rolling off the end of a well-synchronized assembly line. That was what the American people wanted to see, too.

Today, the public is getting what it wants in the form of an astonishing record of accomplishment. The full figures aren't available, of course, but even the scattered ones we have indicated clearly that defense progress has been remarkable in the tradition of private American manufacturing achievements. Statisticians tell us that in nine months we have made more progress, working together as free men, than the Nazis did in two and a half years with their much-vaunted government-dictated economy.

American industry has already completed more than 3 billion of the first 12 billion of defense goods ordered. Productive facilities of American aircraft factories increased 28 percent in the 59 days ending March 1. We are well on our way towards employing one million men in aircraft production.

The machine tool industry, vital because it makes the big "super-machines" upon which all mass production industries depend, has expanded by 2,000 percent over the depression low.

The two-ocean Navy will be ready two years ahead of schedule. Our newest battleships are coming off the ways a year ahead of the time originally anticipated.

Powder plants, tank factories, great sprawling aircraft plants, have been completed in record time and the machines have started turning over almost before the plaster was dry.

Steel production reached an all-time high.

And so the record reads It is more than evident that it was good judgment to select skilled production men to handle this biggest of all industrial jobs, that of making America strong.

Meanwhile, you can't help but become increasingly conscious, if you move in Washington circles, of the growing part that various Washington officials with little or no business experience are assuming in the defense structure. The names of Messrs. Hopkins, Henderson and Morgenthau are being mention-

ed ever more frequently in this connection.

Particularly significant has been the price-policing power recently put it to use by "fixing" steel prices.

Observers point out that Henderson's action seemingly runs head on into the activities of other branches of government which, by such devices as raising taxes drastically, stimulating wage increases, and the like, thereby automatically raise costs. Some day, they say, the realization must be faced that these factors enter into prices, and can cause prices to bump into artificially created "ceilings" with disastrous results.

Thoughtful people can't help wondering whether, in the clash of theories, the defense program may not turn out to be the real sufferer. At any rate, the prospect of planners, instead of doers having the final say on defense is one that a great many people in a position to know do not view with equanimity.

The 4-H Club enrollment for 1940 in the United States was the largest in the history of the organization with a total of 1,420,297 boys and girls listed as members.

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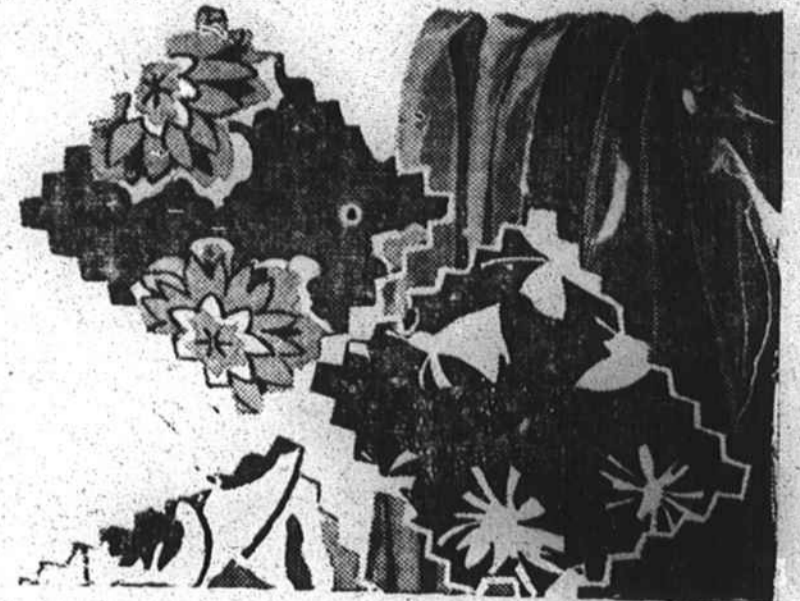
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