

Defense: **Getting Ready**

Removal of U. S. marines from China; the request of the President for an additional \$69,000,000 for Philippine defense, and the recruiting campaign by the War Department to increase the number of three-year men for overseas service—specifically for Hawaii and Panama—drew attention



"It's Loaded!"

to the spearhead of U. S. military power in the Far East—the Philippines. Army forces there have been quietly strengthened, intensively trained, and when mobilization is completed there will be 200,000 men, natives and Americans, under arms. A "strong air force has also been created, but no figures are given out.

Strong Marine Corps units have been established within striking distance in Samoa and in the Hawaiian area, while on the West Coast is a "Pacific amphibious force" of marines and soldiers prepared to operate with the Pacific fleet. Garrisons are being increased at both Hawaii and Panama. The Commonwealth force in the Philippines, under command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, former U. S. Chief of Staff, totals 11 divisions, well trained. Army appropriations now before Congress carry a total of \$247,000,000 for Far East forces. Japan is said to have an army of 2,000,000 men, with 3,600 first-line planes—but a large part are engaged in China, Manchukuo and French Indo-China.

The launching of the 35,000-ton battleship *Indiana* at Newport News, Va., the third battleship to come off the ways this year, indicated the increased tempo of defense production, which Admiral Land, of the Maritime Commission, said neared the "super-human." The Admiral pointed out that 436 Navy keels have been laid this year as against 156 in all of 1940. The original plan to build 500 merchant ships within a 10-year period, he added, has grown to a program of 1,600 ships by the end of 1943. Rear Admiral Greenslade, speaking at the beginning of a new \$500,000 naval section base at Morro Bay, Cal., declared the Navy could now take care of all American interests "except in the extreme case of a total Axis combination against us alone."

William S. Knudsen, Director of OPM, declared U. S. arms output will soon "assure Hitler's defeat." Proof of this claim was seen in the celebration, at New Haven, Conn., of one company's production of its 10,000th machine-gun within a year of the time the contract was signed to build a plant. Further evidence was seen as 29th Division soldiers, on maneuvers in South Carolina, made great trash piles of dummy weapons replaced by newly made arms pouring in at an "unprecedented rate." The OPM explained the rapid increase of output by giving the figure of total defense plant expansions approved up to Oct. 1 as 3,004, at a cost of \$5,260,000,000. Large numbers of expansions were in machinery, steel and aircraft plants.