

PATHFINDER

June 19, 1943 : p. 5

Some Production Figures

Output of ships, planes, guns and munitions reaches high level, with production steadily increasing.

In a speech to the Nation just after his appointment as Director of the Office of War Mobilization James F. Byrnes announced that the 100,000th warplane had just come off the assembly line. C. E. Wilson of the WPB gave the further information that heavy bombers were being produced at the rate of 500 a month, and that by April, 1944, the rate would be 1,000 a month. The OWI added that total plane production for 1943 will total \$20,100,000,000, or about a fourth of the war budget for the year.

Further war production figures given out by Mr. Byrnes included these:

The 1,000th Liberty ship was delivered in the last week of May; 175 cargo ships, aggregating 1,782,000 tons, were delivered in the month of May, making the total for the first five months of the year 700 ships—almost equal to the entire production for 1942. Production was said to be now four times the rate of Axis sub sinkings. The same period of five months saw the completion of 100 fighting ships. In May, 1943, Uncle Sam produced three times as many pieces of artillery as in the 19 months of World War I; he has produced 100,000 anti-aircraft cannon and 2,225,000 machine guns. As for high-explosive powder, the output is six times that of the last war—and 44,830,000 bombs have been manufactured.

Newsweek

JULY 14, 1941

Defense Week

PRODUCTION: American defense production is on or ahead of schedule, according to a survey by the National Association of Manufacturers. Of the \$18,698,000,000 worth of contracts let by May 31, 33 per cent had been completed, the association reported. Telegraphic reports from sixteen major producing areas showed that only 29 per cent of the manufacturers now complain of a shortage of machine tools, against 63 per cent in January. But changes in specifications after orders have been placed are still a major source of delay, with 59 per cent of the contractors complaining thereof.

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