

## Detroit

DETROIT, Dec. 10.—Look for Detroit to be its old self again by next summer—a madhouse. By next July around \$100,000,000 worth of new factories and additions will be coming into production.

The aircraft program, in particular the two standardized bombers, is almost certainly going to cut into the manufacture of automobiles for civilian use. I hear one guess that the industry cannot count on much more than four months of continued production at its present high rate in history—along about April the machinery and men will begin to be diverted to forming up parts for airplanes.

As everybody knows, the automobile industry was going to devote the autumn and winter deliberately to overproducing motor cars, in order to have a surplus on hand against the diversion of plants to war materials. It has not been successful. There is no surplus. One company is three weeks behind in deliveries, a condition without precedent in December.

The \$100,000,000 worth of new factories and machinery should not be confused with the plan for shifting some of the automotive capacity over to the manufacture of fuselage parts for bombers.

## Ford Plant Ready in April

The new factories include Ford's for American aircraft engines, Packard's for Rolls-Royce aircraft engines, Chrysler's for American tanks, Kelsey-Hayes for British machine guns, Murray's and Briggs' equipment for wing parts, and General Motors' equipment for American machine guns and Diesels.

Ford's \$11,000,000 plant for airplane motors is not yet above ground but it is expected to be employing the first of about 10,000 men in April. Last Monday the force at the Rouge plant was 80,521 persons, which was close to the top. The 10,000 are to be assembled mainly from the present complement, together with

(Ernie Pyle is en route to London)

By John W. Love

several hundred from the Ford training school which started a few years ago to give boys a three-month course in specializing machine work.

The contract consists of 4236 motors of two types for Pratt & Whitney. Their design is fully developed but the Ford staff will contribute its knowledge of shop practice to a production flow which is to reach one completed motor hourly.

The plant embodies the latest ideas, including a means of keeping any light from getting out through the windows at night, if that should ever be prudent.

Chrysler's \$20,000,000 plant for Army tanks will need about 6000 men for each eight-hour shift it puts on. These will be new men unless other shortage interferes with automobile production. The first model, done in mahogany like the first model of a new automobile, was on view this week.

## Murray to Add 10,000

The largest proportional increase in factory forces will take place at Murray Body. There 10,000 will be added to the 6000 now employed, after the plant is ready next year, the new men to make sections of an airplane wing for Douglas on a \$26,000,000 order.

Packard's Rolls-Royce engine, to be turned out for the British, is the same airplane engine that Ford Motor considered building. To make this engine without transforming its practices and producing everything special, the company had to do over again a large part of the detail, even down to the screw threads. British and American standards differed by that much. This accounts for the story that the motor had to be redesigned.

The British hesitated over the changes, but there was nothing for them to do. They will just have to carry two sets of spare parts.

Detroit today is a mass of technical skill. Draftsmen are crowded in everywhere, toolmakers are scarce. The forecast in all this preliminary work is an old-time production boom, the third in the city's experience.

route to London

## Inside Indianapolis (And "Our Town")

IF YOU BELIEVE THE SCENARIO WRITERS, newspapermen are a pretty hard-hearted lot. One of The Times' veteran employees, Bill Crab, has been working as assistant director of Clothe-A-Child. The other day he took a 4-year-old girl, cute and blond, on a shopping tour. With funds donated to Clothe-A-Child he purchased the clothing she so badly needed.

When they came back to headquarters, the little girl was nuzzling a huge doll. She raced to her mother, proudly displaying her new snowsuit, shoes, dress—and doll. The director kept staring at Bill and finally called him over, asking sternly:

"Where did she get that doll?" "Well, Bill stammered, "after we'd bought the clothing, she said she'd like to see Santa Claus. When we got in the toy department, she couldn't keep her eyes off that doll. She just looked and looked, her eyes getting bigger all the time. So, well, so I took two bucks of my own money and bought it for her." A pause, and then: "Man, she was certainly proud of it, wasn't she?"

"Humph," said the director. A few minutes later he called his assistant over and slipped him a folded \$1 bill.

"Here," he muttered, "I'd like to buy half of that doll for that little girl."

## Just Half as Much Work

TWO TRUCKS FROM DIFFERENT department stores drove up in front of one of the larger North Side apartment buildings. The drivers stepped out, piled up huge stacks of bundles. As they staggered up the main walk into the court, they met. Each laughed at the other. Then they got together. Each started sorting packages. It wound up with one making all deliveries in one wing, the other distributing all the packages in the other. Each saved many extra steps. That's co-operation.

## Washington

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—War Department officials are complaining of a shortage, not only of skilled workers, but of management personnel. They give the shortage in both respects as a reason for revising plans for a large number of small munitions plants to combine them into about 15 big units.

Complaint of a shortage in management men is heard everywhere around the Defense Commission. It is represented as being especially pressing in the aviation industry. Because of the enormous expansion, in some instances to four or five times previous capacity, administrative personnel has had to be diluted.

Available production engineers have been spread out so thinly that complaint is being heard that inefficient management in some plants management personnel has become a bottleneck.

That leads to much discussion of giving the Defense Commission a larger supervisory role over the defense industry. Everyone has his own variation of the idea, but one essential thing needed appears to be more power for William S. Knudsen and more engineering staff.

## Production Chiefs Urged

The central idea is that Knudsen would send his own production men into factories to coach for faster production, to spot time-losing methods, to consult with factory management on improvements in operations. Some think an aircraft production chief should be set up under Knudsen, and perhaps production chiefs for other general fields. These staffs of production men drawn from industry would as consultants be able to multiply their services over a large number of factories instead of being confined to one plant.

The fact that scores of such suggestions are kicking around is indication enough that among those

working on defense there is realization that we are not getting the results that might be obtained out of what we have to work with. Almost no one is satisfied with the organization as at present—yet it is full of able men who are working hard, if with some sense of frustration.

What is being felt here too is the lack of leadership that had been expected from President Roosevelt. He insisted at the outset upon being boss, upon keeping the defense organization headed into the White House. He refused to appoint a chairman and undertook to be the sparkplug himself.

The general feeling here is that the sparkplug hasn't been sparking since before election. The defense organization is feeling the lack of drive at the top. At the last meeting of the defense group with the President, the whole question of organization, serious as it had become, was passed over without discussion. Nobody knows what the President intends to do, if anything, about this situation.

## Full Emergency Suggested

Some outside propaganda groups are saying that the defense effort is being made in a negative atmosphere. Some say that the only way to arouse ourselves to the real effort necessary would be to go into a state of full emergency instead of the state of limited emergency declared by executive order when the war in Europe began. One hears that in some Eastern plants, nearer the seaboard, a high tempo exists, but that farther West there seems to be no driving sense of urgency.

Many here hope that President Roosevelt will take hold when he returns and put drive into the defense effort.

Possibly the President has been too tired to throw himself into this, or possibly he has become sensitive about campaign charges that he was seeking dictatorial powers. It is possible that the third-term business has put Roosevelt on the defensive and caused him to slow down lest he seem to be justifying the forecasts of his political opponents. Meanwhile defense suffers.

## My Day

WASHINGTON, Monday—This morning, I saw a heading in the newspaper which disturbed me very much. On reading the story, it appeared that one of our admirals was before a committee in Congress and reported that the Walsh-Healey bill was creating contractual difficulties and retarding the defense program.

He asserted that this act, under which firms accepting Government contracts are required to meet certain labor standards fixed by their industries: "Continues to be a disturbing factor in the procurement of some lines of Government supplies." He emphasized the reluctance of many manufacturers to bid for Government contracts because of the minimum wage determinations and cited experiences with steel manufacturers as examples to illustrate his point.

I think it is often forgotten that it is the red tape surrounding the Government work which deters people as much as any legal restrictions. Payment is slow and many difficulties arise which do not arise in private contracts.

The Walsh-Healey Act was passed by Congress after long and careful debate. It represents safeguards for labor which seem entirely reasonable to many people and must have seemed so to the majority of Congress. If that majority today decides

that it was wrong, it seems to me the changes should be made only after due debate in Congress.

I cannot escape the feeling, however, that the tendency has been, so far, to say that labor must make sacrifices of wages and hours because of the necessities of national defense. I have yet to see anywhere a statement that manufacturers and business concerns and the general public through investment returns, shall make this same type of sacrifice in the cause of national defense, by cutting profits and retarding the salaries of their executives.

Our volume of production is dependent on the willingness with which men work with their hands and their heads. Necessary as is the work of the men at the top, they can do nothing without the vast army of workers. The workers can do nothing. I grant you, without the men at the top and what they represent in capital investment and in ability and experience. It is quite evident that this is a co-operative job. Sacrifice will have to be equal. Work and devotion to the country for which we sacrifice can only be equal if everybody concerned feels that they have at stake a way of life for which it is worth while to sacrifice.

Last night six of us went to see the first performance given this winter by the Repertory Club of the Washington Theater. It was called "The D. C. Melody." Many of the actors had some professional experience, and some of the music and dancing was attractive.

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By Eleanor Roosevelt

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Dr. Rollo E. Dyer, U. S. Public Health Service expert on influenza.



Surgeon General Thomas Parran heads the U. S. Public Health Service.



With inadequate facilities to care for sufferers, tents are serving as isolation wards at Camp Murray, Washington, where, including Ft. Lewis, 1300 men are stricken with the flu.

## Flu Still Big Riddle As in World War Days

By Bruce Catton  
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—If the influenza epidemic which has developed in California is no worse than present reports to the United States Public Health Service indicate, the American people do not need to be alarmed about a repetition of the great 1918-19 epidemic.

A great many cases of influenza have been reported in California, but—as far as the Public Health Service can learn—there have been very few deaths.

If that holds true in later and more detailed reports, says the Public Health Service authorities, the 1918 variety of influenza probably is not present. For the 1918 epidemic carried many deaths.

Epidemic influenza is about as mysterious a riddle as medical science has ever had to tangle with, but one thing does seem to be known definitely—that there are two varieties, a severe one like the 1918 visitation and a relatively mild form which is a nuisance and a pain, but which is seldom fatal.

A month or two ago Puerto Rico had an epidemic of influenza—the mild form. California, apparently, is getting what Puerto Rico got.

Chief work along this line is being done by the Rockefeller Foundation. Scientists there have succeeded in making a vaccine which apparently will give protection against one type of the disease—to animals. Whether it will also give protection to human beings is not yet definitely known.

Influenza is highly infectious in

chiefly because opportunities to transmit it have been rare. Should another epidemic of the 1918 type of disease make its appearance, this vaccine could be tested under conditions which would show exactly what degree of protection it may give. If it should be proved that the vaccine is able to give immunity, science would then be able to "control" influenza.

Unless and until that or something similar happens, however, the simple fact is that medical men today are no better equipped to fight epidemic influenza than they were in 1918.

FOR one thing, there is no simple, specific diagnostic test by which a physician can be sure he actually has a case of influenza in his hands. There are a few laboratories in the country where such a test can be made, but the process is long and difficult and is not available to the ordinary physician.

For another thing, Public Health Service experts frankly admit they do not know how to control epidemic influenza.

Influenza is highly infectious in

its early stages; apparently it is transmitted from one person to another in the air, probably in the minute droplets of moisture from the mouth and nose. Yet the elaborate efforts to check the 1918 epidemic by isolating all sufferers, closing schools and theaters and churches and preventing public gatherings as much as possible seemed to do little or no good.

Even the wearing of masks, familiar during the 1918 epidemic, is believed to be of doubtful value again, for the simple reason that no one can possibly keep his mask on every minute through the weeks that an epidemic lasts.

All of which, of course, does not mean that the picture is entirely gloomy. The big thing is that the influenza virus has been isolated.

—which means that there is now a good chance (which was not true in 1918) to develop a protective vaccine. In addition, the various sulfanilamide derivatives have yet to be tested thoroughly on influenza. They will get such a test the moment a real epidemic appears; it is quite possible that one or another of these drugs will be found effective.

The Public Health Service is keeping in constant touch with the influenza conditions throughout the country through daily reports from local and state health officials.

## WELFARE BOARD SEEKS CONTROL

Bickering Is Charged in County Department; Pay Raises Deferred.

The first steps to assume more control over the County Welfare Department was taken yesterday by the Welfare Board.

Scoring the "lack of personal contact between employees and the Board," members decided to hold discussions with division heads. They also approved any employee coming to them for information or constructive criticism.

The action was taken in an attempt to solve problems in connection with an appeal of Miss Mary McFadden, 1516 N. Pennsylvania St., from her dismissal on recommendation of Thomas L. Neal, County Welfare Director.

Dirty Work Charged

Testimony at Miss McFadden's hearing before the State Welfare Department brought charges of bickering in the department. Mrs. Frances Ensworth, 3145 N. Illinois St., files supervisor, charged that she had been asked to "do Mr. Neal's dirty work." Mrs. Ensworth today entered her resignation, which was accepted by the Board.

Board members, avoiding any reference to Mr. Neal, said they wished to speak to all division heads over a period of time to get their point of view on any matter affecting the department.

Meanwhile, they considered a suggestion by Circuit Court Judge Earl R. Cox, who appoints local board members, for a meeting of all employees of the department to be held soon in Circuit Court.

For Action on Salaries

Action on a previous suggestion for a liaison man between the Board and employees was deferred until a later meeting. Also deferred was consideration of salary increases, money for which had become available because of budget increases. Members said they wished to investigate each case.

The Board also voted to ask for a temporary loan of \$450,000 from the County until tax collections would be available. The proposed loan would be made in two portions of \$225,000 each.

La Porte County Considers Forming Plan Board to Handle Problems.

LA PORTE, Ind., Dec. 10 (U.P.)—La Porte County officials today considered forming a county planning board to handle boom town problems in the area of the Kingsbury Ordnance plant now under construction at nearby Union Center.

Henry B. Steeg, State Defense Coordinator, met with County officials yesterday. He outlined a county planning board made up of one county commissioner, four citizens named by the commissioners, the county agricultural agent, county surveyor, and one representative each from the zoning boards of La Porte and Michigan City.

Mr. Steeg told officials the county group could co-operate with the State Defense Planning Commission on housing, transportation and communication problems in the area.

Appeal Is Expected

Shaw was convicted after a trial during most of which Mr. Morris read to the jury writings of Lenin, Marx and Stalin. Mr. Morris said that Shaw must, by the nature of his position in the party, subscribe to those beliefs and therefore was guilty.

Wood's appealed and Shaw's attorneys said he would do likewise.