

BUSINESS

Bridgeport Brass Earns \$1,158,000 On Local War Plant; Plans Now for Post-War

By ROGER BUDROW

BRIDGEPORT BRASS CO. WAS PAID \$1,158,000 last year for operating the \$15 million ordnance plant here which is owned by the government.

This payment is based on the cost-plus, fixed-fee contract under which the government pays the costs of manufacturing the brass shell cases and other ordnance made at the new plant near Stout field and, for managing the plant and pays a fixed fee based upon production.

Production at the plant last year amounted to \$35 million worth of war material or more than double the amount turned out in 1942 when the plant operated nine months, having been put in operation in April that year. Thus the fee for 1943 was a double the 1942 fee.

The Indianapolis plant produced about half as much last year as the company's own plant in Bridgeport, Conn. Total company production amounted to \$104 million including \$77 million in 1942 and only \$47 million in 1941.

Bridgeport Brass profit increased also, from \$1,705,000 after renegotiation in 1942 to \$1,987,000 last year or \$1.67 a common share against \$1.98 last year. In 1942 the company set aside \$300,000 for future contingencies, but boosted that amount to \$700,000 last year.

A KILLING FOG will be manufactured at a new plant being built at East Chicago, Ind.

Owned by Kinetic Chemicals, which is jointly owned by du Pont and General Motors, the plant will turn out two million pounds of Freon-12, a fluorine refrigerant, a month.

The Freon liquid is mixed with an insecticide and packed in small cylinders. As the valve is opened, the liquid escapes as a rapidly expanding gas, carrying the mosquito-killer. This fine fog remains suspended 10 to 20 times longer than droplets from the ordinary mechanical spray, greatly increasing its killing range.

ODDS AND ENDS: Indianapolis department store sales last week were 16% over a year ago... Business Week says the foreign economic administration is stepping up its buying because it found the Nazis had it behind their lines better than we did.

The united nations relief and rehabilitation administration has hoarded quite a few sewing machines to ship overseas to devastated areas... Fountain pen factories are high on the early re-conversion list... Cleveland Graphite Bronze Co. hired 26 lawyers to figure employees' income tax; it cost the company \$20,000 in fees and time lost by workers.

WAGEN WHEAT

Up to the close of the Chicago market today, Indianapolis grain and grain elevators paid \$1.63 per bushel for No. 1 wheat (other grades on their merits). The wheat was No. 1 in the east. The No. 3 yellow shelled corn, \$1.94 bushel, and No. 2 white shelled corn, \$1.54.

INDEPENDENTS HINT WLB PROBE

Congress Shows Interest

As Board Refuses Public Hearing.

By FRED W. PERKINS
Scripto-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, March 11.—A congressional inquiry into policies of the war labor board was hinted today following that agency's denial of a plea from independent unions for representation in WLB membership on the same basis as the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O.

Spokesmen for the independents, headed by Donald F. Cameron, secretary-treasurer of the Confederated Unions of America, said several members of the house and senate had shown interest in yesterday's refusal of the representation demand, and also in the board's failure to grant a public hearing on the issue.

Under the war labor disputes act, all WLB hearings, before panels or the full board, must be public. However, yesterday's session with the independents was behind closed doors, with only the four public members facing a delegation of 20. Vice Chairman George W. Taylor explained that the meeting was in the nature of a "discussion," and therefore could be private.

Threaten Action

The independents' spokesmen were there in behalf of the C. U. A. and affiliated unions, and also of several large independent unions not members of the C. U. A., including the National Federation of Telephone Workers and the East Coast Alliance of Independent Shipyard Workers. Mr. Cameron and other C. U. A. leaders issued a statement threatening "political as well as economic action" against the board's decision, which they described as "another slap in the face for independent unions."

The C. U. A., the statement said, has felt for some time that the board was interested in wiping out minority groups from the labor movement, but this is the first public declaration of that intention. The independents, claiming to represent more than 2,000,000 workers, assert that the result of WLB policies will be to force their members into A. F. of L. or C. I. O. unions.

Dr. Taylor said the WLB had taken cognizance of independent union charges that the A. F. of L. and C. I. O. have been using lack of independent representation as organizational arguments.

Local Aviation Prospects Cited

Indianapolis has the opportunity to develop into one of the country's outstanding strategic aviation centers in the post-war period, Henry E. Ostrom, chairman of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce aviation committee, asserted at a meeting of the chamber's board of directors yesterday.

Airline transport systems have deluged the committee for information to back up their applications for permission to enter this city, thus giving us more competing lines and more diversification in direction of travel," Mr. Ostrom said. "Notwithstanding the general slowdown of commercial air travel because of the war, Indianapolis is receiving extraordinary attention from necessarily well-informed air line companies. This is proof of what outsiders think of our aviation future."

Citing the fact that numerous local industrial plants are devoting much or all of their production to aviation manufacture, he said Indianapolis ranks second only to Detroit, and is ahead of Chicago, in the seventh federal reserve district, in the distribution of aircraft supply contracts.

The board adopted a resolution submitted by the aviation committee recommending that federal regulation of aeronautics, as in all other forms of commerce, be limited to that which is strictly interstate or foreign.

Fewer New Customers

Net income for the utility decreased \$40,543, the income for 1943 totaling \$537,780.70 as compared with \$578,323 for 1942.

Capital improvements to the water supply system amounted to \$160,070, the major portion being expended on the completion of the impounding reservoir on Fall creek northeast of the city. The reservoir was filled to its capacity of nearly seven billion gallons on March 17 last year.

An increase of 981 customers during the year was noted in the report, making a total of 87,193 accounts at the end of 1943. In 1942, there was an increase of 1966 accounts.

At the end of the year there were 729.3 miles of water mains and 6516 fire hydrants in service on the distribution system.

Exceeds Old Records

Dividends paid to stockholders in 1943 totaled \$372,745, same as in 1942. Holders of the 5 per cent cumulative preferred stock were paid a total of \$62,745 and holders of common stock received a total dividend of \$320,000.

Water pumping in 1943 was the greatest in the history of the city, according to the report. The total pumping was 16,558,170,000 gallons, which exceeded the previous high mark of 14,292,080,000 gallons set in 1942 by 2,366,090,000 gallons. The average pumping was 45.36 million gallons per day, whereas in 1942 the average was 39.16 million gallons per day.

The increased pumping was attributed primarily to greater industrial use of water, which was 41.5 per cent of all metered water used in the city and environs.

The greatest monthly pumping was 1,665,000,000 gallons in July, with the peak day's pumping occurring on July 27 with a figure of 60,610,000 gallons. The minimum month was February when 1,140,000,000 gallons were pumped.

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