

BUSINESS

Prophecies of What 1944 Would Bring
Turned Out to Be Pretty Far From Fact

By ROGER BUDROW

THAT OLD SAW ABOUT PLAYING WITH MATCHES apparently applies only to children. If a "big shot" grown-up gets burned when his prediction, in a national magazine in the papers, goes wrong, why he just predicts again, just as if nothing had happened.

last year at this time, Look

magazine was full of forecasts by eminent persons. Leland Stowe

of Germany would be defeated in

1944. Hitler dead,

Europe in the "greatest orgy of

mass vengeance ever recorded in

modern times." H.

V. Kaltelnborn said an interim

government would

negotiate a sur-

render before

Germany was in-

vaded.

A lot of others

looked into the crystal ball and

saw what they saw. That many

are wrong didn't matter—the pub-

lic's memory is short. So they're

back again this year...

Some of those Washington serv-

ice business men buy because they

hope to know what's going on

inside Washington, predicted the

national income would fall 10 per

cent in 1944, based on the belief that

Germany would collapse by Christ-

mas (Gen. Eisenhower predicted).

Germany didn't and national in-

come rose 5 per cent. Neither was

a bull market in stocks over.

Nobody, at least before the elec-

tion, forecast the shortage of mu-

mens, the bitter disillusionment we

have taken over events in Italy,

France and Poland, or the German

inter-attack.

That would have been a good thing

for us, but it seems that gloomy

prophets are without honor in their

country and so might as well

skip still.

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TWO WAR PLANTS here, at

the top of the "critical" list, were

given "gate-hiring" privileges by

the war manpower commission,

beginning today. Heretofore, their

honor has been channeled through

the U. S. employment service.

They are P. R. Mallory, making

dry cell battery, and Bridge-

port Brass Co., making 105 mm.

shell cases. The push is on to

get them fully-manned.

THE NAZIS have lost half the

oil-making capacity they had be-

fore the invasion.

Part, estimated at 20 per cent,

due to bombing. But most of

the loss was in satellite mills and

deposits in occupied Italy,

Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, the

Czechs and Hungary.

The Nazis can produce about 36

million tons a year now, against

36 million in their heyday.

** * *

ODDS AND ENDS: Westinghouse

has developed a jet propulsion

engine. . . . Arden LeFevre, who

formerly managed Stewart-Warner's

plant here, has been promoted to

the president and director of

engineering for its Alameda, Instru-

ments and radio products. . . . Last-

minute Christmas shopping boosted

Indianapolis department store sales

over a year ago; in the week

ending Dec. 23. . . . Powerful DDT

at \$1.60 a pound when it was

shipped by plane to kill typhus after

the allies began freeing Italy; now it

costs 60¢, due to increased produc-

tion. . . . Quintin G. Nobiliti of

Obit-Sparks Industries of Co-

lumbus, Ind., sold 650 shares of

Obit-Sparks stock in November,

reducing his holdings to 18,100. The

EC report on trading by "Insiders"

shows. . . . And William B. Stokely

now holds 225 shares of Stokely Van

camp common stock to the East

Tennessee Baptist Hospital. . . .

Joseph D. Oliver Jr. of the South

and plow family holds 1200 shares

of Oliver Corp., the firm resulting

from the merger of Oliver Farm

Equipment Co. and the Cleveland

tractor Co., four trust funds set up

James Oliver holds 40,852 shares.

** * *

STATE FARM CENSUS

WILL START JAN. 8

A census of farm livestock and

production in the state will be

beginning Jan. 8.

All agricultural agencies will co-

operate in the census which will

take about four weeks to complete.

Norman Edwards, Paoli, will have

charge of the job. It will include

information on the number of all

classes of livestock and poultry,

number of acres in various crops

and other data of value to farmers

was said.

** * *

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** * *

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** * *

WAGON WHEELS

Up to the close of the Chicago market

today, Wagon Wheels paid \$1.67 per bushel for 1

red wheat, other grades on 2 red

testing bins, old crop, \$1.60 per bushel, new

shelled, old crop, \$1.625¢ per bushel, and

No. 2 white wheat, old crop, \$1.625¢ per bushel.

** * *

EVANSVILLE RENT

DIRECTOR CHANGED

Wallace C. Ebien has been ap-

pointed as state rent director-attorney

for OPA in the Evansville and

Henderson-Owensboro rental areas.

His appointment was announced

today by C. R. Gutermuth, Indiana

district OPA rent executive. He re-

places Forrest Condit, who resigned

to resume the practice of law.

The new Fischer-Tropsh process,

it was said, overcomes the problems

of heat dissipation and accurate

temperature control.

The 5-cent cost is based on

natural gas at 5 cents a thousand

cubic feet and a plant depreciation

rate of 10 per cent a year.

** * *

HIGH OCTANE GAS, OIL

PRODUCED FOR LESS

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (U. P.)—Produc-

tion of high octane gasoline and

high octane Diesel oil from

natural gas for about 5 cents a

gallon now is possible under a new

process announced today by the

M. W. Kellogg Co., petroleum and

chemical engineers.

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INDIANAPOLIS CLEARING HOUSE

Clearings

Debits