

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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RADIO PRODUCTION ENDS ON APRIL 22.

The manufacture of radio receiving sets for domestic use will come to an end on April 22, 1942 under the provisions of an order issued by the War Production Board. This will mean that 55 companies employing more than 30,000 men in the annual production of 13,000,000 radio sets valued at \$240,000,000 will discontinue this line of work. This quantity of radio sets required 2100 tons of aluminum, 10,500 tons of copper, 280 tons of nickel and 70,000 tons of steel, all of which are listed as critical materials.

WASHINGTON GLAMOUR

The nation's Capitol with its imposing buildings and monuments, its beautiful parkways and spacious streets suggest a certain glamour. But it is entirely de-glamourized by war. Today it is a busy city of packed buses and street cars, traffic jams, crowded officers, crowded restaurants, high prices, temporary war buildings, government workers who work long hours including nights and Sundays, inadequate housing accommodations, drug store lunches, soldiers and sailors in uniform, military guards with fixed bayonets at all public buildings, zooming airplanes and that strange consciousness that it is the capital of the whole wide world.

ILLINOIS OIL WILL KEEP 'EM FLYING.

Illinois now stands 4th on the list of states in the production of petroleum and is exceeded only by Texas, California and Oklahoma. In December, 1941, Illinois production of crude petroleum totalled 12,332,000 barrels. This volume of petroleum would supply the base stock for sufficient high octane gasoline to keep 'em flying for a long time.

100-OCTANE AVIATION GASOLINE.

Years ago, airplanes used ordinary gasoline. As late as five years ago high octane gasoline was a mere laboratory curiosity. By June 1941, production of 100-octane gas had reached 40,000 barrels per day. Present demands require that production be more than quadrupled and new plants are being constructed to meet this demand. This so-called 100-octane gas is really a blended fuel consisting of a base of ordinary gasoline to which a high octane blending agent, a light blending agent and ethyl fluid have been added. This type of gasoline produces a vast increase in power at the take-off of a plane, makes it possible to fly many thousands of feet higher than with low octane gas and makes it possible to use a new type of engine design in which the engine weight can be reduced by more than 40% below that of older model planes.

SUGAR AND POWDER.

Sugar in the form of molasses is used in the manufacture of high-proof alcohol. Alcohol is used in making smokeless powder. It is estimated that a single shot from a 16 inch gun uses enough powder to require all the molasses or cane which can be grown on one-fifth of an acre. By the end of the year, it is expected that the vast requirement of alcohol will be entirely derived from corn and wheat.

LEASE-LEND SUMMARY.

March 11, 1942, marked the last anniversary of lease-lend operations. The Act authorizes the President to give defense aid to any nation

whose defense is deemed vital to the United States. By March 11th, Congress has appropriated 48 billions for lease-lend. Goods and weapons actually supplied to other nations totalled \$2,570,000,000. This includes ships, machinery, food, weapons and supplies. Of the total aid thus far provided, 29% consisted of weapons and military equipment, 34% consisted of food and fibre and 37% consisted of machinery and industrial equipment.

BAJA CALIFORNIA.

That means Lower California, a finger of land about 800 miles long which sticks out into the water with the Pacific on one side and the Gulf of California on the other. It is a vast area of desert, sun-baked Indian villages, Mexican villages, 10,000 foot mountains, flat sun-baked beaches on which planes can be landed, volcanoes, minerals, rats and heat. The total population is slightly over 60,000. It embraces harbors and bays where the water is more than 1000 feet deep and would easily accomodate a submarine. Its northern area lies but a few hundred miles from the rich oil fields of California. Its largest bay could accomodate the entire battle fleet. It would make an excellent place for basing enemy planes and sea craft. It is Mexican territory. Perhaps it should have more than casual attention.

SENATORS' MAIL.

Recently, the Senate hooked a rider on a bill which had passed the House whereby Senators were afforded extra clerks for their offices. The House refused to agree. Some Senators regarded it as a personal affront on the part of the House. Thereupon, Senator Tydings, the very practical Senator from Maryland instructed the Senate postmaster to count all first class mail delivered to each Senator in the 52 day period from January 8 to February 28, inclusive. Senator Brooks of Illinois received the largest amount of mail with a daily average over 400 letters. One received a daily average of 250 letters, and 2 received 200 letters daily. Five received 150 or more per day, 22 received 100 or more, 38 received between 50 and 100, 27 received less than 50 letters daily and several from the small states received around 25 to 30. We suggest that Senators visit House members sometime and see who receives the most mail.