

Japan's Wartime Steel Output Only 9,656,000 In Peak Year

Production of steel in the Japanese Empire during the war years reached a peak in 1943, the American Iron and Steel Institute announced today. Thereafter, as a result of the naval blockade and of bombings, it declined steadily.

According to a report of non-military activities in Japan and Korea, prepared recently at General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, the peak wartime production of steel ingots in the Japanese Empire was 9,656,000 net tons in 1943, which was less than 11 percent of the maximum annual production in the United States during the war.

That 9,656,000 tons which Japan produced in the year 1943 could have been turned out by the steel mills of the United States in only 28 days, at the record rate of production which prevailed in the month of March, 1944, according to the Institute.

Of the total produced in Japan-controlled plants in 1943, about 8,616,000 tons, nine-tenths of the total, was produced in plants on the home islands of Japan. The great steel works at Showa, in Manchuria, produced 921,000 tons and the remainder was produced at a plant at Keijicho in Korea.

The peak of steel production achieved in Japan during the war, although relatively small by American standards, nevertheless represents a substantial increase over prewar production. In 1930, for example, only 2,070,000 tons of steel were made in Japan. By 1937 output had risen to 4,991,000 tons and it rose steadily thereafter until 1943.

In 1944 steel production fell 12.7 percent. It further even sharper drop was recorded after the start of intensive bombing of some of the major steel producing centers in Japan.

One of the important factors in the decline in production between 1943 and 1944 appears to have been the tightly drawn naval blockades of the Japanese home islands. This was indicated by a sharp drop in the imports of iron ore from the Asiatic mainland, from the Philippines and elsewhere.

In 1944 a total of 4,138,000 tons of iron contained in iron ore were required by the Japanese steel industry. Only 20 percent of that was produced in the Japanese home islands; the balance, 3,317,000 tons, was imported.

As the naval blockade grew tighter and tighter, production of ore in Japan proper was nearly blocked, but the increase was nowhere near great enough to offset the sharp decline in imports of ore. By 1944 the iron content of imported ores added up to only 937,000 tons, less than 20 percent of the tonnage that had been imported in 1941.

Publisher Sells Interest In Gardena News

Announcement was made last week by Mrs. Agnes E. Dow, publisher of the Gardena Valley News that she has sold a substantial interest in her newspaper to her brother, Don Algio, who for the last three months has been advertising manager of the publication. Algio will continue in that capacity and will also assist Mrs. Dow in the management of the paper. Algio returned to the United States in November after spending five years in the British Isles where he was an executive of the Lockheed Aircraft corporation. He was stationed at various periods in Liverpool, Belfast and Glasgow.

Another apparent factor resulting in lower steel production was the exhaustion of Japan's stockpile of imported scrap which had been built up in the ten years preceding the outbreak of war with the United States as a result of large purchases in this country.

Approximately 1,800,000 tons of Japan's annual steel capacity was put out of production during the war by bombings, the report indicated.

The Tokyo area suffered the greatest loss, annual capacity there being cut back 440,000 tons, or 67 percent, as a result of bombing. At Kamaishi, on the northeast coast of Japan's main island, steel capacity was cut by approximately 230,000 tons a year. At Osaka 330,000 tons capacity was lost.

The losses in productive capacity in other principal areas were: Kobe, 232,500 tons; Wards, 220,000 tons; at Yawata, 165,000 tons.

At the close of 1945, the steel industry of Japan was producing about 10,000 tons of steel a month.

Floor And Wall Furnaces Will Cost More

Manufacturers' ceiling prices for all types of warm air furnaces, including floor and wall furnaces, were raised an average of 12.3 percent over January 1945 levels by the OPA. The action, effective immediately, particularly affects the sizes commonly installed in small housing units. The 12.3 percent increase is the average increase, but the advances vary according to size and their need in the national housing program.

Considered one of the bottleneck industries by builders, OPA's action is expected to remove one of the obstacles to furnace production. Recent labor and material cost increases have resulted in operating losses in production of the small sizes, OPA said.

The increases will be passed on in dollars and cents to retailers and installers. Installers, however, under existing regulations covering their sales, are permitted to pass on the increase to the consumer by applying their customary percentage mark-ups on their increased cost.

Fish And Game Violators Pay High Fines

Two hundred and ten fish and game code violators paid fines totalling \$10,640 during March, according to a report submitted by E. L. Macaulay, Chief of the Bureau of Patrol of the California Division of Fish and Game.

This compared with 80 arrests for March 1945 when the violators paid \$3,540, and brought the total to 2390 arrests and \$95,447 in fines for the period from July 1, 1945 to March 31, 1946. In the same period a year ago the totals were 1994 arrests and \$88,202 in fines.

The biggest case of the month was when the combined efforts of the air and ground patrol resulted in the arrest of three Deakos Bay trawlers' captains and their crews. The captains paid \$300 each in fines and drew 30-day jail sentences. The crew members were fined \$200 apiece and had 30-day jail sentences suspended. The fines totalled \$2,900.



ARRESTED—Lieut. Nicolai G. Redin, young Russian naval officer, facing a five-count Federal indictment in Seattle, Wash., on charge of espionage and conspiracy against U. S. government. He was freed in \$10,000 and returns to duties with Soviet purchasing commission, while awaiting developments.

Steel Shovels, Scoops, Spades To Cost More

Manufacturers of steel shovels, scoops and spades have been granted an interim price increase amounting to nine per cent of their existing ceiling prices, the OPA said today.

During the interim period, the dollar amount of the increase will go through to consumers, which means that current retail ceilings will go up about seven to 10 cents on the average popular priced items, or about 4 1/2 per cent, the OPA said. The action is effective April 26, 1946.

NEW ENGLAND-NEW YORK—All day Saturday, May 18, in Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles, the New York and New England picnic will be held.

Carol Dale
HOME COMMENTATOR

HANDY KITCHEN IDEAS
Kitchens with charming exteriors are all well and good, but it's really what's contained in cupboards and drawers that counts. Tools of the trade deserve better treatment than to be tossed helter-skelter, out of sight, behind closed doors. And what a lot of clutter is piled up in the way of cluttering the Three-A-Day—Cooking and Serving and Cleaning up!

AN INSIDE STORY—Most used cutlery, pots and pans, should be easily reached—forks and pancake turners, frying pans and saucers—near the range. A neat trick is the lining of drawers with a piece of linoleum to match floor or counters. Pan partitions to hold the knives and have the dividers joined so that the whole thing may be lifted out for easy cleaning.

If your kitchen has a built-in "kettle closet" into which you are forever digging through to hold the spoons for your favorite saucers, have your handy hand pull out the shelves and fit the walls with downy sick pigs so that kettles and sieves may be hung in convenient array.

KITCHEN FILING SYSTEM—By means of this board partitions placed vertically in cupboards, trays and cooking utensils may be held away from the space between range and cabinets can be utilized in this way for tray storage. Install step-like shelves in the wasted upper spaces of your staple cupboards, to take care of spice cans and smaller packages.

If there's a built-in ironing board you no longer use, remove the board, paint the inside a gay color, and put in shelves to hold spice containers, jars of seasonings, cats-up and meat sauce bottles.

OUT OF SIGHT—Towels and dish cloths take to cover on a drying rack which folds neatly back against the wall, under the sink or in an adjacent cupboard where ventilation can be provided. Perhaps it's possible even to install a small drying unit. Not that we believe in hiding everything behind closed doors, but some things are better out of sight, if not out of mind.

FLASH
FOR A DECORATIVE AND USEFUL KITCHEN—piece, hang your collection of cook-custards on a special board cut of this wood to fit the ban wall space, gaily painted, and provided with pegs or hooks to hold the cutters.
Carol Dale



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1271 SARTORI AVE. — TORRANCE

Dr. Dale H. Wright

Chiropractor

OFFICE HOURS:

9 to 12, 1 to 5

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Evenings, 7 to 9

Phone Torrance 1861-W

1746 Martina Ave. — Torrance.