

Hendy President Explains Steel Shortage To Rotary

Increased efficiency in production of victory ships was given as the reason for the reported shortage of steel by President Charles E. Moore of the Joshua Hendy Iron Works in an address yesterday before San Jose Rotarians in the Hotel Sainte Claire.

Before Pearl Harbor, at President Roosevelt's prodding, steel companies were able to gauge and supply the steel demand for 150 new ways for lease-lend ships. After U. S. entrance there was enough for an additional 150 ways. But there is not enough with even more ways added since because turning out a 10,500-ton ship has been reduced from a matter of 150 or 160 days to 125, then 110 days, to 90, to 46 days in Portland, Ore.—and now it appears likely the time will be cut to even 30 days.

MISSION TO ENGLAND.

"It was this virtue of mass production that has got us into trouble," the speaker said in explaining cancellation of the Higgins contract for 200 ships.

Moore confined the rest of his remarks to personalities and incidents in connection with his mission to Great Britain last fall for the office of production management as a machine tool expert.

As background, he explained that early in 1941 after congress had voted seven billion dollars to make the U. S. the arsenal of democracy the situation developed whereby England was receiving practically nothing but surplus American goods, often items plentiful in Great Britain. That was the cue for Lord Beaverbrook, then minister of supply, to continue on to Washington from the historic Atlantic charter meeting between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill and work out a schedule of requirements with Harry Hopkins, lease-lend administrator. But chaos developed when Hopkins turned the memo over to OPM for so many airplane engines, tanks, machine tools, and other items each month by the end of 1941. OPM simply could not promise to deliver the goods. Hence the Hariman mission to England.

BELT TIGHTENING.

"We are only beginning to feel the belt-tightening that we will feel—that England has felt all along," Moore declared. He cited the impossibility in England of getting even a wire to serve as a choke for a car, of buying a whisk broom because there just is not any wire to hold the straws together. Similar shortages in nearly every other civilian need were apparent.

"There is not any way to win this war without paying this

price," he stressed. "In fact, it may take actual combat on our shores to make most of us realize this. What the English people have gone through is almost indescribable—the devastation from air bombardment, the damage seen everywhere, close proximity of the enemy, the suffering and hardships they have endured."

LIKES WINANT.

He described Lord Beaverbrook, now out of the cabinet, as "a great salesman, dynamic, ruthless but fair when he gets your point of view," added that history will credit him with saving England from invasion after Dunkirk by assuming dictatorial powers and forcing production of Spitfires and Hurricanes, whose performance was outstanding and made the ratio of German to British air losses range from about 4 to 1 to as much as 8 to 1.

Moore came back with a modified opinion of U. S. Ambassador James G. Winant, whom he called "very plain and hard working," a modern Abe Lincoln in features and manner, and the possessor of "a very keen brain." Moore regarded him at first as "leftish and pink," but learned it merely was Winant's interest in "the man who doesn't get a break—the fellow in the \$1500-a-year bracket instead of the \$1500-a-month man."

Winant, he added, yearns for the time when the allies can take the offensive because offensive means when and where. Production, the ambassador told him, will be the determining factor.

Britain's "P.M.," Churchill, was called "very cordial" and "informal." Further, said Moore, he knows far more than any might credit him.

ENGLAND GOOD ALLY.

"I have no way to calibrate the knowledge of, say, a doctor, a lawyer, or an astronomer, but

Sartoga Estate Filed

Fannie Williams of Saratoga filed a petition in superior court to administer the estate of her husband, Stephen P. Williams, who died April 5. Amount of estate was designated as more than \$10,000. She is represented by Attorneys Fry and Jenks.

I found that Churchill talks my language. I soon learned he knows production technique. He is quick to see shortcuts that can be taken."

And, added Moore, he is proud of that "Dear Winston" letter that Wendell Willkie bore to Churchill from President Roosevelt. He has the letter enshrined in a glass case.

Moore's mission resulted in choking off large shipments of machine tools to England at America's expense.

"I went over pro-British

in conclusion. "I left for many fold more pro-British. I hope the time will never when we are fighting I am glad we have such much ally as England."

President Clarence A. Phillips presided at the luncheon while A. Kelly presented Moore as a native of California and of Saratoga.