

FIND DEFECTS IN AMMUNITION

WASHINGTON (AP).—Defects in the war stock of army ammunition now held in reserve are disclosed in the annual report of Major General C. C. Williams, chief of ordnance, made public yesterday. They are due, it said, not alone to deterioration in storage, but to "hurried war design or hurried war production," and have been discovered as a result of the careful inspection system including laboratory tests set up since the war.

About one-third of the reserve ammunition is overhauled annually, the report showed, making sure that the whole stock is inspected and test fired at the proving ground in percentages of each lot every three years. General Williams did not indicate the exact nature of the defects except to say that deterioration of the "explosive element is most marked."

"In connection with the rapid production of the ammunition to meet the emergency of the war," the report pointed out, "it was necessary to adopt new types of explosives, to permit new and more expeditious methods of manufacture of existing types, and to use new methods in loading the explosives."

The condition of the reserve stock of ammunition has been a growing source of worry to the war department and a project for building up the reserve through a 10-year replacement program has been worked out which involves around \$300,000,000.

Efforts during the year to develop a cross-country, ditch-jumping caterpillar tractor for reconnaissance work were without success, General Williams said, but remarkable results were obtained with a Ford touring car chassis, equipped with balloon tires, bucket seats and a low speed auxiliary transmission. The machine "apparently fills the military requirements," the report said.

A "noteworthy achievement" through application of X-ray apparatus to study the structure of steel and other metals was reported from Watertown, N. Y., arsenal. Defects not otherwise discernible have been discovered in castings running up to two and one-half inches in thickness, the working having been extended to experimental testing for commercial concerns with the arsenal apparatus. The new high pressure steam power plant line near Boston was among those so examined.

At the Aberdeen, Md., proving ground, General Williams said, important research was being conducted by means of a camera, which in a scientific study of the flight of bombs dropped by aircraft. The experiments were

A NEW KIND OF CATCH



started as an incident to the testing of the bombs but have disclosed data which "will permit the plotting of a trajectory and development of a suitable range table for use by aircraft troops."

KLAMATH FIGHTS RABIES
KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.—Rabies has broken out among coon dogs ranging the wooded hills and valleys of the Kono and Worden sections and as a result cattle and sheep of the vicinity are seriously threatened.

This is the word received from Grant Nelson, government trapper, and farmer of the Worden district. Mr. Nelson has already taken one emergency measure. All the dogs in the neighborhood will be treated with the special preparation to render them immune from the disease.

No wonder a camel can't go through the eye of a needle. He's all tried out by the time he finds it in the haystack.

Work on American Rubber Project In Liberia Begins

AKRON, O. (AP).—Clearing away the Liberian jungle preparatory to the planting of 1,000,000 acres of rich African soil with 100,000,000 rubber trees has been begun by forces marshalled from the ends of the earth by Harvey S. Firestone, president of the Firestone Tire and Rubber company.

By January 1, 340 representatives of the Akron company will be in Liberia, pushing forward the project which Mr. Firestone said will be supplying between 25 and 33 per cent of the world's crude rubber within the next decade.

The leasing transactions already are completed with the Liberian government. The construction of wharfage facilities begun at Monrovia, the Liberian capital, and the

or six years. They believe they have noted an American desire to cash in on investments at once and that therefore the Americans are not inclined to make any thorough developments. This attitude is rapidly changing now as our work goes forward in Liberia.

Following the entry of the Firestone forces into the little African republic the company's head announced that 25,000 acres had been acquired in Tobacco on the isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico and that rubber already was being extracted from trees planted there by other interests several years ago.

In addition to these enterprises, Mr. Firestone capped his worldwide rubber quest with the announcement that he was seriously considering entering the Amazon basin in South America where millions of acres of rubber lands are undeveloped.

Three concessions have been obtained by the Firestone company from the Liberian government. The first was the lease of 2000 acres of land, previously held and partly developed by British planters. Twelve hundred acres of this land, now planted in rubber trees, is producing rubber and is to be a nursery and experiment project for the larger American project.

The second lease, which is the million-acre acquisition, gives the American company not only the right to plant and produce rubber on that acreage, but gives it all other rights, such as mineral, subsoil and timber rights. The timber rights are given the company, tax-free.

A third grant by the Liberian government gives the company the right to construct its own lines of communication within and without the plantation for private use, without taxation.

In addition to the planting, care-taking, and collecting of rubber, the Firestone company is improving the harbor at Monrovia, the seat of Liberian government. From the harbor, roads will be constructed to radiate into the hinterlands. In the entire area of the country, which is 43,000 square miles—almost exactly that of the state of Ohio—there are but 100 miles of passable highway. This mileage is segregated and unconnected.

Hospitals also will be built and laborers' huts will be constructed for the housing of the natives who are to be brought from their pagan villages into the modern sanitary areas of American-built towns.

Provision is being made for the importation of foodstuffs to replace the local production that will be lost when the natives cease cultivating their own farms and go to work on the rubber plantation.

Several thousand of these laborers will shortly be at work for the American concern, employment being made on the basis of one man to every two acres. Thus, if 25,000 acres are planted within the next six months as is contemplated, 25,000 natives will be employed for that tract.

The plantation development consists of several operations in its crop aspect alone. First, the

ground must be cleared of the jungle. The brush is heaped high and in burned in sections covering several hundred acres, over which the fires rage for a week or more. Following the burning, the area is staked off, one stake for each rubber tree. Holes are drilled after each stake is pulled, and either seeds are planted or young trees are set out.

It will cost \$100 an acre to prepare the ground and to plant the trees, Mr. Firestone estimates.

It requires five years for the rubber trees to reach the stage at which they should first be tapped for rubber sap. The trees usually live to be 100 years old, furnishing rubber throughout this period. For several years, the shipping facilities at present provided to Liberia will be sufficient, Mr. Firestone believes. Ships now ply regularly coastwise from London and other European ports to Monrovia and from New Orleans and New York to Liberia.

VIENNESE INFLUENCE AGAIN FELT IN ROME NIGHT LIFE

ROME (AP).—The influence of Vienna, before the World war a

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rival of Paris as the capital of European gaiety, again is making itself felt in the night life of Rome. Vaudeville "turns" and cabaret performers from France and England gradually are giving way to Austrians. As a result, the soft Viennese German is heard more frequently than French in places where Romans go to amuse themselves.

NO DOCTORS, NO CEMETERIES IN THIS HOME-COOKING TOWN

OAKLAND, Cal. (AP).—Nowark, a town with a population of 1000 people, situated near here, has never had a doctor, dentist, undertaker, ambulance, drug store or a cemetery.

Mayor Louis Ruscini, authority

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