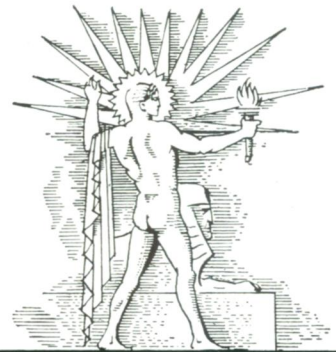
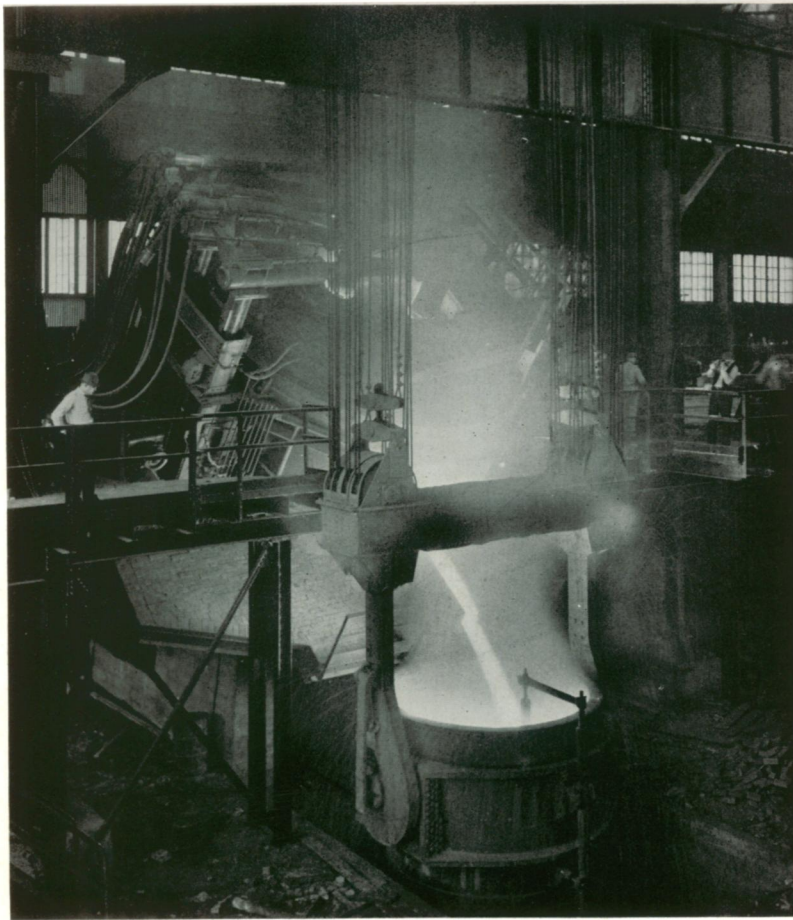


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



May 24, 1941

Steel for Defense

See Page 335

A S C I E N C E S E R V I C E P U B L I C A T I O N

Do You Know?

The first really fine *emeralds* that Europeans ever saw came from Peru.

A hundred years ago, the American *whaling* fleet was the world's largest.

British people are being encouraged to use more *potato flour* as a wartime food.

Poison ivy is most poisonous in spring or early summer, when the sap is most abundant.

Giant *minck* were once numerous in Maine, judging by bones in Indian shell-heaps.

Coconut husks have a new industrial use in Puerto Rico, as a source of fiber for padding in upholstery and cushions.

In 1776, the daily food ration of *Washington's soldiers* was a pound of beef, a pound of flour, 6.86 ounces of dried peas, 1.14 ounces of rice, a pint of milk and a quart of spruce beer.

An oceanographer says that most *lakes* have a top layer of water heated by the sun, scientifically called the epilimnion, a transition layer, called the thermocline, and a lower cold layer, the hypolimnion.

For the first time in its history, the United States may presently have more females than males in its *population*—due to not receiving foreign immigrants, who were predominantly males, and also to aging of the population, in which women are favored in survival.

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS ISSUE

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

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WILDLIFE

What disease of deer is now increasing? p. 328.

ZOOLOGY

What sort of tadpole has a ruffle on its mouth? p. 325.

Where could you find a wine colored shark with 20 rows of teeth? p. 328.

The United States now manufactures 96% of its *dyes*.

A *Navy ship* is usually launched when 60 to 70% finished.

For best effect, tall *flowers* should ordinarily be placed below eye level, says a University of New Hampshire botanist.

Different *trees* have different effects on the soil, Cornell scientists say: fallen leaves of some species mix into the soil quickly, others slowly, and some leaves increase soil acidity while others decrease it.

A "hand" of *bananas* has about 10 to 20 "fingers."

Plastics are finding use in equipment for 10 different sports.

Charles Darwin's scientific studies included the importance of burrowing *earthworms* in loosening up the soil.

"Getting down to *brass tacks*" is a relic of the time when storekeepers, once the customer had decided on material, measured the yards, feet, and inches by brass tacks driven into the counter.

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