

## POPULATION

# Birth Rate Will Drop

Present peak in marriages and births will decrease to new low soon, census expert predicts. "Curtailed baby crop" and surplus women expected again as result of war.

➤ MARRIAGE and birth rates, pushed to an all-time high by the war boom and the Selective Service Act, will hit a new low as soon as our full participation in this war is felt, Dr. Philip M. Hauser, assistant director of the U. S. Census, predicted to the Society for Social Research meeting at the University of Chicago.

With the death rate practically constant, last year's jump in the birth rate has brought U. S. population up to an estimated 133,039,000. Internal migration is increasing, with 1941 migration from farms to cities doubling that of 1940. This is expected to continue until the peak in war production is reached, including larger and larger percentages of women and Negroes, as the labor shortage grows.

However, in the long run, the war will greatly decrease the rate of popu-

lation growth, predicts Dr. Hauser. Since American economy has been built on anticipation of population increase, this may have serious economic consequences.

Unless we succeed in successfully converting war production to consumer production, other post-war results will be depression and chronic migration of destitute workers, perpetuating the Dust-Bowl era on a larger scale.

In any case we may expect a surplus of women following the war, says Dr. Hauser, which will create a class of women doomed to spinsterhood.

Another dislocation in world population comes from the fact that this war is being fought by the "curtailed baby crop" of World War I. These "hollow classes" in the age pyramid of the nation will reappear in each generation, requiring many generations to erase.

However, post-war planners should study the effects of population as a cause of war, even more than the post-war effects on population, said Dr. Hauser. He hopes the settlement of World War II will recognize the danger of faulty distribution between population and natural resources, as the Treaty of Versailles did not.

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## RESOURCES

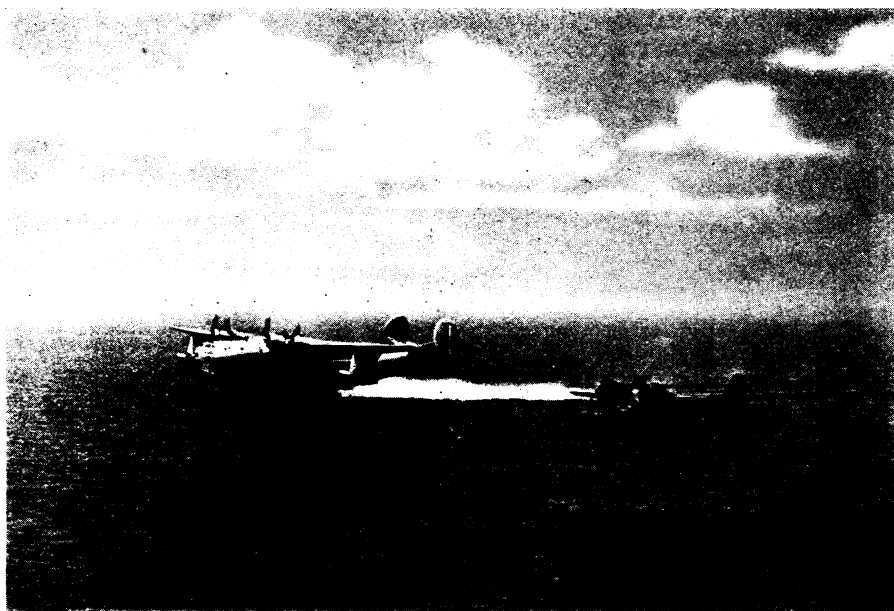
## Boom in Shark Fishing; Source of Vitamins

➤ SHARK-FISHING off the South Florida East Coast has been catapulted from a more or less despised calling to a vital defense industry. The reason is the urgent demand for shark liver oil, which is particularly rich in vitamins A and D. Shark liver oil is largely replacing Norwegian cod liver oil, now impossible to import.

Salerno, on Manatee Creek, up St. Lucie River, is the center of the revived and now flourishing shark industry. The sharks are caught on mile-long chain trot lines, baited with chunks of coarse fish every 25 feet, set on the edge of the Gulf Stream bottom and left overnight. The ends of the line are anchored and marked with buoys. Hauled to the surface the next morning by winches, the sharks are clubbed, brought to port and flayed. The livers are boiled for the oil, which is barreled and shipped to northern extracting plants. A shark's liver produces anywhere from two to 25 gallons of oil.

Varieties of the savage, cold-eyed scavengers of the sea, plentiful five miles off St. Lucie Inlet, include the nurse shark, hammerhead, tiger shark, leopard shark, lemon shark, mackerel shark and the great white shark. Sharks weighing up to and over 1,500 pounds, have been caught by the Salerno commercial fishermen. The average length is seven feet. The big fellows are the ones that got away, breaking the stout chain lines that held the three-quarter-ton "babies."

Sharks are processed as thoroughly as any pig in the Chicago stockyards. The skin is pickled in brine and goes to Newark, N. J., to be made into novelties and into a scuff-proof leather for the toe-caps of heavy working and hunting shoes. The fins find their way to the country's many Chinatowns for soup, and fetch a high-price since the so-called delicacy can no longer be imported from Shanghai and Hong Kong; the flesh is chopped up for dog and



*MARS, the Glenn L. Martin Company's 70-ton flying boat, is a possible answer to ship losses due to enemy submarines. Biggest flying boat in the world and herald of others twice and more her size, the Mars should be able to replace surface ships, it is claimed, because of high speed and greater frequency of trips. The giant size is indicated by contrast with the Grumman amphibian shown flying beside her. Flight deck and a large portion of the main deck are supercharged, permitting normal breathing without oxygen masks miles above the clouds.*