



### Getting a Break

► CONSERVATION of the kind we first heard about, years ago — that of wildlife—seems to be getting a few breaks as a result of the war.

It has already been remarked more than once, that fewer hunters and fishermen have been able to get into the wilderness this season than in the past, which has had the unintended but beneficial effect of an extension of closed seasons on game and fish. By another autumn, exhaustion of existing stocks of sporting ammunition (of which no more is being made) will add its effect.

With the approach of the holiday season, we see some other effects of this indirect conservation. A standing grievance of persons interested in the welfare of our forests has been the marketing of such Christmas greens as native holly, ground pine and mountain laurel leaves. As a rule, these decorations have been taken from the woods without the owners' knowledge or consent, and frequently to the detriment not only of their beauty but often of their very safety.

Stripping of ground pine has been a particularly bad offense in this direction. This creeping plant, a botanical second cousin of the ferns, runs rapidly over denuded soils too sterile to support anything else except possibly mats of moss. It therefore constitutes the ground's only protection against the battering effects of torrential rains, and is to this extent a safeguard against erosion.

Restriction of gasoline supplies will probably prevent at least a part of the marauding expeditions that bring these illegally-acquired Christmas greens to market, for they are transported mainly in battered jalopies and old light trucks. It is possible too, that the intense de-

mand for workers in war industries will have provided their needy owners with better jobs than the looting of their neighbors' land of invaluable wild plants that can be sold only for a pittance anyhow.

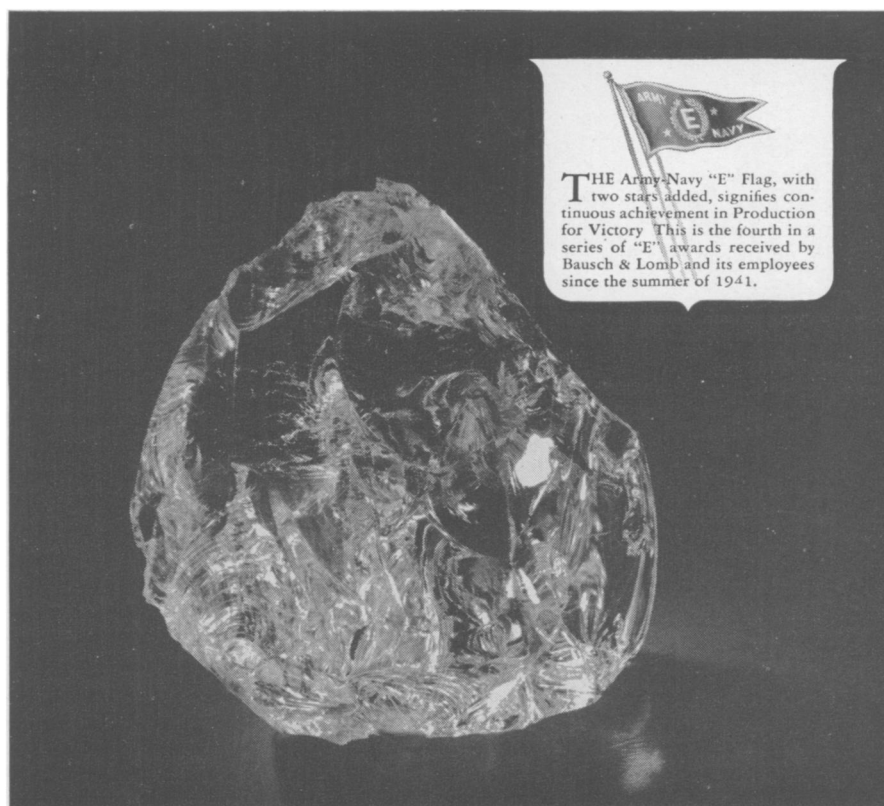
Transportation restrictions have had another effect that is not quite so good. The legitimate marketing of sapling spruces from forest plantings in the northern states and Canada has been stopped for lack of flatcars and trucks to haul them. Since the sale of these thinnings for Christmas trees has long

provided revenue to pay for part of the labor involved in their removal, loss of this market is proving a genuine hardship to forest administrators.

*Science News Letter, December 5, 1942*

*Alcohol* has been produced from bananas in French Guinea, on the west African coast.

*Nicotinic acid*, the third member of the vitamin B complex, was first isolated from concentrations of liver in 1937.



## Crown Jewel for Victory

**T**HIS is a chunk of optical glass. It has been broken out of a porcelain pot which came from the furnaces of the Bausch & Lomb Glass Plant.

It may be destined for use in binoculars—the long-range eyes of Army and Navy. It may be one of the types of glass that comprise the optical system of a medical research microscope. Or it may go into service as a range-finder prism, finished to accuracy limits of one second of arc, an error so small that it amounts to only one foot in 39 miles.

Fathered by William Bausch, the B&L Glass Plant was born in 1914. Under impetus of glass shortages in the first World

War, it grew to full manhood. Research and development have continued without interruption since, so that today America need not look beyond her own borders for a supply of this essential war material.

One hundred and ten types of optical glass come regularly from the Bausch & Lomb furnaces, to provide the various refractive indices and dispersions required in the lenses and prisms for thousands of scientific instruments.

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