

## Do You Know?

Plywood *paddles* for canoes may replace the former solid ash types.

Badly adjusted or misaligned steering mechanisms do more to grind tires into shreds than any other *tire-wearing* factor.

Textile authorities predict *cotton* will be exported in the post-war era to the tune of 3 million square yards annually.

Electric *generating plants* in the United States have a capacity of about 65,000,000 horsepower, or nearly 49,000,000 kilowatts.

White *horse-tail hair* is used in Brazil in brushes; the cuts nearest the roots are put in tooth brushes, the rest in shaving and other brushes.

Production of the mineral *fluorspar* for use in metallurgy, acid manufacture and ceramics should total more than a half-million tons for 1944.

Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, currants, plums, apples, peaches, apricots and some other common fruits contain oil of *wintergreen*.

The rare pancake *tortoise*, *Testudo Tornieri*, of East Africa has a thin flexible shell and can flatten itself to crawl into crevices to hide.

A new silver *babbitt metal* for machine bearings has been developed which has the same bondability and corrosion resistance as turbased babbitt.

A new *cobalt* ore deposit discovered in Spain shows by recent analysis to be 5.9% cobalt; it is expected production may reach 200 tons a month.

Low-bush *blueberries*, common particularly in Maine, have fruit which is typically blue, but occasionally plants are found bearing white, pink, red or black "blueberries."

A product from *peanut oil* has been developed as a substitute for olive oil as a worsted lubricant in weaving, for lard oil or neat's-foot oil in the leather industry, and for almond oil or similar oils in the manufacture of cosmetics.



**POST-WAR LIVING**—Emphasis in the kitchen of the future will be placed on attractiveness and efficient planning so that there is a minimum of wasted energy.

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eyes of many who agree to the obvious advantage of lowered cost and increased utility, is the possibility of monotony in design. In this new type of construction, however, although the walls and roofs will be mass-produced and standardized, the prefabricators are providing for a wide range of flexibility in the final set-up of the homes. Competition between pre-fabricators should serve to stimulate the continual creation of new designs for the homes.

Post-war kitchens in these prefabricated units are expected to be a boon to the housewife. The working area of the newly designed kitchens will be so arranged that the housewife will be able to do three-quarters of her work sitting down, rarely ever having to stoop or bend.

When not in use, stove, sink and other working units will be concealed beneath covers that will join to form an attractive buffet. Neat and compact, they will not look like kitchens at all between meals, and can be used as recreation rooms.

Some of the prefabricated units will be of ideal size for the newly married couples, providing room for expansion in the form of additional wings as the family increases.

Traditionally, the lower income bracket group had to be satisfied with cramped apartments or with housing hand-me-

downs—the more expensive structures in various stages of deterioration. With the aid of cost-slashing mass production of prefabricated units, this same group should be able to become owners of new prefabricated homes at locations of their own choosing and at prices they can afford to pay.

After the war, when manpower and material are available and our fighting men come back to live in these new homes, the evolution of prefabrication should progress, taking full advantage of the application of science for better living.

*Science News Letter, May 6, 1944*

#### METEOROLOGY

### New Kind of Anemometer Uses Electric Eye Device

➤ A NEW KIND of anemometer, or wind-velocity-measuring instrument, is offered by R. H. Packard of Newton, Mass., for patent 2,346,864. Most anemometers make use of some kind of mechanical device for measuring their rate of rotation, but this involves work, and puts a drag, however small, on their operation. Mr. Packard's anemometer lets the vanes pass between a light source and a photocell or electric eye. This accurately records rate of rotation without putting any mechanical load whatsoever on the delicately balanced rotor.

Rights in the patent are assigned to General Motors Corporation.

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