

## Reconditioning Specifications

WASHINGTON, D. C. — To help solve the vast problem of keeping 1,000,000 homes, on which it holds mortgages, in good repair, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation made public today a revised list of master specifications of construction which may offer a pattern for private industry to follow. This list, in the form of a conveniently sized booklet, is for the use of contractors employed by the Corporation, and is intended to insure the best standards of materials and workmanship.

Although no existing standards were comprehensive enough to serve as a guide in preparing the master specifications, the HOLC had behind it the experience of reconditioning 447,000 homes at a total cost of \$83,500,000. This work, a necessary correlary to its purpose of saving American homes, was carried out through the organization of a reconditioning division which consequently had contacts with thousands of contractors in all parts of the country.

"It is safe to say that no other single organization has dealt with such a wide variety of contractors and builders in all parts of the country during the past three years as has the reconditioning division," it was stated in the announcement. "Consequently, it is particularly

well equipped to take the first step towards the coordination of the construction industry and the formulation of standards of work.

"Because of the necessity of adapting the master specifications to all the varying conditions met with in reconditioning HOLC properties, they are applicable for general use. Instead of laying down highly specialized definitions for a limited class of projects, they formulated general rules that should be a basis for judgment on all types of projects.

"Although general in intent, the master specifications cover the erection of most of the structural elements of buildings: chimneys, down-spouts, joists, foundations, and even deal with such specialized problems as termite control, landscape work, terrazzo, tile and marble application.

"It is recognized, however, that this booklet of specifications is only a first step towards the eventual standardization of practices and coordination of the construction industry.

"Builders of small homes never have had the technical proficiency granted to those of more ample means. If some system can be devised by which they get such protection, it will be a distinct step towards better construction."

Nearly 300,000 tons of rock in a seawall bind the firm sand fill of Treasure Island, site of the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco Bay.

## Crops Too Good Spoil Program

(By J. E. Jones)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 25. — President Roosevelt and Secretary of Agriculture Wallace claimed that they boosted farm income from five billion dollars in 1932 to ten billion dollars this year. The farm emergency seemed to be over and congress thought it might "let well enough alone."

Then the Crop Reporting Board sent out word that there would be the biggest cotton crop in six years, the biggest wheat crop since 1931, the most corn since 1919. The crop report sent cotton tumbling \$2 a bale on the market, whereupon the same senators who helped kill the President's court bill rushed to the White House and implored the President to reverse his announced decision to refuse to peg farm prices unless limitations were placed on piling up surpluses. Everybody knew perfectly well that about eight million bales of cotton would be all that would be salable on the markets, and the crop report estimated over fifteen million bales. Would the government stop cotton from sinking to eight cents a pound? Or, would the government stand back of the cotton growers, as heretofore and put federal money back of the farm bloc plan to insure a price of 12 cents a pound?

And then an agreement was reached to the effect that congress would pass a general farm bill, including crop control, immediately upon reconvening for the coming session. It was a trade that "saved the face" of the President and the senators.

A few days later the Agricultural Adjustment Administration told winter wheat farmers to cut their plantings to 80 per cent of the 1937 acreage. That was the forerunner of what must be the government's position with reference to price-fixing on farm products.

The President and Secretary Wallace insist that they will have to check unlimited production for the obvious reason that there is no longer unlimited money to finance crops. Their ever-normal granary and crop surplus control program must be kept up, or they will be "sunk."

A great many years ago there was a shortage of potatoes which sent prices soaring. Governor Pingree of Michigan started a campaign to induce everybody to grow potatoes. So many potatoes were raised the next year that the market price dropped to ten cents a bushel. When it tumbled still lower the potatoes were allowed to rot in the ground. What a fix the federal government would have been in, way back there, if it had guaranteed a dollar a bushel for all potatoes. That little lesson in economics is familiar to the President and Secretary Wallace.

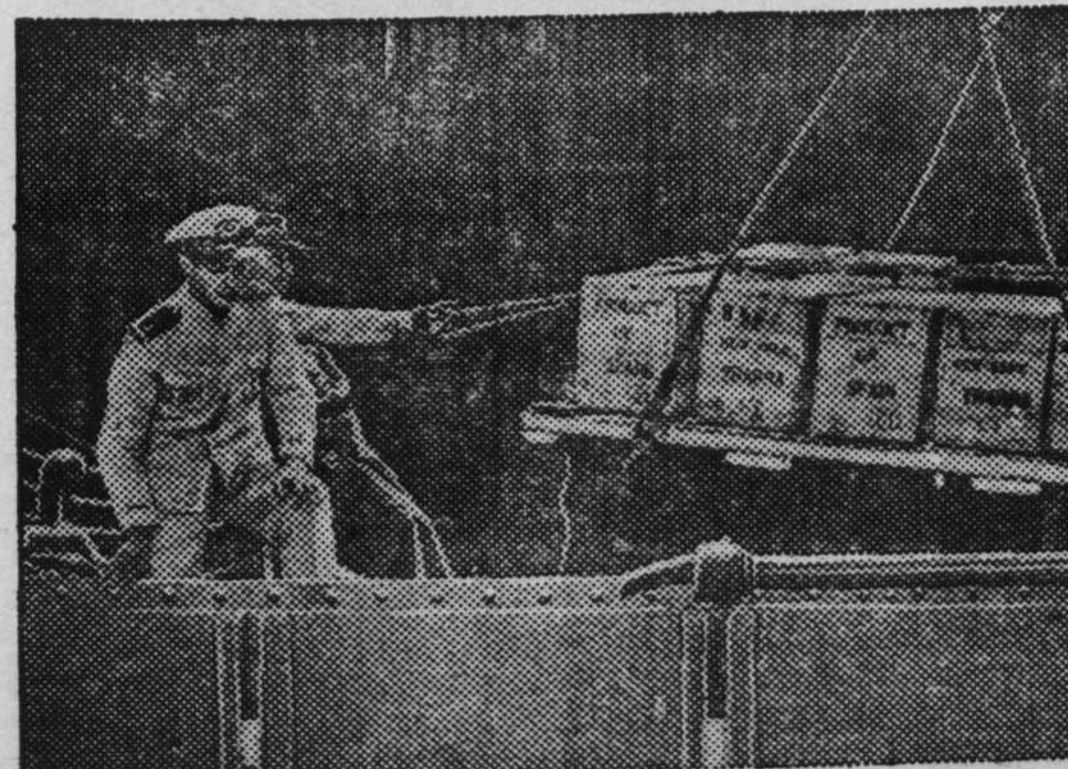
## FUTURE OFFICERS FOR THE MERCHANT MARINE



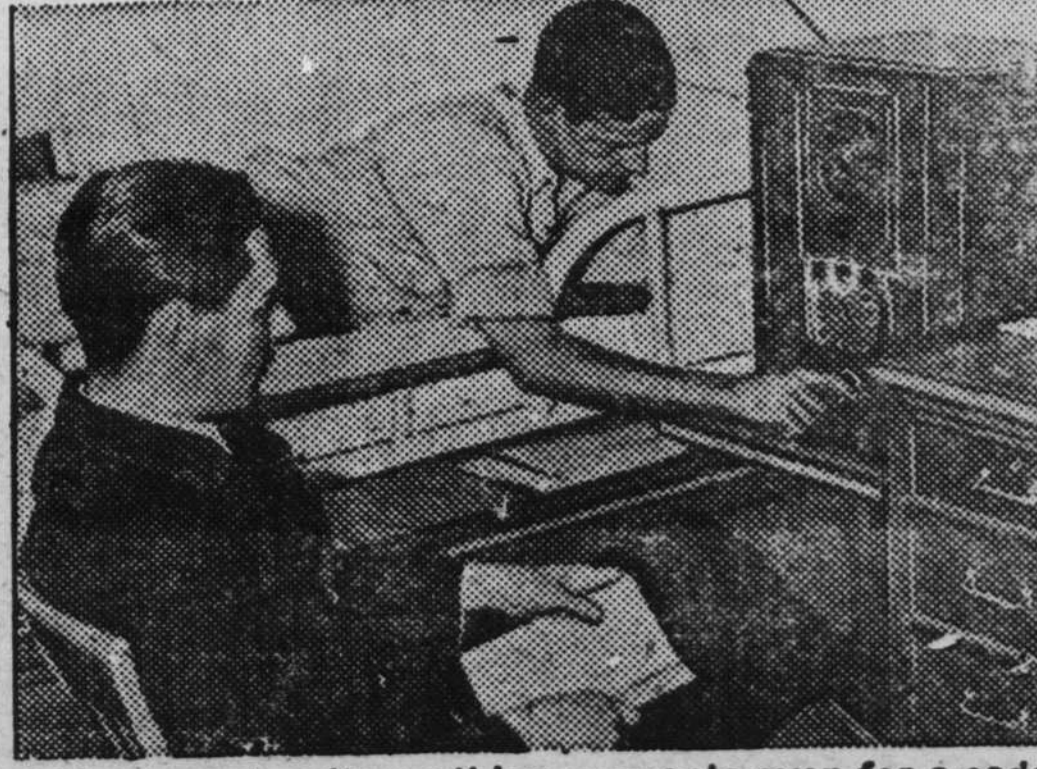
Approved by the Maritime Commission the cadet system trains future officers for the Merchant Marine. In his cabin, aboard the Grace Line's "Santa Elena," Cadet Leonard Burger plots a course in a navigation problem.



On watch, Cadet Burger "shoots the sun" on his own from the bridge of the "Santa Elena." After three years at sea learning seamanship and navigation, he'll be ready for his Third Officer's papers.



A cadet's day isn't all study, problems in navigation, and instruction from the ship's officers. He has real work to do. While the "Santa Elena" is in port Cadet Burger supervises the loading of cargo.



Life at sea has its soothing moments even for a cadet. While Cadet Burger, off duty, looks on, Cadet Max borrows his bunk and his radio for a few minutes' rest, with music, before going on watch.

## Child Attacking Cat Is Killed

Reno airport's child-attacking cat was killed last night, shortly after it had bit and scratched Joan Dineen, six year old daughter of Mrs. Ressa Dineen, 607 North Virginia street, at the airport, says Nevada State Journal of August 18.

The cat which had attacked three children during the past few months was shot by Wally Payne, airport employee. Payne tracked the animal along an irrigation ditch with the aid of a flash light, finally getting in position to shoot it. The body will be taken to the state laboratory today and tested for rabies.

The animal attacked the Dineen girl at 9:30 p. m., and Deputy Sheriff Earl Griffith was immediately called. He left some shells with Payne and then took the girl to the Washoe General Hospital.

There she was treated for deep bites and scratches on both legs and on her right arm by Dr. L. Corvino and Dr. A. J. Hood.

Sunday night the animal leaped from behind an automobile and bit Ronald Gossett, 5, of 1070 South Virginia street, inflicting deep wounds on the boy's leg. After reading an account of the attack on the Gossett boy in The Nevada State Journal, L. W. Edwards of Carson City, declared that the animal had bit and scratched his five year old son, Lee, about five months ago.

The cat weighed about 10 pounds, according to Deputy Sheriff Griffith.

A freight train 200 miles long would be required to transport material required in building of the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.