

KENT DEFENSE CORPORATION EXPLOSIVES PLANT
DEDICATION

March 26, 1942

Chestertown

THE dedication of this new plant of the Kent Defense Corporation here today is cause for congratulation to the people of this whole area. It marks another important link in the industrial effort of our State. I trust and confidently believe that the example given by the public-spirited men of this community, in organizing this new company, will be followed in other communities, particularly in those communities which have been hardest hit by the cessation of regular peace-time industrial activities.

The most important aspect of this new plant, of course, is that it helps to expand the already tremendous contribution that is being made by Maryland to the war effort of our Nation. The industry of which it is a subsidiary has done remarkable work in expanding to meet the increased demands upon it. No doubt some of you were present at Elkton some months ago when we participated in the award of a Naval Insignia to the Triumph Plant for specially meritorious work in production. Knowing the people of this community and being fully aware of the spirit of enterprise and patriotism here, I feel it safe to predict that there will be general satisfaction with the out-put here, and that this plant will quickly take its place among the most efficient of its type in our land.

There is a second consideration involved, too, that is of major importance to all the residents of this vicinity. This plant, production in which will be stepped up, as I understand, to top production as quickly as possible will provide work for many people in this neighborhood. It will bring back here some of the residents who have been compelled heretofore to go to Elkton for employment. Furthermore, it will add greatly to the amount of money in circulation and will, therefore, do much to help adjust the economic situation which has been disturbed by many factors since the war began.

It is generally agreed, and I believe the highest officials in Washington will heartily endorse the statement that the greater the distribution of our war effort among the various communities of our Nation, the more effective the results, and the more wide-spread the benefits to the personnel employed. Americans generally are so accustomed to thinking in terms of large industry, that the fact has been more or less generally overlooked that all the large industries combined can never hope to supply the million-and-one war essentials that our valiant fighting forces will need.

The only way we can be assured, as a Nation, of the all-out production everyone agrees will be required, is through distribution of war contracts to as many different communities as possible. Such a system not only makes available the greatest possible number of workers, skilled and otherwise, but it