

# STRAW HATS MUST YIELD TO GAS MASKS

## United States Rubber Buys Old Straw Hat Works at Milford.

For the purpose of manufacturing gas masks and other kinds of rubber goods the United States Rubber Company, of which the Hartford Rubber works is a subdivision, has bought the old Milford straw hat works at Milford. Within a few weeks the new plant will open, employing 400 to 500 men and women.

The first article to be manufactured in the new factory will be the traveling bag; then there will be made also ponchos and rubber blankets for the army. Negotiations for the placing of gas mask contracts have made good progress and as soon as the government's experts have determined on the details of the type sample, the contracts will be placed and the work on the order will proceed.

The Milford rubber works will be under the management of the Good-year Metaflo Rubber Shoe Company of Naugatuck of which Charles R. Haynes is superintendent. J. Wallace Harnoy, who has been assistant foreman in the L. Candee & Co.'s rubber works of New Haven, will be the local superintendent.

The plant is now being altered to suit the requirements of a rubber factory and a considerable amount of machinery is to be installed. There is in all about 75,000 square feet of floor space with enough land about the plant to permit extensive expansion. The nature of the work is said to be cleanly, interesting and not difficult to learn; and the company has announced that wages will

be attractive both for men and women.

The United States Rubber Company has at the present time three large rubber factories in New Haven and Naugatuck which yield a daily output of more than 60,000 pairs of rubber boots and shoes.

The old Milford straw hat works was established about 70 years ago, but has been closed since last July.