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(i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS) ON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1942:

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PRESS NOTICE

RE-OPENED SHIPYARDS

Much has been written in recent times regarding shipyards which went out of existence during the long and severe shipbuilding depression and it seems desirable that the position should now be made clear, especially when statements have been made to the effect that none of the old yards has been re-opened.

At the present time, it can be said that 23 of these establishments have been re-opened, this action, in a few cases, actually having taken place before the war. In some instances the site has been developed as a separate ship-repairing establishment or it has been incorporated in an existing ship-repairing unit, but in twelve cases the old site is now in use for the purpose of building various types of craft and including vessels exceeding 10,000 tons displacement. A further yard is now being prepared for the purpose of building these larger vessels, and a still further yard of that class is under consideration for re-opening.

It can be said that the policy of the Admiralty over a long period has been to provide additional berths and plant in most ample time ahead of the likely labour supply; in fact, because of the difficult labour situation the re-opening of the old yards has, in the very great majority of cases, been necessarily associated with the pre-fabrication of a large proportion of the steel work spread over a very large number of units of the Structural Steel Industry.

A certain yard which the Shipbuilding Industry, through its N.S.S. scheme, had kept intact on a care and maintenance basis was first of all taken in hand and prepared ready for re-opening as early as December 1939, although it was not until early in 1941 that it was felt it could be reasonably manned.

A further interesting fact is that quite a good number of other old shipyard sites are today being used by other industries, many of which are engaged on important war work and some on manufactures that are supplied to shipbuilding. In one instance, in a district very short of suitable labour for shipbuilding, the site is now in use as a seaplane base.
