April 1944

William Preston Davies
By W. P. Davies

HAVE YOU ANY GARDEN SEEDS left over from last year? Many people have. For one reason or another entire packets are sometimes left over, or parts of the contents of packets are held for later use and then not planted. Some of those seeds are as good as ever, but some are not, and there is no way to tell by looking at them. And it is poor practice to risk failure in order to save a few cents. On the whole it is safer to buy new seeds.

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IF THERE IS ANY INTENT TO USE left-over seeds, by all means the seeds should be tested as to their germinating power. If 10 or 20 seeds are kept for a few days in moistened blotting paper or in damp cloth and in a moderately warm place, the sound seed should germinate and an estimate can be made of the percentage of useful seed in a given quantity. Mere germination, however, is not enough. Some seeds may germinate without having sufficient vitality to produce strong plants, and that is always a factor to be considered.

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SOME SEEDS ARE ENCASED IN hard shells which are almost waterproof. Germination of such seeds is very slow as it takes a long time for moisture to reach the seed itself. One example of this is the Heavenly Blue morning glory. Seedsmen recommend that such seeds be scarred with a sharp knife or with sandpaper, taking care not to injure the seed germ. Usually that insures prompt germination.

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SEEDS VARY GREATLY IN LONGEVITY, some becoming worthless after a year or two while others retain vitality for many years. I have heard it said that the seed of wild mustard, one of our familiar weeds, will germinate after being buried deep in the soil for many years, then being brought near the surface into warm soil. I suppose the explanation is that mustard seed is heavily charged with oil which resists decay.

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YEARS AGO THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE traffic in a so-called Egyptian wheat the seed of which was said to have been found in the tomb of one of the Pharoahs where it had lain for some 3,000 years. It was explained that the dry air of the desert had preserved the seed from deteriorating. The few seeds discovered, it was said, had been planted, grew, and yielded heavily of wheat of fine quality. Successive plantings had produced a sufficient quantity to be placed on the market where it was offered at fancy prices.

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THE SEED WAS NOT HANDLED BY reputable seedsmen, but was peddled from farm to farm, and for a time the job of selling it was quite lucrative. The seed that was sold grew and yielded, but in neither quantity nor quality did it prove desirable, and in a short time it disappeared. Actually there is no record of such seed ever having been recovered from an Egyptian tomb. The whole thing was a fake.

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THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CASES of apparently great seed longevity in the experience of reputable botanists. In one case plants of unknown species grew in soil taken from a deep excavation made in the Kew gardens near London. The soil had been undisturbed for several centuries. Whether the seed had lain in the soil all that time or had come from some unknown source after the excavation no one could tell and I have never seen an account of what was done with the strange plants that grew from it.

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A NEWS ARTICLE TOLD THE PUBLIC the other day: “Drinks are to be increased in price 2 to 4 cents and beer one cent per glass.” That brings up the question: Is beer a drink, or isn’t it?
By W. P. Davies

EIGHTY YEARS AGO THIS NATION was engaged in a war in which its very existence was at stake. That was a fratricidal war in which men of the same race and language fought against each other, and often brother fought against brother and son against father, facts which added to the intensity of the conflict. For a long time there had been rumblings and mutterings of the storm that was to come, but the nation's rulers had made no preparation for the emergency.

WHEN THE FIRST SHOTS WERE fired at Fort Sumter and one southern state after another declared for secession there was experienced in the North the shock of surprise followed by a wave of enthusiastic optimism. Division of the nation must be resisted and the secession movement must be crushed. That it would be crushed quickly and completely there was no doubt. When the government called for volunteers for 90 days there was immediate and enthusiastic response, and many of those who volunteered feared that the war would be over before they had a chance to see actual service.

ALL MILITARY MEASURES TO deal with the situation had to be improvised and the nation suffered the inevitable penalties of haste and inexperience. Raw recruits were put into the field, poorly armed, improperly equipped and inadequately supplied. Washington was a bedlam. Men who sought earnestly to organize the forces of the nation for effective action were hampered by the conflicting rivalries of ambitious men and the greed of leeches eager for pecuniary profit.

INSTEAD OF THE IMMEDIATE victory that had been so confidently expected the national forces suffered disheartening reverses. It became evident that the nation must settle down for a real fight in which more men would be needed, with more and better equipment and better organized all along the line. Gradually this was brought about, but it took a long time.

THE WAR WHICH WAS TO HAVE been over in 90 days lasted four years. They were years of bloody battles in which victory alternated with defeat. The original wave of confident enthusiasm subsided. In its place there grew in the hearts of many the grim determination to sacrifice everything else for victory and fight through no matter what the cost. But there were many others who became doubtful and grew weary. There were counsels of compromise and influential men urged publicly that the best bargain possible be made so that the nation might resume its interrupted peaceful life. Struggling against great odds, Lincoln refused to yield. Grant proposed to "fight it out along this line if it takes all summer." That sort of determination won and the nation was held together.

WE ARE NOW IN ANOTHER WAR which is well along into its fifth year. For more than two years we have been active belligerents in that war, and during the whole period its blighting influence has been upon us. We have been committed unreservedly to victory, and we have been confident of it. But the long strain is having its effect. Nerves are frayed, and here and there tense strings seem about to snap. Everywhere there is evidence of tension. Victories which were expected months ago have not yet been achieved. Here and there Allied forces have been stopped in their tracks. In some places they have been obliged to yield ground.

THE SMOOTH SURFACE OF INTER-ALLIED relations is broken here and there. In some quarters there are questions concerning the intentions of Russia. Stalin recognized Badoglio without consulting the United States or Britain, and still resents delay in launching the invasion of Germany from the West. Churchill finds it necessary to meet the criticism of opponents by challenging them with demand for a vote of confidence. Criticisms are made of the organization and handling of our own forces.

THE WORLD IS WEARY OF THE war, just as the people of our own North were weary of war 80 years ago. And just as that weariness plunged many of our people in the Civil war period into the bog of defeatism, so there is the possibility that if we permit it to take possession of us we shall lose sight of what the war is for and be willing to end it on whatever terms will permit us to resume the orderly course of peaceful existence. If we were all ready to do that we could end the war tomorrow. In those other years Lincoln saw that to yield, as many urged him to do, would banish freedom from the earth. And for those who are now fighting for elementary human rights to stop short of the goal toward which we are struggling would destroy all of those things which free men hold most dear.
IN SEARCHING AT HER HOME IN Riverside park for papers for the waste paper collection, Mrs. Eleanor Healy Booth found among other things several copies of the Youth's Companion, which many years ago was by far the most popular young people's publication in America. The Companion ceased publication several years ago. In one of the copies found by Mrs. Booth, dated March 5, 1925, was the following little articles on cross-word puzzles, a subject which was then attracting considerable attention:

"NO ONE CAN DENY THAT THERE is fascination in the things. You pick one up and begin to guess. It may be this word or that word or the other. You get your finger on what you want, and then it exasperatingly slips away. You have a dozen other things to do, but an hour slips away, and an evening is over before you know it, and there is little profit, and yet you are tempted again.

"But of course there is fashion as well as fascination. A year ago no one was playing with cross-word puzzles. Probably no one will be playing with them a year hence. Some fifty years ago there was a similar rage for spelling matches. The whole country gathered in halls and public places to "spell down" some one. Then it all passed away like smoke."

"The charm of such puzzles is curious, though not difficult to analyze. It consists in the sense of mental power and achievement. Here is a problem that others, many of them brilliant people, cannot solve. You set yourself to it with all your might; you toil and strain and labor and solve it and go to bed and to sleep with a vast sense of satisfaction. It is evident that you must have a remarkable brain, since you can do such things with it—things that Jones with all his college training cannot do or cannot do so easily.

"ALSO THERE IS THE IMMENSE and unfailing charm of forgetting. The little, silly black-and-white checkerboards help us to forget—forget pain and weariness and the humdrum business of the day; forget the long effort of living, of trying to make both ends meet and pay our bills, of dragging through endless days of labor to little advantage, though we have still to do it.

The beauty of these puzzles is that they are play puzzles. We can pretend to be vastly absorbed in them, but they can be thrown aside unsolved; fame and fortune and success do not depend on them, though they afford, if only for a few moments, a consoling refuge from the insoluble puzzle of life."

ABOUT 1925 THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE in approximately its present form was comparatively new. Innumerable word puzzles had long been in use, among them anagrams and acrostics, incorporating some of the features now used in the crossword puzzle, but about the early 1920's the crossword puzzle took on approximately its present form, and there developed a craze for it which swept the country and brought forth above comment in the Youth's Companion. The early craze subsided somewhat, but contrary to the expectation of the Companion, instead of disappearing altogether the puzzle became invested with a solid and apparently permanent popularity. Just recently, 19 years later, the Herald's attempt to conserve space by eliminating the crossword puzzle from its columns brought such a volume of protest that it seemed necessary to resume publication.

LIKE DODDRIDGE, THE MATHEMATICIAN, who wrote his "Alice" stories as "Lewis Carroll," Southey told the story of the three bears. I had supposed, as I suppose most others have done, that the story of Goldilocks and the three bears, the big father bear, the middle-sized mother bear and the tiny baby bear, was one of those folks' stories that have sprung from no one knows where and have been repeated in various forms through many generations. Instead of that, the story was written in 1837 by no less a person than Robert Southey, at one time poet laureate of England, and known both for his poetry and for his voluminous prose writings.

"THE CHARM OF SUCH PUZZLES IS CURIOUS, THOUGH NOT DIFFICULT TO ANALYZE. IT CONSISTS IN THE SENSE OF MENTAL POWER AND ACHIEVEMENT. HERE IS A PROBLEM THAT OTHERS, MANY OF THEM BRILLIANT PEOPLE, CANNOT SOLVE. YOU SET YOURSELF TO IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT; YOU TOIL AND STRAIN AND LABOR AND SOLVE IT AND GO TO BED AND TO SLEEP WITH A VAST SENSE OF SATISFACTION. IT IS EVIDENT THAT YOU MUST HAVE A REMARKABLE BRAIN, SINCE YOU CAN DO SUCH THINGS WITH IT—THINGS THAT JONES WITH ALL HIS COLLEGE TRAINING CANNOT DO OR CANNOT DO SO EASILY.

"ALSO THERE IS THE IMMENSE AND UNFAILING CHARm OF FORGETTING. THE LITTLE, SILLY BLACK-AND-WHITE CHECKERBOARDS HELP US TO FORGET—FORGET PAIN AND WEARINESS AND THE HUMDRUM BUSINESS OF THE DAY; FORGET THE LONG EFFORT OF LIVING, OF TRYING TO MAKE BOTH ENDS MEET AND PAY OUR BILLS, OF DRAGGING THROUGH ENDLESS DAYS OF LABOR TO LITTLE ADVANTAGE, THOUGH WE HAVE STILL TO DO IT.

THE BEAUTY OF THESE PUZZLES IS THAT THEY ARE PLAY PUZZLES. WE CAN PRETEND TO BE VASTLY ABSORBED IN THEM, BUT THEY CAN BE THROWN ASIDE UNSOLVED; FAME AND FORTUNE AND SUCCESS DO NOT DEPEND ON THEM, THOUGH THEY AFFORD, IF ONLY FOR A FEW MOMENTS, A CONSOlING REFUGE FROM THE INSOLUBLE PUZZLE OF LIFE."

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By W. P. Davies

TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN HE WAS chief of staff of the United States army, Gen. Douglas MacArthur discussed some of the lessons that had been learned from the former World war and mentioned some of the mistaken conclusions that had been popularly drawn from the experiences of that war. Most of the major land operations in the war in western Europe had been by large armies which for long periods had faced each other from their respective trenches. It was in effect a war of siege operations and popular comment was largely to the effect that the war of the future would be largely trench warfare of similar type.

THAT WAS THE VIEW ENTERTAINED by many leading statesmen, and much of the legislation of the period was based on the assumption that future wars would be of exhaustion rather than of movement. MacArthur did not share that opinion, nor did the trained military leaders who served with him. On that subject MacArthur wrote in August, 1934 that the conditions that had prevailed on the western front were quite different from those likely to be met in a general campaign and that he and his associates were convinced that preparation must be made for swift movement rather than for attrition and exhaustion.

"LITTLE REFLECTION IS NECESSARY," he wrote, "to appreciate the soundness of such a view. At no place other than in western Europe does there exist a definitely flankless line with population on each side of it of such density and readiness for war as to man it solidly from end to end. In no region of equal size does there exist the number of good roads necessary to supply armies of the size that fought for years in northeastern France and Belgium."

"IN OUR OWN ARMY," HE CONTINUED, "technicians have been busy ever since the war in developing experimental models of the type of equipment useful in a war of movement. Moreover, about four years ago the army turned its attention definitely toward the development of an organization, tactical practice and system of training applicable to the new conditions and featuring speed, sudden attack and relentless pursuit."

EXPERIENCE IN THE PRESENT war has abundantly demonstrated the soundness of MacArthur's conclusions and the wisdom of the methods of equipment and training which he developed. In the winter of 1939-40, the armies of Ger-

many and France remained stationery on opposite sides of their respective fortifications, but when spring came the Germans struck swiftly and savagely and with such force that France collapsed. On the Russian front, both in the first German offensive and in the later amazing progress of the Russians, the same swift movement has prevailed. There the terrain lends itself to open warfare.

OF COURSE AN ARMY MUST BE prepared to adapt itself to the requirements of the time and the locality. In Italy we have conditions more nearly resembling those of the trench warfare in France. The whole area is a system of mountain fortifications in which neither side of late has been able to make material progress, and it is quite probable that the Russians will meet new problems when they reach the German defenses in the Carpathians.

AN AMERICAN FLEET HAS AT- tacked the strong Japanese base on the Palau islands, only about 600 miles from the Philippines. It need not be assumed, however, that there is to be an immediate attack on Japanese positions on the Philippines. That will come, in due time, but a lot of spade work will have to be done first.
Mrs. H. H. Olson of Ray, N. D., sends a clipping from the Williston Herald containing an editorial describing two cases in which government officials ought to impose on the people of Williston organizations which they do not need, and which, if they did need, they could create for themselves without government interference or intermeddling. From the editorial I quote the following paragraphs which speak for themselves:

"TWO WELL DRESSED AND APPARENTLY well paid officials of a government agency came to town and took up the time of half a dozen or more of our business men for times varying from a half hour up to three and four hours—all for nothing more important than to organize a clean-plate club in Williams county."

"LET'S START OUT BY ADMITTING that the purpose of the clean-plate club is laudable. It is designed to impress people with the necessity of saving food because food is vital to the war effort. People are to be told to prepare and take for themselves only as much food as they can eat—hence the clean plate—so they won't be wasting anything."

"THE BIG POINT AGAINST SENDING well paid government officials out to organize such clubs, however, is that the people already realize the vital necessity of saving food and don't need to sign a pledge card to start saving it. Our newspapers, magazines, and radios have been telling us ever since the war started that food is essential and must be saved, and if all these didn't convince us, the rationing program has driven the lesson home. And now some visionary bureaucrat wants to organize us into a club to clean our plates at every meal. It seems to us to be entirely superfluous and about two years behind the times."

"THEN NOT LONG AGO AN OPA OFFICIAL came here with a plan to organize an anti-inflation committee in Williston as an educational program to educate local people in the dangers of inflation and the things they can do to prevent it."

"AGAIN, THE PURPOSE WAS ENTIRELY laudable, but local folks began to get suspicious that there was an ulterior motive when this OPA official offered to put a $2,400-a-year director on the OPA payroll to head the program in Williston and hire OPA clerks to take care of the details of the work here."

"AS WAS POINTED OUT BY ONE OF our leading local citizens, we organize to sell bonds without any paid government campaign directors, we set up an OCD committee on a purely voluntary basis and it was a big success—we manage our salvage campaigns without paid help and otherwise pull our share of the war load—just why should we need all this clerical help to keep an anti-inflation committee working?"

"NOW THAT THE TAXPAYER HAS had a couple of weeks in which to recover his breath and get over the daze induced by having to make out that income tax statement and file it by March 15, along comes another statement which he must file not later than April 15 or be subject to the pains and penalties made and provided by law. This time he must tell the government, as nearly as he can, what his income will be for the year 1944, what he will pay out in taxes, interest, contributions, medical expenses and so forth, what the tax on that income will be after exemptions and deductions, how much of the tax will be withheld by his employer, if he has an employer, and how much he will still owe the government. He may pay that amount now, or, if he chooses, divide it into four equal installments, one payable every three months. Buy a fresh bottle of aspirin and go to it."

"IN FAIRNESS IT SHOULD BE SAID that in sending out these new blanks the treasury department probably is not just trying to be ornery. Congress has enacted one tax law after another without taking the trouble to consolidate and harmonize them, and the result is a hodge-podge of confusion. The treasury department must follow the laws that congress has handed to it. Just the same, it seems that the department could have simplified those statements just a little bit."

The new law, we are old, will be somewhat simpler than what we have had. Let us hope. Maybe a prayer would help.
EVIDENCE IN THE LONERGAN murder case in New York was that Lonergan beat his wife over the head, first with one heavy candlestick and then another, and then, when that didn’t finish her, he choked her to death with his hands. The jury found him guilty of murder in the second degree. What must one do to commit murder in the first degree?

THROUGH THESE MANY YEARS we have been told that Mount Everest, in the Himalayas, was the highest mountain in the world, altitude something over 29,000 feet, and several men have lost their lives trying to scale the peak, thus far without success. But an aviator reports that while flying over a mountain range in near-by China at an altitude of 30,000 feet he saw a peak that was still higher than he was.

TERRIS MOORE, OF CAMBRIDGE, who was a member of a scientific expedition sent in 1932 to explore some of the great Asiatic ranges, expresses great interest in the subject. While the aviator’s description of the area over which he flew is not precise, Mr. Moore says that somewhere in that great area there is a range that has not yet been explored, the only one yet unexplored except the ranges on the Antarctic continent. While it has been thought improbable that any of the peaks of that range exceed that of Everest, he thinks this is quite possible and that the aviator’s estimate should be checked by careful scientific investigation. If the aviator’s estimate proves correct the schoolbooks will have to be revised.

INHABITANTS OF TIBET, AWAY UP in the mountains to Asia, have many interesting customs. One is their way of making tea. The tea that they use is compressed into the form of bricks, but that, I suppose, is merely for convenience in handling. To prepare the beverage they first boil a liberal quantity of the leaves in water that has been flavored with soda. The decoction is then strained and when butter is added it is boiled again. The result is a liquid that looks like coffee and cream. The Tibetans like it.

THE WRITER OF A POSTAL CARD that comes from Bottineau, who signs his communication only with initials with which I am not familiar, demands “What! No robins yet?”

I confess that I haven’t yet reported the arrival of a spring Robin. My only excuse is that I haven’t seen or heard of one. I hope that excuse will be accepted, for I assure my correspondent that I have done my best. Every sunny morning I look out to see if there is a robin in sight, and there isn’t. But the weather recently, while not very cold, has been backward, and little snow flurries have kept the ground white most of the time. I suppose the birds are somewhere a few hundred miles south of us waiting for evidence of settled spring weather.

A NOTE FROM GEO. A. BANGS, president of the American United Life Insurance company of Indianapolis, is accompanied by a condensation of his company’s annual statement. During the past year the company’s assets increased $4,000,000 and insurance at risk $8,000,000. Insurance carried is now close to $300,000,000.

Mr. Bangs maintains his personal interest in Grand Forks, the city that was his home for so many years, and he sends greetings to old friends there.

ONE NEW YORK WRITER NOTED the arrival there the other day of spring birds which he called grackles and whose glossy plumage he described in fitting terms. Another writer says he is wrong and that the birds seen are not grackles, but starlings. The second writer says the grackle may be distinguished from the starling by the white circle around its eye, which the starling does not have. Pictures in one bird book show the grackle with the white rim around the eye, and the starling as a much plumper bird than the starling. Sparrows, we are told, were brought from England to combat insects, and became public nuisances. Then somebody imported starlings, hoping that they would kill off the sparrows, but the two live sociably together and both are nuisances.

HAS- SENATOR NYE CONGRATULATED anybody on the result of the Grand Forks city election?
By W. P. Davies

MY REMARK IN YESTERDAY'S COLUMN that I had received no word of the appearance of the first robin this spring was already in the hands of the printers and out of my reach when Mrs. J. M. Gillette phoned that a robin had just appeared at her home on Fourth avenue South. That was on Wednesday morning. Mrs. Gillette also reported that crows had been seen in her neighborhood a week earlier.

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THE GILLETTE HOME, WITH grounds reaching back to the river, is ideally situated for birds. All along the river is a fringe of natural forest which is quite dense in places, and in many places, too, there is an undergrowth of shrubbery which provides an admirable refuge for birds. Many birds which in the fall disappear altogether from the areas in which there is no natural timber may be found along the river all winter. Usually those are of the non-migratory species, but occasionally a robin or other migratory bird, spends the winter there.

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THE CROW IS A BIRD WITHOUT which we can get along quite well. It is only partly migratory. Most of the large flocks go south for the winter, but individual crows often remain in the North the year round. I have never seen in the Northwest anything like the immense flocks of crows which were a familiar sight in the East in my boyhood. There the crows occupied for years a favorite roosting place in which thousands of them spent the summer nights and from which they would emerge each morning to raid the cornfields. Their evening homeward flight was a sight to remember. Toward sundown they came from their feeding grounds to their roosts. Their flight was not in a mass, but in a long procession, with many birds irregularly abreast and in an apparently endless line.

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THERE WAS NO BOUNTY ON crows, but everyone's hand was against them. Scarecrows were erected in the fields to frighten them, and while I suppose they were of some use, the crows soon became familiar with them and it was not unusual to see a crow perched on a scarecrow sunning itself and presumably considering what mischief to perpetrate next. The crow has good vision and can see an enemy a long way off. We had a theory, which is still extant, that a crow knew whether or not an approaching man carried a gun and would govern itself accordingly. I know that in my own case I always had difficulty in getting within range of a crow if I had a gun.

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ARE THERE MORE MULTIPLE births these days, or does it only seem so because the cases are more likely to be reported? It is quite conceivable that in earlier years many cases of multiple births went unreported. Now each case is given wide publicity immediately. Someone has been digging into the New York City records and finds that when Manhattan was New Amsterdam, in December, 1644—not quite 300 years ago, quadruplets were born to a good Dutch family, and that they were presently baptized, with two godparents for each child. After giving much study to the subject, an eminent statistician concludes that according to the law of averages twins should occur once in every 87 births, triplets once in every 7,869, quadruplets once in 700,000 and quintuplets once in 57,000,000. On that basis the premium against quintuplets ought not to be very high.

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MENTION OF AVERAGES REMINDS me of the little girl's definition of that word, which appeared in a school lesson.

"What is an average?" asked the teacher.

"An average," came the prompt answer, "is a thing for hens to lay eggs on."

Astonished, the teacher demanded, "Where in the world did you get that idea?"

"Mr. Woodley, what brings our eggs, said so. I heard him say this morning that his hens laid on an average six dozen eggs a day."
By W. P. Davies

A SUDDEN TURN WAS GIVEN TO the political situation when, following his defeat in the Wisconsin Republican primary, Wendell Willkie announced the withdrawal of his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president. Mr. Willkie had made a vigorous personal campaign in Wisconsin, insisting that the future of the Republican party as a constructive influence in the affairs of the nation depends on its definite and immediate commitment to a clear and definite policy with respect to the domestic affairs of the nation and to the nation's course during the war and through the years which are to follow.

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IN HIS MANY PUBLIC UTERANCES Mr. Willkie had left no room for doubt concerning his own views of what that policy should be. He had urged as indispensable to the soundness of our social and economic life abandonment of the policy of paternalism and simplification of government machinery by lopping off of those costly excrescences characteristic of the New Deal while retaining in their essentials those agencies and forms of service which have contributed to human betterment.

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HE HAD URGED ON THE PART of the government a clear declaration of purpose and policy in international affairs and removal of every element of vagueness and indecision in the conduct of the war. He urged that the war be fought to a successful conclusion and that the United States enter wholeheartedly into co-operation with other peace-loving nations for the building of a just and enduring peace. Unless the Republican party committed itself definitely to that kind of policy in both fields, he said, it was doomed in all probability to defeat at the polls, and with certainty to the loss of all prospect of real leadership.

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IT WAS ON THAT BASIS THAT Willkie made his appeal to Republicans everywhere and on which he waged his intensified campaign for delegates in the Wisconsin primary. When the votes were counted his was the lowest vote cast for any of the four candidates, actual or potential, named on the ballot, and not a single delegate pledged to him had been elected. He had used the Wisconsin primary as a test, and the result of that test convinced him that it would be impossible for him to obtain enough delegates to make his nomination by the Republican national convention possible. He announced his withdrawal in dignified terms and asked his supporters in other states to discontinue effort in his behalf. He gave no indication of what his future course may be.

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TO THE OLD-LINE LEADERS IN the Republican party Willkie has been anathema. It was in spite of them that he won the party nomination four years ago, and ever since they have worked to suppress and eliminate him. Regardless of whatever policies he may advocate, he is not their kind of man. He is too individual, too independent, to submit readily to rigorous party discipline. An amiable cipher would be more to their liking.

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CONFIRMED ISOLATIONISTS WERE unreservedly opposed to Willkie because of his attitude on international affairs. Their opposition could be taken for granted. Moreover, there were those definitely in favor of complete and constructive international co-operation in whose minds doubts concerning Willkie's dependability had been created by the unfortunate practice that Willkie himself had followed in certain cases of making extreme pronouncements without adequate knowledge.

* * *

IN ADDITION TO ALL THIS, AS affecting the Wisconsin campaign, there was the uncompromising isolationist attitude, publicly recorded, of the entire Republican delegation from Wisconsin in the house of representatives. Those members voted unanimously in 1939 for continuation of the mandatory embargo which prohibited all aid to France and Great Britain. They voted unanimously against permitting American ships to be armed for their own protection when Hitler declared his intention to drive our shipping from the sea. They voted unanimously against the selective service act when it was adopted in 1940 after the fall of France. They voted unanimously against extension of the selective service act a year later when our hastily enlisted army threatened to fall apart on the very eve of Pearl Harbor. They voted unanimously against the adoption of lend-lease. They voted, or were paired against, unanimously, the first lend-lease appropriation after that act had become the law of the land.

Incidentally, North Dakota voters may remember that in the senate their senior senator, Nye, cast votes almost identical with those above listed.

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CONDITIONS ARISING FROM those facts were among the things that Willkie had to face in Wisconsin. Presumably the attitude of the Republican house members was indicative of the attitude of the party organization in Wisconsin, and an efficient party organization is a powerful influence in an election.
By W. P. Davies

RECENTLY MRS. W. H. LOGAN, OF Clyde, N. D., received from her son Kenneth, who is serving in the Central Pacific as technical sergeant on a B-24 bomber, a letter written in Japanese which he had picked up on one of his flights and had sent home to his mother as a souvenir. Mrs. Logan forwarded the letter to me with the request that if possible I obtain a translation for her. Japanese is a language which not many persons in Grand Forks understand, but I submitted the letter to Harry Kato, 205 Demers avenue, who, I am told, is the only person in Grand Forks who can read Japanese. Born in Japan, he came to the United States in early boyhood and he has made his home in Grand Forks for many years. He kindly made a free translation of the letter.

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WRITTEN ON THIN PAPER A LITTLE heavier than tissue the letter is written in the usual Japanese characters which read from top to bottom, beginning at the upper right hand corner. The penmanship is excellent, and the two sheets of paper are decorated with floral designs in color. Mr. Kato says that it is the custom of Japanese women and girls to use stationery so decorated. The letter, written by a girl or woman to a Japanese soldier is addressed to Mr. Saburo and the envelope carries a Japanese postage stamp, the stamp of the army mail and a cancellation stamp dated June 29, Showa 18, which is the equivalent of our year 1943. The translation, not literal, but in meaning, follows:

* * *

"HELLO. AT PRESENT IT IS PRETTY hot. I understand you are in good health for army duty. We at home are also well. Now we are pretty busy with wheat harvest. At present we have plenty of rain at home so we are getting ready for transplanting (of rice).

"Farm help is scarce, so we must work hard. You army people should work hard for our country as well as we farmers at home work for production of food.

"Once more, fight hard for our country, please.

"Take care of yourself, please.

"Sincerely yours,

"Komiya Hityye."

CLEARLY THERE IS NOTHING startling in that. The letter may have been written by a relative, or perhaps a fiancee, but as it contains no personal references it seems more probably that it was written by a member of some local women's service organization. It comes from an agricultural district in the southern half of Japan's main island, where soil and climatic conditions are favorable for the production of winter wheat and rice. The young rice plants are transplanted twice into wet soil, which explains the reference to "plenty of rain." Mr. Kato says that the writer, while skillful with a pen, is apparently a person of limited schooling, but very much in earnest.

* * *

IMMEDIATELY AFTER MY REMARK last week about the absence of robins up to date, the robins began to appear, and several friends have reported seeing them. Dr. H. J. Humpstone, who reported seeing one, said he had just received a letter from a sister in Florida warning him to watch out for the robins, for, she said, "they are on their way."

* * *

THE AMERICAN ROBIN IS REAL-ly of the thrush family, and its young carry the speckled markings characteristic of thrushes. The English Robin redbreast, is somewhat shorter and plumper. The name now invariably applied to the American bird is said to have been given by English settlers in New England, who, seeing a bird so similar in appearance to that with which they had been familiar at home, called it a robin, and a robin it has been ever since.

* * *

A PROBLEM HAS ARISEN IN NEW York which is perplexing the tavern keepers. There is a special tax of 30 per cent on cabarets, and a cabaret is defined as a place where refreshments are served and where there is singing or dancing. It seems to make no difference whether the singing is by artists employed by the house or is volunteered from the floor. The application of the law is yet somewhat obscure, but until it is cleared up, the sociable fellow who starts singing "Sweet Adeline" is urgently admonished to desist.
By W. P. Davies

I HAD A TELEPHONE CALL THE other evening from J. Edward Tufft, of Pasadena, California, a former member of the Herald staff who was on his way home after attending the funeral of his brother, Francis L. Tufft, a pioneer Walsh county farmer. It was pleasant to hear his voice and I was sorry not to be able to see him, but he was just about to take a train for home after driving from Grafton.

* * *

WHILE SERVING ON THE HERALD as its Northwest editor, Tufft also wrote verse, some of it humorous jingle, and some of it real poetry. Occasionally some of his verses were published in the Herald, but more often in farm and trade publications among which he built up a large clientage. While his verses were accurate in rhyme and meter he usually wrote in prose form, similar to that in the widely syndicated column of Walt Mason of years ago. Tufft was the author of that humorous rhymed story of the boy whose calf became his father's cow and the colt that became his father's horse.

* * *

I AM AFRAID TO GUESS HOW many years it is since Tufft moved to California, but it's quite a long time. He continues to write in his usual form for some of his former customers, but he has also become interested in other lines. He is now business manager of two trade publications, the Optical World and the Western Confectioner Ice Cream News, and is editor of the former. Under his management both papers made gratifying gains in business last year.

* * *

IN CALIFORNIA TUFFT KEEPS HIS eyes open for North Dakota people, many of whom have become permanent or temporary residents of the Golden state. He is president of the North Dakota association of his section of California and he has been the organizer and general manager of innumerable North Dakota picnics, accounts of which he sends to the Herald from time to time.

* * *

FRANCIS L. TUFFT, WHOSE DEATH was recorded in the Herald recently, came to North Dakota as a boy of six and lived on the family farm for 63 years, operating it through most of his adult years. He rented the farm a few months ago and had moved from it only about two weeks before he was stricken with the illness that caused his death.

* * *

LOS ANGELES PAPERS GAVE A big spread to the Chaplin case over which Federal Judge J. F. T. O'Connor presided. Judge O'Connor was warmly commended for the fairness and clarity of his charge to the jury as well as for the impartiality of his rulings during the trial.

* * *

MONDAY MORNING AS THE SUN was clearing away the frost that had settled on the lawns I noticed for the first time this year that the box elders were beginning to drip. From broken twigs sap dropped on the sidewalk and as the day warmed sap flowed freely from occasional abrasions on the trunks or from places from which branches had been cut. That is about as good a sign of spring as any, but it is said that all signs fail in a dry time.

* * *

BACK EAST UNDER SIMILAR CONDITIONS those who are fortunate enough still to have wood lots where maples grow would be busy carrying or hauling sap from the tapped trees to the evaporating plant to have it reduced to syrup or sugar. In the old days the evaporating plant was a big iron kettle suspended over an open fire out of doors, and probably the old kettle, holding about a barrel, is still in use in some localities, but where syrup and sugar are produced commercially scientifically constructed evaporators are used, lessening the labor and speeding up the process.

* * *

I HAVE WRITTEN SEVERAL TIMES about the possibility of making syrup from box elder sap, and once I made a pint of palatable syrup that way, just to see how it would work. It can be done, and perhaps it would be worth while where that wood is abundant and worthless and time of no account, but for anyone who must buy fuel and has other work to do I can't recommend it. It takes too much sap to get a little syrup.
By W. P. Davies

SUNDAY’S PAPER CARRIED THE announcement that the Herald now has a regular paid subscription of more than 28,000, this being the first time that that figure has been reached. That circulation is the greatest attained by any newspaper in the United States in a city of 25,000 or less. There is the further fact that this circulation has been reached in spite of paper shortage and other complications which have made it necessary to accept no new subscriptions from distant territory and that the paper has no solicitors in the field even in the immediate Northwest territory served.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS CIRCULATION carried my thoughts back 45 years or more. It must have been about 1898 when the Herald’s circulation reached the then remarkable figure of 3,000. George B. Winship was owner of the Herald, W. L. Straub was editor and cartoonist, I was handy man in the editorial department, and Harry Willson was business manager. Straub celebrated the occasion with a cartoon based on the poem “Excelsior,” showing the brave young Herald struggling up the mountain path and just passing the 3,000 marker, with other markers visible in the distance. In the office that night we patted each other on the back, and in my enthusiasm I offered Winship the foolhardy bet of a new hat that we would have 4,000 subscribers within the year. Winship laughed and shook his head, but didn’t take my bet. I suppose he didn’t want to see me lose my money. If he had taken the bet I would have worn a new hat at his expense, for we reached the 4,000 mark within six months.

MR. AND MRS. LEON H. PETIT OF Backoo, N. D., are the parents of five sons of whom they have reason to be proud. The eldest, Robert H., is a lieutenant in the air force and has been assigned as navigator on a B-25, a service in which it has been well said that there are no atheists. William D., the second son, enlisted in a naval V-12 college training college at Minot. He hopes to be a Baptist minister after the war, and he has asked for assignment as chaplain. George W., the third son, is 18, and immediately after leaving high school he also enlisted in a naval V-12 college training course. The two younger boys are doing their part on the farm home front and in school. These boys have been trained in a Christian home, and the training which they have received is reflected in their present attitude, a fact made manifest in letters of faith and courage which they have sent home, and one giving an expression of love on their mother’s birthday.

SI POPPLER, WHOSE CRISPLY worded “editorials” in the Herald’s advertising columns have made him famous, is now writing a monthly article for the Furniture Digest of Minneapolis. The fact that Si is confined to his bed in the Thief River Falls sanitarium has not clouded his spirit, blunted his wit or dampened his humor. You can’t keep a good man down. May his physical recovery be early and complete without plunging him so deeply into the details of the furniture business that he can’t spare time to write or to draw pictures.

DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS I have been bombed, shelled and machine-gunned with reports of the arrival of robins. The birds seem to have come all in a bunch. Mrs. C. W. Schumaker of Pembina reports the arrival there of the first spring robin, notwithstanding the libelous statement often made that her town is the coldest in the state. Apparently the robins are all over town and throughout most of the state. Kenneth Riley, city chemist, counted 14 at one time from the Riverside park dam, and those were part of a larger flock too distant to count. That reminds me of the boy who, having been sent to count a litter of little pigs returned and reported, “There are seven black ones and one little black and white one that ran around so fast I couldn’t count him.”
By W. P. Davies

FROM THE HASKIN COLUMN, which always contains something interesting, I learn that the covers of baseballs are stitched by hand. I never thought about it before, but I should have supposed they were machine stitched, not that I have the slightest idea how a machine would be built to follow that seam around a baseball, but they build machines to do pretty much everything else, so why not that?

MY GRANDFATHER GILL was considered quite an artist in covering, not baseballs, for we had never heard of them, but balls of similar size which the boys made and brought to him to be covered. The balls were made of various materials, sometimes of yarn wound tight around a core of rubber scraps. Sometimes a cork was used as a core. When finished the ball was brought to my grandfather to cover.

IN HIS YOUTH HE HAD LEARNED the shoemaker's trade, and even in old age he worked at it off and on, and somewhere he had learned how to cut four pieces of leather to make a tight cover for a ball. He never learned the figure 8 system, on which design all baseball coverings are now made. His method was to measure the circumference of the ball with a piece of twine and then with compass mark on a piece of leather a geometrical design shaped like the peeling on a section of quartered orange. Four pieces of that size and shape were cut and neatly stitched together. And they always fitted perfectly.

HE ALSO MADE COVERINGS FOR footballs somewhat after the same fashion. Inside the tough leather cover was a bladder inflated as hard as the boy with the strongest lungs could inflate it. The inflation wasn't equal to that now supplied by an air pump, but it served the purpose.

A CORRESPONDENT, WHO SIGNS himself merely "A Reader", sends me several clippings of a column in a Washington, D. C. paper devoted entirely to birds. Many of the birds familiar in Washington are unknown here, but of course there are a few that are known all over the country. The Washington bird man devotes much of his space to the feeding of wild birds, and he seems to know about the kind of food that every bird likes. He mentions the habit that many birds have of cracking seeds and discarding the shells, reserving for themselves the meaty kernels.

ONE WINTER I GOT MILLET SEED with which to feed the birds. The sparrows came in flocks, but only a few other birds, but it was interesting to watch them. For some time I thought they didn't like the millet, as they seemed to pick seeds from the tray and then drop them. At last I found that what covered the snow under the tray was not millet, but the shells of millet seeds from which the kernel had been extracted.

W. R. VANDERHOEF REPORTS THE arrival at his place of a big flock of junco's and of their vigorous attack on a pile of gravel in his back yard. Presumably where the birds had been gravel and other grit was scarce, or covered with snow, and they had applied themselves to Vanderhoef's gravel pile to provide themselves with more "teeth."

PEOPLE OFTEN WONDER WHY SO many birds, pheasants, prairie chickens and so forth, are seen on the highways where there appears to be little for them to eat and where they are continually being disturbed, and often killed, by passing cars. The accepted explanation is that the birds frequent the highways in search of grit. In the Red river valley, especially, there is little grit in the soil, and birds may have to travel a considerable distance to find anything with which to grind their food. The gravel along the highways is a big help to them.

FARMERS ARE ALREADY IN THE fields where the land is well drained and there has not been too great accumulation of snow. This is a good time for seeding to begin. It is early enough to permit the work being completed in ample time if the weather holds good, and when the work is started much earlier than this it is pretty sure to be interrupted by severe cold, and often by snow.
By W. P. Davies

I HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD JUST how so many of us dropped into the habit of calling the local sugar plant the “beet sugar” plant or, worse still, the “sugar beet” plant, but one or other of those terms is heard many time a day. As to the second, there is no excuse for it. The plant is not a beet plant, but a sugar plant. Beets are received there, and sugar is extracted from them, just as cattle and hogs are received and processed at the packing plant and wheat at the flour mills, but we don’t talk of hog plants or wheat mills. Then why beet plant?

I MAINTAIN THAT TO USE THE term “beet sugar” plant implies an unwarranted reflection on the quality of the plant’s product. In the cane sugar country they grow sugar cane, which looks something like exaggerated corn, express the juice and treat it until sugar is produced. But nobody ever thinks of calling one of those plans a “cane sugar” plant. It is simply a sugar plant. Our plant takes other raw material, treats it, and from it produces exactly the same kind of sugar, yet we persist in saying “beet sugar,” as if the product were not quite up to standard.

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE beet sugar industry there was a popular impression that beet sugar was in some way inferior to cane sugar. Many housewives were influenced by that prejudice and were willing to pay a premium for cane sugar. On the Grand Forks market an additional price of 5 cents was added to a 25-pound sack of cane sugar, and many paid it, wishing to be sure they were getting the “best.” Most of the prejudice has evaporated, yet in some quarters it still appears to persist. One hears over the radio occasionally an announcer assure the world that his company’s food product contains “pure cane sugar,” as if that were something better. I am in favor of cultivating the habit of calling our plant just the “sugar plant,” whenever it isn’t convenient to use the full name of the American Crystal Sugar company.

And Jim Bingham doesn’t know that I am writing this, either.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A BELATED copy of the Harlowton, Montana, Times, containing articles in appreciation of Judge William C. Husband, whose death occurred at Harlowton on March 1, announcement of which appeared in the Herald immediately thereafter. Judge Husband spent his early life in North Dakota and was a graduate of the University of North Dakota. He made his influence felt in Montana in many admirable ways and his services won him the esteem of the community which he served.

* * *

TELEVISION HAS BEEN IN ACTUAL and successful operation for several years but its field has been limited because of technical difficulties which stood in the way of wide distribution of the service. Some of the more important of those difficulties have been overcome, though the general public is scarcely aware of the fact because war conditions have prevented extension of radio in any of its forms. But the research men have been at work and they have perfected plans which will be put into effect as soon as cessation of the war makes possible resumption of normal civilian life.

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OFTEN IT IS SAID THAT THIS OR that invention is not being made available to the public because introduction of improvements would interfere with the business of powerful concerns engaged in production of existing devices which would be superseded if the newer inventions were placed on the market. That criticism is usually made without taking into account the many steps that must be taken before an invention can be marketed successfully. Often an invention contains the germ of a sound idea and presents a method of application that works perfectly in the laboratory, but the cost of construction or operation may be so high as to make marketing out of the question. It may take years to iron out the kinks. Also, demand is seldom spontaneous. The public must be informed of the merits of the new device and some degree of willingness to buy must be in evidence before production is warranted. Actually the public soon gets what it wants of the things that it is possible to produce at moderate cost.
OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT of agriculture estimate that of all the vegetable foods produced in the United States in 1943, not less than 40 per cent came from Victory Gardens. Approximately 20,000,000 of such gardens were planted. Some were neglected or for other causes failed to yield well, but those that were carefully tended produced nearly half the vegetable foods made available for our people at home, for our armed forces at home and abroad, and for our friends across the seas who, under lend-lease, were supplied with much of what is needed to maintain the war effort in which we are all engaged.

* * *

MOST OF THE PRODUCT OF THE Victory Gardens was used in the homes of gardeners. It provided fresh vegetables for the family during the growing season and stored and canned foods and juices to last through the winter and often until another crop is harvested. Only relatively small quantities of the products of those gardens were sold, but the production had a direct effect on the supply of such foods available commercially. The Victory gardener needed less quantities of commercially processed foods, hence larger quantities were within reach of those who needed to buy. More canned tomatoes and corn were available to the housewife in New York and the soldier in Africa because somebody in Grand Forks took good care of a Victory Garden.

* * *

MORE VICTORY GARDENS THAN ever are needed this year. More of our men will be engaged in strenuous military tasks overseas, and the more desperate the conflict the greater is the destruction of food as well as of everything else. In countries occupied by the enemy there are millions who are in desperate need of just such foods as garden produce, and those fellow human beings must be given food as fast as they can be reached. It is estimated that if the need of this year is to be met as well as that of last year was met not less than 22,000,000 gardens must be in production in 1944.

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THERE IS NOTHING IN PRESENT indications to indicate that this increased figure will be reached. On the contrary, government officials are disturbed by the fact that current prospects are for a smaller number of gardens than were cultivated last year. Fewer persons than formerly have indicated their intention to do gardening this year, and a check on the seed houses of the country reveals that orders for seeds are in much smaller volume than a year ago.

* * *

FOR THIS APPARENT DIMINUTION of interest several causes are suggested. One is the fact that because of plentiful supply of some canned foods restrictions on the purchase of such foods have been removed. Many have assumed that these foods can now be obtained without the use of ration points that condition will continue indefinitely. That assumption, it is pointed out, is unwarranted, and the fact is that if production is curtailed as is now anticipated there will be a severe shortage next winter and more ration points than ever will be needed to purchase the foods affected.

* * *

SOME GARDENERS ENTERED UP on the work last year with the best intentions, but without experience. The work proved more exacting than they had expected, and some of them became discouraged and dropped out. Others started gardening as they might have started playing golf, as a form of entertainment, attended with pleasant social and humorous features. In this, too, there has been disappointment and a disposition to quit.

* * *

IT SEEMS THAT ON THE PART OF many of us a new approach to the subject of Victory gardening is needed. All of us wish to help with the war. Especially here in the Middle West many of us have felt a sense of frustration because there seemed to be so little of a positive and constructive nature that we could do. We pay our taxes and accept rationing and other restrictions, sometimes exercising our privilege of growling and grumbling, but we come through, and most of our griping is not seriously intended. But we can't bear weapons or build ships or planes. What is there that we can do, voluntarily and cheerfully, to help the good work along?

* * *

WE CAN PRODUCE FOOD. Our farmers are doing a magnificent job, but many of us are not farmers. But in every city and village there are many who, by producing an appreciable share of their own food can make available more food for those who must have it. There is an opportunity for us. Let those of us who can produce food, entering up on the task, not as a form of entertainment and as something about which to make wisecracks, but earnestly and purposefully, with determination to accomplish something really worth while.

* * *

HERE IN GRAND FORKS WE ARE fortunate in that a course of instruction in gardening has been inaugurated with a competent instructor in charge. Wyman Sheppard, who is in charge of that course, is scientifically trained in the work, and he has had years of successful experience in the operation of his own garden. The course is open without charge to all who are interested, and it is heartily commended to the Victory gardener, whether experienced or not.
By W. P. Davies

PROBABLY MANY READERS OF the Herald have noticed in the news columns of the paper during the past week the use of the name “Rumaniă” to designate the country which we have usually known as “Rumania.” Some of those who have noticed this spelling may have wondered if the change were due to a typographical error which had not been caught in proof reading. It wasn’t that at all. The change was made deliberately and purposefully in order to conform to rules of spelling foreign place names recently adopted by the three great American newsgathering associations, the Associated Press, the United Press and the International News Service.

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THE WAR HAS CAUSED FOREIGN place names to be scattered through the columns of every newspaper and much confusion has resulted from lack of uniformity in spelling them. War correspondents are sending dispatches from all over the world, and they may use the spelling current in the country of origin or that to which they have been accustomed at home. There has been no recognized and uniform rule which could be applied to their dispatches.

* * *

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY has given much study to this subject and has prepared a list of spellings covering more than 40,000 names. Those spellings are used in the society’s magazine and in the numerous maps which it publishes, and the same style has been adopted by the United States Geographic board and in general by publishers of maps and atlases. That style, with certain exceptions, has been adopted by the American news services.

* * *

THE GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY’S style basically followed is that of the name in use in the various foreign countries themselves. The approved spellings include among the names now familiar in the news dispatches Romania instead of Rumania, Yugoslavia instead of Jugoslavia, Manchuria instead of Manchukuo, and Dnepr and Dnestr instead of Dnieper and Dniester.

* * *

SEVENTY-EIGHT EXCEPTIONS TO the Geographic list are made by news services. In general those exceptions provide for retention for American newspapers certain spellings with which readers have so long been familiar that they have become practically part of American speech. Thus, though the Geographic follows the Italian style and spells the name of the Italian capital Roma, the news services will continue to spell it Rome. They will also use Moscow and not Muskva, Athens and not Athenal, and Limerick and not Luimneach. While the Geographic uses native names for such words as “island,” “sea,” “gulf,” etc., the news services will translate the native terms into their English equivalents.

* * *

IN THE COURSE OF YEARS THERE have been made changes either in foreign place names or in their spelling. At the outset of World war I St. Petersburg became Petrograd because the Russians wished to get rid of the German ending of the name. The revolution changed it to Leningrad in order to efface recognition of the czar and honor the leader of the revolution. School children who are now men and women learned at school that one of the little countries of Europe was called Servia, but when the sound of the shot fired at Sarajevo rang around the world the country became Serbia. The currently accepted form Romania has been in use in that Balkan country for many years. The inhabitants have pride in the tradition that theirs is a Roman and not an Oriental civilization.

* * *

PERSONALLY I HAVE CLUNG rather tenaciously to the name Manchuria because that is the right name for it. The Japanese invaded the territory, took possession of it, erected a puppet government and called it Manchukuo. We have never recognized that alleged government or that name. Many of our people have dropped into the habit of using the Japanese name, but I have stuck stubbornly to the old form, awaiting the time when the Japanese, their puppet government and their name will be kicked out.
By W. P. Davies

ATTENTION OF ONE OF THE NATIONAL food companies having been directed to the practice of using the term "cane sugar" in its radio announcements as assurance of high quality, and that this implied a reflection on beet sugar, which is of identical quality, a pleasant letter was received from the company's radio director explaining that it is in his office that the script for the announcement is prepared. The official writes in part:

"WE ARE FULLY AWARE THAT chemically, and from a taste standpoint it is impossible to tell the difference between cane and beet sugar. I am afraid our use of the phrase (cane sugar) is a hangover from some past writing, and we appreciate your calling the matter to our attention so that we won't make this invidious distinction again."

That is very handsome and quite satisfactory. On that program hereafter when sugar is mentioned it will be just "sugar," which is as it should be.

I HAVE BEEN SURPRISED, AS SOME others have been, to learn that on some fields that were plowed last fall the soil is not in the condition that one would expect after it had been subjected to the weathering conditions of winter and spring. Ordinarily such soil is thoroughly mellowed by spring even though it may have turned up hard and lumpy in the fall. This spring, I am told, on some fields the chunks of earth are about as hard as they were last fall so that much work is necessary to pulverize them and fit the fields for seeding.

THE ONLY PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION seems to be that when the land was plowed the great clods were about as destitute of moisture as if they had been kiln-dried and so little snow remained on the fields that not even the spring thaw moistened them through. Damp clods tend to disintegrate when frozen. Such gardens around town as I have noticed have behaved differently. Usually buildings, shrubbery, etc., caused snow to accumulate, occasional thaws saturated the clods, and the soil is now properly mellow.

THE MOTION PICTURE WAS 50 years old last week. Experimental work on Edison's invention had been in progress for some time, but it was on April 14, 1894, that the first commercial showing of a motion picture was made. The "theater" was a little converted shoe-store on Broadway, New York, and the machine used for showing the pictures was a kinetoscope. Instead of sitting in an auditorium and seeing a picture projected on a large screen, as one does now, one spectator at a time looked through a peep-hole into a box, and there the tiny moving shadows flashed and flickered before him.

THE PUBLIC OPENING, WHICH OCCURRED on a Saturday night, was premature, as it had been advertised for the following Monday, but curious crowds gathered about the place, eager for a view of the novelty, and the proprietor, not wishing to miss an opportunity for a little Saturday night money, opened the door and let the people in. There were 10 machines, each accommodating one person at a time, and each picture ran for about 15 seconds. The charge for seeing the entire ten was 50 cents and receipts for the evening were $120, enough to buy a good dinner for the exhibitor and several friends.

THE PICTURES SHOWED SUCH thrilling things as a man sneezing, a girl dancing and Annie Oakley firing a gun. That was a crude beginning, and it was several years before pictures were shown on a large screen with any degree of success. There were still shown for some time in penny and nickel arcades motion picture effects caused by cards rapidly falling in succession creating the illusion of moving objects. Such pictures were shown at the World's Fair in St. Louis in 1904. The first showing in Grand Forks of motion pictures on a screen was at the Met on February 6, 1905. They were sent from a projector placed near the center of the main floor. During the exhibition, the film took fire, and while the attendant was stifling the flames, which he did in a few moments, Gus Myers, the theater manager, stepped to the front of the stage and quietly assured the startled people that the show would be resumed in a few minutes, explaining that because of the inflammable nature of the film such accidents were of frequent occurrence. The crowd waited quietly and patiently, reassured by the calmness of Myers. He confessed to me later that while he talked he was shaking in his boots for fear of a panic.
"THERE IS NO NEW THING UNDER THE SUN." So wrote the philosopher of the Old Testament some three thousand years ago. Clearly an observant man, doubtless he had seen history repeat itself so many times that he became convinced that whatever appeared to be new was only something old, changed in form, perhaps, or dressed in a new garb, but still in its essentials the same old thing. Perhaps he did not intend his statement to be taken quite literally, and if questioned he might have been willing to admit that everything had a beginning, and that beginnings are still being made and will continue to be made until the end of time. Nevertheless, many of the things with which we are now familiar are not entirely new, but have been evolved from something made or attempted long ago and which was intended to perform a purpose practically identical with that for which it is now used.

CONSIDER THAT SECRET "HUMAN torpedo," for example. Two men in divers' suits straddle a battery-propelled torpedo to which is affixed a detachable nose filled with the usual high explosive. Quietly guiding their tiny craft to an enemy vessel they dive beneath the ship, detach the torpedo's war nose, attach it to the ship's hull, set a time fuse, and then ride to safety on what is left of the torpedo. That is, they get away safely if they are lucky.

ONE ENEMY SHIP WAS SUNK IN this manner at Palermo. But the Italians used a somewhat similar devise against British shipping in the Mediterranean, successfully, they said. But almost ever since gunpowder was first used in war, men have toyed with the idea of destroying enemy shipping by secretly placing charges of explosives beneath the hulls. In quite modern times, Robert Fulton, in 1805, proposed a method of destroying ships by means of gunpowder secretly placed beneath their hulls, but his idea took form in the shape of the floating mine rather than of the torpedo itself.

IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR frequent use was made of the method of wrecking a ship by exploding a submerged charge against its hull. The explosive was attached to the end of a long spar projecting from a boat. When the boat approached the ship the spar was lowered, carrying the charge beneath the water, and when the charge reached the ship it was exploded electrically by the boat's crew. In the confusion following the explosion the boat's crew had a fair chance of escaping. In this manner Lieutenant Cushing sunk the Confederate ironclad Albemarle. His own launch sank with the ship, but he swam to safety.

THE GERMANS HAVE OFTEN tried to frighten us by telling of some entirely new and secret fearsome weapon with which they were about to win the war. Those alleged weapons have been of many types, each being held in reserve so that when the proper time came the enemy could be blasted out of existence. Thus far not one of them has been used. Perhaps all are being reserved for the Americans and British when they launch that invasion. Strangely, they are not being used against the Russians, where it appears that just now the Germans have dire need of something of the sort.

THE LATEST GERMAN WEAPON IS of an entirely new type. It is an exaggerated refrigerator. It creates a temperature of some 300 degrees below zero for a radius of 300 yards. Everything within its reach is frozen instantly. All life is destroyed and metal becomes so brittle that it will crumble at a touch. By means of this marvel the Germans freeze icebergs in the North sea and English channel, bringing disaster to British shipping. That's what the Germans say. Nobody else has seen any of those icebergs. Who knows but the British or Yanks have another secret weapon that melts those icebergs as fast as they are formed?

The Nazi imagination is a wonderful thing. But the Nazi mentality seems incapable of understanding that there are limits to the gullibility of other people.
YEARS AGO HE ACCEPTED 80 years as his expectation of life and budgeted his affairs so as to make his funds hold out until that time. Meanwhile reduced revenues had made it necessary for him to curtail his expenses and for the seven years that he lived beyond his expectation there was but scant provision. To cut costs he moved from his pretentious castle to a house once occupied by his stable grooms and it was there that he died. Married at 21 he lived congenially with the bride of his youth until her death three years ago.

What couldn't Dickens have done with a character like that!

WASTE PAPER MUST BE SAVED and collected, for it is needed. Something worth while might be done, however, if there were not so much waste paper to be saved and collected. Beginning at the top, the government itself might help if its several departments would reduce the size and number of those multitudinous questionnaires which overwork the printing offices and drive the recipients to distraction. Members of both branches of congress could save innumerable tons of good paper if they would refrain from sending out copies of long-winded speeches, many of which not more than about six people heard, while others were never delivered at all. And many of the speeches were about nothing in particular.

AS IT IS THE MERCHANTS HAVE their hands full, and they can't watch every corner, but it is a fact that in some stores there is appalling waste of paper. Quite often packages come wrapped in about four times as much paper as would be required to make a neat package. For most of this waste, untrained help is responsible.

SOMETHING USEFUL, TOO, COULD be done if children in the schools could be made to understand that paper is precious and that to waste it, while it is always uneconomic, is definitely unpatriotic just now. If every school pupil would make the pledge "I will not waste any scrap of paper," and keep the pledge, a vast saving would be effected. If these several forms of needless consumption were checked, less waste paper would be collected, but there would be less need for collection.
By W. P. Davies

MOST FEDERAL LEGISLATION IS effected by majority vote of the members voting thereon in each house of congress. That is in accord with the Democratic principle of majority rule. It is intended that there shall be proper opportunity for debate on each subject considered, but that when, after due consideration, a vote is taken, the will of the majority shall prevail, the minority acquiescing in the decision.

ACTION TAKEN BY CONGRESS must be consistent with the constitution, which is the basic law, specifying the powers which congress may exercise and enumerating particularly some, though not all, of the acts which congress may not perform. The constitution may be amended, but in amending it, the rule of action by a bare majority does not prevail. The founding fathers wisely intended to protect the basic law of the nation against such sudden and erratic changes as might be brought about by influences which sometimes sway mere majorities. Accordingly it was provided that the constitution could be changed only upon the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the states, and that a proposal for amendment could be submitted to the states only by vote of two-thirds in each house of congress or upon petition from two-thirds of the states.

TWENTY-ONE AMENDMENTS TO the constitution have been adopted. There is need for another changing the method of making treaties. Under the constitution as it stands the president has power "by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur." That withholds from the house all treaty-making power and makes it possible for one-third of the senators, plus one, to prevent approval of any treaty. Thus we have the curious situation that whereas a majority of each house can declare war, a small minority of the senate can prevent the legal termination of a war.

FROM WASHINGTON'S TIME ON this investment in a small senate minority with prohibitive power over the making of treaties has been a source of friction, frustration and evasion. Washington, seeking the "advice" of the senate, was so quizzed and heckled that he left the senate chamber in anger, vowing never to enter the place again. And he never did. Other presidents have found and used ways of circumventing the constitutional provision by making agreements with foreign nations by "executive order," without action by either branch of congress, or, refraining from use of the word "treaty," having such agreements approved by senate and house majorities.

WITHIN A VERY FEW YEARS AT most there will be need for some sort of official action to declare this war legally at an end. We cannot legislate out of existence the consequences of the war or the need for important activities growing out of the war which must continue for many years. But whatever form the situation may take, the time is approaching when it will be necessary for us to make formal agreements with nations with which we are now at war that the war itself is over. Treaties declaring that fact and specifying the terms must be approved by two-thirds of the senate unless the constitution is evaded or changed.

THERE HAS BEEN FAR TOO MUCH evasion of the constitution already. The frank and honest thing is to amend the constitution in a manner the need for which has been evident for many years. It should be provided that a treaty shall be effective when approved by a majority vote in each house of congress. Submission of such an amendment would be approved by a large majority in the house. Nation-wide polls have shown that there is a strong public demand for the change. The obstacle to submission is in the senate, where some senators, determined to retain the power of obstruction which they now possess, refuse to consent to submission of the amendment so that the states may express themselves on it.

IF THAT STUBBORN ATTITUDE persists the people have their remedy. They can insist that their state legislatures petition for submission of such an amendment, and when that action is taken by two-thirds of the states the amendment will be subject to approval or rejection.
By W. P. Davies

PROBABLY QUITE A FEW PEOPLE will think that General MacArthur was cutting things pretty fine when he ruled that Major Bong must not accept that case of Scotch. Major Bong is the American airman who knocked down 27 enemy planes, thus surpassing the record made by Ace Rickenbacker and winning the prize offered by Rickenbacker to the first man who beat his record. The prize was to be a case of Scotch, which Rickenbacker enthusiastically agreed to provide, but General MacArthur says that Major Bong must not accept it, as receiving a prize of liquor would not be in accord with the sound traditions of the army.

*   *   *

I AM RATHER SORRY THAT MAJOR Bong is not to have that case of Scotch. Probably he will suffer no great deprivation, as there are other cases to be had, although at times they may be a little difficult to obtain, but on the whole I am glad that General MacArthur made that ruling.

*   *   *

I NEITHER KNOW NOR CARE whether General MacArthur is a teetotaler or not. That is his own personal affair, and none of my business. But I suspect that the general felt, as I do, that too much prominence has been given to intoxicating beverages in conversations relating to the war. One might easily gain the impression that it is the bottle that will win the war, if it is to be done at all, and that all the soldiers and all the sailors suffer from chronic thirst which they gratify with copious libations at every conceivable opportunity.

*   *   *

OUR MEN IN ACTIVE MILITARY service are subjected to severe strains. The lives which they must live are for the time abnormal. Intense effort is alternated with sudden relaxation. Normal surroundings are absent and it is easy to understand the feeling of need for something that will relieve the tension, and to those accustomed to the use of liquor a stiff drink seems to help. Doubtless to those who are at all accustomed to it a drink in the army means more than it would at home, and its value is further enhanced by the difficulty often experienced in getting it. That applies not only to liquor, but to many other things.

Many a doughboy has felt quite sincerely at times that he would gladly give a month's pay for a cup of real coffee or a thick sirloin steak.

*   *   *

ALL OF THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, but probably General MacArthur felt that too much emphasis has been placed on it. Not all soldiers and sailors drink, and of those who do, not all drink immoderately. And of those who occasionally drink more than is good for them find other and quite innocent ways of relaxation. There are games to play, sights to see, movies to watch, entertainers to see and hear, letters to write, mail to be read, contacts to be maintained with father and mother and with the only girl in the world. The boys don't spend all their spare time gulping liquids out of a bottle, and it seems to me that MacArthur has done a useful thing in directing our attention to that fact.

*   *   *

NEXT IN ORDER ON THE PRO-gram of investigation is an investigation of the match trust, which is accused of high crimes and misdemeanors, chiefly that of monopolizing the match business. Personally I should be inclined to let the match manufacturers have their monopoly, if they have one, if they would only make the tips stick on those "kitchen matches" that I use. It is startling to have one of those tips fly off and explode in one's face or drop into the waste basket and set things afire. And some day, if I go up in smoke because of a pocketful of loose match tips, perhaps they'll be sorry. Or perhaps they won't care.
By W. P. Davies

PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE by Willis A. Gorman Corps No. 2 of the national Women’s Relief Corps to observe the 58th anniversary of the founding of the local body. That anniversary occurs on May 13. The national W. R. C. was organized as an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, which was founded at a meeting held at Decatur, Ill., April 6, 1866. The G. A. R. was composed of Union soldiers of the Civil war and was created for fraternal benefit and patriotic service. It was represented in Grand Forks by Willis A. Gorman post, which for several years had a large membership.

During the years of its activity it took charge each year of the Decoration day exercises, and it seems only yesterday that its marching men, in blue uniforms, most of them with gray hair, and some with halting steps, but all still full of fire, were a conspicuous figure in every civic parade. Death called them one by one, and now they are all gone.

THE NATIONAL W. R. C. WAS ORGANIZED in 1883, and on May 13, 1886 Willis A. Gorman Corps No. 1 was instituted. In 1889, upon assumption of statehood by North Dakota, new charters were issued to the G. A. R. post and the local W. R. C., which became No. 2, which number it has since borne. During the life of the G. A. R. post, the women’s organization co-operated with it in the many forms of patriotic work which it undertook, and it was especially useful in ministering to the comfort of the continually aging soldiers.

The G. A. R. has been described as the “vanishing army,” and except for the memories which it has left the local body has completely disappeared. The women’s organization, receiving new members from time to time, had remained active, transferring its effort to other fields. It has been active in promoting child welfare and scholarship and it is now doing valuable work for the Red Cross, among other things in aid of the blood plasma fund.

DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE corps the members of the W. R. C., like those of the G. A. R., wore uniforms on public occasions of basque effect, blue, trimmed with gold braid and carrying gold buttons with the initials W. R. C. There were 31 charter members, of whom the only survivor is Mrs. H. D. Cooper, formerly Lovilla Ward. Mrs. Cooper is a sister-in-law of Mrs. M. L. Dryburgh of Grand Forks, to whom I am indebted for the information herein. Lovilla Ward joined the organization as a school girl of 16.

NEXT TO HER IN LENGTH OF membership, I believe, is Mrs. R. A. Sprague, who joined during the first year of the existence of the corps. Mrs. Sprague was injured in a fall a year or more ago and has since been a patient in the Deaconess hospital.

HERE FOLLOWS THE LIST OF charter members:


THOSE NAMES WILL BE STRANGE to most Grand Forks people of today. To some of the older residents they will be familiar as the names of old acquaintances. Some of the individuals will not be remembered by the names listed because those are the names of young women who later became wives and mothers. They, like their Grand Army brothers, played their part well and made their useful contribution to the life of America.
By W. P. Davies

RESIDENTS IN THE VICINITY OF
one of the big flying fields were startled
the other day to see a plane apparently
flying backward. On watching it more
closely, however, they found that it was not
flying backward but was being pushed
by propellers placed at the rear of the
craft instead of being drawn by propel-
ders at the front as is now customary.

* * *

APPARENTLY THOSE WHO WERE
surprised at this spectacle did not realize
that they were not seeing something new
and unheard of, but were witnessing a
reversion, if not to first principles, at
least to first practices in flying. The or-
iginal Wright machine, first flown at
Kitty Hawk in 1903, was driven by a
propeller placed at the rear, and that
practice was followed in the construc-
tion of all the planes flown for several
years.

* * *

THE WRIGHT PLANE FLOWN BY
Arch Hoxsey at Grand Forks in 1910, on
the first flight ever made in the North-
west, was of the “pusher” type. It had
two propellers at the rear, driven by
chains from one or two engines—I for-
got which—placed well toward the front.
The “new” pusher plane, therefore, is as
old as flying itself.

* * *

THE MODERN PLANE IS COLLO-
quially called a ship, which is an appro-
priate name, for the craft resembles a
ship more than anything else. Its prog-
enitor was called a crate, and that name,
which stuck for several years, was also
appropriate because it bore a striking re-
semblance to the skeleton crates used for
shipping furniture. It was a combination
of sticks and wires without an enclo-
sure of any kind. Upper and lower wings
were covered with canvas and the pilot
was perched right at the front on a sort of
bicycle seat. His body fitted into a
framework which was one of the con-
trols, and he operated that by swaying
to right or left. The other controls re-
quired the use of both hands and both
feet. Automatic control was yet for the
future.

* * *

POPULARLY THE PLANE WAS RE-
garded as an interesting toy, and to many
of those who operated planes it was little
more than a toy and an adventurous
means of making a living. Barnstormers
appeared at county fairs and entertained
crowds with aerial gyrations. For the
crowd there was always the thrilling pos-
sibility that the pilot in his strange craft
would crash. Sometimes that happened.
Bones were broken and lives were lost in
dare-devil stunts, but little by little those
eyear fliers added to knowledge of what
was possible in the air, and the magnifi-
cent plane of today is due in large mea-
sure not only to work in the laboratory
but to the experience in the air of men
who were willing to take a chance.

* * *

PRINCESS ELIZABETH, HEIR PRE-
sumptive to the British throne, came of
age last Saturday. On that day she was
18, and while 21 is the age at which oth-
er women, as well as men, in the United
Kingdom, attain their legal majority, the
royal princess at 18 is entitled to partici-
pate in certain official functions.

* * *

ALONG TOWARD THE CLOSE OF
the last century, while Queen Victoria
was living, there was some desultory
newspaper discussion, probably on the
occasion of an anniversary, of the future
of the queen’s two grandsons, the former
of whom, the Duke of Clarence, was heir
apparent to the throne. One metropoli-
tan paper suggested that it was idle to specu-
late on the young duke’s assumption of
sovereignty, as the monarchy was dis-
tinctly on its way out, and probably be-
fore the time came for him to succeed his
father, then prince of Wales, the mon-
archy would be abolished.

* * *

IT IS RATHER INTERESTING TO
recall that prediction now. As Edward
VII the prince of Wales succeeded his
mother. His son, the young Duke of
Clarence, died and his younger brother
took his place, becoming George V. He
reigned for a quarter of a century and
was succeeded by his son, the present
duke of Windsor, who abdicated in fav-
or of his younger brother, now George
VI. And the king’s daughter, Elizabeth,
is next in line of succession, with no sug-
gestion that she will not occupy the
throne upon her father’s death. The Brit-
ish throne seems to have more stability
than has sometimes been supposed.
By W. P. Davies

TODAY I AM CLIPPING PART OF this column from the New York Times, and I have a reason for doing so. Early last week Mrs. Grister of New York City wrote a letter to Park Commissioner Moses complaining about the untidy condition of Central Park, which she described among other things as “filthy,” and demanding that he do something about it. Mr. Moses had her letter published, together with his reply, which was more forceful than polite. He reminded her that the park commission has parks, playgrounds and bathing beaches all over the city of New York, that the funds available to the commission are limited, and that under war conditions it is impossible to increase the number of park employees. He submitted that the park force is doing as good a job of keeping things clean and tidy as can be expected under the circumstances.

* * *

THIS BROUGHT FROM THE ANONYMOUS conductor of that interesting Times column “Topics of the Times” the following:

* * *

“SO A PERSON TAKES HIS LIFE IN his hands, perhaps, and submits a few thoughts on the Moses-Grister episode. Such remarks are intended to be of the mildest character. They would consist chiefly in suggesting that Mr. Moses has missed his opportunity. Central park does not comprise the whole area of New York City. The park commissioner might so easily have seized the occasion of Mrs. Grister’s complaint about the neglected condition of one particular playground to read the people of New York a much needed lesson.

“The case was summed up in the Herald-Tribune yesterday when it declared that Central park is filthy but that the chief reason, aside from the war, is the incredible, inveterate vandalism of the New York public.

* * *

“THIS VANDALISM WHICH NEW Yorkers not only tolerate but practice does not consist primarily in destroying or defacing things. It consists chiefly in dirtying up the city. This is achieved by the free and automatic disbursement of litter wherever one happens to be, on the street or on the transportation lines. We behave in New York as though one of the unalienable rights specified by Thomas Jefferson is the right to drop old newspapers, cigarette butts, empty cigarette packages, candy-bar wrappers, anywhere and everywhere, on Broadway, on Fifth avenue, in the subway.

“Mrs. Grister was, of course, perfect-

ly right in saying that the parks in foreign cities are cleaner than over here; but she could have said the same thing about foreign streets and public places.

* * *

“FOREIGN CITIES ARE NOT CLEANER because public employees are always sweeping up and washing down, but principally because the citizens in the first place do not litter up the streets.

“That is the lesson which Mr. Moses could have placed before his fellow-citizens, with Mrs. Grister’s letter as a text, a lesson for which we are sure Mr. Moses could have found the adequate means of expression. As it is, instead of making the street and park deflers ashamed, he may have brought them aid and comfort.”

* * *

NOW I SUGGEST THAT THE READER SUBSTITUTE for New York, Central park, Broadway and Fifth avenue the names of his or her own city or village, park or parks, if any, and local streets, eliminate a few other local references, and then see if it doesn’t add up to a pretty accurate description of conditions in the reader’s own community, wherever that may be. The task of keeping a city clean isn’t a job that can be performed by any police department, street department or park commission, or all of them put together. Those agencies can be of great assistance in doing necessary things that cannot be done by individuals, but the main job is that of the citizens themselves, and in that we are woefully remiss. We shall have clean parks and streets if and when we learn not to mess them up, and no sooner.

* * *

ON TUESDAY AFTER THE RAIN several of the early single tulips of my neighbor, Mrs. Conrad Hafsten, were in bloom and on the same day several of my early doubles had opened. Seasonally that is about the right time for tulips that have the advantage of southern exposure and a little escaping warmth through a basement wall. Under those conditions tulips will bloom at least two or three weeks earlier than those in the open. I notice also that the Darwins are quite well budded, so they will be along in due course.

* * *

HAVING EXPERIMENTED WITH both single and double early tulips, I prefer the singles, though there is no reason why one can’t have some of each. The doubles are short and stocky, while the singles are taller and their petals have the soft, graceful appearance that seems appropriate in an early spring flower. However, any variety of tulip is good.
VARIOUS PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN made for payment of bonuses in one form or other to veterans of the present war on their return home. A South Dakota man, Lyle B. Rogers, of Chamberlain, S. D., now serving in the United States navy, in a letter to his family from somewhere in Africa, expresses himself as opposed to bonuses. His letter, published in the Sioux Falls Argus-Leader, reads:

"THIS EVENING I WROTE A LETTER to Time magazine on bonuses for veterans of world war 2. In the last issue I have an account is given of the new proposals by five veterans organizations for $450 maximum bonus. I am very strongly opposed to bonuses, as (I am pleased to discover) are many of my buddies; $300 mustering-out pay, which already has been made a law, is too much we feel, and we are especially anxious that there will be no more of this nonsense. We want the money that is to be allotted veterans to go to hospitalization and pensions of disabled veterans of the war, and such measures as are necessary for insuring jobs for the able-bodied veterans.

"A bonus is not a benefit—it would only provide a spending spree to most men without which they are better off. Another thing—who would pay for the bonuses? The exservice men will become a large part of the productive group of the nation immediately after the war. Is there any reason why they should pay themselves? To those service men who have faced the particular Hell of war, money is no reward. Money can not pay the debt owed them by the citizenry. And I dare to say that most of them desire no reward other than to return whole, to a healthy, prosperous nation, to a nation which has finally learned from war something of the price of peace, and a nation in which every sailor and soldier may have a share in an abundance of opportunities. Really a bonus, however generous, is an insult to the intelligence and patriotism of an honest thinking American.

"AS FOR THE VETERANS' ORGANIZATION, if they can cook up nothing better for the country than a bonus stampede, I for one of the World war II survivors, am not at all encouraged to become a member of such groups.

"This may seem like an odd sort of a letter to be writing to you, but I feel that if everyone who feels about this as I do would write home about it, there might be some worthwhile results.

Love, Lyle."
By W. P. Davies

IN THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT which he made more than a week ago, Secretary Knox told of the amazing progress that was made in the building of the American navy to its present strength within the space of little more than two years. Most of us thought we had a strong navy before this World War began. In certain respects and for certain purposes it was powerful. It had powerful units, and it could have rendered a good account of itself if its force had been concentrated in one area and pitted against an enemy force equally concentrated. The fact is that it could not be so concentrated, for the existing conditions demanded that it be divided so as to meet as best it could attacks which might be expected from either direction.

* * *

AT THE OUTSET OF THE WAR WE relied on the British navy for the security of our Atlantic seaboard. Great Britain, in turn, relied on the French army to hold Germany in check until the small British army could be built up to sufficient strength to make possible its effective co-operation with France in smashing the German forces. But the German blitz was too swift to permit that co-ordination. France collapsed and left Britain to carry on the fight alone. For some time it was an open question whether or not Britain would survive the air attack of 1940 and be able to repel the intended subsequent invasion. If Britain had been crushed her Atlantic fleet, dispersed, captured or destroyed, would have been out of the picture as a major combat force and only the American fleet would have stood between the United States and a German invasion.

* * *

BUT WE COULD NOT TRANSFER our entire naval strength to the Atlantic because across the Pacific a potential enemy was preparing for war and awaiting only the favorable moment to strike. American naval and military authorities were under no illusions concerning the intentions of Japan. They were convinced that Japan intended to fight, and they knew that the United States was not prepared.

FOR THE UNITED STATES TIME was of the utmost importance. The naval strength of the nation must be increased, and, if possible, war must be averted while building was in progress. In his report Secretary Knox does not minimize in the slightest degree the disaster suffered by the United States at Pearl Harbor. But he makes the definite statement that even if Pearl Harbor had not been treacherously attacked, as it was and if we had not suffered there the grave losses that he did sustain, we had not at that time a naval force able to withstand an attack from Japan.

* * *

WE BUILT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE combat ships, carriers, cargo vessels, submarines and planes. While we were doing that we continued to permit shipment from our ports to Japan of scrap metal, oil and other material essential in war industries. The government was severely criticized for permitting such shipments. That course was followed, as Secretary Hull has made clear, for the single purpose of gaining time.

* * *

IF THOSE SHIPMENTS HAD BEEN suspended, Japan would have accepted that fact as notice that the United States intended to attack her, or that the United States expected attack from her and was prepared to resist it. Japan, also interested in gaining time, would have decided that the fiction of peaceful intentions need no longer be maintained and would have launched the attack which we were in no position to resist.

* * *

WE DID GAIN SOME TIME, BUT when the attack came we were still unprepared, and for nearly two years we were able to fight only defensive battles in the Pacific. We made good use of the tools that we had, but not until the past few months have we been able to carry on a really offensive campaign in the Pacific. We are doing that now, and the Japanese are painfully aware of it. But it seems certain that the final phase of our war against Japan will not be reached until the defeat of Germany releases sea, air and land forces now engaged in Europe for use in the great Asiatic theater.