

JAPAN HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A program of espionage in the United States and its possessions for many years. There have been numerous disclosures since Pearl Harbor of the meticulous care with which Japanese agents have collected and forwarded to their government information covering a wide range of subjects related to the military equipment of the United States. Germany has long had a similar program under way. But Japan and Germany are not alone in acquiring information concerning the military equipment and economic resources of other nations. Every major government has its private docket of information on such subjects. This is especially true with respect to information concerning foreign waterways, approaches to harbors, etc., and possession of such information is often admitted with complete frankness.

THE LATE GERMAN KAISER HAD the Kiel canal constructed as a means of convenient transportation between the North sea and the Baltic. When the work was completed the kaiser arranged for a grand celebration at Kiel, and he invited other naval powers to be represented at the festivities with their fleets or squadrons. The British unit which had been sent to participate arrived in the vicinity at night, but instead of waiting until morning and calling for a pilot to guide him through the channel, the British commander sailed in through the twisted channel, and in the morning the Germans were astonished to see the British squadron quietly at anchor in their harbor. The visitor already had all the approaches charted.

AN AMERICAN OFFICER, ADMIRAL Schofield, who was commander-in-chief of the United States fleet in the late twenties, told of a somewhat similar incident in his own experience. Then a young captain of an American ship, he had occasion to visit Yokohama. He, too, arrived in the vicinity at night, and using his own charts, which the Japanese did not know he had, he navigated his ship into the harbor. In reporting the incident he said that he had felt quite proud of himself and enjoyed the manifest surprise of the Japanese officers. But his pride came dangerously near a fall. He left the harbor in broad daylight, and, disdainingly the use of a pilot, he did his own navigating. His information concerning soundings and many other details was correct, but at one point a strong current for which he had not been prepared struck the ship and came within a few feet of landing it on a shoal. Though he got by without accident, Captain Schofield was for a time a thoroughly deflated young officer.

DOWN IN KANSAS CITY THE OTHER day a thief robbed a chicken coop, but while he was doing so he lost his billfold, which contained his name and address. Confronted with the evidence he confessed and took his medicine. A good many years ago another thief robbed a chicken coop in or near Northwood in Grand Forks county. He also lost his billfold. When the wallet was picked up it was found to contain, not the owner's name and address, but a sum of money representing several times the value of the stolen chickens. I have forgotten the details of that affair, but my impression is that the fellow made some clumsy attempt to recover his money, but the owner of the chickens was satisfied to call it square.

ON HITLER'S BIRTHDAY THE OTHER day somebody gave him a globe on which were traced designs of most of the Old World, but not a mark to indicate the Americas. The globe was made about 1350, which was more than a century before the first voyage of Columbia and before the map-makers knew of the existence of the Americas. Norse sailors had found land which they called Vinland, but they didn't know that it was part of a new continent. The gift of this globe to Hitler can hardly symbolize the extent of his future dominions. For him the world, without America would be a useless possession, for the things which he represents and the things that America represents cannot exist on this planet together. He America or be destroyed.

SHOULD THE "STAR SPANGLED" Banner" ever be applauded? The question came up at a luncheon table the other day, and there was general agreement that there should be no applause following the rendition of the national anthem. This view seems to be sensible and logical, although practice is not uniform. I suppose there are authorities on behavior who have expressed themselves on the subject, but I do not recall any of their decisions that are available for quotation.

The "Star Spangled Banner" occupies a place quite different from that held by another other composition. There are many patriotic songs, and one of them, "America," has been more widely used than any other. Many persons have believed it to be the official national anthem, but it was never given that distinction. The "Star Spangled Banner" is the only song that occupies that position. It is intended to be used as an expression of patriotic devotion. When it is sung by an audience applause would clearly be improper, and an audience is not expected to applaud its own performance. When it is played by band or orchestra all who hear it are expected to stand at attention, and in this way they participate in the rendition of the piece. On certain state occasions the anthem may be sung as a solo, and here again the audience participates, silently, but with profound respect and devotion. In either case applause would be highly inappropriate, just as it would be inappropriate following a prayer.

SOMEONE WONDERS WHY IT IS that there are not more flags flying in Grand Forks. Many of the business places down town have flagpoles, but no flags flying. In a few cases it has been found that they have no flags, and proprietors have taken steps to obtain them. It is expected that all public buildings shall have flags flying during all business hours, and certainly the display of flags should be general during every event of national importance. The recent visit here of Legion Commander Stambaugh is a case in point, and another the visit of Norwegian royalty.

THEY SEEM TO HAVE BELIEVED IN liberal feeding away back when. In a current surety magazine is published the menu of a dinner given by the pork packers of Indianapolis to the pork packers of the United States in Indianapolis, October 4, 1876. There were 10 courses, any two or three of them sufficient for a big meal. After the steak and mushrooms came venison, prairie chicken, ham, suckling pig, turkey, chicken and quail. One item which is rarely seen on an American menu was saddle of mutton. That, of course, would be welcomed by English guests, if there were any. And following each of the 10 courses was wine, beginning with sauterne, down through sherry, champagne and all the rest, one wine to a course. Evidently those pork packers were heavy feeders and drinkers.

MODERN BUSINESS FINDS USE FOR literature. An insurance company has printed on the back of a private post card this bit of philosophy from John Ruskin:

"There is hardly anything in the world that some man cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper, and the people who consider price only are this man's lawful prey."

THE DEFENDANT IN A NEW YORK criminal case adopted an unusual method to keep himself out of court. Complaining of severe pain in his abdomen he consulted his physician and demanded an operation. The doctor couldn't find evidence of anything requiring an operation, but the patient put on such a show of agony that the doctor concluded that there must be some obscure trouble for which he would have to make an exploratory operation. He did that and found nothing of importance the matter, but the patient had a legal excuse for not appearing in court.

ON MAY 24 THERE WILL BE HELD in the High School Auditorium in Grand Forks a meeting at which recognition will be given to the several hundred young men and young women who have reached or will presently reach the age of 21, and who will therefore be eligible this year, for the first time, to participate in whatever elections are held, and who thus attain the status of active and unrestricted citizenship. The apostle Paul was proud of his Roman citizenship. He described himself as a citizen of no mean city. It is appropriate that those who attain the dignity of American citizenship should understand and appreciate its value.

THE AMERICAN CITIZEN ENJOYS precious privileges. He is free in person and property. He may think his own thoughts and speak his own mind. He enjoys freedom of worship. He lives under a government which he has a share in forming, and which is based on the principle that all men are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection in the exercise of their rights. Most of us have enjoyed those rights and privileges all our lives, and they have seemed so natural and normal that we may have been inclined to take them as natural phenomena, like the warmth of the sun and the return of spring.

IT IS WELT, FOR BOTH OLD AND young citizens to reflect occasionally that these rights which we exercise so freely and casually did not come about by chance. They have been brought about by human agencies working to realize the purposes of God. Wherever in the dim ages past man has resisted the tyranny and oppression, there has been made a contribution to the rights that American citizens enjoy today. Wherever men have suffered and died in the cause of freedom there were laid stones in the foundation of the freedom that exists today. The freedom which we enjoy today is the freedom for which millions in other lands and other generations have given their lives.

TODAY THIS NATION IS ENGAGED in the greatest war that ever was waged, a war great not only in the number of nations involved and the vast physical area that it covers, not alone in the number of men engaged, in the tremendous slaughter, in the enormous mechanical power that is represented in its engines of destruction, but in the fact that it is a war of ideals, in a manner true of no other war that has ever been waged. It is a war in which massed powers of aggression are organized for the avowed purpose of wiping from the face of the earth that freedom for which patriots have sacrificed, fought and died, and in which free men around the world are united in the determination that the aggressive spirit that menaces those things that they hold most dear shall be subdued, no matter what the cost or how long the time.

THOSE WHO REACH THEIR Majority now are doing so in a period which has no parallel in history. They have cause to realize that the freedom of which men sometimes speak lightly is a precious possession which it is their privilege to defend and perpetuate. As that freedom has not been achieved without cost, it is for those who enjoy it to be prepared to pay whatever it costs to defend it.

It is to be defended on the field of battle, and in that arena many of our fine young men are now gallantly serving. But freedom is more than a physical battlefield; it is a way of life. And that way of life makes its demands on all of us, no matter what our field of action may be.

Surely there is reason for the young manhood and young womanhood of today to resolve, as they assume full privileges of citizenship, that this citizenship of which they have a right to be proud carries with it obligations which extend to the home, the school, the workshop, the farm and the voting booth. Obligations which are not confined to certain occupations or certain days of the year, but which are inseparable from the daily life of anyone who can say in all truth and sincerity, "I am an American."

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO MENTION in this column of Edward Bellamy's book, "Looking Backward," brought from Fred J. Traynor, of Devils Lake, an inquiry about a book somewhat similar in theme written by Professor John Macnie, of the University of North Dakota. Mr. Traynor had no personal knowledge of such a book, and asked for information about it, information which at that time I was unable to give. During my recent weeks of enforced retirement information about Dr. Macnie's book has come to me from several sources, and I have had an opportunity to read the book itself, a copy of which is kept on file at the University library.

DR. MACNIE'S BOOK, ENTITLED "The Diothas, or, A Far Look Ahead, by Ismar Thiusen," was published by Putman, of New York, in 1883, some four years before Bellamy's book appeared. I understand a second edition was published a few years later. The assumed name of the author is that given the principal character in the book, who tells his own story. Diotha is the name of the dream-world family with whose life his own is linked.

THERE ARE STRIKING SIMILARITIES in the two books. In each case the narrator, a young man, is plunged into a hypnotic sleep from which he awakens many years hence in a completely transformed world. Macnie's hero is transported into the 96th century, A. D. Bellamy was satisfied to look on the world as he conceived it might be in the year 2000.

EACH OF THE NARRATORS DESCRIBES the changed conditions in the world as he finds it, describing defects in the social, economic and political conditions as of the latter part of the 19th century, and describing also the ideal conditions of life when present evils have been eradicated.

ON THE BASIS OF THIS SLENDER outline there might appear ground for the belief that Bellamy had appropriated some of the ideas set forth in the earlier' book. Upon reading the two, however, it appears that the differences are fully as striking as the similarities. Bellamy's book is devoted almost wholly to discussion of social, political and economic theories. His state is completely Communistic, with the state the only employer, and in which there is neither capital, profit nor wage as such. Macnie retains certain features of the capitalistic, profit and wage systems. Bellamy pays scant attention to improvements in mechanism and scientific devices, while these occupy considerable space in Macnie's book. In Bellamy's book there is a thread of romance, though it is but a slender thread, while Macnie's book is permeated with the color of romance.

DID BELLAMY PLAIGERIZE, AND IF not, how can we account for the similarity between the two books? Dean Chandler, of the University, knew and worked with Dr. Macnie on the University faculty, and he remembers occasional discussions of the two books across the luncheon table and at similar gatherings. While the years have dimmed somewhat his recollection of the facts, he is quite sure that Dr. Macnie never made or countenanced any charge of plagiarism against Bellamy.

IT APPEARS THAT IN EARLIER life the two authors had been acquaintances and rather intimate friends. In their occasional meetings they discussed current problems, as young men will, and out of these discussions came impressions which later took form in Dr. Macnie's book. Bellamy developed his own ideas in somewhat similar general form. The two books appear to have been written quite independently.

I HAVE A LETTER ON THE SUBJECT, from Mrs. Vernon P. Squires, and one from a former student of Dr. Macnie's which are reserved for another day.

IN DR. MACNIE'S BOOK, "THE DIOthas, or, A Far Look Ahead," there is a passage which makes interesting reading just now. As outlined in the book, the world of the 96th century was a world of the 96th century was a peace and order. That condition had not been reached without violent struggle. After long conflict between opposed philosophies, a military despot had made himself master of the Old World and had attacked America. He was checked, driven back to the coast and captured with what remained of his army. Then he prated of generosity to a fallen foe, but the gray-haired farmer, whom the course of events had raised to the dictatorship, refused to listen, and the aggressor was hanged, with all the leaders of his regime. Thereafter a federal union of nations was formed, with guarantees of a universal system of republican government.

CONCERNING DR. MACNIE AND his book I have the following from Mrs. Vernon P. Squires, whose husband, an associate of Dr. Macnie, was for many years dean of the University college of liberal arts:

T AM VERY SURE THAT I REMEMBER Mr. Squires having told me of that book. I am not certain of its name, but it was of the Bellamy type. Professor Macnie's son, Dr. John Macnie, might give further details. I know that my husband greatly admired Prof. Macnie as having the most brilliant and versatile mind he knew at the U. N. D., capable of literally teaching anything. I believe he published text books in mathematics, and I am sure he taught many subjects at the University before finally settling down to modern languages.

"I THINK HIS DEGREES WERE from Scotch and German universities. He was always very gallant and courteous to women, in tender memory of his wife, who died young, and his annual "treats" of ice cream and strawberries to the girls in the dormitories was one of the outstanding events of May for many years. One of my personal memories is of the joy of studying German in his class in my freshman year at the University."

ANOTHER LETTER IS FROM J. A. McIntosh, who writes from 113 North Fifth street, Grand Forks:

"Having had a class under Professor Macnie in 1902, and hearing the same story then that Fred Traynor lately mentioned to you. I asked the professor if his book and Bellamy's were the same. Brightening up, he said that the plot and the story were identical, but that his unpublished manuscript was titled "Looking Forward" instead of "Looking Backward." He said that Bellamy never saw or knew of his manuscripts, so was not guilty of plagiarism."

AS WAS MENTIONED IN THIS COLUMN yesterday, Dr. Macnie's book did not remain an "unpublished manuscript," but was published in regular book form in 1883, four years before the appearance of Bellamy's "Looking Backward."

IN THE HISTORY OF LETTERS there have been many cases of outright and deliberate plagiarism. Not only have ideas been appropriated and palmed off as original, but phrases, sentences and whole passages have been stolen bodily, but there have been many other cases in which what appeared to be literally theft was either the result of accidental coincidence or was due to the working of subconscious memory.

THOUGHTS AND EXPRESSIONS heard or read years ago are stored away in the recesses of memory, to be resurrected, perhaps by chance and to be accepted honestly by the individual as the result of his own thinking. Actually, not much that passes through the mind is entirely original. The most brilliant and profound thinkers have merely developed and expanded the ideas of their predecessors

SEVERAL YEARS AGO IN THIS column I quoted some lines from the poem by Alfred Noyes, "The Barrel Organ," with its refrain, "Go Down to Kew in lilac time." The quotation was prompted by the opening of lilac blossoms throughout the city, to which the refrain of the poem seemed peculiarly fitting. Weeks ago a correspondent who evidently remembered the former publication requested a repetition of "Lilac time," and I agreed to comply when the lilacs bloomed again. That time has about arrived. The lilacs are opening, and while the bloom seems to be less abundant than in some other years, it promises to be altogether beautiful and satisfying. Lilac time in the northwest is truly a beautiful season. Incidentally, lilac time in Grand Forks this year is just about a month later than in Chicago. Just about four weeks ago lilac blossoms in and around Chicago were gathered by the million and distributed gratis to hospitals and homes which otherwise would have been destitute of flowers. Unseasonable heat withered the blossoms and they lasted but a few days.

IN HIS POEM ALFRED NOYES used the music of a barrel organ as the background for impressions of a quiet summer evening in London. The music is heard by the thief, "with a face of frozen stone," the portly man of business, the clerk, the butcher, the modish woman, the Oxford man—men and women of all sorts and conditions, and to each it brings its message, and in each it revives recollections of "the land where the dead dreams go." And through it all runs the haunting refrain, "Go down to Kew in lilac time." The poem is much too long for this column, but a few excerpts are given, as follows:

There's a barrel-organ caroling across a
golden street
In the City as the sun sinks low; And the music's not immortal, but the
world has made it sweet And fulfilled it with the sunset glow; And it pulses through the pleasures of
the City and the pain That surround the singing organ like a
large eternal light; And they've given it a glory and a part to
play again
In the Symphony that rules the day and night.

And now it's marching onward through
the realms of old romance, And trolling out a fine familiar tune,
And now it's roaring cannon down to fight the King of France,
And now it's prattling softly to the
moon, And all around the organ there's a sea,
without a shore Of human joys and wonders and regrets; To remember and to recompense the
music evermore For what the cold machinery forgets ...

Yes; as the music changes
Like a prismatic glass, It takes the light and ranges
Through all the moods that pass Dissects the common carnival
Of passions and regrets, And gives the world a glimpse of all
The colors it forgets. And there La Traviata sighs
Another sadder song; And there Il Trovatore cries
A tale of deeper wrong; And bolder knights to battle go
With sword and shield and lance, Than ever here on earth below
Have whirled into—a dance!

Go down to Kew in lilac-time, in lilac-time, in lilac-time; Go down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't
far from London) And you shall wander hand in hand with
love in summer's wonder-land; Go down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London).

The cherry-trees are seas of bloom and
soft perfume and sweet perfume, The cherry-trees are seas of bloom (and
oh, so near to London) And there they say, when dawn is high
and all the world's a blaze of sky The cuckoo, though he's very shy, will sing a song for London.

The nightingale is rather rare and yet
they say you'll hear him there At Kew, at Kew in lilac-time (and oh,
so near to London) The linnet and the throstle, too, and after
dark the long haloo And golden-eyed tu-whit of owls that ogle London.

For Noah hardly knew a bird of any kind
that isn't heard At Kew, at Kew in lilac-time (and oh,
so near to London) And when the rose begins to pout and all
the chestnut spires are out You'll hear the rest without a doubt, all chorusing for London.

Come down to Kew in lilac-time, in lilac-time, in lilac-time; Come down to Kew in lilac-time (it

isn't far from London)! And you shall wander hand in hand with
love in summer's wonder-land; Come down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)

BJORN BJORNSSON, FORMER HEAD of the University department of journalism, has for some time been in Iceland as a member of the correspondents' group with the United States occupational force there. Because of his familiarity with the Icelandic language he is an exceedingly useful member of the contingent as interpreter and instructor in the native language. The American group is composed largely of men who speak only English, and it takes time for them and the Icelanders to learn to understand each other. A fact not so well known is that even those familiar with the Norwegian language, of whom there are many, are practically strangers to each other in the matter of language.

THE LANGUAGE OF ICELAND IS Norse, but it is to all intents the Norse of 1000 years ago. For a long time there was scarcely any contact between the inhabitants of Iceland and the rest of the world, and the Icelanders, isolated as they were, retained with scarcely any change the language of their ancestors. Norway, like other European continental countries, had social, political and military contacts with neighbor peoples, and its language underwent many changes, changes almost imperceptible at the moment, but important in the aggregate. The comparison may be somewhat extreme, but it has been said that conversation between the modern Icelanders and the modern Norwegians would resemble somewhat an attempt at conversation between the Englishman who spoke the Anglo-Saxon of Alfred the Great and the Englishman of 1942.

IT IS A PART OF BJORNSSON'S JOB to develop a understanding between the Norse of Leif Ericsson and the Norse of today, and the task is not altogether an easy one. One correspondent, English speaking, reports that he has made progress to the extent that he had added to his vocabulary the Icelandic words "yow" for yes, "nay" for no, "ekki" for not, "bless" for goodbye, and "stulka" for girl. The Icelanders, it is said, are picking up American slang much more rapidly. Icelandic girls who are not yet able to form a sentence in English glibly toss off "Hi chum," "Okedokey," and "So long, toots."

AMERICANS IN ICELAND THINK of the country as a windy one, for they say the wind there blows all the time, and blows hard. Newspaper correspondents in Iceland are housed in whatever sketchy accommodations luck makes possible. Their work is hampered by the fact that there are four distinct censorship outfits, with headquarters in centers some miles apart, and an article must have the approval of all before it is released. Thus a considerable part of the correspondent's time is spent on the road between censors, and as means of transit are restricted he does much of his travel by the hitch-hike method.

TEAMS OF UNITED STATES marines and British marines had a shooting match at Portsmouth, England, the other day, and the high score was made by the British shooters. The contest was close, however, the total scores being only a few points apart, and personal honors went to an American marine who scored seven bullseyes in a row at a distance of 500 yards, which is considered remarkably fine work with a rifle.

IN CONTESTS OF THAT KIND WE naturally like to have our fellows come out ahead, but in such a contest as that at Portsmouth there is nothing to worry over. Excellent work was done all around, and if the American boys were defeated in this case the job was done by a remarkably fine team. And it isn't a bad thing for anybody to have a good record to shoot at.

LAST SUNDAY THERE WAS HELD in Central park, New York city, what has been described as the largest gathering of human beings ever assembled at one place in a given time in the history of the world. Official estimates place the number of persons in that gathering at 1,250,000. On two or three occasions more persons have lined the streets of New York for parades or other great popular demonstrations, but last Sunday's crowd was packed on the acres of Central park in a solid mass to listen to a program given from a single platform. In mere numbers alone that was an historic and impressive gathering.

THE OCCASION FOR THAT GATHERING was the observance of "I am an American" day, when, after hearing patriotic music and listening to inspiring addresses by distinguished speakers, 46,000 of New York's young men and young women solemnly declared their loyalty to the United States and their devotion to the principles on which this nation was founded. All of those young people became 21 years of age during the past year, and this year they will participate for the first time in the government of state and nation by exercising their newly-acquired right to vote.

TODAY THERE WILL BE HELD IN Grand Forks a gathering, smaller in number, but identical in spirit and purpose. This afternoon, at the high school auditorium, young residents of Grand Forks city and county who have reached their majority during the past year will be welcomed into the great fraternity of American citizenship with impressive and appropriate ceremonies. There will be appropriate music; Presided West of the University of North Dakota will deliver the principal address; and, as in New York, the young people will pledge their loyalty to the nation in which they enjoy liberties unknown elsewhere on earth.

IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING THAT these exercises should be held at this season, which is the season for commencement exercises for schools and colleges throughout the country. This is a commencement which marks the entrance of its participants into a new world, a world in which there is no abatement of rights that have already been enjoyed, but in which the participant enters upon the exercise of new rights, while taking upon himself new duties and obligations. The certificate to be given to each person inducted is a diploma of citizenship, to be kept as one of his precious possessions by each recipient.

NOT ALL OF THOSE WHO ARE ENTITLED to share in the recognition will be present this afternoon. Many, both men and women, are already serving the nation in ways unforeseen a few years ago, some in the armed services in domestic camps or beyond the seas, some in hospitals, some in industrial work to provide materials for the great conflict in which the nation is engaged. These absentees will not be forgotten, for, although they cannot be present in person, certificates of citizenship will be issued to them and their names will be inscribed on the roll which is to become a part of the permanent record.

TODAY'S EXERCISES WILL BE open to relatives and friends of the new citizens. To those who are now assuming the responsibilities of citizenship the torch of liberty is being passed on by those who have carried it thus far, and it is surely occasion for pride and satisfaction when those who have made their contribution to the American way of life see the work in which they have been engaged pass on to the strong hands of sturdy youth, dedicated to the preservation of that spirit which has made America, and which is to guard the nation against whatever forces may be arrayed against it.

SOME TIME AGO I REFERRED TO A letter received from Neil Johnston in Which the writer told of an earth tremor which had been felt in Elkmount township many years ago and which was currently ascribed to an earthquake. That was the first time that I had heard of an earthquake in North Dakota, and I have seen the statement made that North Dakota is the only state in the Union which has never experienced an earthquake, so far as the records show. Recently I have received a card from an unknown correspondent who writes thus of the same incident:

"IN REGARD TO THE EARTH TREMOor in Elkmount township of which Neil Johnson writes, it occurred when I was only about nine years old, but I remember distinctly how frightened I was, and it didn't help my fears any to hear the older members in the family talk about it. In fact, I have never had any desire to go where there might be another earthquake. I am sure that North Dakota has not been slighted. One was plenty for me. I am surprised that it wasn't recorded, but I am sure that other Elkmount settlers will remember it."

A WOMAN MAY BE A LANDLORD, but a man cannot legally be a landlady. Such is the ruling of a New York judge. A man died, bequeathing in his will property to his landlady, whom he did not designate by name. The decedent had moved several times, and it was not clear to what particular landlady the will referred. The male owner of the apartment building in which the man had last lived claimed the bequest and asked for a court ruling designating him as the "landlady" mentioned in the will. The judge said it couldn't be done. If the term "landlord," had been used, he said, a man, a woman, or even a corporation might qualify, but under no circumstances could a man qualify as a landlady.

WAR CONDITIONS HAVE TENDED to focus attention on the importance of mutual understanding and co-operation among the inhabitants of this western hemisphere. One obstacle is the difficulty which the several peoples have in understanding each other. That obstacle was discussed at a meeting of the Pan American Interlanguage association held recently in New York, at which one of the speakers, Senora Correa, of Brazil, speaking in Esperanto, as did the other speakers, urged the study of that language in the schools of all the Americas. Concerning the difficulty of understanding Senor Correa said.

"HERE IS ONE OF THE MOST TERRific of the barriers that stand between the American peoples. And this barrier is more difficult to destroy than that of weights and measures, inasmuch as the latter depends only upon a decree of the American government, whereas the former requires an inter-American convention which might have sufficient power to impose the application of the same language all over the three Americas. Which language would it be? Naturally it might be one of the three spoken on this continent: English, Portuguese or Spanish. But it would be better not even to touch upon such a solution for we would certainly have a discussion that would last centuries without reaching a conclusion. The United States and Canada would allege their numerical superiority. The countries in which Spanish is spoken would point out the number of nations in which the language of Cervantes is spoken; Brazil, in defense of Portuguese, would emphasize that it is the largest territorial country of this hemisphere, and that the number of its inhabitants is larger than all South Americas Republics put altogether. This discussion would be endless, and the problem of language diversities would remain forever.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MUCH trumpeted plan for compulsory teaching of English, Spanish and Portuguese in the schools has, from a practical standpoint, failed miserably, because nobody, in fact, gets to learn these languages at school. What is the reason for that failure? The reason for that failure is just the terrible difficulty that the English language presents to the Latins, in which the rules are written in 10 pages and the exceptions in 500 pages. A language in which the letters do not represent sounds, from which fact there results a series of interminable mistakes and misunderstandings, even among the people born in this wonderful country. Positively, the English language is even more complicated than the complex system of weights and measures used here. The Portuguese and Spanish languages, in their turn, despite the fact that they are phonetic languages, present a very complicated grammar to Anglo-Saxon people. If an American citizen desires to learn Spanish or Portuguese or if a Latin American wishes to learn English, both need to attend a private course that lasts from 3 to 5 years of intensive study, besides the time wasted at high school. People never learn to speak correctly, unless they go to live in the country in which the language is spoken. In other words, on the Columbus continent everything joins us, but the languages separate."

FROM JUDGE W. C. HUSBAND OF Harlowton, Mont., comes a letter which has been long overlooked because of pressure of other matters. Judge Husband, son of a former resident of Pembina county, who was for several years until his death a member of the North Dakota legislature, is a University of North Dakota alumnus, and the father of several children who are also U. N. D. graduates. While his children were in college here he and Mrs. Husband made annual trips to Grand Forks to attend Commencement exercises, and Commencement time always reminds him of the old days at the U. He now sends greetings to all his old friends. A paragraph relating to the younger members of his family will interest many friends.

"MY SON, GORDON," HE WRITES, "is married and has a little son. He is located at Wolf Point, Mont., and is district manager for the Standard Oil Co. in the northeastern part of the state. Jean is now Mrs. Don Warner and resides at Helena. Her husband is head of the food and drug division of the state of Montana and she has a little daughter, named Gail. Evelyn, the youngest, is married to Jack Thornton, whose parents live at Fessenden. He also is a graduate of the University of North Dakota, and until recently, has been stationed in Oklahoma City, where Jack was employed as an oil engineer with the Phillips Petroleum Co. However, for sometime past, Jack has been stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, as a first lieutenant and is taking officers' training. Evelyn and her two little boys, Billy Gordon and Gary Jack, are making their home with us in Harlowton."

JUDGE HUSBAND HAS A LARGE district, 200 miles from east to west, and comprising four counties, and they are sizable counties in that cattle and sheep country. Of one incident in his practice he writes:

"I HAD A RATHER NOVEL EXPERIENCE recently, of ordering a sale of livestock, belonging to the William Gasper estate. The inventory shows 1906 head of cattle, but there are still many strays in the mountains and the calves are being born. Consequently, at the sale, which takes place at White Sulphur Springs approximately 2,000 head of cattle will be sold. I believe this is the largest, single cattle sale that ever took place in the northwest.

"STRANGE TO SAY, WILLIAM GASPER was a Rumanian and never obtained his citizenship, although he resided in this country for about 20 years. His two brothers and one sister are the only heirs; two of them still reside in Rumania, and Tony Gasper, who resides here, is also an enemy alien. The assets of the estate being frozen under executive order, makes it a novel situation to handle and especially since the estate is valued at approximately \$200,000."

IN ORDER TO CONSERVE MATERIAL long neckties are forbidden in Germany, and bow ties are to be used instead. How about ties of stout rope for Goebbels, Himmler and a few others? There is a way of tying a rope that is quite decorative. They call it the hangman's knot.

TULIP FANCIERS IN SOME EASTERN districts have found that gray squirrels are fond of tulips. They pull down the tallest and finest of the blossoms, nip off the blossoms and eat them for the honey. Garden clubs are in doubt whether to make war on the squirrels or quit growing tulips.

SOME OF THE VICTORY GARDENERS are being plagued by pocket gophers which throw up mounds of earth clear across their gardens. It is possible to dispose of that pest by drowning the animals out, but that sort of treatment does not work for the dogs that run wild and tear up your gardens just as things are getting into shape.

THE HOBO FELLOWSHIP OF AMERICA had a convention in New York city last week, and it was held at the Waldorf-Astoria—of all places! The hotel management didn't know of any such convention, but one of their rooms had been taken by Mr. and Mrs. Sam H. Cole of York, Penn., and Mr. Cole, who appears to be head of the national Hobo Fellowship, had called the convention and was transacting the business of the gathering in his room with members of his executive committee and other delegates. Appearance of those delegates in the hotel lobby and elevators caused other guests of the dignified hostelry to wonder what the world is coming to.

LIKE OTHER GOOD AMERICANS President Cole is intensely interested in the war, and through the columns of the little hobo paper which he publishes he urges all members of the fraternity to lay aside all other matters and give complete support to the war effort which the nation is making. To newspaper correspondents who visited the "convention" room he said:

"THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO throw our weight into 'the big trouble'— that's what we call the war, you know. The Brakebeam Kid is out on the road now telling the boys to keep off the rods. Freight can be slowed up if the railroad bulls have to chase the boys around, you know. There's a lot more to this, but you can put in that the boys are going to work to beat these bums, Hitler and the other two guys."

VERY SMALL SCHOOL CHILDREN enjoy bringing to teacher gifts of fruit and flowers, but as they pass into the higher grades the practice is usually discontinued, as it might be attributed to a desire to win scholastic favors by unethical means. But a Brooklyn teacher saw nothing unethical in making valuable gifts to his principal. The principal was recently suspended for accepting gifts from his teachers, which is a violation of the board's regulations. One of the teachers testified that he and his wife, who also holds an administrative position in the school, draw salaries which aggregate more than \$10,000, have so much money they don't know what to do with it. They disposed of part of it by contributing to the purchase of an automobile for the teacher, by buying him a \$75 suit of clothes, by giving him a \$275 radio, and by lending him money without interest or promissory notes. These things were done out of an abundance of wealth, and, of course, just as matters of personal friendship.

WHEN SIR JEREMIAH COLMAN, the British mustard magnate, died recently he left, among other valuable properties, what is said to be the finest collection of orchids in the world. He left instructions for the maintenance of the collection, to which the public was to have free access, as in the past. There is a provision in British law which exempts from taxation certain properties which are maintained for the public benefit, but the tax collector rules that this does not apply to the Colman orchid collection. If the heir maintained the collection he must pay heavy taxes on it, plus expenses of several thousand pounds a year. The collection is to be broken up and the ground which it occupies will be devoted to the growing of vegetables.

MAYOR LA GUARDIA OF NEW YORK has vetoed a measure passed by the city council designating one of New York's important streets as MacArthur drive. In his veto message the mayor said that he yields to no one in appreciation of the splendid services of General MacArthur, but he believed it to be unwise and improper at this stage of the war to single out individuals for special distinction in this manner.

SINCE THE FIGHTING BEGAN ON Luzon there has been a craze for naming persons and things after MacArthur. Innumerable children have been named for the general, which is natural enough, for children must have names of some kind. It is understandable, too, that the general's name should be given to places where he has lived or which are in some definite way associated with him. But why his name should be given to places which he never saw or heard of, and with which he never had the remotest contact is an expression of one of the peculiarities of human nature.

ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE BY J. B. Lippincott Co. of the publication of a book entitled "Western Civilization," covering the period from the decline of Rome to 1660. Three authors have contributed to the work, one of them being J. Duane Squires of Colby Junior college of New London, N. H. His associates are Francis J. Tschan of Pennsylvania State college and Harold J. Grimm, of Ohio State university. Dr. Squires is a native of Grand Forks, eldest son of the late V e r n o n P. Squires, dean of the college of Liberal Arts at the University of North Dakota. For several years he has been a member of the faculty of Colby Junior college, and he has also published books and numerous articles on historical subjects. The Lippincott book just published is one of a series intended as a text for college work, and the selection of Dr. Squires as one of its authors is a tribute to his scholarship and the thoroughness of his research.

PRESS DISPATCHES FROM OTTAWA say that the use of oil for heating purposes will not be permitted next winter, and notice is given at this time in order that householders and others will have time to make the necessary adjustments. If that regulation is to be enforced without exception almost inconceivable hardship will be inflicted on many families.

IT IS REPORTED, ON NO VERY good authority, that when Queen Marie Antoinette of France learned that the people were clamoring for bread, she said, "Let them eat cake." Similarly, perhaps, the owner of an oil furnace may be told to burn coal if he can't get oil. But though he may be able to get coal, he can't burn it.

OIL BURNERS HAVE BEEN installed in many of the older coal furnaces, and where this has been done it would be a relatively simple matter to reverse the process and burn coal again. This cannot be done with the modern furnace that is built exclusively for oil. The only thing possible would be to junk the oil plant and install a coal furnace. That would cost more money than many persons are able to afford, and as to getting a new furnace, just talk to a furnace man, and he can tell you instantly how slim the prospect is. Canadian householders cannot perform impossibilities, any more than others, and it seems that the announced regulations must be modified to take care of those who are equipped to burn oil and nothing else.

SOMEBODY HAS IT FIGURED OUT that 80 per cent of the nation's war construction work can be performed by women. Maybe so, but who would be getting the meals and doing the other jobs that are now performed by women. That's something to think about before we draft all the women into factories.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN CLOSE agreement among students of the subject on how far the acts of the lower animals are governed by reason, instinct, imitation or reflex action. It is conceded, however, that members of the ape family do exhibit a marked degree of real intelligence. That was demonstrated by a chimpanzee in a New York pet shop the other day. Shut in his cage for the night the animal undid the wire which fastened the cage door, went to a cage containing an Angora cat and her kitten, took the kitten out, pushed back the cat, which had followed the kitten, closed the door and fastened it, and played with the kitten until the prank was discovered. Several of those acts might have been performed by a creature of rather low intelligence, aided, perhaps, by some measure of accident. But pushing the cat back into her cage and closing and fastening the door indicated real deliberation and purposeful planning. The chimp wanted to play with that kitten and it, didn't want to have the mother cat interfering.

CENTRAL PARK FLOWER BEDS are being put in shape for the summer, and soon there will begin there the succession of bloom which will make the place a beauty spot throughout the season. Driving by a few days ago I thought of the contrast between the park as it is today, with its flower beds, playground, wading pool and well-trimmed turf, and the property as it was at the beginning of the century.

The flower beds are in a part of what once was Third street, but which was vacated shortly after the Park board acquired the property on both sides of the street. East of the street was what was known as the Gates property, owned by E. P. Gates. It was covered with native timber, underbrush and tall weeds. Its suitability for park purposes was generally recognized, but the city council could not legally appropriate money for park purposes, and there was no other body which had authority in the matter. Pending purchase of the property, for which everyone hoped, the owner willingly permitted occasional use of it for public purposes. Decoration day exercises were usually held there, and occasionally a Fourth of July gathering.

ON SUCH OCCASIONS CITY STREET employes mowed weeds and partially cleared enough ground for the crowds that were to assemble, and even though the surroundings were unkempt, some fine gatherings were assembled there, with good music and the best oratorical talent of the city for addresses. That was before baseball had become a regular holiday feature, and a baseball game on Decoration day would have been considered a desecration.

WHEN THE PARK BOARD WAS formed its first purchase of property was of the Gates tract. That was followed shortly by the purchase of the Dobmeier property on the west side of Third street, and, as the board owned the land on both sides of the street that portion of the street was vacated and became part of the park. The work of clearing took several years. Underbrush and weeds could be removed without much trouble, but there was a dense growth of trees, and there were many places in the park where the sun never shone. In such places, of course, grass would not grow.

THE PARK'S WORKING FORCE was small, and the removal of old trees proceeded slowly. Members of the board were cautious about cutting down trees, realizing that it takes a long time to replace a tree. Actually, the ground was gone over several times, each time a few trees being removed which, because of unsoundness or crowded condition, obviously were out of place. In some measure that process has been continued until the present time. Only about two years ago there was cut down a giant cotton-wood—one of the largest in the state—which, because of its unsound condition had become a menace to public safety. With that work of what may be called demolition went constructive work of grading, planting and similar work, until the place, instead of a jungle, has become a thing of beauty and one of the community's precious possessions.

A PARAGRAPH FROM AN ARMY officer friend at Fort Snelling reads as follows:

"This is not the Fort Snelling I knew on the golden era of peace. Things really hum 24 hours a day. What is particularly heartening to me is the wonderful spirit of the men coming into the army. No complaining, no moaning—They just figure they have a little job to do and are anxious to get at it. Our boys seem to be imbued with the philosophy of Lord Birkenhead, who said one must learn "to meet success like a gentleman and disaster like a man."

LITTLE BY LITTLE MOST OF US are beginning to feel the pinch of war in ways that are not vital, but which have profound influence on our way of living. Remote though we may be from scenes of actual conflict, the fact that we are engaged in war is being forced upon our attention by requirements and restrictions to which we are unaccustomed, and which in ordinary times would be intolerable. During the former war we became familiar with the slogan "Business as usual." But it soon became evident that in time of war business cannot be as usual. Business is not as usual now, and it will not be so long as the war lasts. At every turn the business man finds himself confronted by obstacles raised with the war, obstacles which make it impossible for him to carry on in the accustomed way. When he attempts to replenish depleted stocks he finds that many of the articles which he has handled are no longer manufactured and cannot be obtained at any price. Other goods in common use can be obtained only in limited quantities because of the prior requirements of the armed forces for materials.

THE MERCHANT CAN NO LONGER fix his own prices. Maximum prices are fixed for him by government order, and he must obey. Nor is he at liberty to extend credit indiscriminately. Free-and-easy installment selling is completely out of the picture. In addition to the positive requirements imposed on him the merchant moves in an atmosphere of complete uncertainty concerning the future. The one thing of which he is certain is that the restrictions of tomorrow will be greater than those of today,

WAR'S INFLUENCE IS BY NO means confined to those who are engaged in the business of manufacturing or buying and selling. At every turn the individual is reminded that he is at war. Goods which he has been accustomed to buy and use freely are no longer in stock. Replacements for worn out goods may be available in a month, a year, or not at all. If one has intended to build a new house he cancels his plans because it is certain to be difficult, and it may be impossible, to obtain some of the necessary materials.

WHILE IN THE AGGREGATE there is plenty of work to be done, war has disrupted the ordinary course of much of the nation's labor. Skilled workmen find it necessary to learn new trades and often to move to new locations in order to find employment. Labor has been drawn from the farms, and the harvesting of some crops presents difficult problems,

IN ORDER TO FINANCE THE WAR effort increased taxes are being levied, and a considerable part of every income must be taken by the government for this purpose. Restrictions are being placed on many forms of amusement. The influence of war is felt in the whole field of sports. Touring for pleasure will be a mere memory to innumerable families. Aside from other considerations the prospect of a blowout a thousand miles from home and being unable to replace a ruined tire will keep many families at home.

THE LIST OF WAYS IN WHICH THE influence of war is brought home to each of us could be expanded indefinitely. None of us wanted war, and now that we have it nobody likes it. But men crazed with ambition and destitute of conscience chose to make war, and we could take it either lying down or fighting. We preferred to take it fighting. Had we done otherwise we should not have been fit to live. Hence we have accepted a way of life that we do not like and that is contrary to all our inclinations and experience.

IF THAT NEW WAY OF LIFE IS to be still more trying and strenuous, so be it. We have chosen our course and have undertaken to do a job. We shall never turn back, but shall press forward until the job is done, and thoroughly done. We do not enjoy the conditions which our choice has made necessary. We shall change those conditions most quickly and restore our accustomed way of life most readily and completely by devoting ourselves heart and soul to the winning of the war. That is the task immediately before us.