

MRS. SIGRUN MARLYS NORTHfield of Osnabrock, was interested in the reference recently made in this column to James H. Stoddart, the veteran actor. She writes:

"Three years ago I spent the winter on Long Island. While there I became well acquainted with a grand daughter of the actor. She often invited me to her mother's home, where a great many trophies of his long career were much in evidence. She also loaned me a very fine book, an autobiography, written by Mr. Stoddart. He lived long before my time, but I was truly fascinated by his career. I wonder if you saw him and have further interesting reminiscences concerning him. I was the more interested as I did not expect to hear about him in this part of the country."

I READ STODDART'S AUTOBIOgraphy about the time of its publication, which was a few years before his death, and like Mrs. Northfield, I found it fascinating. Stoddart first appeared on the stage at the age of 7, and the rest of his long life—he lived to be 80 or more, was spent on the stage and in its atmosphere. He had known all the great actors and actresses who had appeared before American audiences in three quarters of a century, and had worked with most of them, and his book is really a history of the American stage through the greater part of the nineteenth century.

STODDART APPEARED TWICE IN Grand Forks in "The Bonnie Brier Bush." off the stage at that time he was an absent-minded old gentleman of 80 which was likely as not to walk out on the street and get lost, if someone didn't look after him. Always he was accompanied by his daughter, who watched over him with maternal solicitude. On the stage he was in very truth the inflexible, indomitable Scottish sheep-master, who could erase his daughter's name from the family Bible while his heart was breaking. He died in the harness, as was most fitting.

LYNN W. LANDRUM, WHO DOES A column entitled "Thinking Out Loud" for the Dallas News, has been saying quite sassy things about the way some of the government's business is run — or isn't run. He snaps his fingers at threats that he may be investigated for insubordination, or something, and says he will be glad to explain how a lot of Texans became hot and bothered about soldier boys without the guns they ought to have while Washington allows free-bornjericans to be charged \$25 to \$50 ftight to work on a cantonment brick from a Texas brickyard plant. Then *he* tells the fq story:

"IN 1917 A SKINNY COLLEGIAN with a hard head and a roving Adam's apple went to the First Officer's Training Camp and came out a ninety-day wonder with the gold bars of a shavetail. From that day in August, 1917, until after November 11, 1918, that lad in the uniform of a soldier of the United States of America wore AN EMPTY PISTOL HOLSTER because his government could not furnish him with the pistol that belonged in that holster. That soldier was not even allowed to buy a pistol to put in that holster. There simply weren't enough pistols to go around.

"THE COLUMNTATOR WAS THAT soldier. Talk about disarmament — he was disarmed by his own country's HELPLESSNESS TO ARM HIM! Mr. Investigators, if you had been through that experience, while your buddies were dying in France, what would be now YOUR reaction as the same damnable helplessness threatens to keep YOUR son unarmed while blood pours out in Bataan and stains the waters of the seven seas? Mr. Investigators, if you can't get the idea back of these mass meetings out thisaway, the columntator will be happy to come up thataway and inform you. And the Good Lord have mercy on your souls."

GEORGE E. MERRICK, WHO MADE and lost a fortune in the development and subsequent collapse of Coral Gables, Florida, died in New York last week. He is believed to have been the largest real estate operator in Florida during the hectic boom days of the early twenties. His father, the Rev. Solomon Greasley Merrick, a Pennsylvanian, acquired a few acres of land just west of the city of Miami, and there built a modest cottage where he expected to spend his later years in quiet retirement. He conceived the idea of establishing a colony to which elderly pastors of modest means could retire. His son, then engaged in the real estate business in New York, saw vast promotional possibilities in the idea, bought his father's holdings and added to them, and started Coral Gables.

THE STORY OF THAT ENTERPRISE reads like a fairy tale. Young Merrick began improving the property, and within a few years he had a city of several thousand, with paved streets, sewer and water services, a power plant, seven hotels and a 40-mile streetcar line. He dug a canal for yachts, and is said to have used more dynamite on construction work than had been used on any other project since the Panama canal. He is reported to have spent \$3,000,000 on advertising in four years. He opened offices in many of the principal cities of the country. He employed 3,000 salesmen and nearly 100 buses, in addition to numerous private cars, were used in showing prospective buyers about the city.

BUILDING REGULATIONS IN CORAL Gables were strict. No residence could be built costing less than a specified sum, and the design of every structure had to be approved by the company's architects. All structures were required to be of Spanish type of architecture. Whether or not the architecture was truly Spanish, it gave something of Spanish atmosphere, and in 1927 George Merrick was decorated by King Alfonso for his devotion to Spanish architecture. Many of the new buildings were roofed with tile imported from Spain. There was shrewd calculation in that idea. Great quantities of tile were obtained from the ruins of old Spanish buildings. Age and weather had softened their colors and the roofs of Coral Gables had not the glare of newness that was so conspicuous in many of the Florida cities. Moreover, those of old tile would be bought for a song in Spain.

ONE OF THE PUBLIC STRUCTURES in Coral Gables was a vast amphitheater partly surrounding a great pool. On the platform many of the orators of that day addressed great crowds. William J. Bryan became a resident and property-owner, and regularly his golden voice resounded from the stage. Paul Whiteman and his band gave regular concerts, and in the search for novelty the whole band played one of its concerts with the players attired only in bathing trunks and up to their arm-pits in the water of the pool. I never could see much point to that performance.

IT WAS SAID THAT WHEN THE boom was at its height Merrick refused an offer of \$80,000,000 for his holdings. In the collapse his entire fortune was wiped out, and losses of private speculators in town lots were almost incalculable. Long and intricate court procedure was required to straighten out the tangle in the affairs of Coral Gables. Contrary to what occurred in some other boom developments, the affairs of Coral Gables, appear not to have been tinctured with fraud. Honest visionaries had been carried away by the spirit of speculation. Court arrangements were made for reorganization and the protection of such equities as existed, and Coral Gables has settled down to a quiet and orderly existence.

I SPENT A FEW DAYS IN CORAL Gables in 1926. The boom had passed its peak and all over Florida people were more eager to sell than to buy. Every visitor to Coral Gables was considered a possible sales prospect and was practically forced to make a tour of the place with some sales agent. I was taken, among other places, to a district about five miles from the center of Coral Gables which had been incorporated in the city. There I was shown a jungle of palmetto, untouched by human hands save where surveyors had run their lines for streets and avenues. I was invited, and urged, to buy a lot there for \$5,000, one-third down and the rest annually. The thing that interested me was that it was not even suggested that at some time I might build a house there. Not at all. Building wasn't even mentioned. I was solemnly assured that I would never need to make more than the first payment, for within six months I could sell out and double my money. The Florida boom was based on the gambling spirit. Perhaps I missed an opportunity to win—and lose—a fortune. As a matter of tact, most of the fortunes "lost" in that boom never existed. Paper profits were turned into paper losses, leaving individuals out a little small change, perhaps, for which they had a few months of feverish excitement. Of course the speculative flood engulfed some who sustained real losses and were subjected to actual hardship.

IN AN ARTICLE IN THE LAWYER, A magazine devoted to matters of interest to the legal profession, Judge Crimson, of the second judicial district of North Dakota presents facts relative to Iceland and its relation to the North American continent. In this article Judge Crimson, himself a native of Iceland, sketches the history of the northern island and its people and describes its strategic importance in this war. He points out that occupation of Iceland by Germany would be a source of danger not only to the North American continent, but to the trade routes of the north Atlantic. Concerning the occupation of Iceland by Allied forces he writes:

"BUT THIS WAS IN NO WAY AN act of aggression. It was done at the request of the Icelandic government, which could clearly see what would happen to Iceland if unprotected. Iceland knows too much of life in Norway under Nazi rule to relish any thought of German overlord-ship.

"Moreover the occupation of Icelandic bases by the British and now by the United States differs radically from occupation by Hitler of the European countries. First of all assurance was given the Icelandic government that there would be no interference in local affairs; that its sovereignty and independence would be respected; that proper recompense would be made for any inconvenience or loss caused to the Icelanders or the Government by the occupation; that essential protection to Iceland would be assured, both along military lines and necessary peace activities and supplies; that at the end of the war occupation would be withdrawn and support given for Iceland's independence at the peace table.

"THESE CONDITIONS GREAT BRITain has entirely fulfilled. Now the United States assumes those obligations and that it will fulfill them goes without question.

"Thus, while the United State's occupation of Icelandic bases is wholly justifiable on selfish and defense grounds, it is equally justifiable on altruistic and humanitarian grounds. The great American republican extends its hand to protect its small and weak but ancient, independent, and liberty loving neighbor democracy. It is doing that for the Philippines on the west and the neighbors on the south. The same or even greater reasons exist for doing that for Iceland. The people of Iceland come largely from the same parent stock as the English people. They have much in common with the people of the United States. The customs, habits and culture of Iceland are in full accord with American civilization."

NEW YORK CITY HAS JUST HAD its second official collection of empty tin cans, and the collection yielded 475 tons of metal from which the tin is to be recovered. Some Grand Forks families are saving tin cans so that they may be used in like manner, but thus far there is no provision for collecting cans here. The de-tinning plant nearest Grand Forks is in Kansas City, and it appears that the cans cannot be shipped that distance economically.

HOWEVER, IT MAY NOT BE A BAD idea for local householders to save their cans on the chance that they may be needed later on. This may be a long war, and it may be necessary to establish other de-tinning plants. A flattened out can doesn't take up much room, and the government may yet need all that tin. If the cans are not needed they can be sent to the dump later on.

SECRETARY PAULSON OF THE Valley City winter show is sending out folders bearing illustrations of exhibits, groups and gatherings at the fair, which has been voted a complete success by all who visited it. The folder is an attractive souvenir of an important and useful event.

BY OFFICIAL ORDER LAWN MOWers are not to be available this season "except for the harvesting of crops." Just what kind of crops other than grass do they harvest with lawn mowers? And when a man comes home from a two-weeks summer vacation, during which it has been raining on his lawn every other day, and he pushed his lawn mower up and down the lot a few times, just try to tell him that he isn't harvesting a crop.

ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE OF THE settlement of a New York city restaurant strike which began 39 months ago. During these months pickets have marched back and forth in front of the restaurant bearing banners with inscriptions appealing to the public not to patronize the restaurant on the ground that its management was "unfair" to labor. And during these months passers-by have watched the picket parade, wondered what it was all about, and have gone in and ordered a meal, just to satisfy their curiosity. No public estimate is made of the trade which the picket line has brought to the place or of what is likely to happen to the restaurant now that the strike is over.

AN OHIO MAN IS IN TROUBLE because he has refused to sell tons and tons of junk accumulated on his land at the price set by the government. He has been accumulating the stuff for several years. He wants to know why the government didn't think of saving junk years ago instead of permitting it to be sold to Japan. Perhaps the government was lax. On the other hand, if our government had adopted the policy of refusing to permit sale of any commodity to a foreign nation on the ground that some day we might be at war with that nation, we shouldn't have been able to sell anything to anybody.

BUT, GRANTING THAT OUR GOVERNMENT was lame in the matter of permitting sale of scrap iron to Japan, that has nothing to do with the present status of the gentleman's junk pile. The nation is engaged in a war. There is a pile of scrap that is needed for the prosecution of the war, and the owner may as well make up his mind that the government is going to have that scrap, and at a price which it will fix. The fellow who thinks he will be permitted just to sit back on his haunches and grouch because somebody did or is doing something that he shouldn't have done had better wake up.

EVACUATION OF MANY THOUSANDS of Japanese from the Pacific coast states creates problems relating both to the placing of the evacuees in new areas and to disposal of the lands from which they are removed. Arrangements have been made in California for the leasing to white farmers of lands owned or heretofore occupied by Japanese. The Japanese have specialized in intensified small-area farming, especially in the production of garden vegetables, in which they are expert. On many of the lands vacated garden crops have been planted and are growing. But many of the new occupants are not accustomed to that kind of farming or to the painstaking hand work which it involves.

BECAUSE OF THIS SOME OF THE new leasees have started plowing up the Japanese gardens intending to plant them to wheat or other crops requiring less labor. State authorities are cracking down on this practice. California has depended largely on the Japanese gardeners for its supply of vegetables, both for local consumption and for shipment. The state authorities demand that persons who take over the Japanese lands shall take care of crops already planted in order that the normal supply of food may be maintained.

CONTINUATION OF CROP PRODUCTION in the normal manner is but one of the problems involved in the Japanese situation. Many of those of Japanese origin who are being evacuated are harmless, industrious persons against whom there are no charges of sabotage or fifth-column activities, but in the emergency it is impossible to separate the sheep from the goats. Those people have rights which must be respected. They own property which they cannot move. That property must be protected, an account of its use must be kept, and when the time for settlement comes the owners must be compensated for whatever of theirs has been used. The evacuees must be provided with new homes and with opportunity to work. They must be given proper protection, not only because there are many Americans in Japan and in Japanese-occupied territory, but because of considerations of common justice and humanity.

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**JAPANESE FORCES ABE DRAWING** closer to India, and eastern dispatches say that because of that fact prospects of agreement on the question of Indian independence are improved. With Japanese invasion staring them in the face India's leaders are said to be more likely to waive some of their objections to the plans presented by Sir Stafford Cripps and the British government may be inclined to make its proposals more elastic than they were in their original form.

**THIS SUGGESTS THE THOUGHT** that the Japanese may be committing a psychological error in making their threat of invasion so obvious just at this time. The argument would run about like this: Agreement between Britain and India would materially strengthen opposition to Japan and increase her difficulties, which in any event are certain to be numerous and great. It is to Japan's interest, therefore, that there shall be no agreement which will result in India's all-out participation in the war as Japan's enemy. Fear of immediate invasion contributes greatly to the making of such an agreement. Therefore it would have been to Japan's interest to keep away from India just now in the hope that friction between Britain and India might result in an open break. This is presented merely as one angle of a complicated and intensely interesting subject.

**A FEW WEEKS AGO THE APPOINTMENT** of Donald Nelson as head of the War Production Board was hailed as the thing that would streamline production of war material. Nelson was an experienced business executive whose business it had been for years to supervise the production and assembling of goods for one of the greatest commercial houses in the country. Numerous articles were published telling of Nelson's wide experience in work closely akin to that which he was expected to perform for the government and of his temperamental fitness for just that sort of job.

**TODAY NELSON IS THE TARGET** for brickbats which are being hurled at him from all the 32 points of the compass. If he is doing anything as it should be done, that fact seems to be overlooked, and his long experience and supposed fitness appears to be forgotten. Yet Nelson is the same man that he was a few months ago. He doesn't need a government job. To take his present position he relinquished one which was far more remunerative and was far more free from headache. He didn't seek this position. He was invited to take it, and he accepted, undoubtedly believing that in doing so he was performing a citizen's duty.

**A YEAR AGO ONE OF THE POPULAR** magazines had a long article describing with enthusiasm the career, character and characteristics of Frank Knox, the Republican whom President Roosevelt, had chosen as his secretary of the navy. Among other things, Knox was lauded for the shaking - up which he had given navy personnel, cutting through red tape and brushing aside traditions of seniority in order to place the best men in the service in positions of responsibility. One of his appointments which was warmly commended was that of Admiral Kimmel to command of the Pacific fleet. In defiance of tradition Kimmel was promoted over the heads of many officers older in years and in service than himself on the strength of the record which he had made for vigorous and competent administration. A few months later came Pearl Harbor, Knox's terse statement that "our services were not alert," Kimmel's suspension, the commission's concurrence in and elaboration of the secretary's statement, and the order for Kimmel's court-martial. It seems that the higher up a man gets the more slippery is the ice on which he treads.

**IN THE EARLIEST COLONIAL DAYS** every colonist was a farmer. Today only about 25 per cent of the inhabitants of the United States live on farms. Why did farming become so unpopular? The first settlers had to farm in order to eat. A few of them had professional learnings, but they, as well as the others had to lend a hand with the clearing and cultivation of land. In process of time it became possible to divide the labor. The people needed the services of the doctor, the preacher, the teacher, and some devoted themselves to the work of those professions. Settlers found it desirable to exchange products with each other and to obtain goods from abroad. Certain manufactures could be prosecuted more effectively by specialists than by the farmers themselves. Merchants and mechanics set up shop. The ratio of farmers to the total population diminished.

**THAT PROCESS CONTINUED DOWN** to the present day. Once the farmer horses and fashioned his life spun her own flax and wool and wove her own cloth. She made her own soap and dyed her own cloth with dye which she extracted from the roots and barks found on the land. Those industries have left the farm and gone to town, leaving fewer people, proportionately, on the land. Another potent factor has been the increased efficiency of the farm itself. Fewer persons are now required on the land to produce the food necessary to supply a given population. The lowering ratio of farm population to the total has been an orderly, necessary and beneficial evolution.

THERE SHOULD BE A PACKED house at the High School Auditorium on "Wednesday evening to hear Handel's "Messiah" sung by the Grand Forks Choral Union, assisted by talented Winnipeg artists, with instrumental music by the Grand Forks Symphony orchestra. The rendition of "The Messiah" by such talent will be the outstanding musical event of the season in this territory.

"THE MESSIAH" IS everywhere conceded to be the greatest oratorio ever written. Its solo parts provide opportunity for individual voices of the highest quality. Its choruses, varied in character as they are in forms of expression, are inspiring, and the grand "Hallelujah" choruses become a great musical tradition.

IT WILL BE 35 YEARS NEXT month since the first production of "The Messiah" in Grand Forks. That occasion also marked the first appearance here of the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra. The Grand Forks Oratorio society included in its membership the best singers of the city, and they were many. In 1907 the society prepared for what was known as the May Music Festival in which vocal and orchestral numbers were given for three days before audiences which packed the old Metropolitan. The auditorium on North Fifth street was built later. The Minneapolis Symphony orchestra, which was then directed by Emil Oberhauffer, was engaged for the occasion, and the climax of the occasion was the rendition of "The Messiah." Musically, Grand Forks had come of age.

THE ORATORIO WAS SUNG HERE again on January 16, 1912 under the auspices of the same society. The chorus was directed by Harold Pond, and the accompanist was Miss Jane Smith. Instrumental music was provided by the Grand Forks Symphony orchestra, of which W. W. Norton was then director. I have before me a program of that event in which are given the names of both singers and instrumentalists. The list is too long for reproduction, and most of the names are no longer familiar. A few of the sopranos and altos who were then Misses are still among us under other names with the prefix "Mrs". Some of both men and women have moved to other fields. But death has thinned the ranks of both men and women.

ACCORDING TO WHAT SEEMS TO be reliable evidence Handel wrote "The Messiah" in three weeks. I am quite willing to believe that he did the mechanical work in three weeks, although that was a remarkable achievement. But Handel was a rapid worker, and he approached whatever task he had in hand with furious energy. But I have no doubt that in writing his great oratorio he was giving expression thoughts and emotions which had been part of his being for years.

HANDEL WAS OF GERMAN BIRTH. He had excellent musical training in his own country, in France and in Italy. While still a young man he was appointed kappelmeister to George, elector of Hanover. He accepted the position on condition that he be granted leave of absence for a visit to England. He returned to his duties at the court, but again went to England and showed no inclination to return to his job. That got him into the bad graces of the elector, and when George of Hanover became King George I to England and moved with his court to London Handel's position was anything but comfortable.

UPON THE ADVICE OF A FRIEND Handel prepared a composition entitled "Water Music" which was played at a royal water party on the Thames, and the king liked it so much that he became reconciled to Handel and conferred favors on him. It was not until the reign of George II that "The Messiah" was composed. It was first produced in public on April 13, 1742, so that the production on Wednesday night will be within a few days of the 200th anniversary of the world's greatest oratorio. When King George II heard the oratorio in London he signified his enthusiasm by rising for the "Hallelujah" chorus, and of course his dutiful subjects in the audience followed his example. That custom became a tradition, and today, wherever "The Messiah" is sung, listeners who know little and care less about kings and princes rise as the first strains of the grand chorus are heard and remain standing, not in servile imitation of a forgotten king, but in tribute to one of the most majestic passages in music.

HOW MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF automobiles do you suppose there have been manufactured in the United States? Everyone knows that the number has been large, that many companies were organized for automobile manufacture, that their cars were of many types and names, and that most of the companies either suspended operations or were absorbed by others, and most of the cars which they built have long since been forgotten. But aside from those engaged in the automobile business there are scarcely any who would realize that so many cars have actually come and gone. Probably most persons would guess the number at not to exceed 200 or 300. According to records compiled by Roy B. Tripp, of Devils Lake, the number of different cars that have been produced in the United States is nearer 2,000 than 200, and Mr. Tripp has compiled a list of 1759 of them.

I HAVE ON MY DESK A LARGE scrap book compiled by Mr. Tripp which lists by name those 1759 cars, giving the number of cylinders of most of them and the year or years in which each was produced. Arranged alphabetically the list runs all the way from A. B. C., Abbott, Abenague and Ace, down through Buick, Ford and Locomobile to Zent, Zentmobile, Zimmerman and Zip. Included are 1597 gasoline cars, 94 steamers and 68 electrics.

TWENTY OF THOSE CARS WERE manufactured in Minnesota, one, the Maple Bay, being manufactured in Crookston. One notation in the book says:

"In 1904-1908 the Holland Machine Co, of Park River, N. D., built four automobiles, "Holland Specials." Two were one cylinder and two four-cylinder. They were made almost completely in North Dakota. A few of the castings were ordered built special, from Minneapolis. Pistons were made from stock piston tubing, crank shafts were machined from 2x4 steel, and the carburetor or mixer was also made in the shop. These cars were made with the engine set crosswise of the frame."

Presumably they were chain-driven.

THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS remarkable scrap book was obtained from many sources, including magazines, oil charts, encyclopedias and books devoted to the automobile industry. Pasted on many pages are clipped advertisements of early cars some of them dating back to 1900, and the illustrations make a truly unique collection. On one page Mr. Tripp gives the following summary of automobile history:

"CHARLES E. DURYEYEA MADE THE first gasoline car to run on the road in 1902.

"Henry Ford demonstrated his first car in 1893; Elwood Haynes in 1894; R. E. Olds steam car in 1891, his gasoline car in 1897; Alexander Winton made his first car in 1895.

"CHARLES E. AND FRANK DURYEYEA organized the first automobile company in the United States in Springfield, Mass.

"The first transcontinental trip by automobile was in 1903 and consumed 64 days.

"The first automobile show in the United States was held in 1900.

"Cadillac was the first car to come equipped with steering wheel in 1902.

"AUTOMOBILES HAVE BEEN MADE in all the states and the district of Columbia with the exception of the following seven: South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and South Carolina.

"At different times the name "Mercury" has been used by several manufacturers for their cars, but Mr. Ford seems to have made the name stick to his product."

AMONG THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN Mr. Tripp's book is one, badly blurred, of George Chaffoe of Devils Lake in his Veele car in 1910. Another Devils Lake picture is of Ben Burt, local farmer, at the wheel of his Buick at the Chautauqu grounds, probably about 1910.

One picture shown is that of a 1891 electric equipped with rope tires, which was credited with the furious speed of 9 miles per hour.

Another illustration is that of a steamer with two large wire rear wheels and smaller front wheels which appeared in 1892 and was "believed to be the first horseless carriage ever built."

What is described as the "Northwest's first auto" is shown with a kerosene steam boiler and three large wire wheels, the forward one used for steering. The driver is shown seated on a saddle at the rear. That machine was built by E. S. Callihan of near Woonsocket, Dakota territory, in 1884. It had a speed of 15 miles per hour.

AMONG THE INTERESTING ILLUSTRATIONS in the Roy Tripp automobile scrap book mentioned in yesterday's column is one of a bus which was the pioneer of the great Greyhound transportation line whose network now covers the continent. Bus transportation, we are told, had its origin in the Mesaba region of Minnesota. The first inter-city run, as far as known, was from Hibbing to Nashwauk in a converted delivery truck by Erik Wickman in the spring of 1915. The first bus constructed for the young partnership of Wickman and Anderson, which later developed into the Greyhound system, wouldn't run when the passengers got on—the springs were too weak to carry the load. In the fall of 1918 the Mesaba transportation company had 18 buses on the road. Since that time expansion has continued without interruption.

LIKE HENRY FORD, JIM LYONS started in the transportation business in a bicycle shop, and he was one of the first automobile dealers in this territory. He had some interesting experiences of his own, and his early customers had numerous adventures. One of those customers was Dr. H. M. Wheeler, who had a flare for whatever was new in mechanics. The doctor thought that a motorcycle would be a nice thing to have, so he had Jim order one for him. When the machine arrived the doctor called for it at the shop, mounted it and started for home, with his coat-tails flying in the wind. He had neglected to learn how to stop it, and when he approached his home he ran the thing up the lawn terrace and was pitched off, headlong. He sent word to Lyons to come and get the damned thing, and that was that.

H. N. WELLS, OF THE HOTEL Northern, bought a car which had large wheels with solid tires, and C. P. Trepanier ordered one of the same kind at the same time. The price was \$1750 each. Trepanier didn't keep his long, but turned it over to Lyons, who sold it later to W. G. Smith. Mr. Smith used it for a time around his properties at Maple lake until somebody ran it into the lake. Mr. Wells used his for several years, and in it he took parties on sight-seeing tours around the city. The solid corrugated tires produced an effect similar to that of a lumber wagon going over a corduroy road.

DR. CRANE HAS ONE OF THE earlier cars, a vehicle with high buggy wheels. M. F. Murphy bought one like it. Those cars performed fairly well going straight ahead, but the wheels were slender and the center of gravity high, and it was a tricky job to steer one around a corner. Driving in the country one day on business connected with his farms Mr. Murphy had occasion to turn a corner. The carriage overturned, pitching the driver into a field, and that ended the career of that particular car.

DR. LOCKERBY WAS ANOTHER OF the automobile pioneers. He had a Maxwell, of what vintage I do not know, and all of his spare time was spent tinkering with that car. When the car was not on the road it was being dissected and reassembled in the doctor's garage on Kittson avenue. Driving a car in those days was a real adventure, and to make a trip without being stalled on the road was a real achievement.

WE READ A GREAT DEAL ABOUT war contractors making, or trying to make, exorbitant profits at the expense of the government. Not all of them are doing it, and it is refreshing once in a while to come across a news item which indicates that not all business men are racketeers. Consider, for instance, the case of the North American Aviation concern, of Kansas City. That company has three plants turning out military planes, at Inglewood, Calif., Dallas and Kansas City. The company has just turned over \$14,000,000 to the government rather than accept that sum as profit, because efficient methods of operation have lowered its costs 33 1-3 per cent and the company wishes the government to have the benefit of the saving.

TWO OR THREE WEEKS AGO I made some observations on the curtailment of manufacture of washing machines under the war program and mentioned a few of the types of washing machines which have come to my attention at one time or another. The column came to the attention of William Shaw, at one time editor of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, who is now doing publicity work in Chicago. Mr. Shaw comes right back with the following additional and interesting information:

"YOUR INTERESTING FEATURE on household washers which ran on March 18, has just been received here among the clippings we get in the course of our publicity and public relations work for the American Washer and Ironer Manufacturers Association.

"YOU ARE RIGHT. SOMEONE VERY well could obtain his Doctor's degree with a thesis on the evolution of the household washer. If you ever hear of anyone with such ambitions, tell him I would be delighted to give him a lot of assistance. In the course of more than a decade you can imagine that we have accumulated a great deal of interesting and odd information about the household washer.

"THE IDEA OF LIGHTENING household washing drudgery by perfecting a machine for the purpose, has engaged the attention of inventive persons for a long, long time. During the wedding ceremonies of a daughter of a British king (George III, I believe) hand bills advertising a household washing machine were distributed in the crowd waiting outside the church.

"SOME OF THE FIRST PATENTS granted by this country were for washing machines. I saw drawings of one of the earliest. It had two submerged washboards, and articles were rubbed against them by arms attached to just such a walking-beam steamboats have. This was to be pulled up and down. It might have saved the woman's hands, but you can imagine what it would do to her back.

"THE LOVELL MANUFACTURING, Company, Erie, Pa. pioneer wringer makers, were in the market first with a washer which closely resembled the eventual wringer as far as the rolls were concerned, but these were wooden, one corrugated and were to be clamped down inside any household wash tub. The clothes were moved back and forth between two rolls by a handle exactly like an old-fashioned wringer handle.

"BACK IN 1875, A COMPANY IN FT. Wayne, Ind., operated in more recent years by the late Carole Lombard's, uncle, introduced a washer which was an oblong wooden box with the dolly built into part of the hinged lid. It was operated by pushing a projecting handle back and forth.

"LARGER MODELS, ON MUCH THE same principle and made in Ohio as early as 1860, had a big projecting criss-cross bar arrangement, constituting four handles by which the "washing" mechanism was actuated.

"SOME SMART SALES PROMOTION was utilized in the case of the Ft. Wayne Company. It learned that its contraption would be regarded as a work of the devil, inciting women to lead lives of leisure. For that reason the founder of the company employed ministers to sell the washer in their spare time, and it was offered also as a splendid place to wash the baby.

"ANOTHER THESIS COULD BE written on ironers. In George Washington's diary he writes of going over to Benjamin Franklin's house one evening to see his new ironer—or mangle as they were called then.

"HOWEVER, I HAD NO INTENTION to write a book when I started out. I simply wanted to felicitate you on writing a very good column about something in which I have much interest. It must have interested other, too."

ALL OVER THE COUNTRY HANdel's "Messiah" has been or is being played and sung in recognition of the two-hundredth anniversary of its first public rendition. I doubt that any audience will have enjoyed the production more than did the audience at the high school auditorium on Wednesday. The great oratorio was rendered in a manner completely in keeping with its dignity. To hear "The Messiah" so well done is something **long to be remembered**, and to assist in rendering it is an experience that will not soon be forgotten. In the program of "The Messiah" production of January 12, Harold Pond is listed as chorus master. I have been informed that on that occasion the real director was Louis U. Rowland (not related to H. C. Rowland) who was at that time an instructor in Wesley college, and who is listed in the program as one of the singers.

SOMETHING LIKE HALF OF THE valley land in northern Walsh and Pembina counties is under water, and similar conditions prevail across the Red river in sections of Marshall and Kittson counties in Minnesota. Flood conditions in those areas are said to be the worst known since the country was settled. Many of the roads are impassable, and even rail service on some lines has been interrupted because of washouts or soft track.

NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THIS, there is at present no prospect of a Red river flood. The river level has risen, but it has not yet reached the stage of many minor spring freshets. The ice moved out some time ago and the channel is clear, and not enough water is coming from the south to bring the water up to flood stage. In the northern counties water has been coming from the western hills in vast quantities. The channels of the few small rivers are narrow and are soon filled up. Then the excess water must go **somewhere, and it spreads over the land** before it can reach the river.

HIGH WATER ANYWHERE IN THE Red river valley in any season brings reminiscences of the historic flood of 1897. That flood was of an entirely different type from anything that is occurring now. This year fields are flooded because water from the western uplands comes down faster than the usual drainage channels can carry it to the main river. In 1897 it was the Red river itself that overflowed and flooded the countryside. The flood began in the south and moved north, the flow being obstructed all the way by unbroken, or at least stationary ice and snow.

A COPY OF THE DRAYTON ECHO of April 22, 1897, the property of D. C. Macdonald of Grand Forks, gives an extended description of the flood as it affected Drayton and vicinity. The flood itself was **made more destructive by the furious gale which swept the valley on the previous Sunday (Easter Sunday) and drove great waves against structures** which otherwise might have been affected only slightly by the high water.

SCORES OF BUILDINGS WERE swept away, and with them went household goods, hay and grain. Whole herds of cattle were drowned and in some cases their bodies were piled up in rows on higher ground or against fences. The Drayton paper reports the drowning of several persons, and at that time the record was incomplete. The paper has a full column of names of persons whose buildings were swept away and whose other property was destroyed. One incident, minor in character in proportion to the general destruction was that the Reid schoolhouse, on the North Dakota side of the river, was carried with its furniture over to Minnesota. I wonder who owned that schoolhouse later on.

NO ONE CAN EVER TELL WHAT the weather may do, but at this time there is no prospect of a repetition of the flood of 1897. This is of a different character, and the Red river seems able thus far to take care of all the water that is being poured into it. Much of the water now on the fields never will reach the river. It will be absorbed by the soil or carried into the air by evaporation.

**THAL EVANSON, HERALD PHOTO**grapher, who took the pictures of those Tollefson children which were published in the Herald a few days ago, says that while his work has brought him in contact with some shocking scenes, he has never encountered anything to compare with the condition in which those children were found. With the father in jail and the mother "out" nobody knew just where, five young children were found barefooted and scantily clothed, with door wide open into an unheated house and literally smeared with filth.

**LAST FALL OR EARLY IN THE** winter donations of furniture, bedding and clothing were given that family, and other steps were taken to make the place habitable and to make decent living possible. Those donations, or most of them, have disappeared, the house has reverted to the state of a pig-pen and the children have been permitted to wallow in filth.

**THERE ARE THOSE WHO OBJECT** to the removal of children from the custody of their parents, even in extreme cases such as this, on the ground that under no circumstances must a home be broken up. Stuff and nonsense! Where conditions of that kind exist, and where, as in this case, they have been permitted to exist with no effort to improve them, there is no home, there never has been one, and there never will be. The animals who have unfortunately become parents have shown utter incapacity to maintain even the semblance of a home. Their progeny should be taken from them and placed in surroundings where, at least, they will have a decent chance.

**THERE ARE ALSO THE SENTIMENTAL** visionaries who can see in such cases as that of the Tollefsons only the need for better housing. Build the Tollefsons a \$5,000 house with central heat, tiled bath room and electric refrigerator, give them a radio and a nice outfit of furniture and turn them loose in it rent free. Again, stuff and nonsense! Within a month the new house would be a wreck and within six months it would be a hog-wallow.

**SOMETIMES ONE IS FORCED TO** regret that in this country the whippingpost has been abolished, except in Delaware, which still retains it for certain offenses. The lash is a brutal instrument, but there are those who, willingly living on the level of the brute, will respond only to brutal treatment. But we weep over them, and pity them, and coddle them, and psychoanalyze them, and make social problems of them, and legislate about them, while they roll in filth and breed their litters. There are problems that require a sympathetic approach. This kind of problem demands a hard-boiled, two-fisted approach—sympathy for the unfortunate children, and utter disregard of the comfort of the parents who have forfeited their right to be considered human beings.

**OFTEN THE QUESTION HAS BEEN** asked: Why don't we send relief to Bataan? Secretary Stimson has provided the answer. We have sent relief to Bataan, not enough, but as much as could be got through. Because of Japan's superiority on the sea by any direct route, we have been sending supplies to Bataan round about by way of New Zealand, and for every ship that got through two have been sunk. Our ships had to work their way through waters infested by enemy submarines and over which enemy planes were constantly flying. Some supplies got through, but not enough.

**WE ARE FIGHTING IN THE FAR** East with our backs to the wall. We shall continue to do so until we can match Japan's air power in that territory with our own. We can assemble men and tanks and guns on Australia, but they cannot take the offensive until we have there sufficient air power to deal effectively with Japan's air power. Hence it is of supreme importance that every factory in the country that can produce war goods shall operate to full capacity, and that there shall not be a moment's delay in the loading of every ship that can be used for transport.

A NOTATION IN THE AUTOMOBILE scrap book of Roy B. Tripp of Devils Lake lists South Dakota as one of the few states in which there have been no automobiles manufactured. That statement is intended to apply, of course, to cars manufactured commercially. Probably there is no state in which horseless carriages of one sort or other have not been made by individuals for their own use. Mrs. H. A. Varland recalls that there was one such car in the little town of Artesian, S. D., which was built by a local man for his own use. Mrs. Varland has heard her father describe it and she recalls that one of its outstanding features was noise. Whenever it was started up the entire population heard the racket and came out to see the machine perform.

IN A REVIEW OF A CURRENT BOOK the reviewer calls attention to a few errors, one of which is the misspelling of the name of Rozhdestvenski, the admiral who commanded the ill-fated Russian fleet in the war with Japan in 1904-05. A more remarkable thing, it seems to me, would be to get the spelling right.

CLIFTON FADIMAN, EMINENT book reviewer and critic of the New Yorker, doesn't think much of John Steinbeck's latest book, "The Moon is Down." I read the book and liked it. So did a good friend of mine. That's two against one. The eyes have it.

STEINBACK'S BOOK DESCRIBES what happened, or might have happened in a small town in a country invaded by an enemy as many countries were invaded by Nazi forces. No particular country is named, nor any particular invader, but the story is such that the invader could be only Germany. Some of the reviews say that the country might easily be Norway, Holland, Czechoslovakia, or one of several other countries. But the descriptions fit only Norway. The author might as well have said that the country is Norway, for quite clearly it is that country that he had in mind.

MANY PERSONS OF MY GENERATION had in their school readers the thrilling story of John Gilpin's ride as told by the poet Cowper, and children of later generations have also been familiar with the story. It has been supposed that John Gilpin was altogether a creature of the poet's lively imagination, but in a recent salvage drive in the English town of Olney, closely associated with William Cowper, there was found among the waste papers in a lawyer's office an ancient document signed by John Gilpin. Did the poet know that John Gilpin and make him the hero of his fantastic and amusing tale? If so, did John enjoy the publicity, or did he resent it? In either case, the poem is the one thing that has given him imperishable fame.

MOSCOW'S CURFEW REGULATIONS were lifted to permit the holding of Easter midnight services. This is interpreted as an indication of the purpose of the Soviet government to place no obstruction in the way of religious services. At other times during the war curfew regulations have been rigorously enforced in Moscow.

ONE EXPLANATION GIVEN OF THE delay in making public the fact that the former aircraft carrier Langley had been sunk is that it is not the policy of the government to publish news of sinkings until relatives of the missing have been notified. In this case the Langley was sunk, many of her crew were picked up, by another vessel, and some time later that vessel was also sunk. This caused unavoidable delay in ascertaining the names of the known dead and the missing.

OUT IN IDAHO THEY ARE ARRANGING to make starch from cull potatoes. Here you buy them from your grocer.

MELVIN RUDER, FORMER UNIVERSITY student, and now with the Westing-house people at Sharon, Pennsylvania, edits the company's house organ, the News. A recent copy of the News contains the following paragraph:

"From Lieut. Nathan Bolotin, Fort Richardson, Alaska, comes the following letter: "I would like to put in my claim of having received the "News" that had traveled most before reaching its destination. It was mailed to me at Ft. Monmouth, N. J., from where it was forwarded to the American Embassy, London, England—returned to the Adjutant General, Washington, D. C., and then sent to me here at Fort Richardson, Alaska."

"Ed. Note: A cent and a half stamp pasted on here in Sharon did the trick."

It is not explained why the paper went to London in order to get to Alaska, but it was given a long ride for the price of a stamp.

NEIL JOHNSTON, OF FORDVILLE, one of the old settlers in the Red river valley, writes:

"Have you any recollection of an earthquake that occurred some time about 1892 or 1893?"

One evening about 9 P.M. in the latter part of December our house in Elkmount township shook for about four or five seconds so the dishes rattled. It was accompanied by a low rumbling noise. Several of our neighbors spoke about it the next day. As we took no daily paper at that time I don't know whether it was mentioned or not.

"NO DOUBT YOU READ A BOOK about 50 years ago written by Edward Bellamy entitled "Looking Backward". The author placed himself many years ahead of that date and represented himself as looking backward over the years and describing the many changes that took place. I am sorry I have no copy of the book. It would be interesting to note how far he missed his predictions."

MR. JOHNSTON'S MENTION OF what seemed like an earthquake shock half a century ago is quite new to me. I wonder if anyone else has any recollection of it. So far as I know there is no record of an earthquake shock in North Dakota, this state being the only one of which this is true. It would be interesting to know if, after all, North Dakota, like its neighbors, has felt at least one such tremor within the memory of man.

BELLAMY'S BOOK, "LOOKING Backward," was intended, not so much as a series of predictions, but as a social document, setting forth the author's ideas as to the social and political structure of the ideal state. In arranging the environment of the society of some 200 years hence Bellamy drew freely on his imagination. He was interested in social problems and did not set himself up as a Mother Shipton. I suppose that if anyone now should let his fancy run riot and predict a long list of seemingly impossible things for the next century, he would be found at the end of the time to have made several good guesses. But he would scarcely be entitled to be considered a prophet.

THE OPERATIONS OF MEMORY, and its failure to work, are past understanding. Seated in a certain chair last night I recalled a paragraph that I had read and which had interested me. I mentioned it, and as I did so I thought I would make a note of it and use it in this column. Then I thought it was not necessary to make any note, as I would remember it. Now I can't remember what it was. I remember thinking about it, and speaking of it. I remember just where I sat at the time, and all the incidental surroundings, but the one thing that I wish to remember is gone, completely. Probably some time hence, perhaps in a wakeful moment in the middle of the night, it will come back. The only thing that I remember about it is that it wasn't particularly important, so it doesn't matter much whether I remember it or not. What a queer jumble those memory cells, or whatever they are, must be.

ARE MEN KNITTING NOW AS THEY did during the former war? I haven't been around enough to notice, but I recall that 25 years ago knitting was one of the popular occupations of men. This was especially observable on trains. Many of the traveling salesmen occupied the time between stops adding a few rounds of stitches to the sweaters or other garments on which they were at work. I know a few men now who spend much of their spare time knitting, but I wonder if the practice is as general as it was. In "Antiques," a magazine whose purpose is indicated by its title, reference is made to the fact that knitting was not always chiefly a woman's occupation, as it is today. We are told that long ago practically all knitting was done by men, and most of their work was beautiful and artistic. Among the products of their industry were armor jackets, worked in silk and metal threads. Men knitted the first silk stockings, some with three-inch cuffs of solid gold applique. Time and moths have made it almost impossible to collect many of those examples of the knitter's art, but knitters' tools are still to be found in museum and other collections. Made of wood, metal, bone or other materials, some of those tools were elaborately carved—themselves works of art, and some had special uses unknown to the knitters of today.

ONE OF THE OLD KNITTING implements which is still occasionally used was the sheath, which was used as a rest for the end of one of the needles. The sheath was attached to the knitter's garment by some sort of fastening, sometimes by a cord around the waist. It might be of turned or carved wood or bone. In its simplest form it consisted merely of a goose, quill, and in that form it was in common use by our great-grandmothers.

YESTERDAY I TOLD OF A LITTLE item which I had read, and which had then been forgotten as completely as Sullivan's lost chord. Without notice it came back, and here it is:

When Robley D. Evans, who afterward became an admiral, was just Captain (Bob) Evans, he had a Japanese cabin boy who was a perfect treasure. He was quick, quiet, attentive and intelligent. He was so satisfactory in every respect that Evans kept him for about three years. Then the young man reported that through the death of a relative he had inherited property in Japan and he must return home to look after it. Officer and cabin boy parted with mutual expressions of esteem and regret. A year or two later Evans was in command of one of the ships which made the famous around-the-world voyage ordered by Theodore Roosevelt. During the visit to Japan Evans met a Japanese admiral in whom he recognized his former cabin boy. Astonished, he demanded "Since when have they been making admirals of cabin boys?" With a polite smile the admiral replied, "All the time that I served you as cabin boy I was a commissioned captain in the Japanese navy."

ONE OF THE LARGEST RUBBER companies in the world was recently refused permission to take four new tires from its stock to replace the worn tires on one of its trucks. The company had in its warehouses 369,549 new tires, but it couldn't touch them without permission from the local rationing board. Application was made to the board in the usual way and an inspector was directed to inspect the tires on the truck and report. The inspector reported that the tires were pretty thin, but that a re-treading job would answer the purpose. The old tires were re-treaded and the company was left with its hundreds of thousands of new tires still in stock. All of which is as it should be, and there was no complaint from any source.

ONE OF THE MOST DESIRABLE trees is the green ash, but it has the unpleasant habit of holding its seeds over winter and away into the next summer. Then the seeds are shed, a few at a time, and they sprout, take root and start new trees all over the place. And if one of those seedlings happens to start up among shrubbery, where it may not be noticed until it is two or three years old, it is a man's size job to get rid of it. This year I tried whipping the seed off my one ash tree with a long pole, so as to get rid of it all at one time.

TWO OR THREE WEEKS AGO I chanced to mention Andrew Bertramson, former foreman of the Herald composing room, who gave up his printing job to go to the Philippines with the North Dakota regiment. While in the Philippines he found posted on a forest road a proclamation in Spanish issued by Aguinaldo, who headed the Filipino uprising. The proclamation called on all Filipinos to be loyal to the government which Aguinaldo had undertaken to establish. Bertramson was a caller at the Herald on Wednesday, and we recalled the old days when we worked together. Upon his return from the Philippines he resumed his position, and some thirty years ago he resigned to devote his attention to a farm which he had acquired near Edmore. Later he moved to Crystal City, Saskatchewan, where he still lives. Not many of the men whom he knew and with whom he worked thirty years ago are here now.

SOME TIME AGO I MENTIONED A series of annoying dreams in which I imagined myself, time after time, to be in the same hotel, a place which I had never seen, but which was always the same in my dreams, and in which my experiences were always embarrassing and exhausting. Mrs. E. Johnsrud of Dahlen, North Dakota, writes of a dream in which she had some thrilling experiences, not in a hotel, but in what purported to be a hospital. Unfortunately, I haven't space for the complete story, but the experience recorded seems like something out of Edgar Allen Poe. For the sake of her restful sleep I sincerely hope that Mrs. Johnsrud doesn't have such another dream.

SONNER AF NORGE, OFFICIAL organ of the national Sons of Norway, has an appreciative mention, of an article by Dr. Richard Beck, of the U. N. D. which was recently published in "Scandinavian Studies" dealing with the life and work of John Falkberget, one of the great Norwegian poets.

WOMEN ARE NOT TO BE UNIFORMED, just yet, except those who are actually engaged in war work, but the government board having that subject in charge has issued a long list of specifications for women's apparel which will hereafter be permissible. We are told that the specifications have been arranged with a view to retaining individuality and charm on women's dress. There will be still permitted morale boosters and attractive, practical clothes in keeping with the times, all without wasting the fabrics needed to win the war. The order does not freeze fashions in the sense that it puts all women into uniforms.

REGULATIONS COVER SUCH things as silhouette, skirt length and sweep, and the status of evening gowns, jacket dresses, hood and cape are particularly noted in a publication devoted to the subject. The order applies to all full lines of women's dresses, coats, suits, evening dresses, uniforms and sports-wear as well as children's wear put into process by manufacturers and others, including even the home dressmaker who works for profit.

DID YOU KNOW THAT NO TWO American dollar bills, and no two bills of any other denomination are exactly alike? They look alike and feel alike, and the engraving on them is identical, but they are different. The difference lies in the fact that in the paper on which the bills are printed there are incorporated fine silk threads which are scattered promiscuously through the paper. The Philadelphia mint has just made its first run of bills in which nylon is used instead of silk. I do not know if silk has been used in the pulp from which the paper is made or whether its use is confined to the minute threads which are sprinkled through it.

WHEN FRANK WHITE, FORMER governor of North Dakota, was treasurer of the United States he had on his desk, carefully protected by a glass-covered case, a counterfeit five-dollar bill which had been made by the daughter of a counterfeiter known as "Jim the penman." Jim was an artist in his line, ink and confined himself altogether to \$50 bills of which he made about four per month. They were so nearly perfect that they passed readily, and it took a long time for the authorities to catch up with Jim. He was caught at last and given a penitentiary sentence. He was a pleasant fellow, and the officials came to like him. On his release he pledged himself to go straight. He was also warned that if another such bill appeared he would immediately be arrested, as his work was of a type that could not be mistaken. Presently a counterfeit \$5 bill appeared and Jim was arrested. He declared himself innocent, but his grown daughter confessed that in this case she was the counterfeiter. She had known of her father's work and admired it, though she had taken no part in it. But she had an artist's curiosity in whether or not she could do as good a job. She tried it just once, on a \$5 bill, and made it nearly perfect. The only observable defect, to a layman, was that in a series of lines, two were not quite parallel, as they should have been. The young woman was allowed to go, with a warning not to try it again.

THIS WEEK'S SATURDAY EVENING Post has on its cover a copy of "Spring In Town," which was the last picture painted by the famous American artist, Grant Wood. A native of Iowa, Grant Wood studied art in American schools and in Paris. After making the rounds he decided that for him there was more inspiration in the familiar scenes of his native state than in anything that the schools had to offer. He said that all his really good ideas had come to him while he was milking a cow. He became known as an accomplished delineator of rural scenes and rural people.

HIS LAST PICTURE REPRESENTS typical scenes in a small town on a spring day. A woman is hanging out bedding to air. Two men are vigorously beating a rug. A man is climbing a ladder, presumably to clean out the eaves-trough. Another is pushing a lawn-mower across his bit of lawn. Still another, stripped to the waist, is spading a two-by-four garden plot. It is all very familiar and homey. But an incongruous feature is a row of glads just ready to burst into bloom, right alongside the newly-spaded garden. I'm afraid the artist got spring and summer mixed in that picture.

IN FRANCE, AWAY BACK IN THE fifteenth century, they had strict regulations against selling bad eggs. In the archives of the French department of Puy de Dome is a document containing regulations in force in 1481. One clause reads:

"Any man or (w)oman who sells bad eggs shall be exposed on the pillory, and said eggs shall be given to the children to amuse themselves by throwing them at him."

I wonder what they did to the person who sold bad potatoes.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE URGES all farmers to plant gardens this spring. It seems a little strange that such advice should be thought necessary. At one time the garden was considered an essential feature of every farm. In fact, on some of the pioneer farms back east during the first year or so of occupancy, the garden was the only source of vegetable food except for such kinds of food as could be gathered wild in the forest. And after fields were cleared and planted to grain, the garden continued to supply the farmer with a large share of his food. The farmer grew his own vegetables or went without.

TO THE EXTENT THAT FARMING has become a commercial enterprise the farm garden has tended to lag, and in many farm homes vegetables put up in tin cans have taken the place of those fresh from the garden: The reason often advanced for this is that when the field work is done there is no time to fuss with gardens. There are farmers, however, who still find it possible to have good gardens, and it is those farmers whose tables are best supplied. The recommendations now made by the Grange are timely. The family that produces the largest possible supply of food for its own use will be playing safe in a situation where scarcity is bound to affect the table as well as the supply of materials available for many other uses.

WHETHER TO PLANT SEEDS OF tender annuals in the open ground or set out plants that have been started early in hotbeds is a subject of perennial argument. There are those who insist that they get the best results from sowing seed in the open ground, as the growth of the plants is then not checked as it is if hot-house plants are used. It is quite true that plants from seed sown in the open will sometimes overtake and surpass transplanted plants. But where sturdy plants are used and the transplanting is carefully done, there is scarcely any shock and there may be a net gain in growth of several weeks. This is important in a latitude where the growing season is short.

SHOULD SEED BE SOAKED BEFORE planting? As in so many other cases, "that depends." If seed is soaked until it is ready to sprout and is then planted in slightly moist soil there will probably be a gain of several days in growth. However, if germinating seed is planted in dry soil it may be damaged, possibly ruined. In that case the dry earth absorbs the moisture from the seed and the embryo may perish. One garden method which has been found satisfactory is to make a trench of proper depth for the seed, wet the bottom of the trench, plant seed and cover with dry soil. The dust blanket thus formed checks evaporation and the moisture is retained around the seed. Under good conditions no soaking of either seed or soil is necessary.

**SINCE THE COLLAPSE OF FRANCE** in 1940 the French situation has been one of continued perplexity and embarrassment to the Allied governments. Under the terms of the armistice northern France was taken over completely by German armed forces and its affairs have been administered directly under supervision of German authority. There was no similar armed occupation of southern France, and that half of the country was permitted to retain a certain form of independence, with a separate government operating from the new temporary capital at Vichy.

**THE VICHY GOVERNMENT WAS** required to abstain from armed hostilities against Germany, was permitted certain freedom of action in matters of local government, and retained possession of the major part of the French fleet. Theoretically unoccupied France was to be neutral territory. But Marshal Petain, titular head of the Vichy government, has been subjected to continued and increasing pressure from Berlin. Demands have been made on him for greater and greater degree of collaboration with Germany. The evidences are that he has yielded unwillingly, but in general he has yielded. He has known that a gesture from Berlin could remove him at any moment, and he has temporized, hoping that by surrendering something he could save what was left.

**AS THE SITUATION HAS WORKED** out, there appears to be nothing left. Laval, an avowed advocate of full cooperation with Germany, has been made Virtual dictator of southern France and there is left to Petain only an empty title and a sort of ceremonial dignity. In so far as that can be brought about France becomes the full partner of Hitler in his evil adventure. The degree to which this can be achieved depends on the attitude of the French people themselves.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE** Appointment of Laval to take charge at Vichy was followed by rioting in Paris on a scale surpassing anything that had yet occurred in this war. While news from France is difficult to obtain, it is known that throughout the country there has been a strong feeling of resentment at the German occupation and the repeated concessions made to Berlin. No one can tell whether France is on the verge of a full-size revolution or is merely shooting off firecrackers.

**THE ONE THING CERTAIN IS** that the policy of appeasement toward Vichy must cease. Allied governments have dealt liberally and generously with Vichy, and have sought to avoid even the appearance of anything that could serve as an excuse for complete surrender of France to Berlin. To maintain former relations with Vichy would be to play directly into the hands of the enemy. Whether the United Nations should not seize all French possessions within their reach on the theory that otherwise they will be taken over by the Axis seems to have become less a political than a military question.

**SENATOR GILLETTE'S RECENT** statement that Japanese interned at Bismarck have been holding political meetings, together with German and Italian internees, and that such meetings were held out of hearing of American officials and guards, is an example of the manner in which too many men in important positions give publicity to rumors without taking the trouble to acquaint themselves with the facts. Categorical denial of the rumors repeated by Senator Gillette is made by the official in charge of the camp. That official says specifically that no such meetings as described have been held, that Japanese internees are not permitted to mingle with Germans and Italians except at such affairs as baseball games, and that American guards mingle constantly with the internees as a precaution against improper activities of any kind.

**THE FACTS STATED BY THE OFFICIAL** could have been ascertained by Senator Gillette if he had asked for them. But on the strength of rumors which had no foundation in fact the senator broadcast false statements with which the truth will not readily catch up. The president and other men in public life have warned the people time and again against giving credence to rumors passed back and forth on the street. Yet a senator of the United States, without investigation, picks up wild and unfounded rumors and gives publicity to them. Congressmen ought to apply themselves the same restraints that are expected of less conspicuous individuals.

PURSUANT TO PLANS APPROVED at a meeting of state organizations and state and federal agencies held at Bismarck in February, Governor Moses has appointed Victory garden committees in the several communities of the state. These committees are expected to promote the planting of gardens by all persons who have facilities and desirable plots available for that purpose. This work is sponsored by the national government and participation in the program is by all who are able will be of immense advantage in increasing the supply of food available for domestic consumption.

MANY AMERICANS DO NOT FIND it easy to realize the possibility of food scarcity in this country. With us food has been so abundant that much of it has been wasted, and the possibility of scarcity enters but slightly into the calculations of most of us. But even in this country of abundance scarcity of food is possible in these war years. It is true that there is little prospect of our people suffering from actual hunger. Certain staples are, and probably will continue to be abundant. In the former war wheat became scarce because of extraordinary foreign demand, and coarse grains were used quite largely to supplement the supply of white flour. That condition does not exist now. This country has a large surplus of wheat, and while some other countries are in dire need of it, there is no way of getting it to them. The prospect is that our wheat surplus will increase rather than diminish for some time.

BUT ARMY AND OTHER DEMANDS are drawing so heavily on foods other than those usually considered staples that special effort is needed to avert a scarcity of many foods which supply elements essential to health and vigor. In a sense other than that intended in the scriptural statement, "man does not live by bread alone." If health and vigor are to be maintained the solid staples must be supplemented by fruits and vegetables of many kinds, and it is quite certain that it will be impossible before long to obtain many of these essential foods from the usual commercial sources and in the usual quantity. Here is where the home garden will come in.

THE WELL-PLANNED AND WELL tilled garden is a family asset whose value can scarcely be over-estimated. It will help to cut down the food bill, and that of itself is something of no slight importance in a time when the future, economically, is confused and uncertain. More important, perhaps, is the fact that the home garden places within reach of the family important food elements, some of which are certain to be hard to obtain as in the past. And to very many the cultivation of a garden, instead of a task, becomes a real pleasure. But, don't try to make a garden in unfit soil, and don't imagine that a garden is made when the seed is planted. There is a lot of real work between seed time and harvest.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WELLES wrote a letter to the Vichy government) expressing the disapprobation of the United States government of Vichy's latest move toward complete collaboration with Hitler. Vichy's representative in Washington called in person on Mr. Welles and said that his government considered the letter insulting and rejected it. On behalf of the United States government Mr. Welles rejected the rejection. At this writing Vichy has not rejected the rejection of the rejection.

SOMEBODY HAS REPORTED THAT in April, 1910, an unseasonable hot spell was followed by a week or two of weather so cold and stormy that everybody had to keep indoors. I don't remember about it, and I haven't looked up the record. My principal recollection of 1910 is that in the Red river valley we had the driest summer ever experienced in this locality before or since. Rainfall for the entire year was only about 10 inches, about 50 per cent of normal, and we had nothing like that even in the dry thirties.

A NOTE FROM MRS. JAMES ELTON, overlooked until just now, tells of one of those rare freaks of nature, a white robin. Mrs. Elton writes:

"A white robin has taken up his quarters in my son Jim's garden and is building a nest there. Jim lives in Portland, Ore. They are so delighted to have such a rare bird and are doing all they can to keep him. He gets the crumbs they put out for him. I never saw one and don't know where their habitat is, but he is happy among the spring blossoms." Like Mrs. Elton, I nev-saw a white robin, but I have heard of them occasionally. The condition of albinism is one which may occur in any form of animal life, and when it appears in individuals of species usually colored it is more likely to be a sporadic manifestation rather than the characteristic of a separate group. Thus, there are occasional white robins and white crows, but, so far as known, no special varieties of such colorless birds.

ALBINISM AMONG HUMAN BEINGS is not at all uncommon, and there are few remote parts of the world in which absence of pigmentation is so common as to constitute those separate groups of albinos as constituting distinct races. Albino negroes are occasionally found in the southern states. Among wild animals there are occasional white deer, white rats and white mice. The usual color of the American buffalo, or bison, is brown, but in rare cases buffaloes have been white. Among some of the Indian tribes the white buffalo was regarded with veneration. Captain Mayne Reid, author of numerous adventure stories years ago, built the plot of one of his stories around the search for a white buffalo in which some of his young hunters engaged. The story included among its features the Indian attitude of reverence for a buffalo so strangely lacking in color.

YEARS AGO THE SACRED WHITE elephant of Siam was made famous by the controversy between the showmen, Barnum and Forepaugh. In Siam the white elephant was an object of worship, and when Adam Forepaugh announced that he had obtained for his show a sacred white elephant from Siam, Barnum had to do something about it. One story is that he whitewashed an elephant and exhibited it as a rival to Forepaugh's. Another story is that it was Forepaugh who did the whitewashing. I saw Forepaugh's elephant, and didn't think much of it. It was an under-sized animal, not white, but a light dirty gray, and it seemed to me anything but an object of worship. The lack of color in the few "white" elephants of Siam was due to a form of albinism.

AMONG ALBINOS, WHETHER HUMAN or otherwise, the eyeballs are often pinkish, a fact which is attributed to lack of pigmentation which permits the red color of the blood to show. There are cases, too, of partial albinism in which the usual color is absent from certain spots on the body. This condition is seen in the skin of men who are sometimes exhibited in circus sideshows, whose bodies are irregularly mottled, dark and white.

A NOTE FROM J. J. FLIKKE, OF Shelly, Minn., says: "If you will look up the Herald for March 19, 1910, you will find a temperature of 80 recorded for that date, which beats any April temperature so far."

Without examining the record I will accept Mr. Flikke's statement for March 19, 1910. But as to April temperature, we had a temperature of 80 on April 14 this year. On the same day Bismarck registered 87, which was 7 degrees hotter than they had it in Texas.

THROUGH THE COURTESY OF A friend who was kind enough to lend me a copy of the book, I have enjoyed rereading Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward." The incidents described and arguments advanced seem familiar after these many years. I had not seen a copy of the book since I read it shortly after its original publication in 1887, Only a few books have had as wide circulation. It was once perhaps the most widely read book in the United States, and it was translated into several foreign languages.

BELLAMY WAS NEITHER BRILLIANT nor profound. As a young man he engaged in newspaper work for a time, and in that work he showed moderate ability. He took up the writing of fiction and produced a few books of minor grade which were soon forgotten. The general public knew nothing of him until the publication of "Looking Backward," whereupon, like Byron, he woke up one morning to find himself famous.

ESSENTIALLY "LOOKING BACKWARD" is a monologue in which the author sets forth his views on certain social and economic problems. The book's success was due in large part to its timeliness. The time was 1887 and industry was undergoing the transition from individualism to corporate enterprise. Labor conditions were unsettled and strikes were numerous and violent. The country had survived the greenback agitation, but was entering the period of free silver agitation. The Populist party was in the making. It was one of the most argumentative periods in the history of the nation.

THEN CAME WITH THIS BOOK, with its criticism of social and economic methods and criticisms with which the people of that day were familiar, its listing of undeniable abuses which existed and its setting forth of plans for a heaven and a new earth, wherein Everyone would be assured abundance of all the good things of life without having to compete with anyone for anything. It is no wonder that such a book was eagerly read.

WHILE NEITHER BRILLIANT NOR profound, the book displays some rather skillful craftsmanship. A plain homily on economics and sociology would have attracted little attention, but Bellamy had the happy thought of dressing up his ideas in the form of an imaginative story. The plot is one which, in essentials, has been used with varying success by many writers. Bellamy's hero is cast into a hypnotic sleep which, instead of lasting overnight, as intended, lasts more than a century, and he awakes to find Boston, the home town, changed beyond recognition.

THE MARVELOUS PHYSICAL changes have resulted, he finds, from complete changes in the country's social and economic structure. State socialism has superseded private enterprise. Manufacturing and distribution of every kind are taken over by the state and every citizen works for the state. Money is abolished, and instead every person receives each month a credit card, which is non-transferrable, out of which dollar symbols are punched to represent purchases made from the state. The credit allowed each person is ample for his needs, and everyone is happy.

A VERY SLENDER THREAD OF ROMANCE runs through the story, which made the book attractive to many readers. Bellamy did not undertake to prophesy concerning scientific developments for the future. His nearest approach to prediction in this line is his description of the manner in which music and speeches are distributed from central places to the homes. Seated at home one has only to press this button or that to receive any kind of music that he wishes and whatever speech is being made. But transmission is over telephone wires. There is no hint of wireless transmission. Nor are methods of transportation mentioned. In 1887 a few inventors were struggling with plans for the horseless carriage, but Bellamy does not even mention the horse and buggy.

A NOTE FROM MRS. BENTLEY Nelson (Lottie Rees) of Encinitas, California, tells of the death of Richard Heyward at Pasadena, California, on April 4. Mr. Heyward was for several years state inspector of high schools for North Dakota. Mrs. Heyward died in 1936. Both were active members of the Methodist church of Grand Forks.

MRS. NELSON, whose son Bob is in the navy, and likes it, writes further:

"Mother and I were greatly interested in your column relating to washing-machines, and in the subsequent paragraphs sent in by Mr. Shaw, and published in your column on April 10th. We still have one of the old wringer type washers— the kind with one corrugated roll. My mother inherited it from her mother, and she still thinks that it is the best kind of washer for quilts, and blankets. That washer was bought in 1885. It must be good, or we would never have shipped it from North Dakota along with a late model Maytag."

THIS COMES FROM FRED J. TRAYnor, of Devils Lake: "Looking backward in my memory I am conscious of a recollection of a legend or myth to the effect that Bellamy's book was not entirely original with him; that in fact Professor John Macnie of the UND had already written a book entitled 'Looking Forward' along the same line of thought and prediction from which Bellamy got his ideas though Macnie's book was never published. Is there anything to that legend? You should know."

I'M SORRY I DON'T KNOW. I REMEMBER Dr. Macnie quite well, but I knew him only slightly. He was a scholarly man, greatly loved by his students. One evidence of their affection was that they were continually playing tricks on him because of his absent-mindedness and nearsightedness. If they hadn't loved him they wouldn't have pestered him so. There are still a few persons living who knew him well, and some of them may know whether or not he wrote such a book as Mr. Traynor describes. I should be grateful for the information if anyone has it.

THE NUMBER OF MEN 45 TO 64 years old, who will have to register with their local Selective Service board on April 27, is estimated at 13,589,000 for the United States, Director J. C. Capt of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, announces. Of this number 12,516,400 are white, and 1,073,400 are **nonwhite**.

More precisely these men are the ones born during the period April 28, 1877, to February 16, 1897, both inclusive. Thus on the registration day they will range in age from 45 years and 70 days up to exact age 65. (Those from exact age 45 up to 45 years and 70 days were 44 years old on February 16, 1942, and hence were included in the registration which took place on this date.) The above estimates represent the total number of men within the given age limits. Actually, a small proportion of these, such as men already in the armed forces, are not required to register.

A STRAY COPY OF THE LAFAYETTE, Indiana, Journal and Courier has an illustrated article which should be interesting to former residents of that community. The article describes two landmarks, relics of many years ago, a covered bridge and an old grist mill, and, unlike most of such survivals, both bridge and mill are still in regular use. The bridge, built of hand-hewn timbers and neatly roofed and sided, was completed in 1868 and has been in use ever since. A picture shows it to be in excellent repair. It is one of the few such bridges now remaining in the United States.

THE MILL WAS BUILT IN 1847 AND its interior is scarcely changed from what it was so many years ago. It is operated by water power, but instead of the overshot wheel which was common in the early days it is operated, as it has always been, by a species of turbine. The mill stones are French, as were all the best stones used in the early mills, but instead of grinding flour, as they once did, they are now used only for grinding corn.

IN REPLY TO INQUIRIES BY SEVERAL friends: The tulips are in bloom and have been for several days. My early tulips are short-stemmed and double. I don't know the name of the variety. The first bud opened on April 20 and the others are coming along nicely. My neighbor, Mrs. Hafsten, also has tulips in bloom. Hers are single and brilliant red, and the first blossom opened also on April 20. I think that for some reason the Darwins are crowding the early variety in the matter of time a little more this year than usual, for although only a few of the earlies are in bloom, the Darwins are already full of well-developed buds.

SOME COMMENTATOR SUGGESTS that inasmuch as the Hindu element in India disliked the proposal for self government brought by Sir Stafford Cripps because it made it too easy for the Moslems to get out of the union and the Moslems objected because it did not make it easy enough, the plan must have been about as near right as human ingenuity could make it.

NEW YORK CITY HAS JUST DEVOTED a week to celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the city's public school system. Among other features were reproductions of old school rooms, with children and teachers in costume and with what were intended to be replicas of school room methods of a century or so ago. I hope that those reproductions were not mere burlesques, which is the best that can be said of most of the misrepresentations of the schools of an earlier generation. A horrible example is that slapstick abomination, "The Deestrick Skule," which has been staged before uncountable multitudes.

I SUPPOSE THE WRITER OF THAT precious production intended it as a farce and tried to give every member of the cast a star clown part. Probably as a bit of foolery it is all right, for those who like that kind of foolery. The mischief of it is that a lot of youngsters have got from that play the impression that the country school was pretty much like that—which it wasn't—not by a jugful.

THERE WERE IN THE OLD DAYS all sorts of schools and all sorts of teachers, just as there are today. And without question the average of excellence is much higher now than it was. But taking it up one side and down the other, the old-time country school was a fairly orderly, respectable and useful institution. Some of the teachers were coarse and ignorant and some of the pupils unruly, but those were not typical. Teachers were not as systematically trained as they are today, but many of them, men and women alike, were both earnest, intelligent and competent, and for much of its fine citizenship the nation is indebted to the maligned country school.

A FEW DAYS AGO I PUBLISHED A note from Mrs. James Elton telling of the appearance of a white robin at the home of her son in Portland. Just now David Ferguson, who lives at 1312 Second avenue north, has called to report the appearance of a white robin at his home. This bird is only a partial albino Its head is white and its wings splotched with white, but its breast is red. It associates freely with other robins, one of which appears to be its mate. If the pair go to housekeeping it will be interesting to see what the progeny are like.

**TOMORROW EVENING THE CITY** of Grand Forks will have as its guests for the second time Crown Prince Olav of Norway and Princess Martha. These royal guests will be accompanied by the Norwegian minister to the United States and other distinguished persons, among them representatives of the United States government. The conditions under which these distinguished guests will visit the city are strikingly different from those under which they were given an enthusiastic welcome here less than three years ago.

**ON THAT OCCASION PRINCE OLAV** had come from his home land to bring greetings to the American people, and especially to those of Norse origin who had made homes for themselves in this country and had taken upon themselves the responsibilities of American citizenship. The visit was a recognition of the indissoluble bonds of affection which unite those of common heritage regardless of the miles which separate them. It was an expression of unflagging interest and cordial goodwill.

**AT THAT TIME NORWAY ENJOYED** the peace and independence which had been the portion of its people for more than a century and under which the little country had made notable progress in commerce and industry, in the arts and sciences, in education and social relations, in all those things which make for the richer life of a forward-looking people.

**IN HIS ADDRESS DELIVERED AT** Grand Forks Prince Olav paid tribute to those of his kindred who had crossed the seas and assisted in the building of this great American commonwealth, but his address was not confined to considerations of race or nationality. He spoke of the spirit of democracy which makes all free peoples kin, and which is not bounded by local customs or systems of government. That message was carried to many American communities, and at the close of their tour the royal couple returned home, to enjoy reunion with family and friends and with the children who had been left in peace and security to await the return of their parents.

**TOMORROW PRINCE OLAV WILL** address another American audience, speaking not as a representative of a nation at peace, but as a soldier in the great cause of that democracy of which he spoke some three years before, and which is now threatened by a gigantic combination of enemies. Then he brought greetings from a friendly and valued neighbor; now he carries as one of the harassed and beleaguered people whose land is occupied, whose cities are devastated, but whose spirit is unbroken and who are making common cause with free men everywhere in a war which must be fought until victory is won for liberty.

**IN THIS GREAT CONFLICT THE** United States is a recent participant, and the nation is but beginning the work of adjustment which will be necessary to enable America to play her full part in this war. All other considerations must be subordinated to the great task of fitting the nation for war. Fleets and armies and argosies of the war must be built and manned and equipped; factories, transformed from the tasks of peace, must be speeded up in the work of war; sacrifices of comfort, convenience and pleasure must be made. The nation must concentrate on the business of winning the war.

**IT IS TO AROUSE INTEREST IN** and promote understanding of the needs of the great work that is before us that our distinguished friends and guests are visiting us, with the cordial approval of our government. They, themselves, know what sacrifice means. They are their fellow countrymen have passed through experiences which we have not known, and from which we pray to be spared. And out of their experience they bring us a message of courage and comfort, a message which should thrill every American heard, and which should stimulate us all to give our unreserved devotion to the cause which means so much to all of us.

MY APOLOGIES TO EVERYONE concerned. It appears that I was all wrong about those flowers in the Grant Wood picture on the Saturday Evening Post cover. Two postal cards already received (and probably there are more in the mail) tell me that the flowers in the picture are not glads, but a very early variety of iris. I accept the correction and thank the correctors. I'm now wondering whether the man with the spading fork is late in digging his garden or the iris is too early. Or perhaps things grow differently in Iowa.

TWO COAST GUARD CUTTERS have just been launched at Duluth, and the seven Duluth yards will launch several ships of various types during the year. If completion of the St. Lawrence waterway had not been obstructed year after year by the opposition of special interests, shipyards on the Great Lakes could now have been producing for the government naval craft of all sizes and classifications except battleships. As it is construction at lake cities is restricted to craft needed for police duty on the lakes and to those of such shallow draft that they can be floated down to the Atlantic. It seems the height of absurdity to permit those few miles of rock to separate the greatest inland waterway in the world from effective contact with the ocean.

SOMETHING OVER 11 MILLION BUSHELS of corn were ground in March for products going into domestic use. The products include starches, syrups and corn sugars. This represents an increase of about 30 per cent over the grind for similar purposes over March, 1941. While the increase indicates increased demand for corn products, presumably because of conditions arising from the war, the total grind makes but a small hole in the nation's annual production of some three billion bushels.

CORN SYRUP HAS BEEN USED IN considerable quantity by bakers and confectioners as a regular thing. In view of the prospective shortage of sugar, isn't there some way in which corn syrup can be used as a substitute for sugar in many of the operations in the domestic kitchen? It is understood that the sugar content of corn differs somewhat chemically from that of cane or beet, but for some kinds of cookery one will answer as well as the other.

PREJUDICE AGAINST BEET SUGAR seems to be gradually weakening out, although one still runs across the idea occasionally that beet sugar is inferior to cane sugar. It is not long since some dealers charged a higher price for the cane product and found customers willing to pay it. Some years ago in a Pullman smoker I listened to a stranger sounding off loudly on the inferiority of beet sugar. Jelly, he said, couldn't be made with it. His wife had tried it and found it couldn't be done. I stepped into the conversation with the assertion that in my home every year, jelly was made with beet sugar and that the sugar came from beets grown in my immediate neighborhood and refined in a plant a couple of miles away. Therefore, I insisted, it followed that my friend's wife must be mistaken, for what was being done could be done. The other man glared at me. I know he wanted to call me a liar, but he didn't.

I DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL LAST YEAR that sage seed has been imported. Long ago we decided that for seasoning home-grown sage is better than the canned kind and for years I have grown a few plants in one corner of the garden. Last spring I asked for sage seed and was told that it was off the market, being one of the products whose importation has been checked by the war. I ordered from a distant seed house, and the report came back "sold out." This year I looked over all my catalogues and found sage listed in none of them. Then I stumbled across some in a local seed store. Whether it is domestic seed or imported, I don't know, but why can't we grow our own sage seed?

THE RUSSELL MILLER COMPANY is one of the city's industrial establishments whose premises are always neat, and attractive. The person responsible for that fact is A. A. Lager, who has held his present position with the plant for 27 years. The flower garden on the Walnut side is a beauty spot every summer. This spring Mr. Lager is justifiably proud of his little bed of daffodills, which were in full bloom last week. Their earliness is attributed to the fact that they are planted close to the wall of the little brick building on the lot. The steam heat inside probably has kept the ground from freezing. Just now Mr. Lager is watching carefully the assortment of annuals which he had in his hotbed and which will be transplanted into the open ground later on.

A BOOKLET PUBLISHED BY THE American Sugar Beet association and devoted especially to the sugar beet and the sugar produced from it, also gives some interesting facts concerning the history of sugar. The publication has special interest in this territory because of the large farm acreage devoted to the cultivation of the sugar beet and the fact that there has been built up at Greater Grand Forks an important industry in the extraction and refining of sugar from the parent beet. While sugar is essential to life and energy, it is not and has not always been available in the form with which we are now most familiar. Primitive man satisfied his craving for sweetness with honey and various fruits and other vegetable products containing sugar. In the absence of sugar itself the need could be supplied at least in part by grains, the starchy elements of which are converted into sugar in the human laboratory.

FOR AGES SUGAR HAS BEEN MANUFACTURED from the sap of the maple and other trees, and sugar cane was known in the Orient for centuries before the Christian era. "Sweet cane" is mentioned by Jeremiah and Isaiah. Sugar as an article of commerce seems to have been an important product first in India, whence ships and caravans carried it and loads of spices to Europe before the crusades. It was a long time, however, before western Europeans used sugar on a considerable scale in their kitchens. Until about the time of Queen Elizabeth sugar was used in England chiefly for medicinal purposes.

SUGAR CANE TRAVELED FROM India through Persia to southern Europe, and it was first brought to the western world by Columbus who in a letter to King Ferdinand expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the few small plants which he had brought had taken root. In the West Indies, and especially in Santo Domingo, large sugar plantations were established, and to cultivate them slaves were imported from Africa. The history of sugar is closely associated with the political and social history of the West Indies.

THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN beet sugar industry is actually a by-product of the Napoleonic wars. Ages ago sugar beets grew wild in Africa. A few plants found their way into Europe, and for a long time chemists sought for methods to make the sugar content of the beet available for human consumption. Governments subsidized some of these experiments, but it remained for Napoleon to establish the beet sugar industry on a commercial basis. In order to render France independent of the two Indies for sugar he appropriated money for preliminary work and caused a large acreage to be devoted to beets. Just before Waterloo, France was producing 3,000,000 pounds of beet sugar annually. But beet sugar, produced under the methods then known, could not compete with cane sugar from the West Indies produced by slave labor, and after Waterloo the sugar industry of France collapsed.

IMPROVED METHODS OF MANUFACTURE lowered the cost of production, and within a short time a large sugar industry had been established in Germany. Beet sugar was produced on a small scale in New England as early as 1837, and little by little the industry grew until now there are 99 beet, sugar plants in the United States, producing a large proportion of the sugar used by the United States.

MANY OF THE COMMODITIES IN common use and which may be mined directly or extracted from minerals or vegetable growths can be produced synthetically. A familiar example is rubber, about which much has been written. The association's booklet says that there is no known way whereby sugar can be produced synthetically. It must be extracted from the growths in which it is found.

THOSE WHO HAVE ADOPTED THE cult of vegetarianism were deprived of an opportunity to glorify their cause when the mission of Sir Stafford Cripps to India failed. Sir Stafford is a vegetarian, and the eating of animal food is prohibited by the religion which most of the people of India profess. If a vegetarian emissary could have brought about a compact with such a great vegetarian people, what a triumph that would have been for the vegetarians. Of course captious Critics might have pointed out that the Moslems of India, as well as some others, are eaters of meat, but somebody is always picking flaws in a perfectly good theory.

IN BURMA THERE IS A STRANGE group known as Poongees, whose members, wearing cloaks of peculiar color, are immune from arrest and punishment, no matter what there offenses. This sect, or cult, has come into prominence of late because some of its members are known to be aiding the Japanese invaders of their country.

THE IDEA ON WHICH THIS CULT is based is about as old as history. In the Bible we are told of certain "cities of refuge" being established, in which the murderer or other criminal was safe. In the early days of the Christian church the church altar was sacred, and he who claimed sanctuary there could not lawfully be molested. Sanctuary was sometimes violated, as when the old English priest, Thomas a Becket, was murdered on the steps of the altar. In primitive tribes in many parts of the world one can be safe by having some sort of taboo established around him. The Poongees of Burma have their own way of acquiring such immunity, and they constitute a grave problem because of the religious belief which the masses have in their sacredness.

SHORTAGE OF COPPER AND SOME other metals has increased the demand for silver for various industrial purposes. The government has more than three billion ounces of the white metal stored away, unused and useless, for most of which it has paid fancy prices. The current market price of silver, unaided by any government boosting, would be about 35 cents an ounce. The government must buy all that is offered at 71 cents, and it cannot sell for less than \$1.29. Therefore the government's stock of silver is constantly increasing, and the price of the metal for industrial use is kept to an inflated figure through the laws that are on the books. The attitude of the government toward silver is one example of its granting special favors to special interests at the expense of all the rest of the people. Our silver legislation has been a special gift to the silver miners.

NEW YORK CITY IS TO HAVE NO May day parade this year. For many years the first day of May has been marked by parades and other demonstrations, sometimes held in the name of labor, but in the larger cities especially, organized and carried out by Communists and others of the radical groups. This year representatives of several of those groups have agreed to observe the day by continuing at work in order to help the government carry on the war. An excellent decision.

IN WINNIPEG FOR THE FIRST time in that city girls are being used as messengers on the floor of the Grain Exchange. Will they become so interested that they will spend their wages on speculative ventures.

MANAGEMENT OF THE RINGLING-Barnum and Baily circus has taken note of the possibility of bombing raids and it has made arrangements to move the whole show on short notice. The entire menagerie can be loaded on its trains in an hour and be ready to move to a safer place if there is advance notice of a raid.