

ON FRIDAY EVENING THE HERALD published a picture of five soldiers seated around a radio, the picture accompanying an article by J. Norman Lodge, Associated Press correspondent. Several Gilby readers saw in the portrait at the reader's left a strong resemblance to Clifford H. Lofthus, of Gilby, a member of Co. G. They are uncertain of the young man's identity, as the figure in the picture wears a full beard. They would like, if possible, to have either this or any of the other portraits definitely identified. The picture has been submitted to several persons without result. Anyone able to identify any of the figures will confer a favor by giving me the information.

"AMERIKA ESPERANTISTO" THE official publication of the American Esperanto Association of North America, has an article by Prof. Joseph Tamborra, instructor in romance languages at the University, on the value of Esperanto as a means of international communication. Not long ago Prof. Tamborra gave a paper on Esperanto at the meeting of the Fortnightly club. This new world language is not intended to be a substitute for any national language, but as a means whereby those who speak any other languages may communicate freely with each other.

SO FAR AS IS KNOWN THE USE OF coffee as a beverage originated in Arabia. One legend is that certain monks tending the flocks of the monastery noticed that when their goats partook of the seeds of a plant that grew wild on the pastures they became more than usually lively. Experimenting with the seeds they found that a drink made from the roasted and bruised seeds produced wakefulness in them and enabled them to attend more strictly to their studies. Thus arose the custom of drinking coffee, which soon spread throughout the world.

THE BEVERAGE USED IN ARABIA today, however, is quite unlike the coffee used in any other country. It is not ground in the ordinary way, but is pulverized fine in stone mortars. It is then steeped in a small quantity of boiling water, and the resultant accortion is many times the strength of our ordinary coffee, and it is taken straight, like the lumberjack likes his whisky.

THE HUMAN SYSTEM CAN STAND some mighty strong beverages. The usual recipe for making tea calls for a spoonful for each cup of water. As camp cook for a small surveying party I had a different formula. Our job was surveying town sites in the James river valley. That was back in 1882. Sometimes we had a crew of a dozen men, in which case a regular cook was employed, but most of the time we worked with a crew of four, transit man, two chain men and a stake driver. Then we divided the camp work, and for some reason I was elected cook.

OUR "TEAPOT" WAS A COPPER kettle holding about three quarts, which also served for making stews and other delicacies. My method of making tea was to fill the kettle about two-thirds of water, bring it to a boil, and then dump in the tea. For our party of four I reached into the paper sack which contained the tea and took out one even fistful— all that I could grasp. Then I let the stuff boil. There never was any complaint about weak tea in our camp. One reason for making tea so strong was that much of the water available was strongly impregnated with alkali, and the strong tea disguised the teste of the alkali. What else it did I don't know, but we all lived through it.

H. G. WELLS PAINTED A GLOOMY picture of the future of newspapers for an audience the other day. He thought that the newspaper would be supplanted by pamphlets and the radio, the first for dissemination of articles of opinion, and the second for current information. Predictions of that sort have been made for many years, but there is no evidence of their fulfilment. As to pamphlets, we have them now by the million. Most of them go into waste baskets, unread. And for news, most of us want it when we want it. Radio has its very useful place, of course, but in the dissemination of news it supplements rather than competes with the newspaper. My morning paper is left on my porch every morning, and I can look over it while I eat breakfast. It makes no difference whether breakfast is late or early. The evening paper is delivered just before the dinner hour, and I can read it then, or postpone reading until after an evening engagement. I can take my own time over my reading, and if I wish to stop in the middle of a war story to consult the atlas for the location of some place that I never heard of before, that's quite all right. I couldn't do that with a radio bulletin. One may wish to read an article twice or three times, but not so with the radio announcement. I think Mr. Wells better guess again.

ORDINARILY WE DON'T THINK OF Africa as a land of factories. Probably there are factories there of which we never heard. But there is at least one new one, of impressive size, and of novel character. It is an assembly plant which had been built by Americans since the occupation, and it is used for assembling tanks, jeeps, and so forth, which are now shipped knocked down instead of assembled. Exact location of this plant cannot be given, and could not, even if it were not a military secret, for while the plant may be operating in one place today, it may be doing business tomorrow at another stand many miles away.

THIS NOVEL PLANT OCCUPIES AN area of 1,350,000 square feet and has in it long assembly lines and all the equipment of a modern mass production factory. Its units are mounted on half a mile of rollers, and on a few hours' notice it can be transported bodily to a new location at the rate of 30 miles in a day and can be in complete operation again within a few hours. At present half of the motor equipment of the American forces in Africa is shipped knocked down and compactly crated, to be assembled in this remarkable plant, the invention of an American brigadier general. This method saves half the shipping space required for the material, and in effect doubles the carrying capacity of each ship employed in the freighting service, an item of great importance while so many submarines are at large in the Atlantic.

WORK IN THIS ASSEMBLY PLANT is done in the open air, under floodlights at night. Fifty per cent of its workers are Americans, 25 per cent local natives, and 25 per cent Italian prisoners. The latter are hired from a nearby prison camp, and they seem perfectly happy in their changed environment. More natives are continually being trained for the work, and as fast as they are proficient they are employed, releasing Americans for other duties. Thus far not a case of sabotage has been reported.

JUDGE BEN B. LINDSEY, WHOSE death at his California home was reported a few days ago, was a combative person who never felt completely at home unless he was in hot water. His life in Denver, where he first became conspicuous, was one continual battle, and he loved it. Because of peculiar rulings by the Colorado supreme court the status of his office was in doubt, and nobody could be certain whether it was a city, county or state office. So for 13 years, to make sure of his position, he offered himself as a candidate for the same office at each state, county and city election, and was elected each time.

IN 1927, BECAUSE HE HAD ACcepted a gift from a friend whom he had assisted unofficially in protecting the rights of her children he was disbarred, whereupon he moved to California. Before leaving he collected all his papers which recorded intimate facts concerning the lives of thousands who had come within his official orbit and made a bonfire of them. Also, the Nazi authorities burned all of his books that they could find in Germany. A few years ago he was offered reinstatement in the California bar if he would apologize for some statements which he had made about the Colorado courts, but he was not in the habit of making apologies. He said he considered the offer a sufficient vindication. Later he was reinstated without apology.

SENATOR LANGER OPPOSED THE amendment repealing the president's executive order limiting salaries to \$25,-000. He warned his Republican colleagues that they would be committing suicide by voting for the amendment. He and two Democrats voted against the amendment. All the others, Republicans and Democratic, accepted the hazard of suicide and voted for it.

DURING THE FORMER WAR WE had our Liberty gardens. This year there will be Victory gardens, far greater in number, because we are being made more directly conscious of the need for food production on the largest possible scale, and because more intensive effort is being made to direct public attention to the need. The need for food is greater than before for several reasons, one of them being that now almost all of Europe is occupied by the Nazis.

DURING THE FORMER WAR ONLY a small part of France was occupied by German forces, Italy was lined up with the Allies, and all the Scandinavian countries and Holland were unoccupied by enemies. We did not import much food from Europe, but the continent continued to supply Great Britain with fish, a large proportion of her meat, fats and oils and poultry products. Now all those sources of supply are closed to the United Kingdom, and the British must look to America for a far greater proportion of her imported foods.

NOT ONLY MUST OUR ALLIES look to the United States for a greater share of their food, but transportation hazards have made it more difficult for us to obtain from abroad some of the products such as coffee and sugar which we formerly imported freely. Formerly we fought almost altogether on the European front, while now our armed forces are distributed throughout the world and we must keep sending them food in increasing quantities and over immense distances.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS why we need more gardens this year than ever before, and we shall have gardens by the million, many of them where no gardens were before. No real farm is without its garden, and the problem of gardening need not be difficult for the inhabitant of the small town or country village, for there space is always available within easy walking distance from the home, so that the small backyard garden can easily be supplemented by larger space just a few blocks away.

IN LARGER COMMUNITIES THE garden problem is not so simple. There may be space in the backyard for a small garden, but space is not the only consideration. The soil may be unsuitable, the location may be too shady, or adjacent trees or shrubbery may rob it of moisture. It is quite true that a fertile, sunny lawn can be converted into a good garden in a single season, but we have not yet reached the point where where lawns should be sacrificed, and the labor of converting sod into good garden soil is likely to be too great for the results reached.

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT and many private agencies issue pamphlets and booklets on gardening, many of which are helpful to the beginner. Usually those publications warn against wasting seed and labor on unsuitable garden ground. Always the results are disappointing. Often there are no results other than a few straggling plants smothered in weeds on ground that has been given up as hopeless after half a season has been wasted on it.

AN AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT bulletin stresses among other things the importance of thorough preparation of the soil before seed is planted. All soil contains innumerable weed seeds which will spread after the earth is turned. While the practice is not always followed, and is not essential, a useful plan, when weather and other conditions permit, is to plow or spade the ground and rake it down a week or so before seed is planted. If the weather is right the weeds will start over the entire lot, and surface stirring will destroy a whole crop of weeds which would require much more labor to remove from among growing plants. In any event, all the authorities urge thorough preparation of the soil as the first step in gardening.

IN THE "GOOD OLD DAYS" THE habit of thrift was considered a highly desirable one, and while many neglected to follow the practice, the theory of its desirability was generally accepted as sound. One of its most conspicuous exponents in the United States was Benjamin Franklin, whose pithy sayings on the subject were quoted with approval. To spend less than one earned was accepted as the way to achieve economic independence and financial security. At a later period Mr. Micawfoer expressed the same sentiment in an oft-quoted statement, though in waiting for something to turn up Mr. Micawber never was quite able to practice what he preached.

A FEW YEARS AGO SOME OF OUR more or less expert economists began preaching a different doctrine. The world was in the doldrums. Industry was stagnated, and millions were seeking work where no work was to be had. Families were impoverished and it became necessary for federal and state governments to use their taxing and distributing powers to avert wholesale starvation. We were told that this deplorable condition by the unwise practice of thrift. Instead of being spent as fast as it was earned money had been hoarded, piled up in bank vaults or stowed away in old socks, and billions of it were locked up where it could do nobody any good.

THRIFT, WE WERE TOLD, WAS ALL wrong, and the deplorable practice must be abandoned if the nation were to be saved from utter disaster. More money must be spent, not on things of permanent value, but on current consumption of goods that contributed to daily pleasure, and which, quickly exhausted should be as quickly replaced. We must quit saving and devote all our energies to spending, thereby creating demand for more goods, providing employment for more people, and putting more money into circulation for the purchase of still more goods and the employment of more people. Thus there would be created a happy spiral of prosperity whose dizzy peak would be far above the clouds.

THAT INTERESTING PHILOSOPHY was accepted by many of those in charge of the affairs of government, and the nation was launched on an era of public spending never before equaled. For some reason it didn't work. The program served as a partial stop-gap, but so many gaps developed that they could not all be stopped, and expenditure was piled on expenditure until the total became fantastic, and every new outlay called for more and greater ones,

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED if war had not intervened is beyond calculation, but the war created a new situation and gave all our activities new direction. It was discovered that not all of the accumulations of the despised years of thrift had not been dissipated in current spending. There were vast investments in manufacturing plants, in railroads and their equipment, in farm improvements, in scientific knowledge, and the fruits of such accumulation became immediately available to the nation in its dire emergency.

THERE WAS, TOO, A VAST ACCUmulation of cold cash, the property of millions of individuals, who, in persistent adherence to the tradition of thrift had laid away something for a rainy day, and that money became available for loans to the government to help pay the cost of a great war. If the people had followed the counsel of some of the starry-eyed experts the nation would have faced the war stripped to bare bones.

WHETHER IN STATED TERMS OR otherwise our government has accepted the theory that, after all, thrift, within reason, may be a good thing. It is actually encouraging thrift in promoting the sale of war bonds. It is realized that after the war there must come a period of readjustment. Some of the activities which are now giving employment to millions must be discontinued. There must be transition from present forms of work to others calculated to supply the needs of peace. All of that will take time, and if there is no reserve on which to draw the economic situation will be a fearful one.

FORTUNATELY THERE WILL BE A reserve, and it is being built up month by month by the people's investments in war bonds. Those bonds not only help to provide the government with funds for the conduct of the war, but they represent a sound investment which will serve as a barrier against nation-wide depression in the period following the war. They will help to provide funds for needed housing, for new automobiles to replace the old, for the employment of millions who would otherwise be idle. Perhaps Benjamin Franklin and Mr. Micawber were right, after all.

EVERY LITTLE WHILE SOMETHING brings us face to face with the fact that in this modern civilization each of us is increasingly dependent on others. This applies not only to national and international affairs, which are much discussed nowadays, but to the ordinary affairs of everyday life. Primitive man was a fairly independent creature. He built his own shelter, made his own weapons and hunted his own food. He depended only on himself for the means of existence.

THE BACKWOODSMAN, THOUGH more advanced in many ways, was perforce an independent being. Distant from others of his kind, he made with his own hands the things that he needed to use, and he simply went without the things that he could not produce by himself. Modern man, even though remote from his fellows, is dependent for many things on the services of others, and the city dweller is served at every turn by agencies with which he seldom comes in personal contact.

WATER IS BROUGHT TO HIS DWELLING through pipes which may carry it for miles. Public sewers drain his streets and carry away the waste from his premises. He communicates with others over incredible distances by means of the telephone. Light and power are delivered to him from a plant that he never visits and about whose operation he knows nothing whatever.

ALL OF THIS MAKES FOR COMFORT and convenience, and we take these things so much as matters of course that failure of any of these services even for a brief time gives us a shock and makes us realize how helpless we have become. The attention of many of us was directed to these facts the other day by the interruption of electric service affecting many parts of the city.

THE AMAZING THING IS THAT equipment so complicated, so precise in every part as that which is necessarily employed at the central power plant can be maintained in operation, month in and month out, with so few and such slight interruptions. There have been occasional breaks in the service, usually months apart, but rarely has current been off more than a few minutes. In some way a quick switch has been made to another unit or some other adjustment has been made, and service has been resumed, often before the interruption has been noticed. The designers and operators of our electrical generating and distributing systems have achieved wonders.

HOWEVER, CONDITIONS ARE POSSIBLE in which power service would be suspended for hours or even days. Then we should begin to realize how dependent we have become. Perhaps a forgotten kerosene lamp might be brought down from the attic and put into service. Or, more probably, an ornamental candle would be made really useful. The refrigerator, of course, would be out of commission, and the fireplace would have to substitute for the oil furnace. The cake half baked in the electric oven would go flat, and the entire household economy would be thrown out of joint.

I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED IF there isn't some way of including a battery system in the domestic electric plant so that in case of disaster at the central plant the dwelling could draw on the reserve power for considerable time. The automobile is equipped with something of the sort. Why not the residence?

I HAVE A REQUEST FOR A POEM of several stanzas, title and name of author unknown, each stanza of which ends with the words "My soul is in Segovia, but my heart is in Madrid." It is not in any of the reference books. Can any reader help?

IN ANNOUNCING HIS PURPOSE TO inaugurate a movement for the organization of precinct committees to be followed by a national convention for the nomination of a presidential candidate Senator Langer said that he did not intend to undertake the creation of a new political party. But if his movement carries on according to announcement and is as successful as doubtless he hopes it will be, the building of something strongly resembling a political party seems inevitable. We have had various and sundry grass roots movements within existing parties, and some of them have resulted in new parties, most of which have had but brief existence. It seems that Mr. Langer's movement, outside of all parties, must either die a-bornin' or take upon itself some such form as characterized the parties of the day.

MR. LANGER IS NOT THE FIRST North Dakotan to undertake the summary reform of national politics. Back in 1936 Hon. William Lemke, a representative in congress from North Dakota, and officially listed as a Republican, was a candidate for re-election, having been indorsed by Republican voters at the state primary. But Mr. Lemke was not satisfied with the way things were going in either party, and, in effect exclaiming "A plague on both your houses!" he proclaimed the birth of a new Union party, which was to right the wrongs of which he so vigorously complained. Not only was he the author and founder of the new party, but he became its presidential candidate. It is not recalled that he had any opposition for the honor. There seemed to be unanimous agreement that the place should be accorded to him.

NOTWITHSTANDING HIS LEADERSHIP of the new party and his presidential candidacy under its flag, but he remained the Republican candidate for congressman from North Dakota. In his candidacy for congress he remained faithful to the Grand Old Party of Abraham Lincoln and some others. As the presidential candidate of the Union party he repudiated the Republican party and all its works. Few men could have performed the feat of carrying water on both shoulders with such calm assurance as he exhibited. It is not recalled how many votes he received for president, but they were not many. The little fire that he had started, shomulered and died out. But tie received enough votes to send him back to congress, where he resumed his seat as a member in good standing of the Republican party.

THERE WAS LITTLE SEQUEL TO that campaign which attracted only slight public attention. Some time after the election Mr. Lemke complained that he had been unfairly treated by persons who had co-operated with him in the launching of the new party. Those persons, whoever they were, were not named, but Mr. Lemke was aggrieved because when plans for the new party were made those associated with him agreed to share the cost of the campaign, but, now that the campaign was over, they refused to come through and left him holding the bag.

WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF HIS fellow North Dakotan before him Senator Langer will undoubtedly take precautions to protect himself from similar abuse of confidence. Whether he calls his organization a political party or not, its operation will cost money. There will be traveling expenses to pay, cost of printing and many other items of cost, and we may expect Senator Langer to see to it that not all of these expenses are paid out of his own pocket. Senator Langer's own experience in the difficulty of collecting political expenses after the event should enable him to meet this situation without undue risk to himself. Let us hope so, by all means.

LAYING ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT all thought of political parties, how does it come that we hear nothing of the use of rockets in this war? A few years ago some investigators believed that the rocket had a great future as an instrument of destruction, and there were those who predicted that rockets would be used as a means of propelling aircraft. Power was to be generated by the successive ignition of one charge of explosives after another, and the bomb or plane would be forced forward with tremendous velocity and for an immense distance. Some experiments were made with rocket-driven missies in the former war, but the results were unsatisfactory, and apparently the idea has been abandoned. It seems strange, however, that someone has not come forward with a newfangled rocket that he thinks will supersede all other forms of destructive projectiles. .

AN OUT-OF-TOWN CORRESPONDENT writes for information about procedure to be followed in offering a dog to the army. Chief of Police Hough, who has been designated receiving agent for this area supplies the following information, which is repeated here for the benefit of those who wish to make similar donations:

THE OWNER SHOULD WRITE H. K Jensen, Dog Defense Supervisor, Mandan, North Dakota, who will forward a blank to be filled out with description of the dog, etc., and which is to be forwarded to the address given. If the dog is found acceptable the owner will be notified, whereupon the dog is to be brought or sent to the Chief of Police, Grand Forks. Dogs are held here until government crates for them are received, when they are shipped to training points.

IF THE FREE FLOWING OF SAP IS any indication, spring should really be here. Occasionally there have been evidences of the flow of sap in the box elders for a week or more, but on Monday the flow got under way in earnest. Wherever a twig had been broken drops of sap fell from the fracture, and where a large branch had been removed or the bark of the trunk was scarred there was almost a stream of sap. If this were a maple country many of us would have been out with sap buckets or such other containers as could be used as substitutes.

I HAVE WRITTEN SEVERAL TIMES about "maple" syrup made from the sap of the box elder. A few years ago I made a pint of it myself, just to see how it went. The sap, as most persons know, is sweet, though not as sweet as maple, and it takes a lot of boiling down to reduce it to syrup. Its flavor resembles that of maple, but it is milder.

WHILE BOX ELDER SYRUP WOULD serve as an excellent substitute for sugar for many purposes—something to be considered while sugar is rationed—I can't recommend manufacture of the syrup where gas must be used for fuel. Probably the cost of gas would exceed the value of the syrup. It may be that it would be worth while on a farm where there is a wood lot with plenty of down timber, the smaller branches of which are neither marketable nor useful as regular fuel.

THE SPRING FLOOD OF THE RED river has often been higher than it is now, and higher than it is likely to be this year. The greatest flood of which there is official record was that of 1897. There are legends of much greater floods, but there are no official records of them. The flood of 1882 was a big one, and there was another back in the 1850's. Those have sometimes been described as higher than the flood of 1897, but the only information about them comes from stories told by early inhabitants whose memory was not always accurate, and often in being passed from person to person the original facts were liberally embellished.

I HAVE HEARD IT STATED WITH great positiveness that in the flood of 1882 steamboats ran up and down Third street in Grand Forks. The flood of 1882 did not reach the level of Third street, but at least one steamer did take on and discharge passengers and freight at Third street. At that time a coulee coming diagonally from the south discharged into the Red river at the foot of Kittson avenue. In the 1882 flood the water was so high that a steamer found the water in the coulee channel so deep that it poked its nose into Third street and tied up there. But the water was not up to the street level.

FOR MANY YEARS FOLLOWING the 1897 flood there was a gauge on the breakwater just above the DeMers avenue bridge showing the maximum height of the water in 1897 and in several later years. The top mark, that of 1897, was at 47.5 feet. That was measured from the base established by the army engineers. Since then, in a time of low water, the base was lowered 2.5 feet, so that from the base now in use the water level was even 50 feet at DeMers avenue. There were some predictions on Monday that the present flood would reach 40 feet, which would flood many basements usually dry. But it must be remembered that when the river gets above its secondary banks it takes many millions of gallons of water to raise it an inch. In the biggest flood of all there were stretches where the inundated land was 10 or 12 miles wide.

A FEW DAYS AGO I WROTE SOMETHING about the use of rockets in war and remarked that the wave of interest in the subject that developed a few years ago seemed to have subsided. Before the paragraph got into print a Washington dispatch told of experimental work still being done with rockets and indicated that the experimenters are still hopeful that something of practical value will result from their efforts.

IN THE FORMER WAR SOME WORK was done with projectiles propelled by explosive charges contained in the projectile itself. Shells loaded with deadly charges could thus be propelled over a considerable distance, but their effective range was short as no way was found to insure accuracy in firing. The whole subject seems to have been related to the experimental field, but experiments are still in progress.

THOSE WHO WATCHED DEVELOPMENTS in the Spanish-American war may remember the dynamite gun which was actually used in that war. That gun discharged shells loaded with dynamite which exploded instantly from the shock of striking the target. In order to avoid disastrous concussion as the shell started to leave the gun it was expelled by compressed air. A small ship named the Vesuvius was equipped to be used exclusively to carry the dynamite gun and a few dynamite shells were lobbed over into Spanish shore positions on Cuba. Results were not satisfactory and the dynamite gun was discarded as one of the things that wouldn't work.

ANOTHER THING THAT I HAVEN'T seen mentioned in this war is the use of the bow and arrow. I haven't talked with anyone who knows of the use of that ancient weapon in the former World war, but stories were published during that period to the effect that in some cases along the front in France grenades were fixed to arrows and thrown at the enemy by means of powerful bows. They could thus be thrown a greater distance, it was said, than if hurled by hand, and the thrower could operate from his own trench without exposing himself. I don't vouch for the story, for I know nothing about it. I merely pass it along as I read it. If any veteran who reads this has personal knowledge of the use of the bow and arrow in that war I should be glad to hear from him.

WATER CAN BE KEPT OUT OF A tight basemen—until it flows over the top—by plugging the sewer. There are automatic traps equipped with check valves which are intended to serve that purpose, but they are not always to be trusted. Sediment collects and sometimes prevents perfect seating of the valve, and then, even though there may not be a real back flow, there will be seepage. Plugging the drain is an additional safeguard. Under strong pressure plugs are sometimes forced back. Then there is trouble. There are all sorts of ways of fitting and anchoring plugs. In one of the floods of many years ago one basement owner solved his problem by plugging his sewer with a small sack of oats. As the water rose the oats became wet and swelled so that the opening was hermetically sealed. When the flood subsided the sack was untied and the oats were loosened until the whole thing could easily be pulled out.

SOME ONE ASKED THE OTHER day to what depth the ground freezes in this territory. Of course there are all kinds of answers to that question. I have known the earth in an open field to be frozen eight feet deep after a severe winter. That, I should say, is about the limit. But under a heavy blanket of snow the frost may not penetrate more than a foot or two.

SOME OF MY ONTARIO FRIENDS used to find it difficult to understand how spring wheat could be grown in North Dakota because often the ground is not completely thawed until into June. The eastern farmer waits until the frost is out before beginning to cultivate his land. Here the farmer goes right ahead as soon as the ground has thawed a few inches and has become dry enough to work. The frost farther down doesn't bother him.

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE I never saw a nightingale or heard one sing. I understand they are numerous in some of the southern states, and I have heard that in a few localities the nightingale is considered something of a nuisance because its singing keeps people awake at night. But this bird, in varieties differing only slightly from each other, is found in many parts of both the old world and the new, wherever climatic and other conditions are favorable.

NEITHER DID I KNOW UNTIL I learned from a Christian science article, that while nightingales are fairly numerous in the southern English counties, they are rarely found in Wales, which is right next door. The author of the article gives what he says is the opinion of experts on the subject, which is that few of the insects which constitute the nightingale's favorite food are found in Wales, and the birds prefer to remain where their choicest food is more plentiful.

THEREUPON THE WRITER ADvances his own theory, which is quite contrary to that of the experts. He maintains that the nightingale is a haughty and exclusive bird, claiming first place in the realm of song, and that it fights shy of Wales because in that country it would be forced to accept second place, the Welsh people themselves being much better singers than nightingales. With that theory as a foundation the writer launches into a lyrical tribute to the Welsh passion for song. Only birds and Welshmen, he says, do not have to be taught to sing. Of the Welsh gift of song he says, among other things:

"WALES IS A DEMOCRACY OF MUSIC in which all men legislate their nation's songs. I have heard a band of Welsh miners make their audience laugh and cry with jolly and tender tunes of the people, then move on to the classics, performing them with dignity and understanding; and at last build mountains with their voices, hurl the elements against the cliffs, invoke wild winds, then tame them and coax the sunshine out again. The storm in William Tell, or in Beethoven's Sixth, has never thrilled me as did that mountain scene composed mostly by common consent of the men who sang it."

THE WELSH MINER HAS NOT AN easy life, and especially in war time his lot seems hard. But the rigors of that life are softened by song. The author writes:

"To see the gray stone walls of his little house, grimed with coal dust, to visit his village, hanging on a mountainside, with its Welfare Hall and maybe a couple of churches and a school, and the Valley pits always waiting to swallow him up in the morning and the slag pile always towering over him in the evening, is to wonder what he works for, fights for or sings for. But once you hear him sing you have all your answers."

ONE OF THE OUTGROWTHS OF THE great Red river flood of 1897 was the filing of claims for damages against the United States government by inhabitants of the Red river valley all the way from the headwaters of the river to the Canadian border. Many peculiar claims have been made against the federal government, and some queer ones have been allowed, but the claims of damages on account of the flood were based on a theory that I believe never was advanced before or since.

LEDRU GUTHRIE, FOR WHOM, IT was understood, the city of Guthrie, Oklahoma, was named, came to Grand Forks sometime in the nineties and started the practice of law. He was a ready speaker and a good mixer, but in spite of the efforts of his friends to throw business his way, he never built up a large practice here. He saw the great flood and knew something of the damage that it had done, and out of that knowledge he evolved a plan to have the government pay the bills, basing the claim on a theory which, I think, was original with him. That theory he set forth in substance as follows:

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, having acquired from the Indians title to all the lands in the Red river valley, and being desirous of having the territory settled and made productive, had urged people to move into this area, build homes, cultivate farms and engage in business of many kinds. The territory had been widely advertised as one of fine agricultural possibilities and glittering prospects had been held out to induce settlement. Many thousands had accepted the government's statements in good faith and moved into the valley with all their belongings, only to learn that much of the territory was subject to damage by flood, and that in the most recent of those floods all the property of many of them had been swept away. Because those people had been misled by the statements of the government it was demanded that the government should make good their losses.

MANY SUFFERERS FROM THE flood authorized Guthrie to act for them in prosecuting claims based in that theory. I do not recall how far those claims, which amounted to millions, were carried, but none of the claimants ever got any money from them.

IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES THE meeting in Tunisia of the American forces under General Patton and General Montgomery's veterans of the British eighth army might have been the occasion for elaborate ceremonials, parades, reviews, salutes to the respective flags and the mutual conferring of decorations in recognition of skill and valor. Even as it was, we may suppose that when Yank met Tommy after the grueling fights in which both had been engaged with the same stubborn and resourceful enemy, there were hearty greetings, and perhaps an exchange of good-natured epithets, some of which it wouldn't do to print in the paper. But we may be sure, too, that no time was spent in mere display, for those armies, proud as they have a right to be of what they have done already, are yet in a real fight and they have a tough job ahead of them. They will save formal ceremonies until another day,

THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF WHAT has been accomplished is apparent. The units of the enemy's forces have been driven into a corner where the Allied armies, American, British and French, can concentrate on their destruction. At every point on land they are on the defensive, and there is no way of escape for them except across waters that are constantly under observation by the ships and planes of the Allies, and all the ports which they might hope to reach are being pounded with bombs and shells, so that there is no hospitable refuge for them.

IF THE PRESENT ACHIEVEMENT is important, the steps which led up to it are no less impressive. Starting from the ancient Nile valley Montgomery's army fought its way across a continent, shattering the enemy's defenses and driving him from them, and despite constantly lengthening lines of supply and communication and increasing difficulties of transportation, forcing him to keep on the move. From the other side of the world came Eisenhower, transporting his army and its equipment across three thousand miles of ocean where submarines menaced everything afloat and death lay near the path of every transport. And, as the enemy made new preparations for defense against the pursuing British, it was the task of the Americans to drive into his flank and thus make sure of his defeat. That part of the job was well done by the Americans, who, within the space of a few short months have been transformed from troops inexperienced in actual combat to seasoned veterans.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ALLIES in the battle of Africa is an example of the co-ordination which must characterize every phase of the great war. It may be considered symbolic of what is to come in the arena of reconstruction which, in some form or other, must follow the war. In the battle of Africa, men who had never seen each other fought across the width of a continent against a common enemy. They differed in custom, training and experience. The people of their respective home lands operated under different forms of government. While in the main they spoke the same language, their home environments were so different that they had difficulty in really understanding each other. Yet they fought this long series of battles with a single purpose, and if either had failed to do his part the results might easily have been disastrous. The battle was won by every man putting into it all that he had.

THE PEACE THAT IS TO BE WON must be won on a like basis. Those who are fighting this great battle for freedom are not cast in the same mold, do not speak the same language, have not the same traditions, do not follow the same customs. And when the bloody conflict is over, the peoples that have carried on through the great struggle will have another task which will demand as great unity of purpose, as great co-ordination of effort, as have been required on the field of battle. They will retain most of the characteristics which have made them different from each other, but the destiny of the world depends on how wholeheartedly they can unite their efforts to build a world that is fit to live in.

A CORRESPONDENT ASKS IF I CAN supply detailed information about making "maple" syrup from box elder sap. My knowledge of the subject is vague. My personal experience is limited to the manufacture two or three years ago of a pint of very good syrup from about 12 times that quantity of sap. As I remarked the other day, I don't think making syrup at that rate would be a commercial success unless one has plenty of the cheapest kind of fuel.

SAP IS STILL RUNNING, BUT Apparently the flow has slackened since I last wrote about it. Trees along the sidewalks seem to be dripping less freely than a few days ago. It may be different in the woods where the snow remains longer. The old-fashioned way of reducing sap to syrup was to boil it down in a big iron kettle out-of-doors. Since then evaporating devices have come into use which do the work more rapidly and with much less labor.

ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS THAT The Associated Press impresses on its employes and correspondents is that whatever they submit for publication shall be as accurate as is humanly possible. An example of the insistence on this feature is in the suspension of a photographer who had improperly labeled one of his war pictures. The picture was of certain military activity in Africa. The inscription said that the picture was taken in the field during actual combat. Instead, it was taken on a training field. When the fact became known the photographer was suspended. The incorrect statement might have got by without being detected, but The Associated Press will not knowingly send out a fake.

IN THE MATTER OF FLOOD MEASUREMENT something depends on just where the measurements are taken. Where the banks of a stream are high and the flow is confined within a narrow space the level will fluctuate more sharply than on lower ground farther down stream where the water has opportunity to spread. Thus, where the stream is confined within narrow bounds the rise may be several times as great within a given time as a mile down stream where the water spreads over thousands of acres. Conversely, when the flood is subsiding the level may be lowered much more rapidly in the narrow channel. Thus the rise and fall in one place cannot be compared accurately with fluctuations in another. For official purposes Red river measurements are taken near Riverside park,

MAYOR LaGUARDIA OF NEW YORK is given to making epigrammatic statements. He made one the other day to the effect that a marriage proposal is usually expected and as a rule the answer is a foregone conclusion.

ACCORDING TO NEIGHBORHOOD I rumor the parents of one of my schoolmates had decided on marriage in quite impromptu fashion. At a neighborhood dance there was talk of a recent marriage or two and of two or three engagements. Joe, who was dancing with Lottie, said: "Say, everybody seems to be getting married. What do you say if we get married?" "All right," said Lottie, and that settled it. They were married, were a model couple, and lived happily forever after.

AS WAS EXPECTED, THE NEW York Times survey, showing how little college students know about American history, started a lively discussion. One writer advances the theory that American history has not been made as attractive to young people through the medium of fiction as has been done with English history for English youth. There may be something in that. It is a fact, too, that at least until recently history as taught in the schools was about as dry as any subject could be. Actually, no one can get very much real history in school. The school may inoculate him with the passion to learn more about history, and if that is done it will be next to impossible to keep the student away from the subject.

SEVERAL OF US WERE LOOKING at the flood in the Lincoln drive district the other morning and one of the observers said to me:

"Why don't you newspaper fellows get your measurements of this flood somewhere near right? See that hydrant over there? When I was down here yesterday morning the water had to rise at least six inches before it would touch the bottom of that hydrant and now only the top is sticking out. That means a rise of about two feet in 24 hours. Yet your newspaper figures show a rise of only six or eight inches in that time."

IN THE FIRST PLACE THE HERald's figures are not based on its own measurements, but on those of city officials who are keeping close track of the flood, and who take measurements many times a day. Their figures may be accepted as quite accurate.

Nevertheless, the man was quite right about the water around that hydrant. It had risen probably two feet in 24 hours. I had observed it both times. But the hydrant is in area of low ground which the river water could reach only by flowing over a ridge. On the morning before the above conversation the water had just begun to trickle over the ridge. On the second morning the depression had been filled and the water was a continuous sheet. The water in that particular spot had risen about two feet, but only a few inches in the river itself.

IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF THE magazine Life is a series of pictures illustrating several phases of food production, and about one of them Life is likely to hear from several persons. It is of a cow in a field said to be in Texas. The cow, a poor, forlorn, emaciated creature, little more than skin and bones, stands looking hopelessly over a barbed wire fence, apparently wondering where she will get the next bite to eat. There have been such animals in drouth areas where fields were bare as the Sahara, but the condition of this animal, we are told, was not due to drouth. The poor cow had been fed on corn.

THE INSCRIPTION TELLS US THAT the cow, being fed on corn, had been deprived of proteins such as are contained in cottonseed meal and soy beans. One can imagine the reception that will be given that picture in some of the corn growing states, I-O-WAY, for instance, "where the tall corn grows," and where the inhabitants specialize in corn fed beef and pork and are proud of their products. Some of them have recently been supplementing the animals' rations with high protein products, but for generations they have been feeding their animals almost exclusively on corn. The trouble with Life's cow is not that she was fed on corn, but that she didn't get enough of it.

NO TROUBLE IS EXPERIENCED IN getting an animal fat on whatever feed is produced on the farm, corn, oats, barley and forage, provided there is enough of it. The quality of the meal can be varified by varying the diet. I remember that our southern Ontario farmers preferred peas to corn for fattening hogs. They said that the fat of corn fed pork was soft and oily, and slightly yellowish, whereas that from peas was pure white and firm in texture. That may have been just a notion, but pea fed pork was generally considered more desirable.

NOT MANY FIELD PEAS ARE grown in this part of the world, and I have wondered why. With our Ontario farmers peas were a main field crop. As I remember it, peas were usually followed by winter wheat—scarcely any spring wheat was grown. Sown early in the spring the peas ripened early and often were threshed before other grains were harvested. The soil seemed to be mellowed by a crop of peas, and the land could be plowed early for the winter wheat seeding. Not much was known about nitrates in those days, but it is now known that legumes such as peas create conditions which impregnate the soil with nitrogen, one of the most valuable fertilizers.

A GRAND FORKS COUPLE WENT to a southern town to visit a son in an army camp near by. The young man had engaged a room in a private home for his parents, giving their names. On arrival the father telephoned to the address given to announce arrival. "This is Mr. Blank of Grand Forks," he said "for whom a room in your home was engaged". "Grand Forks? Grand Forks? came over the wire. "I don't understand. Oh, yes, Mr. Blank. Mr. Blank of Dakota. Certainly. Come right over." "Grand Forks" meant nothing to the host, nor did "North" Dakota. He just knew of "Dakota." He is a native of the south, and perhaps had not heard that Dakota territory had been divided into two states. Conversely, many of us in the north know very little about what has been going on in Georgia or Alabama. This is a pretty big country, and it's quite a job to keep track of it all.

FOLLOWING THE NEW YORK Times report of its survey showing scant knowledge of American history by American students, the Times publishes the list of questions in history submitted to New York high school students by the state board of regents in a text last January. Of the New York City high school students who took the test 96 per cent passed, and in seven of the city high schools 100 per cent passed.

MOST OF THE QUESTIONS ARE OF the selective type in which the student is required to choose the correct answer from several possible ones which are given. In some cases the wrong answers are so obviously wrong that the student will reach the right one by a simple process of elimination although he may know practically nothing about the subject. A fair example is question 26, which reads as follows:

"THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST proceeded rapidly in the years following the Civil war because of the (1) Homestead act, (2) Geary act, (3) Resumption act, (4) Adamson act."

THE STUDENT MAY KNOW NOTHING about the Geary, Resumption or Adamson acts, but the very title of the homestead act would suggest the right answer. Several of the questions, however, are not suggestive, and the answers given to them may be taken as a fair indication of the student's understanding of the subject.

COMMENTING ON THE RESULTS of the Times survey—not the New York test—President Hotchkiss of the Rensselaer Polytechnic institute said that the study revealed a condition of which he and other thoughtful teachers have long been aware, but he continued:

"I WOULD PREDICT THAT THE percentage of correct answers would not be appreciably higher if the examination were to be given to all the high school teachers in the country, if the history teachers were eliminated. The same prediction, I believe, would hold if it were given to all the college teachers, again eliminating the history teachers.

LEST I BE ACCUSED OF HAVING A low opinion of teachers, which I have not, let me hasten to state that in my opinion the results of the examination would have been much the same if all the lawyers, or all the physicians, or all the engineers, or all the business groups of the country had been given the examination. I would exclude from this opinion only two broad professional groups, newspaper men and the clergy, the last with not too much certainty."

WHEN BRITISH AND AMERICAN soldiers met over there in Tunisia there was no great display of emotion, no sentimentalism. Some of the British chaps called "Have you got any beer?" and the answer was shouted back "No, but we have cigarettes and chewing gum." We need not suppose that there was no emotion felt, but it was concealed under expression of desire for immediate creature comforts.

HAVE YOU A PICTURE IN YOUR mind of the new automobile that you are going to buy after the war? There are all sorts of guesses about the design of the post-war car, and if some of them are right the car that you are driving now, which you bought perhaps in 1941, which hasn't yet been driven much, and which looks quite modern, will be as completely out of date a few months after Hitler has been driven into his last corner and the Japs have been taught the error of their ways as if it had been built in 1910. There have been guesses that the new car will have the engine in the rear, that it will run 40 or 50 miles on a gallon of gas, that it will be half as heavy and twice as strong as the present car, that it can be driven 100 miles per hour over the roughest road without a jar, and that it will be more stream-lined than anything yet built. Well—maybe.

ALFRED P. SLOAN JR., CHAIRMAN of General Motors, has different ideas. He is quite sure that the new car will be different from the old one, but not as different as many people think. He believes that the changes will be evolutionary rather than revolutionary, that the new car will represent improvements in detail here and there, but that it will not embody a set of entirely new principles. He seems to think that the old car is a pretty good car, and that the designers will aim to retain its good features while improving those that research and rigid tests have shown capable of improvement to fit all the conditions of use to which the car is likely to be subjected. On the whole, Mr. Sloan seems to think that the 1941 car will not be so very much out of date, after all. And he ought to know something about automobiles.

MRS. CROWLIE, OF HURON, SOUTH Dakota, has been in Washington just a few weeks as a member of the staff of the Office of Price Administration, and she seems to fit into the position quite nicely. It was Administrator Prentiss Brown's idea that it would be a good idea to have on the board a woman who had actual working experience as a housewife inasmuch as the office has to deal with many problems which affect directly the woman in her home. Mrs. Crowlie knows housekeeping by virtue of actual experience and a lot of it. She didn't have to take a course in anything to learn about many things that somebody in Price Administration needs to know. She has known about those things for years. And already, so Washington informants tell us, she had proven herself a valuable addition to the staff. She has suggested changes in ration regulations, new and old, which make it easier for the housewife to adjust herself to the regulations. She knows that the simpler the regulations are made the more workable they will be, and some of the changes which she has suggested, and which have been adopted are such as would not have entered the mind of a mere man because he has had no experience as a housekeeper. Mrs. Crowlie's appointment seems to have been a happy one. May there be more like it.

A RUMOR HAS BEEN IN CIRCULATION that the United States is receiving supplies of natural rubber from Japan by way of Russia. Russia and Japan are not at war—with each other—and recently the two nations renewed the treaty of long standing under which Japan has enjoyed fishing rights in Russian waters. The story circulated is that in consideration of the continuance of this privilege Japan granted to Russia the right to obtain rubber from the East Indian fields not occupied by Japan, and that Russia is transferring to the United States quantities of rubber thus obtained. The story is denied as without foundation by Rubber Administrator Jeffers, who says that the United States is receiving no rubber in that manner, and that there will be no new supplies of rubber for either this country or Russia until synthetic production gets well under way some months hence. Russian experts are now in this country studying the latest rubber developments here.

THE STORY OF SUCH ROUND-about shipments from Japan seems to be based on one of two facts, or perhaps on a combination of both. In the first place, the United States is receiving rubber shipments, too small to be of any importance (from a new Oriental plantations not under Japanese control. In the second place, a little rubber is trickling in to Australia from territory occupied by Japan. Chinese junks surreptitiously pick up a few pounds of rubber at island coastal points when the Japs are not looking, pay for it at about one cent a pound in real money, which the natives are glad to get, and slip across to Australia with it, where they can sell it for a dollar a pound. As the shipments have to be hidden to escape Japanese inspection not more than a few hundred pounds can be carried in one cargo. In this way the United Nations are actually getting a little rubber from under Japanese noses.

DRIVING FROM BEMIDJI ON SUNDAY evening D. McAllister of Grand Forks was startled to see a group of five deer jump from the brush on one side of the road and cross so close to his car that if he had been driving much more than the legal limit of 35 miles per hour he could not have stopped in time to avoid killing one or more of them. The deer chose this reckless way of crossing the highway a mile or two east of Marcoux. They were as startled as McAllister was, and, being thrown into confusion, one of the animals became separated from the other four, crossing at the other end of the car. Missing their companion, the four stood stock still, almost within reach of an outstretched hand from the car, until the missing one was recognized as being safe.

THOSE OF US WHO HEAT OUR houses by burning oil in non-convertible furnaces may be obliged, after all, to throw out our oil units and install new coal furnaces if the estimate of Dr. Benjamin T. Brooks, New York City chemist, proves correct. Dr. Brooks insists that estimates on the subject made by many other authorities are wrong, and that our oil reserves are becoming so depleted that at least very soon after the war the use of oil for general heating will no longer be permitted, and those who have changed to oil will be obliged to go back to coal.

WHEN THE USE OF OIL FOR HEATING began to get under way something like 20 years ago some of the authorities questioned the desirability of the change. According to their figures all the available oil would be exhausted in a few years. But new oil fields whose existence was not then suspected were developed, and later estimates, generally accepted, were that the oil in sight would last for several generations. Dr. Brooks thinks this is all wrong. Therefore, I shall buy a bond or two so that I may have something with which to pay for a new furnace 10 years hence.

CHANGING ESTIMATES OF THE oil supply remind me of the experience of Calgary, Alberta. I spent a few weeks there nearly 25 years ago, and found everybody using natural gas for heating. But I was told that the supply was running short, and that beginning the next year the use of natural gas would be restricted to cooking and similar purposes. But presently new wells were tapped, and the people kept right on using gas as before. So far as I know they are still heating their houses with natural gas.

FUEL OIL IS DERIVED FROM PETROLEUM, which is obtained from deep wells. But the modern chemist seems able to make anything he wants from whatever he happens to have. Specifically, he can make oil from coal. Lignite is low-grade coal, and North Dakota has billions of tons of it. What's to hinder setting up converting plants at the lignite mines, distilling oil from the coal, using the fuel that is already there in abundance, and thus getting a supply of oil that will last for generations? Then, instead of shipping lignite in its natural form and paying freight on a lot of water, we would be shipping heat in concentrated form. Rather a neat idea, don't you think?

GENERAL PATTON, COMMANDING the American army that is pestering Rommel's flank, insists that his trucks shall move 50 feet apart. Rommel's trucks, headed for Tunis, are traveling bumper to bumper. But Rommel is in a hurry.

MRS. C. J. HERRINGER, OF EAST Grand Forks, has received from her daughter, Marian Spriggs, now a riveter in the Douglas aircraft plant at Tulsa, Oklahoma, pictures clipped from the Tulsa Tribune, which give some idea of the immense size of the Douglas plant there. One of the buildings is said to be the largest windowless building in the world. Another picture shows partly completed planes moving in an assembly line so long that cars at the farther end look like mere specks.

THOMAS JEFFERSON WROTE THE Declaration of Independence one hundred and sixty seven years ago. That document declares, among other things, that all men are created equal and that they have certain inalienable rights, some of which are specified. It was to insure recognition of that doctrine of human liberty in the land which they occupied and to secure for themselves and their children the peaceful exercise of those inalienable rights that the colonists, who had no liking for war, fought bloody battles and endured untold privations through seven long and tragic years. They won the war, but how about the peace?

A NEW GOVERNMENT WAS SET UP in which each colony continued to operate under substantially the same political form which had prevailed before the war, and it was many years before anything approaching the equality of which Jefferson had written so eloquently was given practical effect. Virginia was and for a long time remained a state of large landholders. In most of the colonies property qualifications were still required for voting. In Massachusetts the Congregational church remained the established state church for nearly half a century. Jefferson did not mean that all men are physically or mentally equal, or equal in capacity. He did mean that in a properly constituted society all men are entitled equally to political rights to opportunity to make the most of themselves, but the states were slow in putting that theory into practice.

IT WAS EVIDENT THAT FOR THE safeguarding of the rights which had been declared some form of government must be established which would insure domestic tranquility and provide the means to resist aggression from without. But the government at first established was weak and ineffective and was respected neither at home nor abroad. Under it bickering jealousy marked the relations of the states with each other and it took years of unsatisfactory experience to induce the inhabitants to take the next step toward establishment of a stable and effective government. And even after the constitution was adopted human beings remained in slavery and a great Civil war was required to establish beyond peradventure the principle that the nation was won.

IN VIEW OF THESE FACTS, HOW can we consider the Declaration of Independence as a milestone in human progress? Would it not be more accurate to say that though the colonists won the war they lost the peace? And if they failed so signally, as, according to some modern interpretations they must have failed, was not the Declaration a futile gesture and the war which followed a criminal shedding of blood?

SUCH MUST BE THE CONCLUSION if we are to accept as sound some of the views that, are now being expressed concerning the world as it is to be when this present war is over. Certainly it will not be a perfect world. Not even the most optimistic think that all the causes of imperfection will be immediately eradicated. But if we suppose that international relations will be as confused for a decade after this war as were the relations among the colonies after their war for a like period, and if we suppose that it will take the world as long to put the Four Freedoms into practical effect as it took the American states to give effective recognition to the principle of human equality, must we not concede the American Revolution to have been a dismal failure?

IT WAS NOT A FAILURE, AND IT was worthwhile. The Declaration was not a meaningless gesture. Jefferson the philosopher summed up the experience of the ages and drew from that experience truths which he expressed in a document which will continue to inspire and guide as long as men search for truth. The colonists fought with the means at hand, and while they did not attain the ideal, they made it possible to approach one step nearer. And if we make use of our opportunities we can make the world after this war a little better than it ever was before.

MOST SPECIES OF HAWKS ARE said to be beneficial rather than injurious to the farmer, because, though a hawk may occasionally make off with a farm chicken, it is the persistent enemy of the mice and gophers that infest the fields. Thus the good that it does is said to overbalance the harm several times over. Now comes a University of Buffalo professor who reports the discovery that wild mice are highly beneficial to the farmer because they destroy great quantities of harmful insects. Thus it seems that no matter how harmful a bird or animal may be, it is also useful because it destroys something that destroys something else. It reminds one of the sequence in the old nursery story which tells us how "the cat began to kill the rat, the rat began to gnaw the rope, the rope began to hang the butcher," and so on until finally the pig began to go over the stile and the old woman got home that night

YEARS AGO THERE WAS TOLD THE story of the man who postponed purchase of a bicycle until better bicycles were made. He intended to have one of the machines, but the early ones were crude, and he could see opportunity for improvements which he was sure would be made. So he waited, and after each improvement he waited for the next, which would soon be along. Then came the automobile, so much more desirable than the bike that he determined to have one. But there, also, he saw the need for improvements, and again he waited. He kept on waiting through the years of automobile development. Meanwhile, he walked. If that man is still living he witnessed the decline and practical abandonment of walking, and now, under gas rationing, its revival. Perhaps he would have had more fun if he had just taken things as they came and had not waited for perfection.

SECRETARY ICKES HAS WRITTEN what he calls the "Autobiography of a Curmudgeon," and those whose fur has been brushed the wrong way to the redoubtable secretary and oil administrator will have no doubt concerning the identity of the curmudgeon. Mr. Ickes says that the idea of writing the story of his life came to him years ago during a fit of illness. Then he conceived the happy thought of writing his autobiography in order to get even with a lot of people who were waiting eagerly to write his obituary. There's a fine cordial spirit for you!

AN ADVERTISEMENT OF A COMBINATION tool in general appearance resembling a pocket knife recalls the story of the farmer of years ago who was invited to buy one of those combination tools once so popular which was offered on the market by an itinerant salesman. The tool had two or three knife blades of assorted sizes, a corkscrew, a bradawl, a belt punch, a pair of pliers, a can opener, a glass cutter, and perhaps some other handy things. The farmer examined it, handed it back, shook his head, and said "Nope. I got no use for it." "But," said the salesman, "look at all the tools that it has, all packed into one handle. What more can you want?" "Seems to me," said the farmer, "it ought to have a corn sheller."

OBJECTIONS ARE MADE TO THE use of poison bait to destroy gophers, rabbits and other destructive rodents because the bait is likely to destroy valuable game birds and insect eating birds. Science Service reports that this danger may be avoided by coloring the poisoned grain. In numerous tests it was found that if the bait were colored the birds seldom touched it, though rodents ate it freely. It was found that strong red dyes are the best to use for this purpose, as red seems to be the color most repugnant to most birds. Recent experimenters in the subject recall that back in 1889 a zoologist had recommended the use of white arsenic to poison grain intended for English sparrows, as he had found that the birds would not touch grain treated with the colored poisons, London purple and Paris green. It was many years, however, before other use was made of that discovery.

WENDELL WILLKIE HAS WRITten a book, and the book is reviewed in the New York Times Book Review by Harold E. Stassen, governor of Minnesota. So far as I know this is the first time that a book written by a potential candidate for the presidential nomination of a great political party has been reviewed by a man who may be his rival for that nomination. Mr. Willkie, of course, has all along been considered a probable candidate for the Republican presidential nomination next year. Asked about his intentions a few days ago he said he had not yet decided. Governor Stassen has made no announcement, and no boom has been started for him, but there is a perceptible feeling here and there that he would be the right man for the job.

MR. WILLKIE'S BOOK, ENTITLED "one World," gives an account of the author's trip around the world last fall and a statement of the impression gained on that trip, together with a vigorous restatement of what Mr. Willkie believes should be the policy of the United States toward other nations now and after the war. Governor Stassen gives the book cordial and sympathetic treatment in his review, saying, among other things:

"The strength of the book is in its keen narration of observations made on the trip. In this respect picturesque reporting of territories and of men share equally. It is a good birdseye view, literally as well as figuratively . . .

"Its basic emphasis upon the nearness and interdependence of the peoples of all continents, the importance of strengthening the ties between the United Nations now, and the need of following through in a definite, continuing United Nations organization for peace, justice and progress, is right."

GOVERNOR STASSEN HAS READ the book sympathetically, however, and he finds in it a tendency to be dogmatic and belligerent in the statement of principles advocated, over-emphasis of the wrongs of the British colonial administration and understatement of the evils of communism, apparent over-willingness of the writer to accept his samplings as absolutely correct samples, and meager appraisal of the religious backgrounds of the peoples and of the value placed upon the fundamental dignity of man in the respective countries. Altogether, the review seems fair, discerning and balanced.

AMERICANS HAVING ASSISTED IN the bombing of German cities, the Germans threaten to retaliate by bombing New York, which they might be able to do, after a fashion. But the chances are that the attempt, even if successful, would scarcely pay. On the other hand, some of the American fliers in Africa are itching to drop a bomb or two into the crater of Mount Vesuvius, just to see what would happen. It might start another eruption, like dropping something into one of those geysers in Yellowstone park.

ONE REPORT HAS IT THAT MARshal Rommel is to be placed in command of the Axis forces in the Balkans. Rommel has already shown remarkable ability in organizing and conducting a retreat.

STARS AND STRIPES, OVERSEAS newspaper of the A. E. F., doesn't like so much flag waving in the motion pictures. It is quite true that the flag is often dragged in where it doesn't belong. It is sometimes used to divert attention from the flatness and inanity of a drama that couldn't stand on its own feet. The boys who are doing a real job for the nation across the water would be the first to distinguish between real sentiment and the cheap imitation that is sometimes made to do service.

THOSE TOWNS THAT ARE GETting their pictures in the papers because of the floods they are having needn't be so chesty about it. We have been having a flood of our own, and one just as good as many of them. Some towns are put out of business by a mere 20 feet of flood, but it takes close to 40 feet to make much impression on Grand Forks.

WHILE DAYLIGHT SAVING MAY make no difference in the quantity of electric current consumed in a given case, it may make a difference in that same case in the time when that current is required, and this may have an important bearing on the pressure on the plant which generates and distributes the current. This fact is brought out in a clipping from the "Electrical World" sent in by Andres L. Freeman, manager of the Rural Electrical plant at Grand Forks, who comments on it as follows:

"WHILE IT IS TRUE THE RESULTS obtained from a change in time are not so noticeable when viewed from the operations in Grand Forks and surrounding community they are nevertheless significant when the nation as a whole is considered. The fact that 1,500,000 KW were cut from the peak load in December of 1942 represents \$175,000,000 worth of generating equipment which it was unnecessary to install because the load on existing equipment was distributed more evenly as a result of the time change. This saving is far greater and much more important than the actual saving attained from the use of less electrical energy last year."

THE "ELECTRICAL WORLD" ARTICLE reads:

"Repeal of 'wartime' would be a mistake in terms of the effective conduct of the war, the federal power commission this week told the house interstate and foreign commerce committee, which is considering a joint resolution to return the nation to standard time. FPC's position coincides with that previously taken by WPB Chairman Nelson and the undersecretaries of war and navy in public pleas against either federal or state legislative action to set the clocks back.

"In a letter to Congressman Clarence T. Lea, chairman of the committee, FPC Chairman Leland Olds asserted that 'war time' cut 1,500,000 kw. off the December, 1942, peak load and estimated that it would cut this year's load even more. In addition, he stated that 'war time' saved 1,000,000,000 kwh. of energy last year, which would require the equivalent of 10,000 carloads of coal.

"AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF HOW 'war time' reduces peak loads, Mr. Olds wrote that the extra hour of daylight provided in winter by advancing the clock postpones the greatest lighting use to a time when factory and urban railway use has fallen off. This, he said, 'is just the same kind of planning as that of the housewife who makes the greatest possible use of the top of her stove by getting her canning out of the way before cooking the evening meal, because the stove is not large enough to handle both operations at the same time. She eliminates the need for a larger stove by not starting the second operation until she had finished the first.

"In the power field, Mr. Olds added, additions to generating capacity in wartime 'must necessarily be held to the absolute minimum, because new turbine generators compete with munitions for the limited supplies of critical materials and manufacturing capacity.'"

THE FEATURE OF "PEAK LOAD" is one which is often overlooked. Electricity is not a commodity that can be manufactured and stored to be delivered as required. It is energy which must be generated as used. If the demand on a plant for a single hour is greater than its capacity, some will be unable to obtain service, even though the plant may have capacity to spare during the rest of the day. If part of the demand can be transferred to another period, no one will be inconvenienced and it will not be necessary to increase the size of the plant to take care of the excess load.

IT MUST BE TOO LATE NOW TO tap box elders for syrup-making purposes, although I notice that the trees are still dripping a little. Recent comment on the subject in this column had brought from a friend in Iowa City, Iowa, a sheaf of newspaper clippings dealing with the maple sugar industry there, also telling of interest that has been developed in the planting of nut-bearing trees. Although the hard maple grows freely in Iowa, it seems to have been neglected as a source of syrup and sugar, and the newspaper article treats of it as something relatively new to present residents.

THE ARTICLE SAYS "FEW IOWANS realize the syrup-making possibilities of the many maples growing here. Because of the meager yield and the tremendous amount of work involved, scarcely a person has experimented with the work. But with the syrup and sugar shortage this year several families have gone into the manufacturing of a home syrup supply."

BACK EAST OUR FARMERS MADE little trough-like wooden guides to conduct the sap from the tree to the bucket. In Iowa they use conductors made from sections of elder bushes with the pitch removed. That seems like a good idea. We youngsters used those elder shoots for pop-guns. They also worked well to blow spit-balls through, and if the size were just right a pea could be sent through one with pretty nearly the force and accuracy of a BB shot from an air gun. When there were not enough other containers to go around, which was always the case when many maples were tapped, sap buckets were made from wooden logs about two feet long, with one side flattened and hollowed to contain a gallon or two.

THE ARTICLE ON REPLANTING of nut-bearing trees fits in properly with that on maple sugar, for I remember well a confection made of maple sugar mixed with chopped walnuts or hickory nuts. As in other parts of the country, most of the nut trees in Iowa were destroyed years ago, and with them went one of the small country boy's sources of happiness. Indian summer was the time for the nut harvest, and, with or without nuts, there is no finer time of the year. With the nut harvest added it was perfect. To be just right the nuts needed the maturity that came with growth and also the touch of frost which would either bring them to the ground or make it easy to shake them loose by throwing clubs into the tree. There were black walnuts, butternuts, hickory nuts and chestnuts, and the timber from all of those trees has become immensely valuable. Blight killed most of the chestnuts years ago, but in late years there has been some success with trees apparently immune to blight. Black walnut was once so common that the trunks were split into fence rails, and I still have aching recollections of one lot of those rails which, having served their purpose in a fence, it became my duty to reduce to stove wood with the aid of a bucksaw.

DR. WILLIAM RORHBACHER, AN Iowa City physician, has done most to arouse interest in the growing of nut trees in his vicinity, and on a hillside on his farm he has hundreds of hickory and other nut trees growing. I suppose North Dakota is too far north for chestnut trees, and I have never seen a hickory tree in the state. The black walnut is not native here, but it can be grown from seed with little difficulty. The late W. R. Krueger of Niagara, N. D., was an enthusiast in tree culture, and during his many years in North Dakota he planted hundreds of black walnuts which grew to maturity and produced fruit. Like almost all other trees, the walnut grows best in good soil, but if its roots can reach water the tree will grow on land that is unsuitable for general farm crops, and there seems to be no good reason why much land otherwise unproductive could not profitably be devoted to the growing of this splendid tree.

GOVERNOR DEWEY OF NEW YORK has just vetoed a bill passed by the legislature permitting the playing of bingo for money under the auspices of churches, fraternal and similar societies. The bill provided that upon petition of 5 per cent of the voters local governing bodies might issue permits for the playing of bingo by such bodies. In returning the bill without his approval the governor advanced three reasons for his course.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE SAID, the bill was clearly unconstitutional. He quoted the section of the state constitution which prohibits all forms of gambling except betting on horse races under the pari-mutuel system, which latter alone may be authorized by the legislature. Governor Dewey could have evaded the constitutional issue by signing the bill and leaving its validity to be determined by the courts. Instead, he followed the more courageous course of following what he knew to be the mandate of the constitution.

IN GIVING HIS SECOND REASON for the veto, the governor pointed out the patent fact that if such a measure were constitutional and became a law, professional gamblers would undoubtedly make use of it, taking over obscure or moribund fraternal organizations which still had legal existence, and under this cloak of respectability would be able to conduct gambling operations on a statewide scale.

LASTLY, THE GOVERNOR SAID that under the petition requirement of the measure, local communities would be thrown into turmoil whenever an attempt were made to obtain signatures to their bingo petitions and the subject would become one of interminable controversy. Often the ordinary affairs of the community would be subordinated to passionate controversy over the game of bingo.

Governor Dewey's arguments on this subject, both on the ground of constitutionality and of policy, are unassailable and they may be read with profit in many other communities.

BRITISH SAILORS ON SHORE leave while their ships are in New York harbor have been helping out on nearby New Jersey farms. Volunteering for such work they are taken into the country in squads of 10, each squad in charge of a petty officer, and there they have spent anywhere from two or three days to a couple of weeks doing farm work. They receive their board and lodging, but no other compensation, as their service regulations prohibit engaging in other than their regular occupation for pay. The sailors are said to enjoy the change from sea to farm work for a short time and regard the experience as a lark.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND SAILORS in Great Britain have been employed in some cases in a somewhat similar manner on British farms. It is recalled, however, that when it was proposed that service men in camp in this country be employed temporarily in the cotton fields of the south and the orchards of California, labor unions in those areas protested so vigorously that the whole plan was dropped. Cotton fields went without help, and California fruit rotted on the ground.

SOMEONE, NOTICING COMPLAINTS of waste of food in some of the military camps, writes that while waste anywhere is to be deplored, it is not at all surprising that there should be waste under camp conditions. The writer points out that to prepare meals for several million men it has been necessary to employ many thousand cooks, some of whom are competent and experienced and some are not, and that with the best intentions in the world it would be impossible to avoid the kind of waste on a grand scale which there is in the family kitchen when the housewife has been unable to get a satisfactory cook. Of course this has no bearing on waste which is avoidable and deliberate, of which occasional cases come to light.

CONGRESS HAS ADJOURNED FOR the Easter vacation without passing a tax bill. One regrettable feature of the whole tax controversy is that the division in the house should have been practically along straight party lines. Taxation is in no legitimate sense a party question. It is a matter of dollars and cents. The government needs and must have money with which to carry on its ordinary operations, and, more imperatively just now, to finance the conduct of a great war. To discover the most efficient and most equitable method of raising that money is no easy task, and the subject is one on which wide divergence of opinion is not only permissible, but inevitable. But there is no more reason why nearly all the Republicans should be grouped on one side and nearly all the Democrats on the other than for all the red haired congressmen to vote one way and all the black haired ones to vote the other.

THIS IS BY NO MEANS THE FIRST time, however, for division in congress to be based on other than the merits of the case under consideration. A conspicuous case was that of the Hayes-Tilden presidential contest. After the November election in 1876 it became apparent that the vote in the electoral college would be close. Charges were made that the election of Tilden electors in several southern states were based on irregularities and fraud at the polls. A commission of investigation was appointed, consisting of five senators, five representatives and five court justices. Of the fifteen, eight were Republicans and seven were Democrats.

THE DUTY OF THAT COMMISSION was to examine the returns from many precincts, and on the basis of the evidence assembled to determine in each case how many, if any, illegal votes had been cast. No party principle was involved and no governmental policy was at stake. The question in each case was one of fact based on the credibility of the evidence. Yet on every vote that was taken, and there were scores of them, all the eight Republicans voted one way and all the seven Democrats the other. The commission's decisions resulted in the seating of enough Republican electors to insure a Hayes majority in the electoral college. Hayes was seated, and to this day nobody knows whether he ought to have been seated or not. What is known beyond peradventure is that partisan advantage, and not regard for the facts, governed the deliberations of the commission.

CONGRESSIONAL DELAY IN ENACTING a tax bill will not cripple the treasury. The government can borrow money almost without limit. But the delay leaves in the hands of millions of individuals billions of dollars more than the present value of all the goods that are available for purchase, and unless that condition is corrected soon that money will be used to boost prices to fantastic levels in spite of all the price fixing that can be done by all the government agencies combined. Black markets will spring up everywhere. Increased living costs will be used as the basis for further wage increases and for higher prices for farm products. The pressure will be too great for congress to resist and the bars will be let down. By its delay, in which partisan politics is a conspicuous feature, congress is contributing directly to dangerous and destructive inflation.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PERFECTLY equitable tax law. Probably there never will be one. Any method that can be devised will bear more heavily on some individuals than on others, and there always will be some who will escape some part of their fair share of the load. Those inequities, whether advantageous or otherwise to certain individuals, are now confined to any one group, whether rich or poor. But it is a fact that whatever advantage comes to the wealthy man in current taxation is usually corrected by estate and inheritance taxes, some of which are already almost confiscatory.

WHAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS, AND needs now, is a pay-as-you-go scheme of taxation which will collect taxes as the income is earned and before it can be spent in other ways. And to be effective the plan should not contemplate the payment of two years¹ taxes in one year. That would be beyond the means of the smaller taxpayers, and if a discount were allowed for double payments, as has sometimes been proposed, only the well-to-do could take advantage of the plan.

GROUND IS NOW BEING PREPARED for hundreds of thousands of gardens, many of them new, and much of the food produced in those gardens is to be put away for winter use in millions of cans and jars. Much of that food is to be canned in home kitchens, often by persons who have never done any canning before. Without much difficulty fruits may be canned securely in open kettles. While the tomato is usually served as a vegetable, it is botanically a fruit, and it is as easy to can as other fruits are. For other vegetables, government authorities strongly recommend the use of the pressure cooker, and the question now perplexing many persons is where to get a pressure cooker.

USUALLY PRESSURE COOKERS have been made of aluminum, which is decidedly the most desirable material for the purpose, but no aluminum cookers are now being made. Aluminum is needed for other purposes. Arrangements have been made for the manufacture of a limited number of steel cookers, but these will not begin to meet the demand. Already dealers are being bombarded with orders for pressure cookers, orders which they cannot possibly fill.

SOME FORTUNATE OWNERS HAVE already arranged to share the use of their cookers with others. This can often be done, as in any family a cooker is in use for only a short time. But unless a housewife has a personal friend who owns a cooker she is likely to be embarrassed, as she will be reluctant to task for the loan of such a utensil from a stranger. In this critical situation it is suggested that arrangements be made for community canning.

A HARDWARE DEALER WHO HAS been obliged to turn down scores of orders for cookers suggests that in practically every city and village there are women's groups in the churches, P. T. A. societies or fraternal bodies which serve meals and have kitchen facilities for that purpose, and that when the canning season arrives such kitchens might be turned into miniature canning factories. In each as many pressure cookers as are available could be installed and cans filled with vegetables prepared at home could be brought and left for processing by some competent and experienced person who would be in charge of the work. A small charge could be made for the work and there would be the satisfaction of knowing that the food is properly and safely canned. There seems to be something sound in the idea.

WHEN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT visited Mexico the other day it was recalled that it was 34 years since a president of the United States had visited Mexico. President Taft paid a visit on that occasion to President Porfirio Diaz of Mexico, but the two men met at the border, and neither "invaded" the other's territory. In connection with President Taft's visit a story was told by Major Archie Butt, who was Taft's aide, and who subsequently went down with the Titanic.

ON THE WAY TO THE MEXICAN border the presidential party visited the Grand canyon in Arizona, and among other things arrangements were made for members of the party to ride down the trail to the bottom of the great gorge, which at that point is about a mile deep. Those who have taken that ride agree that it is something to be attempted only by those in perfect physical condition, for the path is narrow and in places almost perpendicular, with a steep cliff on one side and empty space on the other.

PRESIDENT TAFT WAS A HUGE man weighing 300 or over, and he was not given to acrobatics. But, despite his weight and his years, the president intended to ride down that trail. Major Butt and his friend John Hays Hammond, who was one of the party, were horrified and tried to dissuade him, explaining that the task would be too severe a strain on his strength, and pointing out that even if he met with no accident he would certainly be lame from the ride and would be in no condition to meet the president of Mexico at the end of their journey.

PRESIDENT TAFT, HOWEVER, IN addition to being a large man, could be a stubborn one, and he was determined to make that ride. Argument failed to move him, and he became quite testy about it. On the morning of the day set for the ride, Butt thought he would make a last appeal, and went to the president's room. On knocking at the door he was bidden to enter, and found the president dressing. "I suppose," said the president, "you have come to argue some more about that ride." Butt admitted that he had, and repeated some of his former argument. "All right, all right," said Taft at last. "I suppose you've got to have your way, "but," he added, shaking his finger at Butt, "I'll get even with you and John Hammond for this. I want you fellows to understand that I'm going to do as I damn please—some of the time!"

"THE FIFTH SEAL," BY MARK ALdanov, a Russian writer, has been chosen for May distribution by the Book-of-the-Month club. Though I have read several reviews of the book I have not yet seen it, hence I have no opinion about its subject matter or literary quality. All that must await arrival of the book itself. I have been interested, however, in an incident in connection with its selection by a widely known merchandising concern.

ACCORDING TO THE REVIEWS THE book deals with conditions during the Spanish civil war and the Moscow trials. Protests against its publication and especially against its distribution by the Book-of-the-Month club by several individuals and groups, some of them with known Communistic leanings, and others of ultra-liberal" tendencies, on the ground that the book displays prejudice against the Russian Soviet government, and that its distribution at this time would tend to make more difficult the maintenances of friendly relations between the United States and Russia.

WHETHER OR NOT THE BOOK IS unfairly biased I do not know, not having read it. I have respect, however, for the judgment of the staff of the Book-of-the-Month club, two of whose very well known members are Christopher Morley and William Alien White, but the thing that interested me particularly was the manner in which some of those protests came to be made. Christopher Morley, of the club's editorial staff, became weary of the flood of correspondence that poured in upon him with reference to the book, as many of the writers exhibited scant knowledge of the book. He wrote to one of those correspondents, the woman president of a society with a high-sounding "liberal" name, and asked her if she would be satisfied if a certain passage were eliminated from the book. He mentioned the name of the person described in the passage and outlined the incident in which that person was said to have figured.

PROMPTLY THE LADY REPLIED that the expunging of that passage would not make the book acceptable, as there were other passages equally objectionable. Then Morley made a public statement explaining that the book contained no such passage as the one to which he had referred, had no such character as the one whom he had named, and related no such incident as the one he had described. The conclusion was inescapable. The lady had not read the book and didn't know what was in it. Obviously she had joined in a protest without knowing what she was protesting about. Probably she is one of those patriots whose attitude toward the war was governed by the side that Russia happened to be on at the moment.

THE WAR HAS BROUGHT MANY things to many countries. Among other things, it has brought the game of soft ball to London. American soldiers have introduced the game there, and it has attracted large crowds. British crowds at the games, however, are more sedate than American crowds usually are at ball games, and they have not become familiar with the good old American diversion of throwing epithets and pop bottles at the umpire. In another respect they are less orderly than American crowds, as they wander unconcernedly across the outfield, crowding in so close to the bases that it has been necessary to establish a ground rule granting two bases for a hit into the outfield. How queer other people are!

WHOEVER INVENTED PERCENTages made a great contribution to human satisfaction. If one's income doubles in a year, that is gratifying; but when he can say that it increased 100 per cent, that's something to talk about. If one's taxes double in a year, he is entitled to grouch; but that doesn't compare with the satisfaction of saying they increased 100 per cent. Then there is the statistician whose business it is to make mountains out of mole hills. He finds that some corporations just managed a year or two ago to keep out of the red by making a net profit of \$100 on a business of millions. Last year the same corporation did a little better, but not much, as it managed to scrape up a net of \$1,000. But the statistician shouts that the corporation's profits have increased 1,000 per cent, which, it seems, ought to be good for a penitentiary sentence.

JOHN SANDBEK, COUNTY TREASURER, who recently returned from Omaha, Neb., clipped this editorial from the Omaha World-Herald:

"A survey of motor vehicle speed throughout the country disclosed that less than half the country's drivers, 47 per cent to be exact, are keeping within the 35 miles limit. Disregard of the limit is most persistent in New Mexico and Missouri, where the average speed of motorists checked was 43 and 44 miles an hour. The lowest speed record was that found in North Dakota, where the average was only 30 miles an hour. It may be pure coincidence but it is surely interesting and significant that North Dakota has long enjoyed the distinction of being one of the safest states in the Union in which to drive. Its traffic accident and death rates are among the lowest record. These Dakotans seem to realize that there is a war being fought which entails the need for conservation of gas and rubber. More than that, they have long been aware of the fact that lives are precious too and should be conserved even at the expense of a few lost miles per hour."

SOME EXCELLENT ARTICLES ON gardening are being published, and many of the suggestions made will be exceedingly useful to the amateur gardener. Some of those suggestions, however, are to be accepted with reserve. One of these relates to the intensive use of the small vegetable garden. The gardener who cultivates but a few square feet of ground naturally wishes to make the most of his space. One method which is often advised for this purpose is to plant quick-growing vegetables between rows of slower-growing plants. The early vegetables may mature while all the plants are small and can be gathered before the later ones need the space.

THAT IS SOUND PRACTICE, BUT unless great care is used the results will be disappointing. If the early plants are left too long they will rob the others of the moisture and plant food that they need and the later crop will fail. Years ago I had a demonstration of this in my own garden, and while I know I have told the story before, some new gardener may get a hint from it if I tell it again.

IN THE SPACE BETWEEN FOUR rows of sweet corn I planted radishes. The rows of corn were about three feet apart, so there was plenty of room for all. I intended to clear the ground of radishes in plenty of time to give the corn room. Radishes were used as they grew; then I left town for two weeks and neglected to remove what were left of the radishes. When I returned the remaining radishes had grown to mammoth size, but my four rows of corn were ruined. The radishes had stolen from the soil what the corn needed, and while the rest of the corn yielded abundantly those four rows didn't produce an ear that was worth picking.

SOME GARDEN PHILOSOPHER years ago propounded the truth that "a weed is a plant in the wrong place." It makes no difference whether the plant is a thistle, a dandelion or a cabbage. If it is in the wrong place it is a weed. And it is in the wrong place if it crowds other plants which one wishes to preserve. If it does that it should be removed, and the sooner the better. Much food can be grown on limited space by succession planting and by alternating rows of early and late plants, but growth must be watched and care must be taken to see that there is no crowding at any stage of growth.

TWO FORMER GRAND FORKS MEN are with the Ringling Brothers and Bar-num and Bailey circus now playing in New York City.

Leonard Aylesworth, superintendent of canvas of the big shows, left Grand Forks many years ago to travel with the circus, and for several years he has had the responsible position which he now holds. It is his job to see that the grounds are laid out according to a pattern which never varies, and that poles, stakes, canvas, ropes and all the other paraphernalia are in exactly their right places so that everything may go together without confusion or loss of time.

E. L. Egermeyer, former concert player and band leader of Grand Forks, is playing baritone in the Merle Evans band which provides music for the circus.

ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE THE other day that arrangements were being made to admit to certain classes of service youths who had formerly been found ineligible, perhaps because of some minor physical defect which had since been corrected or which might be overlooked, perhaps because of insufficient knowledge of some technical subject in which the student had made later advancement. Without question many persons have been rejected for military service because of physical defects who, if admitted, would have been found entirely competent.

THERE COMES TO MIND THE CASE of Lord Nelson, one of Britain's greatest admirals, who, if he now appeared as a youth, would be rejected on sight by any examining board. A slight, frail youth, effeminate in appearance, Nelson gained his appointment to the navy through the influence of a friend. His health was never good, and he was almost the exact opposite in type of one who ordinarily would be chosen for the rugged life of a sailor. Yet that man who started on his professional career as a weakling, and ' who in later service lost the use of an arm and of one eye, won victory after victory, culminating in Trafalgar, and became one of Britain's immortals.

THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER CAREERS as remarkable in their way as that of Nelson, in which youths, laboring under serious physical handicaps, have won their way to usefulness and honor by sheer force of character. Such cases serve as beacon lights to guide and encourage others to whom fate has seemed to deny opportunity, but who have found that one can sometimes make opportunity for himself.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN AT ALL that there are no standards to be established, no requirements to be met. It is true that application of the rules which experience has shown to be wise may sometimes work hardship on individuals who might have made good. But if there were no such standards, no such requirements to be met, the results would be disastrous. Selection of men for the armed services is but one of the many fields to which this applies. Those services make extraordinary demands on physical fitness. The men inducted are subjected to severe tests which only the vigorous are likely to be able to meet. If men were to be admitted indiscriminately who lack good health and good physique the army and navy would soon be loaded with invalids. Efficiency of each service would be impaired, and individuals would be subjected to rough experience which they are not fitted to stand.

WITH BUTTER RATIONED AS IT IS, and as it is likely to be, the frugal housewife is likely to be more careful than ever of the fat, if any, that comes from the meat that she cooks. Of course we are urged to save all the waste fats and sell them back to the grocer so that the government may have them for munition manufacture. But shortage of butter is certain to cause greater use to be made of other fats.

LONG AGO THERE WERE CERTAIN prejudices against animal fats, for no reason that I was able to discover. In the first session of the North Dakota legislature, back in 1890, there was proposed a tax of 10 cents a pound on oleomargarine, and in the discussion it was suggested that such tax be confined to butter substitutes manufactured wholly or chiefly from animal fats, excluding from the tax substitutes made from vegetable oils. In support of the bill it was said that animal fats are likely to contain almost any kind of undesirable material, from barnyard offal to any of the dangerous bacteria with which the legislators of that day were familiar. Vegetable oils, on the contrary, were described as mild and beneficent. There were peculiar notions about vegetable products. Many of the old patent medicines were advertised as "pure vegetable compounds," which was supposed to make them safe, whereas many vegetable compounds are deadly poison.