

## By W.P. Davies

ON AUGUST 12, 1815, THE NATIONAL Intelligencer, of Washington, D. C., from whose old copies I have already selected several bits of then current news, published for the information of its readers an account of the battle of Waterloo and of the subsequent abdication of Napoleon. The battle was fought on June 18, and the abdication occurred four days later. Thus it took that information about seven weeks to reach Washington readers. The Washington paper did not receive the information directly, but picked up the story from the Boston Gazette, which had published it on August 5 with the statement that "The brig Abellino, Captain Wiatt, has just arrived from France; and brings Paris paper to the 23d of June."

THE PARIS PAPERS PUBLISHED the story, a sailing vessel brought them across the Atlantic. A Boston paper copied the main story and the paper containing it was taken to Washington, probably by stage coach, and the Washington paper copied it. That's how the public got its news in those days. Now the newspaper reader knows what is transpiring on the other side of the world within a few hours of the occurrence. And the other day the Herald carried a picture of the Allied landing near Rome the day after the landing.

THE STORY OF THE BATTLE OF Waterloo occupies only half a column in the Intelligencer, but the rest of the front page is devoted to a report of the proceedings in the French House of Peers and the Chamber of Representatives to determine what steps should be taken following the disaster at Waterloo. The books have told us all about those things, but to read about them in books is one thing, and to read about them in a newspaper in which they are presented as the news of the day is something else. How remote the other side of the Atlantic must have seemed in those days.

FRANCE WAS IN ONE OF THOSE crises which on several occasions have threatened her existence, and which, one after another, she has survived. The men who occupied positions of leadership had to decide what should be done, and they were by no means agreed. Some of them maintained that an army of sufficient strength could be brought to the defense of Paris against Wellington's forces, who were rapidly approaching. They were the arm-chair experts. Marshal Ney, who had command of Napoleon's Old Guard and knew what he was talking about, said the thing was impossible and that the only way to preserve the public safety was to make propositions to the enemy.

GENERAL LAFAYETTE SPOKE IN the Chamber, proposing certain steps for immediate preservation of order and that the ministers be requested to attend and answer questions. There was much debate, but the situation was obviously hopeless. Napoleon's letter of abdication was read and the provisional government made overtures for peace to the Allies.

THERE THE STORY ENDS IN THAT paper, and I have no later number. Doubtless when another ship came in there would be published and passed on from paper to paper the story of Napoleon's unsuccessful effort to escape to America and of his surrender to the captain of a British ship in order to escape the royalists who were hot on his trail.

A JULY NUMBER OF THE INTELLIGencer had a detailed account of the laying of the corner stone of the Washington monument at Baltimore, the first to be erected in honor of the nation's first president. There was a great gathering at the ceremony, and the principal address was delivered by James A. Buchanan, a young lawyer who was chairman of the board of managers for the building of the monument, and who afterward was president of the United States. The corner stone was laid on July 4, 1815.

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"THE SOUL OF A QUEEN," BY Tryphosa Bates-Bat cheller (Brentano's, \$3.00) is a book which fits no classification. It is not a novel, nor is it either history or biography in any real sense, although it presents numerous historical facts and sketches the life of its royal heroine. On the jacket it is described as a fictionalized biography, and perhaps that term will serve as well as any.

THE AUTHOR, A NATIVE OF MASSachusetts, lived many years in France and came to love that country next to her own. She became deeply interested in its history and in the history of Poland, with which country the relations of France were so intimate, and she became fascinated with the career of Marie de Gonzague, the beautiful French noblewoman who became queen of Poland. It is Marie's story that she tells in this book.

THE TIME WAS THE 16TH CENTury, in many respects one of the most colorful of modern history. Louis XIV was king of France; Poland extended from the Baltic to the Black sea and its kings bore also the title of king of Sweden; the Ottoman empire included most of the present Balkan territory; and Austria was France's rival for European leadership. A book touching on the public affairs of such a period must contain many great names. This book contains a multitude of such names, and in some cases shadowy outlines of the personages who bore them. There are the Grand monarch himself, the brilliant and indefatigable Richelieu, Mazarin, Marie de Medicis, and a host of others conspicuous in the history of France. In Poland there were King Vladislas, to be succeeded by Kasimierz and then by Jan Sobieski. All these figures are flashed on the screen which the book holds up, a glittering, but indistinct pageant.

IT IS THROUGH THAT SCENE THAT the author leads her heroine, Marie de Gonzague, beautiful, talented and ardent. King Vladislas of Poland was a widower whose late Austrian wife had caused him to lean toward Austria in that nation's rivalry with France. Mazarin saw political advantage for France in providing the Polish king with a young and beautiful French wife. Marie seemed the right person. Approached on the subject the idea of wearing a crown attracted her. Her portrait was sent to the king of Poland, and with it the information that the bride would bring a handsome dowry. The king approved both the portrait and the dowry. A match was made, and after a proxy marriage the bride started overland for Poland with an imposing retinue of noblemen and maids-of-honor and a guard of 1,500 horses.

THE MARRIAGE WAS NOT A HAPpy one. The young queen missed her lovely home in France, and the king, much too old for her, was crabbed and suspicious. There is real romance in the love which sprang up between the queen and her husband's brother, the cardinal Jan Kasimierz, and which, after the king's death, resulted in the marriage of the two by virtue of a dispensation from the pope, and Kasimierz was elected king.

THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS RECORded in the book are historical. The detailed treatment is fictitious. There is material there for a powerful novel, but the author has made no attempt at writing a novel. There is material, too, for a fascinating biography, but the writer has not the flair for real biography. To her the heroine is a lovely heroine, and she is nothing more—or less. Repeatedly, lest he forget, the reader is told how beautiful Marie is, how wise and how greatly in earnest, and there are no redeeming features in those who come into conflict with her.

ASIDE FROM ITS HERO-WORSHIP and its treatment of the public affairs of once-powerful Poland, the book contains many interesting descriptions of customs in the life of Poland 300 years ago. There are valuable bits of folk-lore, descriptions of banquets and court ceremonials which have the flavor of authenticity. And one is reminded that 300 years ago Poland was a problem to its own people and its neighbors, much as it has been in these later years.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO press has just published a "Dictionary of the American Language," in four volumes price \$100, which most persons will agree is quite a price to pay for a dictionary. The price may not seem excessive, however, when it is known that the dictionary represents the work of a staff of philologists and other learned men and women for 18 years.

PUBLICATION OF THIS WORK REVIVES the question which has already served as the basis for much argument, whether or not there is an American language distinct from that which we call English or whether the forms of speech on both sides of the Atlantic are not variations of a common language. It is true that we on this side of the ocean do not speak quite as our friends on the other side speak. There are quite marked differences in accent, inflection and intonation. But those differences in speech are not necessarily differences in language. Most of us have little difficulty in understanding Churchill when we hear him on the air, but there are many cultured Englishmen to whom we must listen quite closely in order to follow them. But both they and Churchill use language which is perfectly familiar to us, and which, with some variations, we ourselves use.

LET THE AMERICAN WHO KNOWS only his mother tongue pick up a book in French or German, and while he does not understand it, he knows instantly that it is not written in his own language. Let the book be one by an English author and he will have no difficulty in understanding it, and unless the subject matter is localized in some way he will rarely be able to tell on which side of the ocean it was written.

BUT, IT MAY BE SAID, THERE ARE marked differences in the use of words. The Englishman has certain names for certain things, while the American has other names for similar things. What the Englishman calls a goods train is a freight train to us. Our elevator is a lift in London, and our railway conductor would be a guard on a British train. There are innumerable differences of this kind, so that the doughboy from Chicago is as confused in Manchester as the man from Devonshire would be in Grand Forks. Are not there, therefore, two languages rather than one?

WELL, PERHAPS. BUT HOW ABOUT the differences that exist within each country itself. The same things are not known by the same names all over Britain. Each locality uses certain words peculiar to that locality. Is there, therefore, a Yorkshire language and a Kentish language? In Scotland some words in common use are unknown in other parts of the island. Yet we think of the inhabitants of all parts of the island, except the Highlanders and the Welsh, as speaking English. Should there be a separate dictionary for each?

IN OUR OWN COUNTRY, TO SAY nothing of the differences in accent which make the speech of one section almost unintelligible in another, there are sectional differences in the use of words, some of which creep into the work of reputable writers, which, if understood at all, seem strange and sometimes fantastic to those of a different area. Have we, therefore, not an English language, or an American language, but a Texas language, an Oregon language, and a Brooklyn language?

SOME OF MY FRIENDS WHO WERE born in Norway have told me that when they hear a native of Norway speak Norse they can tell from what part of Norway he came, from north or south, and whether from this fjord or little group of islands. Not only is there a difference in accent, but there are many words habitually used by one group that are but partially understood by another. Yet we think of our Norwegian friends from whatever locality as speaking Norwegian,

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AMONG THE MANY QUHER Experiences for which aviation has been responsible one of the queerest was that of the pilot who, parachuting down from his crippled plane, landed on a horse's back. It happened somewhere in England. The pilot's plane having gone out of control, he bailed out. Coming too near a clump of trees he manipulated the ropes to avoid them and found himself close to the ground over a small pasture in which a big horse was grazing. He shotted at the horse to get out of the way, but the animal paid no attention and continued calmly grazing. Continuing his descent the pilot landed squarely astraddle of the horse. That attracted the attention of the horse, which snorted, reared, threw its uninvited rider and galloped off.

OWEN OLIVER, FOR MANY OF HIS 68 years a New York newspaper man, died last week. Long ago, living in Yonkers, he was incommoded by lack of transportation that met his needs. The character of his work required him to be in his office down town at an early hour in the morning. No street car ran anywhere near his home and the only morning railway trains left Yonkers at 1 A. M., which was too early, and 5 A. M., which was too late. He wrote to the president of the railway company explaining the facts and protesting against what he considered discrimination against the people of Yonkers. The president obligingly put on a special train leaving Yonkers at 3 A. M., and for nearly a year, until the new subway was finished, the newspaper man rode down to Manhattan in state, the only passenger on that train.

SOME DAY, IF I HAPPEN TO THINK of it, when I want to go to Hillsboro or Larimore at a time when no train is running I may write to the president of the Great Northern suggesting a special train. What will he do about it? You have one guess.

JUST NOW IT DOESN'T LOOK AS springlike as it did a week ago, but a letter from Alvin Plain, of Calio, N. D., brings several sprays of pussy willows as well developed as one usually finds them in April. Mr. Plain writes that he had just cut the twigs from a bush near his home, and though he had been a resident of that locality since 1910 he has never before seen pussy willows bud so early.

DAY AFTER DAY WE READ IN THE press dispatches that so many long tons of bombs were dropped on Berlin, or Stuttgart, or some other German city where bombs ought to be dropped. But why "long tons?" The long ton is 12 per cent heavier than the short ton, but why be so meticulous in telling about it? Naturally, those whose business it is to make official records of those things must be precise in the matter of weights, but in material sent out from headquarters for the information of the general public it would suffice to say that so many tons were dropped, and let it go at that. A few pounds one way or the other wouldn't make any difference to the average reader.

THE WHOLE SUBJECT OF WEIGHTS and measures is involved in inextricable confusion. The long ton of 2240 pounds, which is standard in Great Britain, contains 20 hundredweights of 112 pounds, but why 112 pounds should be called a hundredweight is beyond me. In England they compute certain weights in "stones" of 14 pounds. Thus a 6-foot man weighing 196 pounds would quite likely be described as weighing "14 stone." Eight stone would weigh 112 pounds, and perhaps that is how they arrive at their hundredweight.

THE ORIGIN OF OUR MEASURES of weight, distance and capacity is lost in the mists of antiquity. Scientists have delved into the history of ancient Egypt, India, of the Hebrews, and of primitive races, and the best they can do is to guess at how most of the measurements came about, and while some of the guesses are plausible, few of them correspond. Most familiar is the theory that most measurements were based in the first instance on dimensions of the human body, the length of the king's or chief's foot, the spread of his arms, the length of his stride, and so on. The metric system has supplanted all others for scientific work, and in many countries it is in general use.

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IN A RECENT BOOK, "THE ROAD Back to Paris," the author, A. J. Liebling, tells a story to illustrate the temper that he found prevailing in Great Britain after Dunkerque. He talked with a mechanic in London's East End, and the workman expressed himself thus:

"We're cool, calm and collective," he said. "And we're determined to defeat this bloody 'itler, and 'e will be defeated and all, there's no doubt about it because we're not 'aving any.

"Once a Britisher 'as put 'is back to the wall and 'e says I'm not going to 'ave it—then 'e's not going to 'ave it. Because 'e's determined not to 'ave it and consequently—'E WILL NOT 'AVE-IT."

THAT'S STUBBORNNESS FOR YOU. But when I read that story I was reminded of the time that I tried to get my grandmother to sound her h's properly (impertinent little brat that I was). That grandmother came from the north of England, where the people drop many of their h's and pick some of them up again and put them in the wrong places. I used to tease her for omitting or improperly using that letter, and one day I asked her to pronounce the word "horse." Promptly she replied "'orse." "No, no, that's not right," I said. Say "horse," and I emphasized the H as strongly as I could. "But I do say 'orse," she responded quite earnestly. And when I laughed she chased me out with her broom.

THE QUEER THING TO ME WAS that while I could say either "'orse" or "horse," as I pleased, she thought she was saying "horse" when she was saying "'orse." I don't understand that yet. Another thing: Any fairly good mimic can give a tolerable imitation of the speech of a down south negro, for example, if he is familiar with that particular dialect. But that same negro can't come within miles of imitating the white man's speech. I wonder why that is.

WHEN WINSTON CHURCHILL WAS having pneumonia he invariably looked at the thermometer himself before permitting the nurse to take it and record his temperature. He wanted to know himself how things were going, and he said, "I can't trust these people." And President Roosevelt, too, is said to read the thermometer before the nurse takes it, when he is having a run of flu. That may be all right with bigwigs like Roosevelt and Churchill. They can get away with it. But suppose you or I tried it. What do you suppose they'd do to us. For the common run, temperature must be kept a dark secret.

AGAIN, ABOUT THIS MATTER OF temperature, sometimes they'll tell you that you haven't any. That's when there is nothing the matter with you, or you are just getting over something. But it isn't so. You have a temperature, and you may be mighty thankful that you have. You couldn't get along without them. In outer space, they tell us, there is no temperature, just zero, nothing at all, some three or four hundred degrees below the artificial mark that we call zero. And we may be thankful that even in our coolest moments we have temperature—quite a lot of it.

LONDON NEWSPAPERS OF THE last few days indicate the tremendous shortage of civilian supplies in this country and how people are bartering with one another to solve it.

In The Times of London, for example, the following advertisement appeared: "Advertiser has eight bottles of whisky (well-known brand) that he is willing to exchange for a perambulator of good make and good condition." Both these commodities are in short supply, but there is scarcely a thing in England that eight bottles of whisky cannot fetch.

THE SAME PAPER CARRIED FOUR other advertisements, one offering to buy a second-hand wedding dress—"white velvet preferred, for a broad-shouldered, thin girl." A second one invited any one who knows how to repair a rubber hot-water bottle to get in touch with J 883, a third offered to exchange some Corona cigars for any alcoholic liquid and a fourth urged the populace to "buy big-toe guards, which prevent big-toe holes in socks."

There is nothing unusual about these advertisements. Similar ones appear every day. "Make do and mend" is the new motto of every household.

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THERE was much discussion in the United States, as well as in many other countries, of the horror and iniquity of war. Sermons on the subject were preached from thousands of pulpits; society after society devoted its programs to consideration of the subject and organizations innumerable were formed for the purpose of promoting peace. Everywhere it was recognized that war is a brutal and atrocious thing which ought to be banished from the face of the earth. Everyone recognized that war is evil, and it was generally agreed that if the spirit of loving kindness prevailed there would be no more wars.

FOR THE LAUDABLE PURPOSE OF developing that admirable spirit and promoting its spread throughout the world, societies innumerable were organized and those societies employed staffs of writers to prepare appeals for the spread of the spirit of love, and millions of reams of paper were used in the circulation of such appeals. Lecturers traveled up and down the country adding their voices to the written appeals.

NOT AN ARGUMENT WAS ADVANCED on the other side. There was unanimous agreement that if all human beings loved each other and sought only the rule of right and justice, there would be no war. Yet in spite of all the sermons and lectures and written dissertations, war again came upon us. The people believed and accepted without reservation everything that had been said on the subject, but their acceptance did not prevent war. Neither did the fact that only the negligible few in this or any other country had the remotest desire for war suffice to shield us from the monster.

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS WAS FORMED for the express purpose of preventing war. The provisions of its constitution were drawn with great care. Those provisions were not perfect, but probably they were as nearly perfect as other human creations are. If they had been observed as intended, wars would have been prevented. They were not observed, and war was not prevented. The United States refused to join the League. If the United States had joined the results would have been different, how different we cannot say. Certainly they would not have been materially different unless the United States had influenced the other nations to follow a course different from that which they actually followed and different from that which the United States actually followed in its actions outside of the League.

APPEALS TO THE SPIRIT OF LOVE failed as a preventive of war because of the lamentable fact that that spirit is not Universal, as it should be, and that spirit will not become universal short of generations or centuries, if ever, whereas in its absence, war is an immediate menace against which defenses must be raised today.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS FAILED to insure peace because its members neglected to apply the effective methods which the League constitution prescribed, and which, if applied, would have prevented war. The United States fell short of exerting the influence for peace which it could have exerted even outside of the League.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS WAS based on the obvious fact that there are and will continue to be for some time to come those who have no regard for the Golden Rule or the Sermon on the Mount, but who are willing for their own evil purposes to make war. It was recognized that for the restraint of those malignant beings, compulsion must be applied. And provision was made for compulsion of the would-be aggressor, first in the form of restraints and sanctions, and ultimately, if necessary, by physical force. That was the realistic attitude.

THE MEASURES WHICH WERE prescribed were not taken by the League members and similar measures which could have been effective if taken here were not taken by the United States because in every country there was a shrinking back from the inconveniences and sacrifices which effective positive action would have entailed. Application of sanctions would have meant interruption of trade. Goods needed from abroad would have been difficult to obtain. Some ; foreign markets would have been closed to the products of the nations applying sanctions. There would have been risk of unemployment of labor at home. And, if as a last resort it became necessary to use armed force, that- would have involved greater expense and higher taxes and some of our people would have been killed.

THEREFORE THE MEANS PRESCRIBED for the members of the League of Nations, and similar means available to ourselves were not used. The aggressors were permitted without hindrance to prepare for the war which they intended to make, and which, presently, they launched with all the power that they had been building for years. Therefore we are in this war which we sought by evasion and compliance to side-step. Therefore commerce and industry are demoralized, labor is employed chiefly in the production of destructive weapons, markets are closed, taxation has reached unbelievable volume, millions exist in utter misery, and the flower of the world's youth is shedding its blood on battle fronts throughout the world. It would have been less costly to make a few sacrifices years ago.

## By W. P. Dcmes

PASSED ON TO ME AFTER BEING found in a collection of old papers is an itemized list of expenditures incurred in connection with the illness and death of President McKinley, the facts concerning which were not made public until President Roosevelt had retired from office In 1909. Efforts had been made to obtain the list, but all such efforts were blocked, and the facts were carefully kept secret by the few treasury officials and friends of the late president who had access to the information. The list as published was part of a newspaper dispatch which gives a brief recital of the facts and of the reasons for keeping them secret so long.

THE TOTAL SUM EXPENDED WAS \$45,000, which had been appropriated by congress. The newspaper dispatch, in a paper which cannot now be identified, says in part:

"With the return to private life of former President Roosevelt it has beeff possible to secure the details of the expenditures made in connection with the last illness and death of former President McKinley, which have been so carefully covered up for seven years that even the auditing officials of the government have known but approximately how the \$45,000 appropriation by congress was expended.

"Not in the history of the federal government has such care been taken to keep the exact disbursements from the public as in this instance, and in the itemized accounts, as approved by the then secretary of the treasury, Leslie M. Shaw, are somewhat surprising.

"THE OBJECT OF THIS GREAT SEcREcy was to avoid a repetition of the extreme unpleasantness which followed the illness and death of President Garfield, and to prevent a discussion of the character of the several claims. With this end in view three close friends of the dead president — the late United States Senator Mark Hanna, Secretary George B. Cortelyou and John M. Milburn, the Buffalo lawyer, at whose house the president died, formulated themselves into a committee of three to handle the entire matter.

"This they did so well that all who tried to examine the accounts in the treasury department were refused and it was not until within the last few days that it has been possible to examine the itemized statement of expenditure."

FOURTEEN PHYSICIANS ARE LISTed as having been employed in the case, and for their services they received a total of \$32,400, in amounts ranging from \$200 to \$10,000, the latter sum being paid to Dr. Matthew D. Mann, of Buffalo, evidently the physician in charge. Undertakers' fees were \$2,387; special services of various kinds called for \$1,995; nurses were paid \$2,300; and miscellaneous expenses are listed at \$3,499.88. The smallest sums paid were 45 cents for a post mortem cast and \$1.63 to a Buffalo vehicle company.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT SENATOR Hanna had paid out of his own pocket a sum equal to that paid by the government, in order that the payments might not become the subject of petty gossip. Senator Hanna, as is well known, was largely responsible for McKinley's nomination as the Republican candidate for president in 1896. Back of that nomination was a strong personal friendship of many years. The late Fred Lincoln, many years ago city editor of the Herald, was an officer in the capitol police in Washington at the time of McKinley's assassination. While the body of the departed president lay in state in the rotunda of the capitol, Lincoln had charge of the guards stationed at the casket. He told how, moving slowly in the long procession of mourners, Hanna paused to take a last look on the features of his old friend, and then the industrial magnate and hard-boiled political boss broke down and wept like a child.

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A LITTLE ARTICLE IN LAST week's Saturday Evening Post gave the following example of the oddities that are to be found in numbers:

Write down the digits 1 4 2 8 5 7 in that order. Multiply that quantity by 2 and the result will be the same digits in the same order, but beginning at a different place. Multiply the original number successively by 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the result will always be the same digits, in the same order but beginning in a different place, thus:

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1 4 2 8 5 7
2 8 5 7 1 4
4 2 8 5 7 1
5 7 1 4 2 8
7 1 4 2 8 5
8 5 7 1 4 2
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THAT IS WHERE THE POST ARTICLE stops, but the experiment may be continued further with interesting results. If the above numbers are added the sum will be found to be 2 9 9 9 9 7. Now take the initial 2 from that quantity and add it to the final 7 and the result is 9 9 9 9 9. Again, multiply the original number by 7 and you have the same string of 9's: 9 9 9 9 9. Still further, multiply the original number by 8 and the result is 1 1 4 2 8 7 6. Take the initial 1 and add it to the final 6 and you have the original number with all the digits in the same order. Multiply the original number by 9 and you get 1 2 8 5 7 1 3. Again take the initial digit 1 and add it to the final 3 and you have the original digits, but in the same order as when the original number is multiplied by 2.

The digits 3, 6 and 9 do not appear in the original number or any of the products when the multiplier is 6 or a lesser number, but when the multipliers 7, 8 and 9 are used the products contain successively the digits 9, 6 and 3. Probably other interesting and mysterious features may be found on further examination.

THE POST ARTICLE ALSO GIVES A puzzle in which one is invited to write his house number, multiply it, add something to it, multiply again and add his age, add something and subtract something else, and the last two figures of the result will be his age and the others his house number. It looks quite mysterious, but it is merely a variation of a familiar form which in the last analysis amounts to this: Think of a number, add 24, subtract 24, and the result will be the number of which you thought.

JUST NOW THERE IS A LOT OF conversation about who may vote and who may not vote. Questions of poll tax, residence, army or navy service and several other things enter into it. Perhaps other people may think our rules are complicated. But the British, too, have their queer voting habits. In Britain one who owns taxable property may vote in each of the districts in which his property lies, provided he can get to each of them before the polls close. On the other hand, Lord Halifax, British ambassador to the United States and a former member of the British cabinet, cannot vote even when he is at home. He is a peer of the realm, and peers of the realm have no vote in Britain.

IN CANADA YEARS AGO A MINISTER of the gospel was entitled to exemption from taxation, but if he claimed exemption he surrendered his right to vote. The basic theory was that he could not vote to influence legislation from which he might be the personal beneficiary. I don't know whether or not that rule still prevails. Rev. D. B. McRae, who served for some 40 years as Presbyterian pastor of churches in the villages of Ethel and Cranbrook in Huron county, Ontario, was a Highland Scott who believed in speaking his mind and casting his vote, just as he pleased. He wouldn't give up his right to vote in order to save a few dollars. He paid his taxes regularly and voted just as regularly, like the sturdy, independent old chap that he was.

ONE STUDENT OF THE WAR, WHO has contracted lockjaw trying to pronounce the unpronounceable names of some of those towns on the Russian front, such as Dniepropetrovsk, wonders why the Russians don't put themselves more in line with western civilization and substitute simpler names such as we have in the United States; for example, Canajoharie, Kankakee, Oshkosh, Keokuk, Schenectady, Cochituate and East Mauch Chunk. But I'll bet they won't do it.

THOSE UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATIONS in the occupied countries of Europe do some remarkable things and get away with it. Among other things the Polish underground published in Warsaw a magazine which is issued twice a month and which has a large circulation in spite of all that the Nazi-controlled police can do. Recently the magazine offered a prize for the best patriotic poem. The responses were so numerous that two prizes were awarded and special mention was made of a poem the manuscript of which was thrown into a crowd by the girl author on her way to be executed.



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IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THE other day Benjamin Franklin's almanac was said to be the most popular almanac. Franklin's almanac was popular in its day, and it had a wide circulation considering the small area along the Atlantic seaboard which was actually inhabited. Popular in its own time, it has also remained a sort of literary landmark to which reference is often made as one of the evidences of cultural conditions in the period in which it was published. But for actual popularity, in respect to wide circulation and habitual use my vote would be cast for Ayer's almanac, without which no farm kitchen of 50 years ago would have been considered properly equipped.

PERHAPS AYER'S ALMANAC IS still published. I don't know. I haven't seen one in many years. As a source of information concerning days of the month and so forth it performed the function which has since been taken over by the wall calendar, but that was but a small part of its service. It told all about what kind of weather to expect all through the year, and its predictions were quite as accurate as are any of the long-range predictions now made. Invariably it predicted colder weather for January than for June, and in that respect it was always right. If rain was forecast for the Fourth of July it was reasonably sure to rain within a few days of that date, if not in one place, in some other, and what greater accuracy could one ask?

BUT THE ALMANAC DID NOT CONfine itself to dates and weather. There were the signs of the Zodiac. The page devoted to that abstruse subject was illustrated with a large drawing of the human figure with the covering of the abdomen neatly unfolded to reveal the inner mechanism, and around the figure were the 12 signs, Libra, Aries, and so forth, with lines indicating to what part of the human anatomy each sign was related. In the calendar part were small symbols showing the sign which governed each date.

NOBODY KNEW EXACTLY WHAT those signs meant, so each person could, and did, place his own interpretation on them. No two interpretations agreed, but each person had complete faith in his own, which made it more or less unanimous. One farmer would plant his crops only when the "sign was right." His neighbor thought that was ridiculous, but he consulted the almanac to determine just when to kill his hogs so that the meat would keep properly. Others placed greater reliance on the moon, whose changes were illustrated by appropriate pictures.

THE ALMANAC ALSO HAD ITS LITerary and artistic features. At the bottom of each page were little anecdotes, some of which were intended to be amusing— and some of them were. Many of those anecdotes are still being told as original, and acts and utterances of the politician, the business magnate, the socialite, the hod-carrier and the washerwoman of that period are now ascribed to their political, business or social successors of today. Art was represented by little woodcuts adorning the top of each page, usually representing scenes from farm life. There were, too, passages telling which of the remedies manufactured by the publishers to use in case of actual or threatened illness or accident. Our Ayer's almanac hung on a particular nail in the kitchen. It was never lost or mislaid, but always was treated with the respect due a publication so indispensable.

SOMEBODY WANTS TO KNOW what is an atoll, of which we read so often in dispatches from the South Pacific. The books tells us that in general an atoll is a ring of coral, usually mixed with much other material, surrounding a body of water called a lagoon. In the lagoon there may be one or several is lands, and the coral ring itself may be dotted with islets and may contain channels through which ships may pass. In the Marshall islands, where our forces are now operating, there is an unusually large atoll enclosing a space approximately 75 miles in greatest length and averaging about 15 miles in width. With in this irregular lagoon are many small islands while the atoll itself is dotted with islets and broken by several channels, some of which are navigable. On the south end of the atoll is the island of Kwajalein, the main Japanese stronghold in that area, and at the northern angle is the island of Rio, where the Japanese had an important airfield and which was captured by our forces in one of the earliest American landings. For pronunciation of the word atoll Webster gives preference to accent on the second syllable, with accent on the first syllable given second place. In both cases both vowels are short.

That Reminds Me

# *Exaggerate Cold Spells*

By W. P. Davies

IT SEEMS NECESSARY EVERY LITTLE while to do something, not to keep the weather record straight, but to straighten it out after it has gone haywire. I refer to the record that is carried in people's heads, not to the official one that they keep at the University weather station. The unusual mildness of January, followed by the recent little dip below zero, has made the weather a topic of general conversation, and there has been more than the usual quantity of 40-below-zero talk. Over and over have been repeated the familiar stories of the old winters in which for weeks at a time the temperature dropped to 40 below zero or lower and never got more than a few degrees above that point in the daytime.

THE FACT IS THAT THERE HAS never been such weather at Grand Forks in all the years that the government has maintained its weather station at the University. The lowest temperature ever recorded at this station was 44 below zero, which was reached on the morning of February 1, 1893, and that temperature has never been equalled here since then. On two- or three occasions (I haven't the exact number) the temperature has reached minus 40, but except in the one case mentioned it has never gone below that.

HOW DID THOSE STORIES OF EXCESSIVELY low temperatures originate? For one thing, the thermometers were to blame. I remember one right cold morning in the eighties when my thermometer registered 50 below. That was before the University station was established, and the temperature may have been somewhere in the 40's. But mine was a 25-cent thermometer, reasonably accurate in moderate temperatures, but likely to perform all sorts of tricks in midwinter or on a burning day in July. Such were the thermometers in common use, and many of the cheap thermometers in use today are equally erratic.

THEN THERE IS THE TENDENCY after many years to think of the exceptional things as typical. One remembers two or three bad storms of a winter 50 years ago, and those few storms give that winter a worse reputation than it deserves. But let us start all over again with an official record of one morning temperature of minus 44, perhaps two or three minus 40, and nothing lower.

WE WHO LIVE IN THIS AREA HAVE been fortunate in this winter's weather, not only because it has usually been comfortable to move around out of doors, but because demands on the fuel supply have been far less than usual. Early in the winter there was the prospect of shortage of some kinds of fuel which would necessarily cut rationed allowances considerably below those of last winter. That had not been necessary, but even if it had been we should still have been more comfortable than some of our neighbors.

THE GREAT CITY OF NEW YORK has been experiencing something approaching a fuel famine. So great has been the scarcity of coal there for domestic heating that local fuel stations have been established in many parts of the city and to them shivering householders repair in person, buy 50 or 100 pounds of coal and carry it home in sacks. It's a trite but true saying that often we don't know when we are well off.

IN THIS COUNTRY IT IS SO CUSTOMARY for persons elected to office to be residents of the constituencies which elect them that anything else seems utterly foreign to our system. But while residence in one's own constituency is customary, it is not always necessary, even in the United States. Thus, while a representative in congress must be a resident of the state in which he is elected, he need not be a resident of the congressional district which elects him. In North Dakota our two representatives are elected at large, but most states are divided into districts. In Minnesota, for instance, a resident of Crookston might legally represent Ramsey county in congress if the people of that district chose to elect him.

## By W. P. Davies

SOME TIME AGO MENTION WAS made in this column of an article in the Christian Science magazine which told of the manner in which Dickens' "Christinas Carol" had taken hold on the public imagination. Among other things the magazine referred to "a professor in a Southern university" who began to read the "Carol 30 years ago and travelled thousands of miles to do so, often through severe blizzards." The article did not give the name of the professor who quite obviously was Dr. Frederick H. Koch, a former member of the faculty of the University of North Dakota, and whose numerous readings of the "Carol" while here are well and happily remembered.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MAGAZINE publishes a letter from Dr. Koch, who for many years has been head of the department of dramatic art at the University of North Carolina, and whose attention had been called to the article. The following paragraphs are quoted from the letter:

"I WONDER IF I AM RIGHT IN thinking that the Southern professor referred to in your article is me? If so, the person who informed you of my identity did not make it clear that I began reading the Carol as a young instructor at the University of North Dakota 39 years ago and continued reading it there and various places in the West for 12 Christmases.

"You may be interested in knowing that this year (my 39th) I traveled by bus 2,241 miles, playing in 18 cities and towns in North Carolina, to a total audience of nearly 30,000, and that I am already looking forward to the next year!"

The editor of the magazine added the comment: "Yes, Professor, it's you."

THERE HAS BEEN RUNNING IN some of the New York papers a discussion of bald men and some comments have been made on the influence, if any, of baldness on human behavior. One writer maintains that when a youngish man begins to show symptoms of baldness he is invariably made the subject of jesting remarks by his more hirsute associates. This, thinks the writer, stimulates him to make the most of his natural qualities of mind and heart, with the result that he becomes the highly intelligent, genial person that the baldheaded man always is.

THAT IS A PLAUSIBLE THEORY and I shall not dispute it. The discussion of baldness touched on the more general one of the influence of personal appearance on character. Mention was made of John Barrymore, who was not bald but became famous, among other things, for his handsome profile. What had his profile to do with the shaping of his career. Certainly it did not prevent him from making a sad mess of his life. But one writer suggests that quite probably it influenced him in his choice of a profession, for personal appearance counts for something on the stage. John's profile, therefore, may have been in part responsible for his becoming the great actor that he was.

ON THAT SUBJECT THERE IS ROOM for debate. John's profile may have helped him to get his start on the stage, and doubtless it proved an asset in his work. But the chances are that if he had been as ugly as Caliban he would still have gone on the stage and become a great actor. He couldn't have helped it, for he had it in his blood.

I KNEW OF ONE MAN MANY years ago who was commonly regarded as a failure in life whose character was supposed to have been diverted from its proper course by the fact that he was bald. He was one of a large family. His parents were outstanding members of the farm community in which they lived and all his brothers and sisters were models of good behavior and worthy children of their parents. Dick became bald when scarcely out of his teens, and, as usual, he was the butt of innumerable facetious remarks. Unlike many others who have lost their hair, he was keenly sensitive, and he shrank from company where his baldness would be noted. If he could avoid it he never went places where he would be expected to remove his hat. That meant that he excluded himself from gatherings of young people normally of his own kind, and, as he was socially minded, he found company in barrooms where he could wear his hat.

DICK BECAME KNOWN AS THE black sheep of his family, and I suppose that in a way he earned that reputation. In my boyhood I knew him as a man of middle age. I saw him sometimes at the village store, and I couldn't see much the matter with him. He was a bachelor, a pleasant, humorous chap, who seemed to have got over his sensitiveness over being bald. He was a successful farmer and I never heard his integrity questioned. He tumbled a little—not much—and on the whole he seemed to me a pretty good sort. But the legend of an ill-spent youth clung to him and he was the subject of innumerable moral dissertations. The lesson to be learned, I gathered, was, first, not to become bald; second, if that were unavoidable, to make the best of it.

**By W. P Davies**

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT GAVE unreserved approval to the principles set forth in the Atlantic Charter. It participated freely in the Moscow and Teheran conferences and at the close of the latter it joined in the statement of principles and policies then set forth. The chief features of that document were the declaration by the signatories that they would jointly prosecute the war against Germany with unremitting vigor until complete military victory were won, and the further pledge that after that victory they would co-operate wholeheartedly in the establishment of a just and enduring peace.

WITHOUT QUESTION RUSSIA HAS been prosecuting the war vigorously. Her armies have won victory after victory, have re-occupied most of the Russian territory once held by the Germans, have freed their important cities and have inflicted disastrous punishment on the enemy. Instead of being held in check at any important point their forces are sweeping forward with increased momentum, until it becomes a question whether or not there is any line along which the Germans can establish themselves to present effective resistance.

SENSATIONAL AS HAVE BEEN THE achievements of the Russian armies in the field they are matched by the equally striking moves made by the Russian government in the field of international relations. Without consultation with her associates with whom she promised cooperation in necessary post-war adjustments she has taken upon herself the responsibility of determining the future of post-war middle Europe. She has flatly declared her purpose to fix the eastern Boundary of Poland. She insists that the Baltic states shall be included in her Soviet system. She proposes to be the dominant influence in the Balkans.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT none of the states extending down central Europe from the Baltic to the Black sea can fix its own boundaries and determine its own political status without paying some attention to the interests and desires of its neighbors. If peace is to be maintained on any other basis than by perpetual force of arms conflicting claims must be compromised and adjustments must be made on a reasonably equitable basis. The clear meaning of the Atlantic Charter and the Teheran declaration is that such considerations shall govern, and that Russia, Britain and the United States, the three great military powers engaged in the war against Germany, shall jointly assist in bringing about such agreements as will best contribute to stability and real progress.

DESPITE THE DECLARATIONS which she has made, Russia appears to be determined to follow an independent course without reference to what may be the wishes of her associates. That attitude is embarrassing and confusing to the governments of the United States and Great Britain. These two nations are also fighting Germany, and fighting to some purpose. Their efforts have helped to make possible the victories that Russian armies have won, and they, too, are making enormous sacrifices to bring the war to a successful conclusion. And they, as well as Russia, have a vital interest in the creation of conditions in central Europe as well as elsewhere which will afford a reasonable guarantee that the world is not soon to be plunged into another war.

THE FACT CANNOT BE DISGUISED that the attitude of Russia is disquieting and disturbing. Conceding this, what shall we do about it? If Russia insists on having her own way about central European boundaries, what is to prevent her? If she insists on annexing or retaining the Baltic states and a large share of Poland; if she refuses to be influenced by persuasion, certainly neither the United States nor Great Britain will attempt to compel her by the use of force.

ASSUMING THAT THE SITUATION is as unsatisfactory as it seems, it does not change the basic fact that the only hope of relief from the threat of war lies in Russian, American and British co-operation. No rational person ever expected complete unanimity. It was self-evident that notwithstanding the best possible intent there must remain among these nations questions that could not be resulted at the moment, but which must be permitted to lie over for later discussion. And if Russia proves on some points more unyielding than was hoped it will nevertheless be necessary for the other powers to collaborate with her freely on all matters concerning which agreement can be reached. Because we do not like some features in the course of our neighbors we cannot withdraw behind our own walls, shut the door and turn the key in the lock. We do not need to yield assent to what we do not approve, but we can go along with our neighbor as far as he will go along with us.

That Reminds Me

# Resent Foreign Advice

By W. P. Davies

GOVERNOR BRICKER OF OHIO, candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, criticized a recent suggestion in some British paper that the re-election of President Roosevelt would on the Whole be more desirable than a change in the American administration at this time. The governor thought that it would be well for the British press to permit the people of the United States to choose their presidents without interference from abroad. Most Americans will agree with him. Quite naturally we are apt to resent as an impertinence suggestions from the outside concerning the management of our political affairs, and because of that feeling such suggestions are more likely to back-fire than to influence decisions in the direction which might be preferred by the commentator.

WHILE IT IS OBVIOUSLY UNWISE for the commentator, whether in the press or on the platform, to offer advice to the people of another country concerning matters which they properly regard as their own business, opinions will be formed and preferences will be created. And it would be next to impossible to avoid some expression of those opinions and preferences short of a rigid censorship which would not be tolerated in any free country. Popular opinion about the political affairs of another country is necessarily based on imperfect information. The foreigner knows as little about our domestic affairs as we know about his. Our opinion, like his, is necessarily based on those features with which we have come into immediate contact, and back of those things there may be a thousand others of which we have no knowledge.

WE DO NOT WELCOME BRITISH Suggestions concerning our choice of a president. If a British election campaign were under way the British would prefer that we keep out of it. But many of us would have quite decided opinions whether the Churchill administration should be sustained or defeated. Those opinions would not be all one way, but whatever they might be, some of them would be expressed, sometimes moderately and objectively, and perhaps in some cases with fierce partisanship. Those things need to be accepted with proper allowance and in the exercise of the sense of humor.

GOVERNOR BRICKER'S REMONSTRANCE against the behavior of the unidentified British paper recalls another case which was the subject of much comment years ago. It was in 1888 and there was to be an election that fall. Cleveland was serving his first term and was a candidate for re-election. Sackville-West, an able and experienced man, was British ambassador in Washington. He received from Pomona, California, a letter in which the writer described himself as a former British subject, but now a naturalized citizen of the United States. The writer asked the ambassador for guidance in the forthcoming election. He wished to vote, he said, for the candidate whose administration would be most likely to be favorable to Great Britain. Sackville-West replied in a pleasant letter, expressing gratification that his correspondent still had such a warm regard for the country of his birth. On the whole, he said, he believed that the British might expect a greater degree of friendship from the Democrats than from their opponents.

IMMEDIATELY THE TWO LETTERS were published and the fat was in the fire. The Pomona letter was written to entrap the ambassador and provide material that could be used in the Republican campaign. And it worked. A high official of the British government was trying to influence an American election! What a commotion there was! Cleveland promptly had the ambassador's passports handed to him with the invitation to take the first ship for home. Cleveland was defeated. Whether or not that correspondence had anything to do with the result of the election one cannot say.

THE POMONA MAN WROTE SEVERAL other similar letters to others with British connections, but I think Sackville-West was the only one who stepped into the trap. One letter went to a high Canadian official in Ottawa, but that official merely sent a courteous reply saying that he could not advise an American citizen about the casting of his vote in an American election.

## By W.P. Davies

IT IS THE PRACTICE OF THE HERALD, as of many other papers, to summarize bits of news that appeared in its columns years ago and that are gleaned from its files. The custom of this newspaper has been to confine those reminiscent items to occurrences respectively of 30, 20 and 10 years ago. The time might easily be extended to twice 30 years, for the Herald's files reach back nearly 65 years. However, the present custom covers the period of which most of the older residents of the community have personal knowledge, and to go much further back would be like entering on the field of ancient history.

HOWEVER, THINGS DID HAPPEN before those of this generation lived and before our modern newspapers were published. Today we are in the middle of a war. One hundred years ago our predecessors were also preparing for a war. Just now we are on the fringe of a presidential campaign. A century ago a presidential campaign was approaching, and while the United States of that day had not as great population as our present 132 millions, Americans of a century ago were as intensely interested in the issues presented as most of us are interested today in supporting or lambasting the New Deal or in questions of isolation and international co-operation.

THE DOMESTIC QUESTION OVER which our predecessors of a century ago were most greatly exercised was that of slavery. The subject had been a controversial one ever since the founding of the nation. Slave holding in the Northern states had become economically undesirable, while in the South it was profitable. The South wished to retain its slaves, while the attitude of the North had been chiefly one of indifference. As one means of bringing the Southern colonies into the union the Northern states acquiesced in the enactment of a fugitive slave law which for several years was scarcely operative. But when teeth were put in the law and Northern people were required to return fugitive slaves to their masters an impetus was given to abolition sentiment in the North and the subject became a direct issue between the two sections.

IT WAS IN THE ATMOSPHERE thus created that the campaign of 1844 was conducted. Texas had applied for admission to the United States. Texas had been a province of Mexico, had seceded, and had set up its own government. The South desired the admission of Texas because it would add one, and several slave states to the union and strengthen the South in congress. The North opposed admission for the same reasons. The Democrats nominated Polk as their candidate for president. He was in favor of annexation and friendly to the South. Henry Clay was the Whig candidate.

CLAY HAS BEEN CALLED THE "great compromiser." Probably in these days he would be called the "great appeaser." He was opposed to the annexation of Texas, but he did not wish to antagonize the South. Because his attitude was not sufficiently positive to please them the abolitionists refused to vote for him and he lost the state of New York and the election. Folk's election and with it the election of a Democratic congress meant the annexation of Texas and the adoption of a militant attitude toward Mexico.

THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN TEXAS and Mexico had never been clearly defined. Polk sent an army to the Rio Grande which Mexico considered wholly within her territory. Mexico resisted and the war began which resulted in acquisition by the United States of the territory which later became the states of California, Arizona and New Mexico. Such were some of the issues in the presidential campaign of 100 years ago.

IT WAS IN THAT PERIOD, TOO, that the passing of the Whig party from the political scene began. The party had tried to carry water on both shoulders, and the water spilled. Probably if it had adopted a definite policy and stood by it unflinchingly the Republican party would not have been born a few years.

## By W. P. Davies

INCREASED PRODUCTION OF food is generally accepted as necessary. It is quite certain that the people of the United States will need as much food this year as they needed last year. Our armed forces will require more food than before, because our men are continually being sent into all parts of the world and inevitably there will be a greater proportion of wastage in handling, transportation and combat. As our forces liberate more and more areas from Axis occupation the possibility of supplying food to those desperately in need of it will be greatly increased, and that situation must be met with still greater supplies of food.

HENCE FOOD PRODUCTION BEcomes the concern of our military commanders, our government agencies and our philanthropic groups. Urgent appeals are being made for the production of food wherever it can be produced. There are needed more and better victory gardens and more commercial production.

SOME COMPLICATIONS HAVE ATTended the response to demands for more food. Chickens and pigs make good food and they can be raised in small space. But when people get to raising pigs by the dozen or chickens by the thousand in the compact residence communities of cities or villages it may be necessary to call on the health department to abate a nuisance. In the country at large there have been many cases of that kind. And some of the villages on Long Island, New York, are passing ordinances to restrain commercial gardening within or near their precincts.

IN THE MATTER OF GARDENING the greatest trouble of which those villagers complain is with potatoes. Potato growing there has become highly profitable and much of the available land in or close to those villages has been worked over into potato farms. At certain times and in certain conditions of weather the growing and harvesting of potatoes raises considerable dust, and housewives of the aforesaid villages complain of clouds of dust that damage curtains, rugs and furniture and vastly increase the labor of housekeeping. Hence it is proposed to prohibit commercial truck farming in areas under municipal jurisdiction. While the ordinances are inclusive in their terms, they are aimed particularly at potatoes.

THOSE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX blanks are something fearful and wonderful, but if the individual who has no income other than his personal salary or wage and needs to pay taxes only on that finds it difficult to follow the ramifications of the tax return, think of the job with which his boss has to wrestle. He may be operating a small business with a small force, but every day in the year he must watch his P's and Q's to make sure that he doesn't violate some regulation, and often the regulations are in direct conflict with each other. If he follows the wrong one it's just too bad for him.

THE PROPHET DANIEL HAS SOMething to say about "a time, and times, and half a time." Maybe the wages and hours people were trying to copy that, but it doesn't appear that Daniel knew anything about time-and-a-half. But then we have made progress in other directions as well since Daniel's time. And when the business men—no matter how small he may be—comes to make up his income tax return, they must report on everything that he has done and explain why. He must account for all that he has bought, sold or manufactured. He must tell what everything cost and what he got for it. He must list all the expenses of his business and be prepared to explain why each item was necessary. He must add and subtract, multiply, divide and extract the square root of a bewildering mass of figures, and he is expected to come through with the right answer. Compared with all this the individual tax return is simplicity itself.

THE TROUBLE WITH THAT INDIVIDUAL return is that it was prepared by experts who understood it. Because they were experts and understood the thing they thought that everybody else would understand it. What they should have done was to submit it to a lot of the people who would have to use it and let them fix it so that they could understand it without being higher mathematicians.

## By W.P. Davies

MY REMARKS ABOUT AYER'S ALmanac some time ago brought, recollections of old times to K. S. Groth of Mayville, to whom that publication was familiar years ago. Moreover, he sends me a copy of the issue of 1864 which has been passed on from one member of his family to another through all these 80 years. The almanac has a familiar appearance to me, although it had undergone some changes in the few years before I became old enough to know what an almanac was and what use was made of it.

IT HAS THE SAME YELLOW COVER adorned with the picture of the long-bearded sage studying some book of wisdom while around him are retorts and other scientific appliances and the goddess of something-or-other holds a wreath over his head. There are also the familiar weather predictions. I notice that for various times in February the people are promised "Milder," "Snow storm," "Rain," "High winds," "Warmer in the south but bleak in the north," "Heavy rain south, blustering snow storm north." It would be reasonably safe to make these predictions for February.

AMONG TESTIMONIALS TO THE efficacy of the remedies prepared by the publishers are several purporting to come from distinguished persons in foreign countries, among them the assistant secretary of foreign relations in Mexico; El Hassan, ruling pasha of Trebizond; the archbishop of Peru; George C. Marsh, American ambassador to Turkey; and the secretary to the president of Peru. There are also endorsements by American jurists, university presidents, a governor of Indiana, and one by "N. Longworth, of Cincinnati, the celebrated first wine grower of America and the richest man in the west." In later days we have known of a Nicholas Longworth, of Cincinnati, member of the national house of representatives who married Alice Roosevelt and served as speaker of the house. Was the "N. Longworth" of the testimonial Nick's grandfather?

WHEN THAT EDITION OF THE ALmanac was published the Civil war was hearing the close of its third year, and while the confederates had suffered severe reverses and were gradually worn down, there was another year's hard fighting to be done. A New Orleans paper is quoted with a description of the manner in which the publisher's medicines had been got through the blockade of the southern states, one shipment having gone from the manufacturers to England and thence by way of Nassau to the Gulf coast.

IN THE FORMER COMMENT I MENTIONED the anecdotes and pithy sayings that appeared at the bottom of each calendar page. Here are a few samples:

"AT SIXTEEN A WOMAN PREFERS the best dancer in the room; at twenty-two the best dancer; at thirty the richest man."

"To the poor wounded soldiers, who have had too much grape and canister, send grape juice and canisters of preserves."

"Public opinion is often led and controlled by the sentiments of women." That was more than fifty years, before woman suffrage.

"A stone thrown at a dog, in Washington, hit six generals. Not one of them had ever been so near danger before."

"O, Lord, we pray that we may not despise our rulers! And we pray that they may not behave so that we cannot help it."

"Woman — the only enduring aristocrat — elects without ballot, governs without law, and decides without appeal."

ONE OF THE FAMILIAR COMEDY characters of that period was "Mrs. Partington," a widow who was continually getting her words tangled, somewhat after the fashion of the "Mrs. Malaprop" of Sheridan's comedy. Her son, Isaac, and her family physician, Dr. Bolus served as useful foils. The almanac gives a few of her sapient remarks, of which the following is a specimen:

"SOME PEOPLE TAKE AYER'S ILlimitable Pills for neurology," said Mrs. Partington, "and others subscribe other things; but for my part I shall always believe there is nothing better than a shock of an ecclesiastical battery. It prevents the circumlocution of the blood and restores the equal Abraham of the 'cistern."



## By W. P. Davies

WINSTON CHURCHILL IS KNOWN to the world of today as the premier of Great Britain and one of the great leaders in international affairs. He has been by turns war correspondent, soldier and thorn in the side of British political parties. For entertainment and exercise he builds brick walls on his own estate. He is one of the world's most effective public speakers, and he has written some books, and articles in great number.

SOMETIME IN 1930, CHURCHILL wrote for Scribner's magazine an article which would be interesting reading just now, both from the character of the subject matter itself and because it affords an opportunity to make some comparison between the thinking of the Churchill of today with that of the Churchill of 1930. The article presents in intriguing form the author's guess at what would have been the influence on the United, States and the world "if Lee had won the battle of Gettysburg."

AS WE KNOW VERY WELL, LEE did not win the battle of Gettysburg, but the author, writing in 1930, assumes that he did, and accepts as accomplished fact the events which he supposes might have flown from Lee's victory. Proceeding from that supposed factual situation he supposes that if the result of the battle had been different the things that have actually happened would have happened. He reverses the method usually employed in speculating on what would have been the grand result if some important event of long ago had turned out differently.

CHURCHILL'S IMAGINATIVE OUTLINE of history subsequent to Lee's supposed victory is interesting. Lee succeeded Davis as president of the Confederacy and declared that the Confederacy would pursue no policy toward slavery not in accord with the moral sense of western Europe. That satisfied those British who had supported the Union because of the slavery issue and the Confederate government was accordingly recognized by Great Britain. For the liberated slaves institutions were created suited to their own cultural development and an honorable place was provided for them within the new commonwealth.

SPECULATING ON THE POSSIBILITY of Lee's defeat and the ultimate downfall of the Confederacy, Churchill suggests the possibility of just what actually occurred in the reconstruction period with its excesses and scandals. Here the author seems to have overlooked the possibility that Lincoln might not have been assassinated, and it is fairly certain that if Lincoln had lived' the reconstruction period would have been quite different from what it was.

WITH THE SLAVERY ISSUE OUT OF way and the Confederacy strengthened by British recognition, the Civil war is supposed to have ceased, but for some years there was friction between the two sections. Presently Theodore Roosevelt became president of the United States and Woodrow Wilson of the Confederacy, and the two nations, with Great Britain under the leadership of Balfour, entered into a compact for the suppression of violent aggression throughout the world. Had it not been for that association of the English-speaking peoples, says Churchill, just such a disaster might have come upon the world as that which was experienced in the first World war. As it was, he says, notice was served on all the mobilized powers that "failing a peaceful outcome, the association must deem itself ipso facto at war with any power in either combination whose troops invaded the territory of its neighbor.

THAT DECLARATION SERVES ITS purpose. Military movements were halted, differences were adjusted, and peace reigned. Presently continental nations themselves joined in a like beneficent association of their own. The kaiser, thus saved from the commission of a fatal error, reigned in peace and dignity, whereas, had history been written differently, he might not have spent his last days a dishonored exile—as he did.

THIS PRESENTATION TO CHURCHILL'S views of more than a dozen years ago on one way to insure the peace of the world is interesting just now when Churchill is likely to be one of the men charged with the duty of devising methods to insure world peace.

## By W. P. Davits

DIRECTORS OF OFFICIAL PUBLICITY in the United States and in Great Britain have complained that military censorship covering the operations on the Nettuno-Anzio beachhead in Italy was altogether too strict. That, at least, is their opinion of the censorship during the tense period in which the Germans, having wrested the initiative from the Allies, were mercilessly pounding at the line from which our men were unable to advance, and which they could hold only by almost superhuman exertion.

THE CONDITIONS AS DESCRIBED in the brief summaries that were permitted to pass were sufficiently grave to create doubt and anxiety. Following their initial landings, the Allied troops had occupied some 12 or 15 miles of the beach, and during their early movements they encountered only negligible opposition. The Germans seem to have been taken completely by surprise. Our troops began at once to move inland. But the Germans, sensed the danger with which they were threatened. They brought reinforcements from Cassino; although there they were striving desperately to hold the Allies back; from Rome, only 20 miles away; and several crack units from northern Italy.

THE ALLIED DRIVE INLAND WAS slowed down, and when it reached a distance of 10 to 15 miles from the coast it was stopped. With full use of the inland roads the Germans had brought tanks and armored cars with which they sought to crush resistance. Their guns on the heights just beyond the coastal plain commanded the scene below and they had brought in a strong air force to contest control of the air with Allied planes and disrupt the landing of Allied supplies.

THE ALLIED FORCES WERE CONTAINED within a small space bounded on one side by a few miles of beach and on the other three sides by a roughly semicircular line along which the enemy was disposed in superior force, with all the advantage of position, terrain and communications. The landing of their reinforcements and supplies was interrupted by bad weather and enemy planes, and the same bad weather prevented our planes from operating in sufficient force to neutralize the roads over which the enemy's men and vehicles were moving. Our men were clearly on the defensive. For days the most favorable information that came from the front was that our forces with desperate tenacity had been able to hold their ground, and here and there the enemy had even pushed back the line.

THAT SITUATION HAS BEEN changed. The first major assault by the enemy has been stopped and he has been forced to reorganize for a further effort. More favorable weather has enabled our planes to operate effectively against German communications and artillery positions. We have landed more armored vehicles and more men. For a time, at least, we have regained the initiative which the Germans once held. General Alexander says that we shall move on to Rome without aid from the Cassino front. And German propaganda, intended for home consumption, is clearly intended to prepare the German people for news of further reverses.

THAT OUR FORCES ON THE front were for a time in grave danger is beyond question. Was the danger greater or less than it appeared to be? Did military censorship cause withholding of facts essential to the presentation of the true picture? The American office of war information and its British news parallel seem to think that it did. Certainly the answer cannot be given by those who are thousands of miles from the scene and have no opportunity to know the inside facts.

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, CERTAIN features of war communication that ought to be clear both to the lay and to the military mind. At a time when the fate of a battle or a campaign may rest on what may appear to be the most trivial facts, information which can be of service to the enemy must be rigorously repressed, no matter how eager the public may be for news and no matter how badly it may misunderstand the reasons for withholding it. In general that fact if recognized, and the public as a whole has been able to curb its impatience when news from a battle front is not forthcoming. And almost without exception newspapers at home and their representatives abroad have co-operated faithfully with the military, notwithstanding occasional differences of judgment.

BUT IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD with equal clearness that while it is necessary for the military arm to require suppression of information which will be useful to the enemy, it is not the business of the military or any other arm of government to withhold from the public essential information because of possible influence of that information on public sentiment. Except in respect to matters purely military the public is entitled to know the essential facts and to apply that information as it sees fit. No public agency, military or civilian, is the custodian or guardian of public sentiment. The people have the right to do their own thinking and develop their own attitudes. If the news of the day is depressing they have a right to feel depressed, and if it is cheerful they have a right to feel cheerful. It is not the function of any public agency to tell them whether to smile or weep.

**By W. P. Davies**

GLANCING THROUGH AN OLD FILE of clippings in search of something else I stumbled upon two stories about William Alien White, famous editor of the Emporia, Kansas, Gazette, both of which are now so old that it seems proper to repeat them in view of Editor White's recent death. The first is that at one time he kissed the hand of a negro lady while in Haiti. He had been sent to Haiti by President Hoover as a member of a commission to examine conditions there, report findings and make recommendations. The newspaper report, published at the time, that he had kissed the hand of one of the negro ladies of the island republic brought forth considerable comment and caused some amusement.

THE OTHER STORY IS OF HIS BEING horsewhipped by a lady caller in his own office. The Gazette had contained an article which gave offense to the lady — if she was a lady. That kind of thing was not at all unusual in the history of the Gazette, for White usually spoke his mind quite freely and he rubbed the fur of a good many people the wrong way. This time the offended lady called in person, pulled a blacksnake whip from under her jacket and let him have it. Naturally, White couldn't fight a lady, so he did the only sensible thing and took to his heels. He slipped out the back way and down an alley and outdistanced his assailant.

HE WAS IN AN EMBARRASSING situation. News of the encounter was certain to be all over the town within a few hours, so suppressing the story was out of the question. The incident contained material for endless hilarity at White's expense. I have always admired his resourcefulness on that occasion. He wrote the story for the paper himself, telling it in the third person. His account was quite accurate and objective, containing no aspersions on the lady in question. It was touched here and there with humor and ended with this sentence: "And you ought to have seen that fat old duffer run."

Everybody laughed, but with White, and not at him. Whether or not the lady laughed I never heard.

THERE WAS NOTHING ESPECIALLY humorous about White kissing the hand of the negro lady. Haiti is known as the black republic. To understand how black it is one needs to visit it. During the revolution of the early years of the last century the white residents — mostly French — who did not escape were massacred. One report has it that when Dessaline, one of the revolutionary leaders, had made himself master of the situation, he tore the white stripe from the French tri-colored flag and stamped it under his feet, saying that he would not have white even in the flag of his country.

TODAY PRACTICALLY ALL THE residents of Haiti are black, except the few transients who are engaged in business there for foreign firms. The blackness is of different degrees. With the masses it is the unrelieved blackness of equatorial Africa. In the upper strata there are traces of white blood. But many families in high social and official positions are coal black. William Alien White and his co-commissioners were guests at a reception held in their honor by the president of Haiti and his associates. The hostesses were cultured women, most of them educated in France, as was the custom. Their gowns were from the best Paris designers and their jewels matched their gowns in cost and beauty. They had been trained in the social customs of aristocratic France, where the kissing of a lady's hand is the ordinary gesture of courtesy. To omit that gesture would have been an act of rudeness, and William Alien White could be as polite as anybody. The color of the hand would make no difference to him.

JOHN STUART MILL ONCE WROTE this as a prayer which he thought might be appropriate in some circumstances: "Lord, enlighten thou our enemies. Sharpen their wits, give acuteness to their perceptions and consecutiveness and clearness to their reasoning powers; we are in danger from their folly, not from their wisdom."

If our enemies had thought clearly and been thoroughly wise they would not have started this war.

## By W. P. Bavies

ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE REcently of the promotion of Brig. Gen. Philip Hayes to the rank of major general. The announcement interested many Grand Forks people who remembered Phil Hayes as a schoolboy and University student and son of Captain Hayes of the government dredging fleet on the Ked river. For several years General Hayes was in charge of construction work at Pearl Harbor and his organization of the defenses there won him high praise from his superiors. He was transferred to an eastern station some time before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He is now in command of the Services of supply in the district of which Baltimore is headquarters.

A CLIPPING FROM THE BALTImore Sun, which has come to me from an unknown source, tells of a meeting directed by General Hayes pursuant to the recent order of General Somervell for the transfer to more active duty of all eligible soldiers serving on headquarters staffs, in clerical positions and in other non-combat duty and their replacement by civilians. General Hayes was quoted as saying:

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN WAR DEpartment policy to employ civilians whenever possible, and the army service forces employ more civil service personnel than any other government unit. This is merely an intensification of that program. But it must be clearly understood the current order is designed to be the most far-reaching of all, and we are to make absolutely certain that no soldier fit for more active work is kept in an office job or at relatively light work in a camp."

WHAT IS THE SMALLEST INDEpendent state in the world? In point of area that position was occupied until a few years ago by the principality of Monaco in which the famous gambling place of Monte Carlo is situated, but since Vatican City was established on an independent basis, with temporal power vested in the pope, Monaco's position as the smallest state has been taken by Vatican City. The papal state has an area of only 160 acres. Within that little realm the authority of the pope in secular as well as spiritual matters was unquestioned until the Germans took it upon themselves to establish guards at the gates and to pass on the eligibility of all persons to enter or leave.

MONACO HAS 370 ACRES, FRONTing on the Mediterranean, and except for that frontage surrounded by French territory. Before the war it had a population of 25,000. We hear nothing of it in these days, but as all of France is now occupied by the Germans, it may be assumed that close supervision is kept over Monaco. The revenues of the little state have been derived exclusively from the gambling concession. The gambling resort has been maintained for outsiders, local residents not being admitted to the tables. One of the recent princes of Monaco was a scientist of considerable standing. He was especially interested in marine life and personally conducted several deep-sea explorations which contributed much to scientific knowledge.

ANOTHER LITTLE STATE OF which we read little is Tavalora, a tiny Mediterranean island just north of Sardinia, with an area of two and one-half square miles and a population a few years ago of 100. Tavalora has been independent since the days of the Caesars. It has been governed by a president and six councilmen, all serving without pay.

SAN MARINO, ON THE ITALIAN coast, has an area of 38 square miles and a population of about 13,000. It is described as the oldest state in Europe. It declared war against Charlemagne, but that monarch died without being aware of the fact. It also declared war against the central powers in the former war.

ANDORRA, IN THE PYRENEES BETWEEN France and Spain, has 191 square miles of mountain area and a population of some 6,000. Its rugged people have maintained their independence through wars and revolutions which have convulsed their neighbors. One wonders what will happen to those small states after this war.

**By W. P. Davees**

EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE Special faculties for taking care of unusually large plants, it's much too early to start the seeds of the ordinary garden plants that require transplanting. I suppose, though, that most amateur gardeners are already thinking about planting, and perhaps are making some preparation for it. One of the troubles with which the gardener often has to contend is that of the "damping off" of young seedlings. The seed, properly sown and tended, sprouts well and presently the plant is full of apparently vigorous, healthy plants. Then one morning it is noted that a few of the tiny plants have wilted, for no perceptible reason. Next day a lot of them are gone, and last year a friend told me that he had lost nearly all of his plants in this manner.

WHEN THE YOUNG PLANTS ONCE wilt from this cause they cannot be revived, at least that has been my experience. It seems that if the disease has not gone too far it may be partially checked by stirring the soil with a fine wire and thus aerating it, but that is a fussy job and I have never found it more than partially successful. My most satisfactory experience was that of last spring when I baked the soil before planting.

THE AUTHORITIES TELL US THAT damping is caused by an infection in the soil which attacks the tiny roots of the seedlings and causes the plants to wilt from the bottom up. The organisms that cause the wilt can be destroyed by chemical treatment, or by heat. I tried the heat method last year for the first time and I intend to do it again this year. Using the common garden soil in which the seed was to be planted I baked it in the oven for an hour at a temperature of 150 degrees, that being recommended as sufficient to kill the infection without impairing the other bacterial properties of the soil. The results were perfect. I didn't lose a plant.

SOME BACKYARD GARDENERS prefer to plant the seeds of tomatoes, cabbage and other tender plants as well as of annual flowers, in the open ground. This avoids the labor of caring for young plants indoors and of transplanting, and some of my friends have insisted that plants thus treated come into production as early as those that are transplanted. They think that the shock of transplanting retards the larger plants enough to permit the smaller ones to catch up. I am not yet convinced that this is good practice. To be reasonably safe from frost seed cannot be planted out of doors until late, and in most seasons the late plantings are likely to be caught by fall frosts. Well grown, stocky plants, if carefully handled, need experience very little shock in transplanting, and a difference of two weeks to a month in growth may mean the difference between a good crop and none at all.

A CORRESPONDENT ASKS FOR some lines on tobacco which I published several years ago. Probably the lines wanted are these:

Tobacco is a dirty weed,

I like it. It satisfies no normal need,

I like it.

It makes you thin, it makes you lean, It takes the hair right off your bean, It's the worst darn stuff I've ever seen,

I like it.

THAT JINGLE HAS BEEN ASCRIBed to G. L. Hemmiger and also to Henry James, of Haviland, N. Y. Bartlett's book of quotations credits it to Hemminger and says that it was first published in the Penn State Froth in November, 1915.

ANOTHER BIT OF TOBACCO DOGgerel much older runs thus: Tobacco is a filthy weed That from the devil did proceed. It fouls the mouth and soils the clothes And makes a chimney of the nose. Long ago that was published as a serious contribution to the literature against tobacco. I have known it for more than 60 years, and have kept right on smoking.

### **By W. P. Davies**

GRAND FORKS CITY IS TO ELECT a mayor this spring, and whether under the aldermanic or the commission form of government a campaign involving the election of the head of the city administration is always interesting and is quite likely to be a lively one. As I look back I can recall several mayoralty campaigns that were pretty intense. In recent years city elections are conducted on a no-party basis, but in the old days candidates for city offices might be, and often were, nominated by political party conventions and the party feature often subordinated issues really pertinent to the campaign.

MY FIRST CITY ELECTION HERE was that of 1894. While I had come to the state in 1882, it was not until 1892 that I moved to Grand Forks. L. B. Richardson was mayor at that time, but he resigned, as he was leaving the city, and L. B. Whithed, then an alderman and president of the council, succeeded him and served for the rest of the term. He was a capable business man, intensely interested in the affairs of the city. Among other things he personally guaranteed the cost of certain improvements which it was necessary to have made, and in that way the city saved considerable money in the cost of its purchases, for at that time the city's credit was not well established. It seemed logical that he should be elected for the full term, and he was accordingly nominated by petition.

THERE WERE THOSE, HOWEVER, who had other ideas. There were some offices to be distributed, and offices usually have their attractions. A Republican city convention was held, and W. J. Anderson was nominated for mayor after the passage of appropriate resolutions extolling the Grand Old Party. Anderson was an attorney with a small practice who was always in evidence at Republican conventions. He was a fluent speaker with a big voice, and when it came to describing the virtues of the Republican party he was at his best. The campaign, then, was between Whithed, quiet business man and no speech-maker, who had the support of most other business men, and described by his opponents as a "silk-stocking," and Anderson, "friend of the common people and champion of the Republican party."

ANDERSON WAS ELECTED. MY recollection is that his majority was only about 50. The record would show. It was during his administration that the city's first water treatment plant was built. The winter of 1893-94 had been marked by the historic typhoid epidemic, which certainly was a bad one, and concerning which so many wild stories have been told. It wasn't easy to convince some of the people that the city water was responsible for the disease, but the evidence was overwhelming and it was decided to treat the water. A slow sand filter was built, modeled after that at Lawrence, Mass., and Grand Forks had the first water treatment plant ever built in the West. Notwithstanding his defeat in the election Mr. Whithed gave valuable service in the preparation of plans for the improvement and in financing it.

ONE OF THE FIERCEST ELECTION campaigns in Grand Forks was that between George E. Duis and Dr. J. D. Taylor. Duis was closing his second term and was a candidate for a third. Surface indications made him appear almost unbeatable, but the Taylor people organized well, going right down the line, selecting favorable candidates for aldermen in all the wards, and carrying intensive organization work into the precincts. Both sides held little neighborhood meetings all over town, and at some of those refreshments were served in liberal quantities. Taylor was elected, again by a close vote.

MAYOR TAYLOR WAS UNFORTUNATE for a time in not having a co-operative council. Some of the holdovers were of the opposite faction and not all of his new candidates had been elected. At the outset there was a clash over appointments. The mayor named the persons whom he had chosen for the several city offices, and the council promptly turned them down. The same names were presented again, with the mayor's explanations, as provided by law, and again they were rejected. That went on for some time until both mayor and aldermen decided that they had better get together, which they did. Dr. Taylor was enthusiastically devoted to the city's welfare, but he lacked the diplomatic touch in dealing with aldermen.