A BOOK THAT HAS JUST COME TO my desk is entitled "Sweden, a Wartime Survey." It is published by the American Swedish News Exchange, 630 Fifth avenue, New York, and I have found it both interesting and informative. Its purpose, as the title indicates, is to present a picture of conditions as they are in Sweden as the life of the nation has been affected by the war. Sweden occupies a unique position in being the only northern European nation not directly involved in the war. While the nation is not a belligerent, it has been intimately affected by the war, and it has thus far maintained a position of neutrality only with great difficulty. Just how it has been affected is explained clearly and concisely in this book.

A RATHER UNUSUAL METHOD has been followed in the preparation of the book. Instead of the text being prepared by one author, or even two or three in collaboration, there are as many authors as there are chapters, each chapter being devoted to one phase of Swedish life and each being written independently by a specialist in the field to which the chapter is devoted. Thus the reader is given a summary of the conditions surrounding each department, often beginning with a brief history of development in that department and setting forth in readable form the changes which have been found necessary to meet the demands and restrictions imposed by the war.

THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THIS INteresting book is devoted appropriately to the aged King Gustaf, who, through many changes in political trends at home and through two devastating wars abroad, has held the warm affection of his own people and the respect of the world. That chapter is written by Karl Hildebrand, former editor-in-chief of Stockholm's Dag-blad and for several years head of the national debt office. An article on Sweden's political system is contributed by Elis Hastad, associate professor of government at Upsala university. In this chapter there is given, among other things, a description of recent changes in Swedish political parties, showing the steady strengthening of the Social-Democratic party. For the war period the parties have merged, each having its representation in the cabinet.

THE SWEDISH RULER REALIZED at the outset of war that the nation's neutrality could not be maintained merely by pious wishes or parliamentary resolutions, and steps were taken to defend neutrality, by force of arms if necessary. To that end a policy of conscription was adopted, a home guard was organized and special provision was made for building adequate supplies of arms, for the care of demobilized soldiers, for adequate Red Cross service, and for the financing of all these enterprises. Each phase is described by a writer intimately acquainted with the subject.

THERE IS AN INTERESTING CHAPter on Swedish consumer co-operatives by Thorsten Odhe, editor of a national co-operative publication. It is well known that the co-operative system is one of the important features of Swedish life, as it is important, also, in all the Scandinavian countries. An erroneous impression exists in many quarters that this is identical with state socialism. Mr. Odhe's article is not at all argumentative, but his straight forward description of the origin and progress of his country's co-operatives are described as the private property of their own members, operated for the benefit of those members, financed by their own funds without aid from either government or private capitalists.

AT THE END OF 1941, SAYS THIS writer, there were in the co-operatives of Sweden about 740,000 members, and as each member usually represents a family, it is estimated that about one-third of Sweden's population is, enrolled in co-operative membership. The societies cover a wide variety of trade and industry and maintain apparently cordial relations with both "capitalist" enterprises and the government activities which include a wide range of subjects.

MANY OTHER INTERESTING TOPics are covered in the book, including the state church, literature, labor, fine arts and the press. The Swedish press, we are told, is free in as great a degree as is possible in war time, and most of the censorship applied is by members of the press themselves, as in the United States and in Britain and the dominions. The writer on this subject makes the interesting observation that the task of maintaining a free press is in some respects more difficult in a neutral than in a belligerent country.

By W. P. Davies

UNTIL A LITTLE OVER A year ago, the United Nations were on the defensive on every front in the great World war. They had won local victories, it is true, but those victories were in the nature of checks to an advancing enemy who still held the major initiative. It was the settled conviction of the Allies they must and would win the war, but that conviction represented a hope, and not a reality.

GERMANY HAD ITS GRIP on nearly all of the European continent. Because of its critical geographical position, Sweden, though neutral, had found it necessary to concede to Germany transport and other privileges which greatly facilitated the German military program. Spain, also technically neutral, was decidedly pro-Axis in the attitude of its government. German armies had advanced into Russia, had been checked and advanced again, but the net result was that the Germans were in possession of nearly all of Russia's important rail and industrial centers, occupied the rich oil fields of the Ukraine, and seemed likely to win control of all of the Caucasus.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF the world Japan held all the islands of the western Pacific, all of the East Indies, Indo-China and Burma, with their vast resources of oil, rubber and minerals and their great volume of native labor which she was able to use. Those of our forces that had not been captured in the fall of the Philippines had escaped to Australia, where with the Australians, they were bracing themselves to resist invasion of that island continent.

THE GERMANS IN SOUTHeastern Europe were obviously headed for Asia, as it seemed clear that the Japanese intendedto strike at India and effect a junction with their allies, perhaps by way of Iran. Italian armies had been beaten in northern Africa, but Germany had come to the rescue with a powerful force under Rommel which had driven the British back to a point dangerously near Alexandria and the Suez canal. Mussolini had made elaborate preparations for his triumphal entry into Cairo in order to restore the prestige which had been badly damaged by his defeats in Libya.

TO ALL I N T E N T S THE Mediterranean was closed to Allied shipping, and while the British still held the canal, it was of little practical value as an avenue of transportation except for supplies and reinforcements over a route many thousands of miles too long. Because of inability to use the Mediterranean it was necessary to route all shipments from America and Britain by way of the Cape of Good Hope, a voyage which required many weeks each way. On both great oceans, and specially in the Atlantic, enemy submarine forces were almost intact and little damage had yet been done either enemy shipping or enemy air power.

THE LATE SUMMER AND autumn of 1942 witnessed the beginning of a reversal of conditions so unpromising to the Allies. Stalingrad was defended by the Russians with courage and determination never surpassed. Not only was the city defended, but the Germans who had almost taken it suffered a disastrous defeat and the Germans began the retreat which they have since been able to check only for brief periods. At El Alamein, Montgomery's army turned the tables on Rommel and began that long pursuit which continued all the way across north Africa. Acting in concert with Alexander and Montgomery Eisenhower launched his expedition to Africa. The combined American and British forces drove the enemy out of Africa and prepared the way for invasion of Italy.

SICILY WAS INVADED AND completely occupied; landings were made on the Italian mainland; the march toward Rome began; Mussolini, deposed and disgraced, became a pitful fugitive, and Italy, at first capitulating, then declared war on Germany. The Mediterranean was opened to Allied shipping and the road to the Indies was shortened by thousands of miles.

IN THE PACIFIC THEATER outpost after outpost was taken from Japan; her.ships were sunk and her planes shot down, burning wrecks. With diminished strength on the sea, in the air and on the ground, Japan is now menaced by attack from the east by Mountbatten's command, by giant pincers against her most important island bases and from the Aleutians, from which she has been driven. Meanwhile, she has scarcely been able to hold her own against the long-suffering Chinese.

GERMANY'S CAPITAL IS IN ruins, her industries have been shattered and her transportation demoralized. Neutral nations have shown that they have ceased to fear her, apd the satellites that she has gathered around her by intimidation or promises of loot are eager to abandon her. Even her propagandists can think of no message of comfort to give their people. The Axis is broken. Its two remaining members are fighting with their backs to the wall. But we must remember that they are still able, and desperately willing to fight hard and to make victory as costly for us as possible.

By W. P. Davies

THESE LETTERS, IF WRITTEN AT all, might have been written last fall, and might have crossed en route to their respective destinations. The first would have been from an American soldier in active service to his father at home:

"AT THE FRONT, NOV. 25, 1943. "Dear Dad:—I can't tell you just where I am, but you know that I am a long way from home. I haven't had a chance to write earlier because we have been right in the thick of things and have been kept right busy. Don't let anybody tell you that these fellows that we are fighting are not tough. They are—mighty tough, and it's no picnic to go up against them. It doesn't make a bit of difference whether we try to Land on their beaches, or climb their mountains, or drop stuff on them from the air; they're right there to meet us, and it takes all the strength we can muster to make headway against them.

"WE ARE GAINING, ALL RIGHT, but not as fast as we should like. We can't go against the enemy with bare hands, and it's a tremendous job to keep supplies coming. The slightest delay may hold up the whole procession, and if one of our outfits gets stranded right up at the front because reinforcements can't be brought up, it's just too bad for our side. The next of kin will be notified, with deep regrets. Thus far I've come through without anything worse than being soaking wet, and covered with mud, and wearing off a lot of skin climbing these rocky peaks, and being dog tired. I'll sure be glad when it's over, and I know that the surest and quickest way to get it over is to hammer away as hard as we can with all we've got.

"WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU PEOple at home for everything to work with, for without your work we wouldn't have anything left. I've heard rumors of work stoppages at home, but I can't believe that such things are possible. We are so far from real news centers that much of what we hear is twisted and exaggerated. I can't believe that there is anyone back home who would slack off work for a single minute in a time like this when so many lives depend on everybody doing his utmost to keep things moving. No matter what other things are left to be settled. So I know you're going to 'keep 'em rolling.'

"Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

"Jim."

THE OTHER LETTER, WHICH might have been written, would be this from Jim's father to him:

"INDUSTRIAL CITY, U. S. A., NOV. 25, 1943. ,

"Dear Jim:—It's a long time since I have heard from you, and I can only guess where you are, but I know that wherever it is you are doing a good job. Whenever I pick up the paper and read about what our boys are doing all over the world I'm proud that I am an American citizen. Keep it up.

"Here at home things are going very well on the whole, though we workers have had to fight for our rights. We made a demand for 75 cents a day additional pay, and they turned us down. They made us an offer of something additional, but we refused to listen, because we figured we could just as well get the whole 75 cents. I wonder how they think we are going to pay our taxes if we don't get more money to pay them with. Do they expect us to live cheap just because there's a war?

"So we voted to strike, and that should bring them to their senses. I don't think we'll have to strike, because the government has always come through when it was squeezed hard enough, and we are in a position to make a pretty hard squeeze. Ours is a key industry, and if we shut down everything else will have to shut down very soon. So we're in shape to tie up the whole country whenever we like and if it comes to a show-down we'll do it. That would stir them up, and we've already got them badly scared.

"So when you get this, Jim, you can feel pretty sure that we have got our 75 cents, which will be a great victory. You will be glad of that, and I'm sure you and the other boys at the front will keep on covering the grand old flag with glory, and that you will never let us down.

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

"Dad."

SUBSEQUENT LETTER FROM JIM to Dad:

"AT THE FRONT—

"Dad:—I got your letter about that 75 cent raise, and all I've got to say is (censored)."

By W. P. Davies

IN CHECKING OVER SOME MATters relating to the burning of the original Hotel Dacotah a number of other things in the old newspaper file attracted my attention. There is always considerable interest in prowling through those old files, especially when one has personal recollection of the events therein recorded. Hence the story of the fire of December 17, 1897, brought to me vivid recollections of an exceedingly cold midwinter and of several events which were of outstanding interest at the time.

GRAND FORKS WAS PROUD OF the original Hotel Dacotah, which, with its towering five stories and its expansive lobby, had no equal in style and roominess in the Northwest. The destruction of the hotel was a real tragedy, for the hotel had attracted to the city numerous business visitors through the year and political and other conventions for whose delegates, it provided ample accommodations. The larger conventions were usually held in the Metropolitan Opera House, of which the city was also proud, and in hotel conferences were conducted the less public discussions that often determined the action of the subsequent conventions. Loss of the hotel, therefore, was A real blow to the city.

GRAND FORKS BUSINESS MEN were agreed that another hotel equal in size and appointments must be built as quickly as possible, and a committee was at once formed to get the work under way. The original hotel site was purchased for $12,000, and under an arrangement with J. D. Bacon and W. B. Wood, the partnership formed by those men took over the property, completed the building and operated it. Plans for the new building were made by J. W. Ross, who supervised construction. Work on the new building began on March 21, 1898. The contract called for completion by September 1, but the work was not actually finished until well into December. The grand opening was on December 20.

AT THAT TIME J. D. BACON WAS engaged in the livery business in addition to his farming and other interests and the active management of the hotel was chiefly in the hands of his partner, W. B. Wood, who continued that service until his death. Thereupon Mr. Bacon assumed personal charge. The new hotel became as popular as the old one had been and became one of the city's landmarks.

WHILE THE BURNING AND REplacement of me note absorbed a large share of the city's attention there were other important matters in progress. The American battleship Maine had been sunk in the harbor of Havana and a congressional committee was trying to find out how and why, with no conspicuous success. There was strong feeling over the subject, and only a spark was required to start the war with Spain the next April.

IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS horse racing on the ice. A half-mile straightaway track was cleared on the ice past the business section, and there were spirited races, with fast trotters, sharp shod and hitched to skeleton cutters. In one race that January the entries were Helen Mar, owned by Martin Walsh; Hokatara (sounds Japanese) by J. D. Bacon, and Josephine, by Martin Rood, all driven by their owners. Helen Mar won, with Hokatara second.

AMONG THE JANUARY OFFERings at the Met were James J. Corbett in the play "A Naval Cadet". Corbett was handy with his fists, and a pleasant fellow, but he was a wash-out as an actor. Frederick Warde was here that month in his favorite character, Virginius. General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, appeared for a lecture and was introduced by Judge Guy C. H. Corliss. The years had whitened his patriarchial beard, but had not dulled the sparkle of his eye or quenched the enthusiasm of his spirit. Professor Vernon P. Squires, who had not yet become dean of the University college of Liberal Arts, gave a series of lectures which were warmly commended in a Herald editorial. Altogether, it was quite a winter.

By W. P. Davies

ALL RIGHT, WE HAVE STARTED on a new year, we think; and it is to be a better year than last—we hope. But how do we know that it is a new year? We say that the new year begins on January 1, but why that date rather than any other? A year is the time that it takes the earth to make a complete circuit of the sun, a little over 365 days. The figure described by the earth in its journey is not a true circle, but a rather blunt oval, off center by a few million miles, but in respect to the beginning of the year it may as well be considered a circle. At What point does a circle begin?

IF WE KNEW AT EXACTLY WHAT point in its orbit the earth began its journey around the sun we might consider, that point the mathematical beginning of the year, but as we know nothing about that we are left with a choice of any point in the circle or any one of 365 days to start our annual, calendar. Accordingly, many people have chosen many different days on which to begin their new year.

IT WAS ONLY YESTERDAY, AS time goes, that anybody began to start the new year on January 1. In all the European countries until 1582, and in England until 1753 the new year was considered as beginning on March 25. Pope Gregory changed that for the continent, and England followed suit nearly two centuries later. One date served about as well as the other. The Jewish civil new year begins at variable dates in the fall. Last year it was September 30, and this year it will be September 18. The Jewish religious year begins in March. The Mohammedans have another day, and the Hindus still another.

THE QUESTION OF THE BEGIN-ning of the year has its parallel in another about when and where the day begins. Most of us think of the day as beginning immediately after midnight, .and I suppose that time is accepted by our courts. But until recently the astronomers began their day at noon. Either time answers quite well. Sunrise would scarcely do, because of the variation in the time of sunrise. As to the place where the day begins, it is beginning somewhere all the time, and no particular spot can be considered the one where the day actually begins. But as a matter of convenience we must start somewhere, and we start in the middle of the Pacific ocean.

THE REASON FOR THAT IS THAT exploration from Europe and Asia moved eastward until it reached the great ocean from the Chinese side. Navigators calculated their position as so many degrees east or west of the base meridian, which ultimately was established at Greenwich, and when the two currents of travel met in the middle of the Pacific, where nobody lived, that was considered a good place to end one day and begin another. So we find on our maps a line in the Pacific called the international date line, crossing which in one direction we add a day, and crossing it in another we subtract a day from our reckoning. So we fix our days and our years to suit our own convenience and not according to any law of nature.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRO-posal that members of the cabinet be invited to appear before congress there to be questioned on matters in their respective departments there is recalled a story once told of the questioning of a member of the South African cabinet during the former World war. A member of the opposition asked the official what was the cost of remounts for the South African cavalry during a designated period. "The cost," promptly replied the official, "was two thousand four hundred and sixty-seven pounds, seven shillings and sixpence." After the meeting a friend spoke of the incident to the cabinet officer and expressed amazement that such a question had been answered in such precise detail without consultation of records. "Oh," said the official, "I haven't the slightest idea what the cost was, but the member asked the question for the purpose of heckling and I gave him the first figures that came into my head. It will take him a month to check up on it, and by that time he will have thought of something else to ask questions about. Giving him some figures helps to keep him quiet." "

By W. P. Davies

DOUGLAS THOMPSON, SON OF Mr. and Mrs. Tilpher Thompson of Devils Lake, a naval cadet in training at Pensacola, Florida, was killed recently, with dfour fellow students in a plane crash near the training field. He would have received his wings had he lived a few more days. Among his effects was found a poem, written in such rough form as to indicate that it was not completed.

The lines, incomplete as they are, give some evidence of the thoughts that passed through the young man's mind as he fitted himself for the service that he had chosen. The poem was read at the young cadet's funeral, and the manuscript is treasured by his parents. The poem is as follows:

The storm blows 'round about us; The distant thunder rolls; Lightning flashes o'er Southern skies From the ancient hammer of Thors.

In this barrack of rough timber, As I smoke upon my pipe, The fellows gather "in their room To breeze about their flight.

It's a night that breeds companionship As we muse about our life, For we know that soon the day will come ;When we will lead the fight.

Sometimes the words wax sentimental, But wane again with jest, For we are they who fly on high In clouds above the rest.

We are the strong, the chosen few Whose wings shall carry the fight To foreign shores with bombs and guns And put our foe to flight.

We must not think of home, now,
Nor that love that burns within,
But rather of the things we'll do
When we enter the battle din.

But then there breaks through the sky Some blue. A promise yet unfulfilled That a day will come of peace again When new lives we may build.'

Until that day we hide that flame That burns within our souls
And pray God's help and guidance To bring us to our goals.

May God in all his majesty Look down from there on high And grant to us safe passage As we journey to the sky.

I DIDN'T SEE THE HOTEL DACOtah fire, but as I stood looking at the ruins next day a friend said:

"I was here during the whole fire, and when those walls crashed and the flames were shooting toward the sky, I couldn't help thinking of what it must be like in Berlin."

THE LOCAL FIRE COVERED BUT A small area and destroyed only a small area, but it must have been a fearful thing to behold. And how powerless is the imagination to picture the scene when a great city is bombed. The Grand Forks fire was but a microscopic illustration of the greater holocaust in which in each single attack not one building, but hundreds are shattered, with walls tumbling in every direction, flames reaching the sky, and terror-stricken people frantically seeking shelter. That is one of the inescapable accompaniments of war, and war is always horrible.

By W. P. Davies

IT ISN'T ALWAYS THE YOUNGsters who break the windows. Take that case in New York the other day, for instance. All the front windows of a large building were found smashed to smithereens one morning, with no evidence of anything that had caused the wreckage. Of course it was at once said that the breaking had been done by skylarking children. It wasn't a case of children at all, but of eggs, or rather, of thousands of cases of eggs.

JUST NOW NEW YORK IS TRYING to dig itself out from under an avalanche of eggs. They have been coming in by the trainload, much faster than the people could eat them, and dealers have had to use extra storage space to take care of them. One dealer rented the building of which the windows were afterward broken, and stored in it several carloads of eggs. The weight was too great for the foundation and the building began to settle. In the process of settlement the front was distorted, just a little, but just enough to break every window, and those who had been accusing the children had to take it all back.

MANY PARAGRAPHS HAVE BEEN written about the plight of the poor fellow who lives a taxed life, dies a taxed death and is buried in a taxed coffin. Doubtless some of them were quite original with the authors, who supposed they were writing something rather clever in a manner never attempted before. Some were suggested by others in similar vein. But the idea of calling attention to the taxpayer's burden is far from being new, for in 1820 Sydney Smith wrote this about how the English taxes of his day worked:

"THE SCHOOLBOY WHIPS HIS taxed top; the beardless youth manages his taxed horse with a taxed bridle on a taxed road; and the dying Englishman, pouring his medicine, which has paid seven per cent, in a spoon that has paid 15 per cent, flings himself back on his chintz bed which has paid 22 per cent, and expires in the arms of an apothecary who has paid a license of a hundred pounds for the privilege of putting him to death."

And what wouldn't that famous author write if he lived now!

SOVIET RUSSIA'S PRESENT ANthem, recently officially adopted, is not merely a revision of the Internationale, as was at first supposed by many, but an entirely new composition, words and music, for which an award of some $37,000 was divided among three collaborators. The Internationale was not of Russian origin at all, but was written by a Frenchman and first sung in France. As an invitation to world revolution it was adopted by the Soviet government shortly after the overthrow of the czarist regime.

THERE HAS BEEN RUNNING A DISpute among writers of open letters to eastern papers over the right name for that more or less popular viand which is usually called johnnycake and which is made chiefly of cornmeal. There is no evidence that Johnny had anything to do with proginating that kind of bread, or cake. There is some evidence that in New England that kind of corn bread was once called "journey cake" because it could be quickly prepared and was a convenient form in which to carry food for a journey. Through about the usual process of mispronunciation "journey cake" became "johnnycake," and so it is likely to remain.

CORN BREAD WAS NOT THE ONLY food similarly used as "journey cake." There was oat bread. Describing his boyhood life in England, my grandfather used to tell of trips to the distant coal mine with horse and cart to bring coal for the family fireplace. The start was made early in the morning, long before, dlaylight, and the return trip with a load of coal ended after dark in the evening. A little bundle of hay and a few handfuls of grain were taken along for the horse. For his own day's food the boy took oat bread, which hung in thin sheets suspended from the kitchen ceiling. With this provision for the day with food for boy and beast the long journey began while the stars furnished the only light. I have eaten lots of that thin, brittle oat bread, and liked it. I think there wasn't much of anything in it but oatmeal and water. It was used, not because it was a delicacy, but because it was nourishing, and cheap.

By W. P. Davies

AMONG THE NUMEROUS PROPOSals made for the purpose of reaching some sort of compromise on the subsidy question is one to substitute for some or all of the subsidies now paid the issuance of food tickets to be issued to families with sub-standard incomes. According to the plan, price ceilings would be raised or removed altogether; prices would necessarily advance all along the line; those in the low income group would be given tickets exchangeable for goods in quantity sufficient to protect them from the effect of the higher prices; and those with higher incomes would pay the advanced prices without anything to offset them.

IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SUCH A plan, if carried into effect, would abolish price control and result in unrestrained price increases. Inflation and high prices amount to the same thing. Inflation is merely another name for high prices — high prices of everything. Unless effective restraints are applied it is one of the inevitable accompaniments of increased incomes and diminished production of consumer goods. Under those conditions goods will be sold to whoever will pay the highest price and the whole country becomes a gigantic auction mar, filled with eager buyers with pockets ful of money bidding against each other.

IT IS BAD POLICY TO PAY SUBSIDies to producers if that practice is followed as a general policy. In abnormal conditions there is a place for payment of'subsidies as an expedient to be employed in particular cases which cannot be covered satisfactorily by any general policy. On any other basis subsidies are uneconomic, unjustifiable and dangerous. As part of a general policy they are inflationary in the same manner and in the same degree as are any other influences which tend to increase incomes in disproportionate ratio to increased production of goods.

ONE ESTIMATE RECENTLY MADE of the effect of substituting free food tickets for present subsidies in the manner proposed is that one-third of the families of the United States would be eligible for such free tickets, who would thereby have the aggregate cost of their goods reduced. The other families would pay for goods whatever the market might demand. The federal treasury would pay the cost of the goods represented by the free tickets, amounting to an estimated $3,000,000,000 a year. The higher-income families would pay whatever an inflated market demanded. The sky would be the limit of both prices and wages.

ALL SUCH SCHEMES GROW OUT of the effort to confer substantial benefits on some while concealing the fact that the cost must be paid by those who are not so favored, by all in the form of taxes, or in both ways combined. In that kind of effort we have juggled the wages of labor, the prices of commodities to the consumer, the gratuities passed out to the producer, and our whole system of apportioning taxes.

IT HAS NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR in just what form it is proposed to issue the contemplated food stamps. Experience with the distribution of surplus commodities serve as an example of how not to do it. With the laudable basic intent of making available to the destitute or nearly destitute valuable surplus foods that would otherwise go to waste, the waste and extravagance that attended that distribution became a public scandal. That was due in part to inefficient management in the distribution and in part to the uncontrolled greed of families that were not in need, but who grabbed what they could while the getting was good and then threw large portions of their gifts into garbage cans because it was too much trouble to use them properly.

By W. P. Davies

SOME OF THE IMPRESSIONS OF British life gained by a former University student on a brief visit to Great Britain are passed on to a local friend in letter from which the following excerpts are taken:

"THOUGH IT'S THE DAMPISH TIME of the year I found it interesting and enjoyed myself. As should all tourists, I visited two cathedrals, two castles and the pubs. Because of (experience in an American industrial plant) I also spent two hours in a British factory. Inspired by newspaper pictures, I had visualized British factories as ultra-modern. I don't any more. Women are used quite extensively, but I no longer see them with that rotogravure glamour.

"FROM CONVERSATIONS IT IS really apparent that their management and production methods lack the vitality of ours. Hence, though they have cheaper labor, their costs are often higher. Nor do their workmen in their 12-hour days ordinarily produce more than ours do in eight. Again, the British workman appears content not to own an automobile, an electric refrigerator, or have the other physical comforts that are considered necessities in the states. His children likewise have less opportunity. Yet, as to philosophy of life they may still have the edge. I like the British and their mannerly ways very much.

"THE STORIES ABOUT FOOD shortages are about right. I remember giving an orange to a woman on the train. She was about my mother's age. Tears came to her eyes. They are far less given to complaining than are our own people.

" 'A bit of a nuisance, you know, having the plaster fall off the ceiling in the parlor last Tuesday's bombing.'

"Now with the Berlin raids, comments are nearly confined to: "ol' 'itler is getting 'is.' Whatever happens they stay at even keel."

THE WEALTH OF ENTERTAINment provided in the old "Met" theatre is recalled by a paragraph announcing the death in New York of Mrs. Walker Whiteside, whose husband, eminent in Shakespeaeran and romantic roles, appeared often on the local stage many years ago. Mrs. Whiteside was born in St. Louis in 1873, the daughter of John T. McCord, founder of a line of Mississippi steamers. Under the name Lelia Wilson she made her stage debut at the age of 16 in "Alabama." She was married to Walker Whiteside 50 years ago, and for many years she was leading lady in his company. In recent years she has devoted herself chiefly to Red Cross and other benevolent work. Her husband died about a year ago.

IN THE MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, zoo there has just been hatched the first baby platypus ever produced in captivity. Curators have hoped for many years to achieve the successful breeding of those strange creatures, and at last a living one has been hatched. Perhaps the war had something to do with it. The platypus, as we were taught in school, is a strange creature which combines some of the characteristics of birds, mammals and fish, with some suggestions of the reptile. It has a duck's bill, a mole's body and webbed feet, and it lays eggs.

MY INTEREST IN THIS STRANGE animal extends to its name. For some reason in my school days I got the idea that the creature was a "pla-pit-yus," with the accent on the second syllable. All the others in the class had the same notion, although the correct spelling was right there in the book, in plain sight. Whether the teacher didn't notice our mispronunciation or had the same queer notion himself I don't know, but he never corrected us, and it was not until many years later that I discovered that I had the name all twisted. I wonder if any of the others ever got the name straightened out, or if they carried the error to their graves.

By W. P. Davies

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT ONE OF the deadest things in the world is yesterday's newspaper. The primary function of the newspaper is to record current events, and while the events of the day are interesting and may seem important for the moment, they are quickly followed by those of tomorrow, equally interesting, and equally important. Hence the impressions made by one day's happenings are quickly blurred and obscured as newer happenings make fresh impressions. Nevertheless, the old newspaper has its place.

THREE YEARS AGO THERE WAS published a book by Margaret Leech entitled "Reveille in Washington" describing life in Washington during the Civil war. That book is a marvel, not merely for its descriptions of the stirring events with which those days were crowded, but for its distillation from those events of the very spirit that pervaded the city. The author drew on many sources for her information. Among those sources were the newspapers published in Washington during the period of which she wrote. Between the lines of those old newspapers, and sometimes in the lines themselves were recorded the hopes and fears, the passions, ambitions and hatreds, the greed and self-sacrifice, the panicky wavering and the strong resolution which, mingled together, characterized the life of Washington in those hectic war days. The historian of any period finds among his most trustworthy sources the records, if any are to be found, written or printed, during the period which he wishes to cover, such writings as were not addressed to posterity, or to the great or learned, but were intended for perusal by the plain people of that day. Such a record appears on the pages of old newspapers of modern times.

I HAVE BEFORE ME A FRAGMENT of a newspaper, not very old in years, yet in some ways it seems old because of some of the events which it recalls. It is part of the second section of the Grand Forks Herald for April 10, 1918. That is less than 26 years ago, but events have moved so rapidly that the record of those years seems like ancient history. Featured on one page of the yellowed and tattered paper is a map showing the route of the Trans-Siberian railroad, stretching all the way across Europe and Asia, from Petrograd to Vladovostok which the accompanying article says the Japanese must guard if the road is to be of service to the Allies.

ANOTHER WAR WAS IN PROGRESS with Military Germany under the kaiser reaching out for world power. Then Japan was the ally of Britain. The United States had been in the war less than a year. Russia, originally allied with Britain and France, was in the throes of reorganization following the revolution of the preceding fall. The Soviet leaders had signed with Germany the treaty of Brest-Litovsk, the real meaning of which was not yet grasped completely by the Allies.

THERE WERE YET TO COME those desperate battles of the spring and summer of 1918 when for a time it seemed that Germany could not be stopped. Although we know now that the war was then drawing toward a close, its most terrible months were yet to come. In the light of today's events that old tattered fragment of newspaper furnishes material for thought. For it I am indebted to Robert Hall, of Edinburg, N. D.

A FARMER APPROACHED THE desk in the office of the state mill and said "I want to get some shorts for my hogs." The young lady at the desk glanced at him coldly. "Perhaps you think that's funny," she said, "but I don't. Do you suppose I don't know that hogs don't wear shorts?" "Wear 'em! Gosh, no ma'am! At least not in this weather. They eat 'em. Shorts for hog feed. The stuff that they grind off the wheat. That's what I want."

He got it.

By W.P. Davies

CERTAIN FACTS RELATING TO the rocket or jet method of propelling an airplane have been released by the war department and the public is now informed that experiments in this method of propulsion which have been in progress for the past 10 years have been so successful that the method has reached the point of practical service. Planes equipped with the device have made hundreds of flights without a single failure.

IN THIS CONNECTION IT HAS been said that "another of Jules Verne's predictions has been realized," and that Verne's story of the trip from the earth to the moon is no longer a mere fantasy, but an accurate forecast of things to come. Jules Verne had a fertile imagination, but he never predicted th rocket plane, or anything like it. His adventurous passengers did not make their hazardous journey in a self-propelled rocket ship. Theirs was a giant projectile shot vertically from an enormous gun, which was buried to the muzzle in the earth. The charge of gun-cotton behind it was powerful enough to carry it into the field where the moon's attraction was stronger than that of the earth. For the rest of the story, read the book. It is still interesting.

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ROCKET plane is quite different. The plane is driven forward by a rapid series of rearward explosions just as the Fourth of July rocket is driven upward by the discharge of explosives that it carries in its tail. Details of the rocket engine have not yet been made public, but the present expectation seems to be that the immediate use of the device will be to accelerate the speed of planes for comparatively short periods at high altitudes rather than as a means of independent propulsion. One obstacle to its use on long continuous flights is said to be its excessive consumption of fuel. However, a start having been made, the possibilities seem to be almost unlimited.

AT ALMOST THE OPPOSITE END OF the scale in air travel is the helicopter, ungainly in appearance and relatively slow in operation, but of which effective use is now being made. Not long ago a ship in New York harbor was destroyed by an explosion, resulting in considerable loss of life. Some of the rescued suffered from severe burns and wounds which demanded immediate treatment. Medical supplies had to be brought from a distant point. Train or automobile service would be too slow and the air was so full of snow and sleet, driven by a strong wind, that planes could not leave the ground. A helicopter was sent after the supplies and delivered them within an hour. Not only have men learned to fly within the past 40 years, but they are able to choose their own method of doing so.

INNUMERABLE TRIBUTES TO THE memory of the late Dr. James Grassick have been written. The following is from Miss Dolores Steinholfson of Milton, N. D., who called on Dr. Grassick only a short time before his death:

IN MEMORY OF DR. JAMES GRASSICK By Dolores Steinholfson

"Come unto me that you might live In greater bliss from sin set free." No need to wait a second call, He answered—"Lord, I'll come to Thee",

"Come untc me that you might know A greater peace than earth can give." Non-faltering lips did thus reply, "With Thee, Oh Master, let me live."

"Come unto me—earth's day is done, The day of rest is ever near," The answering voice is softer now, "I'll come, my Lord, I have no fear."

For heavenly gains are richer still, Than earthly realms can ever give, As when on earth—in Heaven above, Close to his Master he will live.

By W. P. Davies

ALMOST EVERYONE KNOWS something of the effect of touching a piece of intensely cold metal with the bare hand, especially if the hand is moist. The skin will freeze to the metal and may be stripped from the hand unless care is exercised in freeing it. More than one unsuspecting schoolboy has been persuaded on a bitter cold morning to touch his tongue to the latch of an outer door to see how "funny" it would feel. The victim didn't think it felt funny at all, and he was lucky if he didn't leave the tip of his tongue on the door latch.

THOUGHTS ABOUT HANDLING frozen metal came to me as I recalled some of the incidents attending the burning of the old Hotel Dacotah 46 years ago. That morning was one of the coldest of a cold winter, and to climb down the fire-escape .in the strong wind was no pleasant job. Many of the women roomers were clad only in their night-clothes and were bare-handed. As they grasped the metal rungs of the ladder their hands froze fast and could be released only by leaving part of the skin on the metal. Hands were thus stripped entirely bare, and several Victims of that experience were under the care of physicians for months thereafter.

AN EXCEPTION WAS MRS. C. H. Jenks, wife of the well known Great Northern superintendent, who, with her husband, lived at the hotel. Superintendent Jenks was away from the city at the time of the fire, but Mrs. Jenks managed quite well by herself. Ascertaining that she had sufficient time, she dressed warmly, finishing with a fur coat. On the fire escape, instead of grasping the rungs with bare hands, she used the cuffs of her coat to protect them, and thus came down uninjured and reasonably warm.

IT MAY BE THAT THERE IS A LOT Of cold weather ahead of us, but the weather man can't rob us of what is past. Here it's practically the middle of January, and, generally speaking, we haven't had any real winter yet. Workmen digging the other day to uncover a leak in a water service pipe found the ground frozen to the depth of less than two feet. Snow would be welcome for several reasons, but when the ground is bare, or nearly so, it returns to the air a lot of heat which would be absorbed by a covering of snow.

SEVERAL OTHER SECTIONS HAVE been less fortunate. Down in Texas they have had heavy snow, and cold weather really means something in Texas. At the opposite corner of the country the north Atlantic states have had furious winds with snow and sleet. In New York and vicinity, transportation was practically at a standstill. Many of New York's streets were covered with water two or three feet deep and nearly all of them were ankle-deep in gummy slime. Over in New Jersey one war plant sent out three buses to bring employes to work, but the buses didn't return and the employes didn't get to work.

AT MY HOUSE THE FIRST OF THE new seed catalogues has appeared, and, as usual, it is an attractive and fascinating publication. The cynical observation is often made that no flowers or vegetables were ever as colorful as are the pictures in the catalogues. I suppose it is impossible to get ink that will print the exact colors that appear in nature, but with that reservation it can be said that the pictures in the standard catalogues are not exaggerations, whether in form or in color. Everything shown in them could be duplicated from the products of a good Victory garden. Now is the time to plan for the 1944 garden.

By W. P. Davies

IT USED TO BE THAT WE THOUGHT of the speed of sound in terms of feet per second—around 1,100 feet. We could understand feet and seconds. They were within our experience. When we saw a man at a considerable distance pounding with a hammer or chopping with an ax we had to wait an appreciable time for the sound of the blow to reach us. But how many miles sound traveled in an hour we neither knew nor cared. The idea of anything directly controlled by man traveling at the speed of sound did not occur to us.

NOW THE THING HAS ACTUALLY happened. An airplane in a power dive has actually traveled at that speed and come out of the dive intact. More than that, we are told that the rocket engine is likely in the near future to propel a plane regularly on a straightaway at a speed exceeding that of sound. That will mean that air travel under such circumstances will be silent save for the sound caused within the plane by the vibrations due to rushing through the air. All ex-lernal sounds will be left behind.

THEN WHAT'S GOING TO HAPpen when the plane reaches the landing field and alights? Will the lagging sounds then catch up and will the passengers be bombarded with the clatter of the sounds that they had left behind. The conditions then might be similar to those described by a traveler on his return from the Arctic regions. It became so cold, he said, that conversation became inaudible. Words froze and fell to the snow the moment they left the speaker's lips. Then when the spring thaw came the words thawed out, and there was a perfect babel of conversation, to the dismay of some of the speakers who had spoken their minds more freely than they would have done if they had not relied on the supposed secrecy of frozen language.

A PULLMAN PASSENGER ON A transcontinental train was told by a spoofing newsboy that on that road in the Rockies there were curves so sharp that on several of them a passenger could hand the engineer a cigar. At a stop well through the mountains the passenger strolled forward and chatted with the engineer who leaned out the cab window. "I understand," he said, that there are places somewhere in the mountains where a passenger could hand,the engineer a cigar, but I haven't seen any of them yet. Where are they?" "Oh, there are lots of them," said the engineer. "This is as good a place as any'. And he held out his hand for the cigar which the passenger delivered as soon as he got the point.

MARTEN VAKSVIK, WHO LEFT THE Kiwanis club last year to join the armed forces, sent a V-mail letter to the club. He had to be careful what he wrote, but one definite bit of information got by the censor. He said, "There's lots of nature all around here." If the Japs ever catch on to that they will be likely to act accordingly.

ELLIS PARKER BUTLER WAS MADE famous by his story "Pigs Is Pigs," the story of the predicament in which an Irish express agent found himself over a shipment of guinea pigs. There was a dispute over Pat's insistence on charging the rate for pigs, and the consignee insisting on the lower rate prescribed for pets. Pat insisted "Pigs is Pigs," and stuck to it, and before the thing was settled Pat was almost crowded out of his quarters by the "pigs" and their multitudinous progeny. Butler wrote many a good story, and did not quite relish the fact that wherever he went he was announced as the author of "Pigs Is Pigs."

ANOTHER EXPRESSMAN PROBABly will tell you, if you ask him, that "Bears is bears." He is express messenger on a Rock Island train leaving Chicago for California. At Kansas City two cages were loaded, each containing two grown bears destined to Hollywood where they were to be used in a picture. Before the train started one of the bears gave birth to a cub, which made five. The mother gave signs of resenting the presence of her mate, so he was removed from the cage and tied to the door with a rope. The messenger vowed he wouldn't travel in company with a live bear that was held only by a piece of string. His remonstrance was deemed reasonable, and the bear was put into the cage with the other two bears. That was just as the train pulled out. It hadn't gone many miles before the three bears were fighting, and nobody knew whether the cage would hold or not. When last heard from the bears had quieted down and the train was still running.

By W. P. Davies

NINETEEN CENTURIES AGO THE city of Pompeii lay comfortably nestled at the base of Mount Vesuvius. With a population of some 20,000 it was a city of wealth and luxury, where many patricians from the great capital of the empire had beautiful villas. The mountain slopes were covered with vineyards where vines grew luxuriantly in the fertile soil. The mountain itself was the survival of prehistoric convulsions of nature, each of which had alternately built and destroyed.

THROUGH MANY CENTURIES there had been but slight evidences of the forces that lay almost idle beneath the surface of the earth. Sometimes the mountain had trembled. Sometimes it had showered water and ashes upon the surrounding vineyards, and then it had subsided. The peasants who cultivated the hillsides retreated, then returned to repair the damage and resume their peaceful lives. In the city itself cracked walls were repaired, shattered structures were rebuilt, and life went on as before.

THEN CAME THE GREAT CATAStrophe of the year 76 A. D. The giant forces beneath the mountain were unleashed. Pompeii and its neighborhood and all the flourishing vineyards were buried in ashes and noxious gases smothered thousands of those who tried to escape the deadly shower. In place of beauty and wealth and luxury there was only bare desolation. Pompeii was not rebuilt. It was buried so deep that even knowledge of its site was lost for centuries. Meanwhile peasants came and began to till the soil beneath which other peasants lay buried and beneath which other vinegards had grown, and from time to time they in turn were driven from their homes by lesser eruptions, to return when the ashes had cooled and begin life afresh.

SO IT HAS BEEN THROUGH THE centuries. Generations have come and gone, each living in a sense of momentary security and each in perpetual danger of annihilation. That menace cannot be checked or destroyed. It can be avoided only by retreat, for the forces that control the mountain's behavior are beyond human control. They are. part of the universe itself. Man may recognize them, but he cannot govern them.

THERE ARE FORCES WHICH GUIDE human behavior and sometimes bring disaster upon the human race wfcich are born of human will, passion and emotion, and which are therefore subject to human control. Yet in the presence of those forces we sometimes seem as fatalistic and cheerfully indifferent as the peasants who replant their fields on the slopes of Vesuvius. Wars innumerable have wrecked the societies involved in them, but after each conflict those who survived have rebuilt and reorganized and resumed their former ways of life, seeming to believe that such a disaster never could be repeated, or, if its repetition should be threatened, they would be powerless to prevent it.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO the world was involved in a war infinitely more destructive than the great eruption of Vesuvius. Brought face to face with the prospect of having swept away the liberties for which through the centuries millions had given up their lives, the people rose in their might and stopped the aggressor. They were greatly in earnest, and when the battles were over and the victory won they were determined that no such catastrophe should ever be visited on humanity again. They were eager for a new world of peace, order and justice.

THEIR HOPES WERE NOT REALIZed, and for that fact many scapegoats have been chosen upon whom to load responsibility. Failure has been ascribed chiefly to ineffective leadership as exhibited in one fonn or another. But leadership springs from the people themselves, and the people were not ready to be led. Personal affairs demanded their attention. Their were cracked walls to be repaired, new buildings to replace old ruins, new vineyards to be planted in the soil that covered the old, new fortunes to be made, new comforts to be enjoyed. So the world settled down to a peaceful, hopeful existence, and even though there were fresh rumblings that presaged a new eruption, they were disregarded as unimportant or accepted as part of the inevitable against which human effort would be unavailing.

AGAIN THE MOUNTAIN ERUPTED, and with far greater violence than ever before. Its tremors have shaken the whole earth. Its ashes are upon all the works of man and its torrents of fiery lava have engulfed millions. The hope that its violence is nearly over, and we think we can see through the clouds of vapor the rays of the still-shining sun. And when the tremors have ceased and the clouds have cleared away, what shall follow? Shall we repeat the history of Vesuvius and its environs, become so absorbed in the immediate present that we learn nothing from the past and see nothing in the future? Shall we helplessly accept as inevitable and beyond the control of human will the wars that human beings make, or shall we be prepared to make whatever individual or national sacrifice may be necessary to banish war from the earth?

By W. P. Davies

FIRST STATEMENTS OF LOSSES OF American planes in the great bombing mission of last week in which hundreds of tons of bombs were dropped on three airfields and plane manufacturing plants came from Germany. The German radio said that 132 American planes had been shot down. The number of German planes lost was not stated. It was not until several hours later that the Allied command made any statement concerning the number of American planes lost. Had our losses been so great that our authorities were holding back the facts in a mistaken attempt to soften the blow?

THAT QUESTION WAS ASKED BY many anxious inquirers on this side of the water. The answer is "No." Nothing was being held back. Our people simply didn't know how many of our planes had been lost, and they were trying to find out before issuing a statement. The German report could be dismissed instantly as a fabrication intended for propaganda purposes. Any German report may be so dismissed. If by any chance the German propagandist told the truth in a particular case it was by an unintentional oversight.

BEFORE OUR OFFICIALS COULD know how many of our planes were missing they had to know how many returned, and the planes that participatd in the raid had to fly several hundred miles after the raid to get home. That took some time. There were to be considered all the risks of travel in wind and fog, the possibility that of the 1,200 planes some might have got off their course, and the fact that some, though not shot down or completely disabled, were wounded and had to limp home. Under the severe stress some of them landed on the first fields they could find and were therefore temporarily missing from their own fields. All of those things had to be checked before any statement could be made. The final and correct statement is that 65 of our planes were lost out of more than 1,200 in the raid, against 152 German planes known to have been shot down and an unknown number destroyed on the ground or in process of manufacture.

HERE, IN OUR WIDE OPEN SPACES, with air fields many miles apart, it is difficult for most of us to visualize the conditions in Great Britain, where scores of thousands of planes in active service must be maintained and serviced in an area only slightly greater than that of North Dakota. A service man recently returned from abroad was asked about the location of another local flier whom he had met in England. "I only know," he said, "that he had been up north and when I saw him he was stationed somewhere west of London. The name of the town would have been meaningless, for there might be a dozen air fields around that center, each one operated by its own group. England is literally plastered with air fields."

THERE IS A CERTAIN TRADITION that some measure of sanctity attaches to old age. The proverb says that old age is honorable. A man may have been a tough customer in his youth and middle age, but by the time he gets into the 70's he is supposed to have seen the error of his ways and become a model citizen; It doesn't always work out that way. Stephen A. Dutton died the other day in New York. He was either 103 years old or within a few months of 100—the record is not quite clear. In his youth he was a young rascal; in maturity he was a middle-aged rascal; and he died an old rascal, unreformed, unrepentant and proud of his long and consistent criminal career. He had spent 23 of his 100 years in prison, and when he became too feeble to commit more crimes he spent most of his time boasting of those he had committed. His exploits ranged from an attempt to swindle' Hetty Green out of $600,000 to petty forgery. He said that he carried the news of the battle of Gettysburg to President Lincoln, exhausting four horses on the gallop. For him crime didn't pay. He died destitute.

By W.P. Davies

ANTHONY EDEN, BRITISH FOReign minister, and next in importance to Churchill in the British cabinet, doesn't know when the real invasion of Germany is to start. He says he is satisfied not to know, for now he is in no danger of telling. But if for any reason he did want to know, it would be necessary for him only to ask some arm chair expert, to learn all about it. Of course if he were to consult two arm chair experts he would be in a predicament, for no two of them ever agree.

A GRAND FORKS SOLDIER, WRITing home from somewhere in England, made this observation:

"It seems that no matter where you are the Red Cross thinks of you. When we left the United States they gave us a little kit (like mother was working on) and today when I got to my quarters I found on my bed a little package of candy, gum, cigarettes, etc., with a card from the Red Cross."

Of course the Red Cross does a multitude of other things, but sometimes it is the little things that really count most, as they are evidences of unremitting care and thoughtfulness.

IN ANY YEAR IT IS A GOOD THING to order garden seeds early, for there is satisfaction in having seeds on hand in plenty of time, so that valuable time may not be lost when planting time comes. Just now it is especially important to order early, for many kinds of seeds are scarce, and if one waits too long it may be impossible to obtain the varieties that he prefers.

THE ADVANTAGE OF PLACING orders early applies also to chickens. Commercial hatching of chicks has become big business, and before long the mails and the express lines will be loaded with millions of those little peeping balls of animated fluff which are destined to grace our tables later on as fries or roasts or to be the source of eggs for the table. There may not be chicks enough to meet the demand, hence both those who expect to raise fowl by the thousand and those who wish to have a dozen or so for the back yard are urged to place their orders early, also to specify the kind wanted, whether to fry in the early summer, to roast in the fall or to lay eggs.

ARTIFICIAL HATCHING OF CHICKS was unknown until a generation or two ago, except as occasional individuals experimented with crude hatching devices, usually of their own design and manufacture. Eggs were hatched by hens, and usually the hen preferred to hatch her own eggs. To do this Biddy often exercised considerable ingenuity. She would "steal her nest," that is, instead of laying in the nest provided for her she would wander off into some unfrequented corner of the barnyard or into the woods and make a nest in a place as secret as possible. It might not be the family plan to have those eggs hatched, or they might be needed to place under some other hen. But Biddy often was successful in eluding the most vigilant watching, and some day she might march home proudly with a dozen chicks trailing after her. There is an instinct of wildness that still persists in many domestic fowl, and turkeys more than all others seem to retain it.

WHEN ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION first got under way incubators were built chiefly for individual poultrymen, but it was found that if placed in proper containers and protected from cold very young chicks could be shipped successfully for long distances, and then came the large commercial hatchery whose output is shipped all over the country.

By W. P. Davies

MRS. BERNARD QUIRK, OF CLImax, Minn., writes that while a number of old papers were being sorted over at tier home there was found a newspaper flipping dated August 1, 1938, carrying foe headline "Russians Bomb Japs." She for information about the incident its cause.

THE BOMBING OF JULY, 1938, WAS One of the numerous incidents which jnarked the strained relations which had jexistedl between Russia and Japan for ttiany years. Recollections of the war In the early years of the century still rankled and armed forces of considerable size were maintained on both sides of the common boundary. Clashes between these outposts were frequent and on several occasions were so acute that actual war seemed to be about to break. IBy 1938 Russia had built fortifications along the border in territory claimed by Japan. The Japanese objected and Russia made an emphatic assertion of her position by bombing the Japanese frontier forces, killing some 400 Japanese, according to early reports.

IN MANY QUARTERS THAT WAS regarded as the opening of another all-out war between the two nations, but the excitement subsided without actual declaration of war or further important hostilities at that time. Since then there ihas been little actual change in the general situation. Until the outbreak of the present World war there were other occasional border clashes and fresh rumors of the probability of actual war. The two nations have since entered into a treaty of peace, but Japan maintains a large army in Manchuria (which she wrested from China and calls Manchukuo) and Russia has a powerful force on her side of the line, ready for emergencies.

THE WESTWOOD HILLS, CAL.IFORnia, Press, has the following paragraph about Roy Papermaster, who will be remembered as the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nate Papermaster of Grand Forks:

"ROY PAPERMASTER, MANAGER of the Owl drugstore of Westwood Village, was born in Grand Forks, N. D., at the junction of the Red River and the Red Lake River. This was referred to by a wag from Wahoo as that contrary damn town where the rivers run north and the Irish vote Republican. Roy was an apprentice prescription putter-upper in G.F. He took twe years of pre-medic at U of N.D. Came to Los Angeles in an old Ford with his father, mother, two sisters and a brother in 1926. Graduated In Pharmacy at USC. In due time became an ardent Owl manager and opened the Westwood store Jan. 9, 1935. When building restrictions are lifted the local store will be greatly enlarged to accommodate its growing trade. Roy is a Kiwanian and one of the 10 men instrumental in founding Temple Emmanuel. He had considerable to .do with bringing Dr. Ernest Trattner to this community and in return the good Rabbi found a wife for him in the person of Mabel Goldman of Shanghai who became Mrs. Roy two years ago. . . . 'Bye Neighbor."

MADAME PERKINS, SECRETARY of labor, is well pleased with the labor situation in the United States. In her ,' annual report she finds satisfaction in the fact that "the no-strike pledge of labor leaders and no-lock-out pledge of management for the duration was kept at a rate of better than 99 per cent during the fiscal year." This, she says, is a "good record in any field of human relations."

DURING THE YEAR STRIKES TIED up coal production for several weeks. The coal miners represent but a small proportion of American labor. Yet those weeks of idleness checked production in many other industries and cost the country heavily. Railway labor also represents only a small percentage of American labor, yet the threat of a general railway strike, the date for which was set, was felt to be of such importance that the government seized control of all the country's railroads. Those incidents did not affect the secretary's percentages appreciably or cloud her rosy view of the labor situation. How comforting it must be to see only the bright side of everything.

By W. P. Davies

SOMETHING THAT I WROTE ABOUT old newspapers the other day reminded E. V. O. Gyllenborg that he had several of them, so he dug them up and submitted them to me for examination. The collection consists of six copies of the National Intelligencer, published in Washington, D. C., at intervals during the first eight months of 1815, which is a single sheet about 8 by 12 inches, with two columns of type printed only on one side.

ANYTHING PURPORTING TO BE an original copy of an ancient newspaper may properly be regarded with some suspicion, because innumerable reproductions have been made which have every appearance of original prints. I suppose I have been shown dozens of copies of the Ulster County Gazette containing an account of the death of George Washington. The owners supposed that those were original copies of a New York state newspaper published at the beginning of the 19th century. Actually they were skillfully prepared reproductions of the original. I have often referred to the facsimile of the first number of the Grand Forks Herald, a copy of which went to every subscriber with the regular issue on the Herald's 50th anniversary. Yet every little while someone finds one of those reproductions and thinks he has one of the original papers.

I FEEL SURE THAT THESE COPIES of the National Intelligencer are genuine originals. Mr. Gyllenborg has had them for more than 30 years. He obtained them from a friend in Iowa, who discovered them while looking over a collection of old material which had been passed on from one member of the family for many years. Paper and type are in good condition, but in color bear every evidence of age. On several of them appears the name "F. S. Morgan, Oswego, N. Y.," written with pen in just such script as was in vogue more than a century ago, and on the blank spaces of the "extra" are penned computations in dollars and cents. The ink from the pen has spread into the soft paper. Moreover, while a single issue of an old paper has often been reproduced, there is no conceivable reason why anyone should have gone to the trouble and expense of reproducing six copies of the same paper of widely separated dates. Therefore, I accept those papers as genuine.

AT THIS DATE THEIR CONTENTS are interesting, and I shall quote from some of them. First comes the extra, the contents of which consist of excerpts from letters written from New Orleans in December, 1814, telling of the landing there of the British under General Pakenham and the operations preceding the battle of New Orleans. The war of 1812 was drawing to a close, and was actually ended officially by the treaty of Ghent on December 23, but neither Pakenham nor Jackson, who opposed him, knew it. Hence the famous battle had been fought after peace had been achieved. The letters were written in expectation of what might have been a decisive battle.

COLONEL ANDREW HAYNES wrote:

"The British have landed with a large army and are now within about five miles of the city of New Orleans. We began fighting them on the night of the 23d instant, but the chief mischief was done by cannonading. General Coffee's division of the army covered themselves with glory on the night of the 23d. His loss was considerable, among whom were the brave Col. Lauderdale and Major Cavanaugh—Cols. Dyer and Gibson were wounded. Whatever may be the issue of the pending conflict rests only with Heaven—We pray to the Almighty that we may not tarnish the reputation of the troops of Tennessee."

GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE WROTE to Governor Blount of Tennessee on December 30:

"The enemy remains encamped about 7 miles from this city, within full view of our army under command of General Jackson. The force of the enemy is variously stated, from four to five thousand. In an attack on the evening of the 23d inst. he suffered considerable damage, and but for the darkness of the night, which caused some confusion in our ranks the affair I am told would have been decisive . . . The American army is drawn up in a line extending from the Mississippi to the Cypress swamp, having in front a wet ditch and an entrenchment impenetrable to musketry or shell or pieces of ordnance—the right flank is covered by the river and the left by the swamp, and the whole defended by several pieces of cannon of various calibres, 32, 24, 12, and 6-pounders."

OTHER LETTERS ARE IN A SIMIlar vein, all expressing the greatest confidence in the leadership of General Jackson and in the courage of the troops under his command. Excerpts from some of the other letters will appear in due course. The period was a fateful one. It was marked, among other things, by Napoleon's return from Elba, the battle of Waterloo, and Napoleon's abdication and surrender.

By W. P. Davies

NEWS TRAVELED SLOWLY IN 1815. There were no railroads and no steamships. The telegraph was not due for nearly half a century. No one had even dreamed of radio, telephone or airplane. Intelligence was transmitted by stage coach over roads often next to impassable, by mounted courier, or by the sailing ship which might be buffeted for days or weeks by contrary winds. Hence it is not strange that the battle of New Orleans was fought two weeks after peace had been declared, or that Washington did not know of the peace or the battle until weeks later. Of the six copies of the National Intelligencer which I mentioned yesterday the earliest is of January 26, 1815, and a considerable portion of its contents is devoted to discussion of events of the war. An editorial paragraph reads:

"THERE IS A REPORT, VIA BALTImore, contained in a Nashville letter of the 6th inst. received there, that the British army had retired from the vicinity of New Orleans after the battle of the night of the 23d (of December) and was believed to have re-embarked his troops. We do not attach great credit to this rumor. It does not appear to us that he would have so easily been driven from his object."

BECAUSE OF THE SMASHING VIC-tory won by Jackson at New Orleans we are apt to overlook the fact that there were other engagements, quite numerous, though less important, that were fought by commanders who did not know that the treaty of Ghent had been signed. There were skirmishes at many points, and the National Intelligencer of January 26 refers to several of them. Landings here and there were made or attempted by small British outfits and exposed cities were busily strengthening their defenses against such attempts.

THE OLD NEWSPAPER REPORTS on the investigation into the causes which had permitted the British to seize Washington in the preceding summer. The following paragraph from the report is interesting:

"The sudden advance of the enemy after his arrival on our coast, so considerable a distance into the country, destitute as he was known to be of cavalry, and in a great degree of artillery, as well as the means of transporting provisions, without delaying to establish garrisons, or otherwise to provide for keeping open his communications with his shipping and supplies, was a measure that could not, it is presumed, be justified on any military principle, and may not, therefore, have been anticipated in time to provide effectually against its consequences. On the other hand, the tardy movements of the militia called from the neighboring states for the defense of the city, and their consequent failure to arrive in time at the scene of action, whatever may have occasioned it, may undoubtedly be considered as the principal cause of the catastrophe that followed."

IN ANOTHER ARTICLE A "NATIVE citizen of Philadelphia" who had lived for several years in Algiers urges that when this present war is over positive action be taken against the Barbary pirates who, for generations, had been levying tribute on all and sundry. With certain allowances made the writer might have been describing events of the world in this twentieth century. In substance he attributes the development of the system of piracy in the Mediterranean to a general feeling of pacifism and opportunism. No nation wanted to fight. Every nation wished to conduct its commerce and its industries vigorously and profitably. Hence, when tribute was demanded each nation, the United States included, chose what seemed to be the easiest and cheapest way and paid a little tribute rather than suffer the inconvenience and cost of putting up a fight. As the exactions became greater there were protests. Spain, France, Holland, Great Britain and others sent separate expeditions to stop the outrages, but the action taken was half-hearted and things went on pretty much as before.

A fair parallel could be drawn between all that and the manner in which the world drifted while Japan was adventuring, in Asia, Mussolini in Africa and Hitler in Europe.

THERE ARE OTHER ITEMS IN THAT old paper which indicate contrasts between life in Washington more than a century ago and now.

An advertiser wants to buy "ten or twelve young NEGROES, from twelve to twenty years of age."

Another advertiser seeks a "likely NEGRO GIRL," one between 10 and 15 years of age would be preferred, as it is intended to take her into the state of Pennsylvania. She would receive her freedom at 28 years of age.

H. C. Lewis announces that he has opened a new public house "at the west end of the city, on Pennsylvania avenue, near the president's house and convenient to all the public offices. He respectfully invites patronage. Washington was less crowded in those days than it is now.

By W. P. Davies

WHILE IT WAS NOT UNTIL DECEMber, 1844, that the original co-operative society at Rochdale, England, went into operation, the 28 weavers who founded the society began saving their pennies for the enterprise in the preceding winter. Hence the whole year 1944 may be considered the anniversary of the co-operative movement as represented by the Rochdale society. Before the founding of the Rochdale society there had been many other experiments in co-operation, but for various reasons none of them had achieved considerable success. The Rochdale movement took root and grew.

IT WAS A TASK OF NO SMALL magnitude tha,t those weavers undertook. All of them poor, they worked long hours and their wages were pityfully small. Out of their meager wages they could buy the necessaries of life only in pennysworths, and for many of their purchases they had to pay exorbitant prices. They planned to buy in larger quantities and do the distributing themselves, but that would require some initial capital, and they had none. They skimped themselves until, penny by penny, they had accumulated a pound apiece, and with that as their capital they launched the movement that has spread throughout the civilized world.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE are now more than 70,000,000 members of co-operative societies and the operations of those societies have expanded beyond the bounds of village retail trade until they include a wide variety of activities. There still are societies scarcely larger than the original one at Rochdale which confine themselves to small retail business. Others are nation-wide, owning wholesale houses, factories and banks and operating home-building enterprises and hospitals for the benefit of their members.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT spread rapidly in Great Britain. Later it was given great impetus in Ireland through the work of George W. Russell (AE) the famous poet and publicist. It has had rapid development in the Scandinavian countries, and in Sweden about one-third of the people are members of co-operative societies. In the United States its development has been relatively less general and less rapid. For this many reasons are advanced, one being the fluidity of the population, another the desire of most Americans for the kind of service that, until recently, at least, was not habitually given in co-operative stores. Still another reason is that members of many of our co-operatives have not recognized the importance of competent management, which requires both integrity, skill and experience.

CO.OPERATION IS OFTEN CONFUSed with state socialism, Ihough the two are not identical and may be quite distinct. The co-operative is owned and operated by its members for their own benefit. In the socialist state the enterprise is owned and operated by the government and the entire nation shares in its benefits or misfortunes. It is sometimes held that the co-operative is necessarily antagonistic to private enterprise, but in the countries where they have attained their greatest development the co-operatives exist side by side with private enterprise, and the competition between the two, which is often active, has not been destructive of either.

HOWEVER, IN THE UNITED STATES recent governmental tendencies have been in the direction of promoting co-operatives at the expense of private industry, to which the latter quite naturally objects. Co-operatives are legally exempt from many requirements imposed on non-co-operative business, and even from provisions intended to protect the public from fraud. A bill now before congress aims to correct this in part by requiring of co-operatives among others to render annual accounts of their financial condition. Such accounting is required of all concerns financed by private capital which have similar dealings with the public, and those requirements have been found most salutary. The honestly and competently conducted co-operative has nothing to fear from having its finances subjected to the scrutiny of the appropriate public officials. If the concern is corruptly or incompetently managed, the sooner its members know it, the better for them and for the general public.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT Ohis long stretch of open January weather is without precedent. Memory on such subjects is never trustworthy, and for accuracy the official records must be consulted. We have had a week or so, however, of weather that was in sharp contrast with that of the corresponding period a year ago. Then, for night after night the thermometer registered away down in the 20's below zero, and even into the 30's, and even in the daytime the temperatures did not rise as high as zero. On one day of the period last year the highest temperature reached was 19 below zero. This time the lowest mark was only a few degrees below freezing, never down to zero, and the daytime temperature was in the 40's. The fellow who has to buy fuel may be thankful.

IT MAY BE THE WEATHER, OR IT may be the arrival of seed catalogues that has stimulated interest in Victory gardens. Anyway I have heard of one man who has already planted his tomato seed. I wish him well, and I hope he will not be disappointed, but I shouldn't like to start the plants so early. Probably if one has a hothouse, or has room for a few plants in a sunny window plants started now might be kept growing until It is time to set them out in the garden. But it isn't safe to set them out until about June, and if they make healthy growth they would be whoppers in three months.

MANY OF OUR PEOPLE WHO NEVer paid much attention to gardening before became confirmed gardeners last year. Their gardens yielded well and they have enjoyed both the fresh vegetables as they matured and the canned product that they have been using all winter. They intend to do it again this year, and tn some cases, on a larger scale. Others had less satisfactory experience. Perhaps their soil was in poor conditipn, requiring too much labor. Or perhaps they neglected their gardens and let the weeds get ahead of them. In such cases the yields were poor, and some of those gardeners do not intend to repeat.

VICTORY GARDENING HAD AN INtensely practical side last year, for those who gardened successfully and took care of the product have been enjoying wholesome and palatable food in practically unlimited quantity and of some kinds that were scarce, while some others could not be obtained at all. The contribution of victory gardens to the food supply of the nation was something immense, and the individual benefits were incalculable.

THE PROSPECT IS THAT THIS year the garden will be more important than ever. In the United States we have had two successive years of bountiful crops. Production of some staple foods was unprecedented, and in almost every line production was well up to standard. It would be unusual for a third year in succession to be equally productive, and there are indications that in 1944 production in some important lines will be sharply reduced.

IN THIS TERRITORY WE HAVE been enjoying mild winter weather and have been relieved of the task of shoveling snow. If we had corresponding weather in the summer we should call it a severe drouth. We may or may not get snow before spring, and rain as we need it. But the great winter wheat belt has already suffered greatly from scant rain in the fall and absence of snow to cover the crop in the winter. Many of the fields have been winter-killed, and the production of winter wheat is certain to be greatly reduced. What the spring wheat conditions will be nobody knows, but we do know that we went into winter with exceedingly dry top-soil.

IN MANY AREAS THERE IS SCARCity of milk. Butter is scarce and becoming scarcer. Our own armed forces overseas will require increasing quantities of food, and there will be millions of others, innocent and helpless victims of war, who must have food or starve. We can't very well produce wheat, or milk, or butter in our Victory gardens, but we can produce foods of many kinds, sound and wholesome, which can take the place of some other foods that may be beyond our reach. Therefore the Victory garden becomes both a public service and a private benefit, to say nothing of the satisfaction that there is in "a little farm well tilled."

By W. P. Davies

AN INTERESTING STORY IS TOLD tof Fritz Kriesler in a biographical sketch of the famous violinist. In addition to being one of the world's greatest violinists Kriesler is an accomplished linguist, speaking fluently German, French, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Latin as well as some other languages. Nearly three years ago he was severely injured by being hit by a truck and he lay unconscious for days. When he recovered consciousness lie could speak for some time only in Greek and Latin. All the other languages seemed to have been blotted from feis memory.

MEMORY IS A TRICKY THING, AND utterly unpredictable. Some things are fixed in it by conscious effort, while others are registered automatically. Some of those impressions, stored away we do not know where, may be recalled at will. Many others present themselves without our effort, and for no reason that we can identify. Others are brought to the surface without our volition by association. I seldom catch the fragrance of a field of new-mown alfalfa without being transported mentally to a clover field of my boyhood where the still air was filled with that same fragrance. I make no effort to remember that. It just comes. Similarly, the smell of fresh pine lumber takes me back without effort to a country sawmill that I remember well. Those impressions are buried somewhere, to reappear now and then without any prompting from me.

THERE IS A THEORY, WHICH MAY or may not be in accord with modern psychology, that every incident and experience of life, no matter how trivial, leaves its permanent impression on the conscious or sub-conscious mind, and that while billions of those impressions never are recalled, any one of them may come into the consciousness at any time. How that may be I do not know, but one often hears the expression "That happened 30 years ago, and I've never thought of it since. Why should I remember it now?"

ACCORDING TO A STORY THAT was given considerable attention years ago a serving maid in the home of a classical scholar was taken ill, and in her delirium she quoted long passages of Greek poetry in the original. The girl had no more than an elementary education, and certainly knew no Greek. The explanation given was that her master had been in the habit of reading Greek poetry aloud, and as the maid went back and forth about her work the words that she heard were registered without her being aware of it. In the disturbance of fever the record had come to the surface.

IN ALL THE COUNTRIES FORCIBLY occupied by Germany there is an active underground movement which is highly embarrassing to the Nazis, but they can do little about it. In the French city of Lyons there is published a newspaper called Nouvellisti, whose contents, under the occupation, are devoted to German and Vichy propaganda. Nothing, either news or comment, originating in Allied sources, may be published. Not long ago the people of Lyons, after obtaining Nouvellisti as usual from the news stands, were amazed, and many of them were delighted, to find that the entire issue was devoted to news of Allied successes all over the world, with comment on the desperate straits in which the Germans found themselves.

THE "UNDERGROUND" HAD BEEN at work. A special issue of Nouvellisti had been secretly printed in exact imitation of the genuine as to size, type and style. Trucks loaded with the regular paper were seized before they had made deliveries and were driven off to undisclosed destinations. Trucks carrying the patriotic edition were substituted and deliveries were made to the usual places. Dealers did not notice the substitution, or if they did they said nothing. Almost the entire edition was in the hands of readers before the police knew about it, and a lot of patriotic Lyonese were happy. That sort of thing is going on all the time in all the occupied countries.

By W. P. Davies

BY MAY, 1815, THE NATIONAL INtelligencer, from which I continue to quote, was devoting a considerable part of its space to the aftermath of the war of 1812 just ended. The two governments had agreed on terms of peace, but speakers in congress and writers of letters to the newspapers valiantly continued a verbal war, illustrating the aptness of the saying that "no power could restrain the fury of the non-combatants."

THERE WERE UNPLEASANT EPIsodes. An assistant district paymaster, D. C. Williams, was tried by court martial on the charge of purchasing at a discount of 20 per cent certificates and other evidences of pay of certain officers and soldiers to the amount of $5,000. He was found guilty and sentenced to make restitution and to be dismissed from the service.

THE CONSTITUTION HAD REACHed port after her triumphant career, and a correspondent wrote to the Intelligencer-urging that the good ship be preserved for the admiration of future generations. The correspondenrbt, whose name is represented only by the initial "I", wrote in part:

> "Our National Ship, the Constitution, once more has arrived. Let us keep "Old Ironsides" at home. She has, literally, become a nation's ship, and should be preserved. Not as a "sheer hulk, in ordinary," (for she is no ordinary vessel); but in honorable pomp, as a Glorious Monument of our own and other Naval Victories."

THE CORRESPONDENT URGED that a dry dock be constructed for the good old vessel and that it be roofed to protect her from the weather. However, it required the stirring poem by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes to stir the nation to an attitude which demanded effectively that the old ship be preserved.

NAPOLEON HAD SLIPPED AWAY from Elba, entered Paris secretly, had been received with open arms by the army, and had thrown into confusion all the calculations of those who had undertaken the reconstruction of Europe after Napoleon's fatal Russian adventure. Correspondents of the Intelligencer wrote passionately on the subject, some of them lauding Napoleon as the liberator of France from Bourbon oppression, while others denounced him as an upstart tyrant intent only on securing power for himself and his family. Waterloo was then about a month away.

ONE OF THE ISSUES OF THAT month contains an army roster which I am sure would be interesting to the military man of today. Listed as members of the general staff are Major Generals Jacob Brown, of the division of the north and Andrew Jackson, of the division of the south, and Brigadier Generals Alexander Macomb, Edmund D. Gaines, Winfield Scott and Eleazer W. Whipley. Jackson became president, and Winfield Scott became conspicuous in the Mexican war. It was too early for Grant, Lee and others who figured prominently in the Civil war.

WILLIAM CORBETT, ERRATIC AND irrepressible pamphleteer, who served some years in the British parliament and , two years in a British prison for libel, had started a series of letters to the Intelligencer. I find oniy the introduction to one of his letters, but from its tone I should expect him to have other libel suits on his hands before long.

THE INTELLIGENCER CARRIED little advertising. Its advertisements were in the form now known as classified, and in every issue are notices which impress on one the fact that slavery was then an established and recognized institution. Advertisements for runaway slaves are as casual as if they were for stray horses or dogs, and advertisers offer to pay good prices in cash for ten or twelve likely negroes.

Yesteryears

From The Herald Files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Thomas Brusegard, well known Gilby merchant, was a Grand Forks visitor. . . . A new electric sign was turned on at the YWCA. . . . Dr. J. M. Gillette spoke on "Welfare Legislation in North Dakota" . . . The Grand Forks hockey team defeated Devils Lake 6 to 0.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Rev. S. L. Tallakson announced the first of a series of unpopular sermons, on dancing and theater going. . . . Ralph Gardner heard a radio station broadcast from Mexico City. . . . Mrs. Ralph Lynch, Mrs. C. P. Trepanier were patronesses invited to a dance at St. Mary's.

TEN YEARS AGO—Champion dressed bird at the All-American Turkey show was bought for $2 a pound. . . . O. H. Bridston spoke on three merchandising trends developed since 1870. . . . Mrs. William Eddie of Northwood was elected president of the Turkey Hen club.

By W. P. Davies

PERUSAL OF THOSE WASHINGTON papers of the year 1815 suggests interesting comparisons of the condition of public affairs and ways of living a century and a quarter ago with what we are experiencing now. Take the matter of public expenditures, for instance. When the secretary of the treasury made his report and presented estimates of the need of the government for funds for 1815 the war was still in progress, hence some provision had to be made for carrying it on, with a good deal left for future determination. In that war year the secretary estimated the necessary expenditures for the year at $58,032,034.69. Today that would be mere chicken feed, and only enough to feed mighty few chickens.

THAT WAS WHAT THE TREASURY expected to spend in a year with a foreign war at its height. In the preceding year actualy expenditures had been $38,273,619.28, which was nearly two million less than the year's revenues. Expenditures for 1814 were classified as follows, omitting odd amounts:

Civil department, $933,000; miscellaneous, $1,207,000; diplomatic department, $206,000; military department, $20,510,000; navy department, $7,312,000; public debt, $8,103,000.

Take those figures and raise them to the nth power and you will have something approaching our present expenditures. But then, there are a lot more of us and wars are bigger than they were.

IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO spend money funds must be provided, and, as is customary in war time, new tax levies were made. One device for raising more money was the collection of taxes on household furniture and gold and. silver watches. The text of the act was published in the National Intelligencer and it occupies three and one-half columns of solid type. Congress was about as liberal with language then as it is now. The schedule of furniture taxes ranged from one dollar per annum on furniture not exceeding $400 in value to $100 per annum for value exceeding $9,000. There was prescribed an annual tax of $2 for each gold watch and $1 for each silver watch. There was also imposed a tax on each gallon of spirituous liquor distilled, 20 cents per gallon in addition to the dealer's license fee, or 25 cents if no dealer's license were obtained.

What's the revenue tax on hard liquor now?

MESSENGERS HAD ARRIVED IN Washington with the information that the treaty of peace had been signed and that Jackson had won the battle of New Orleans, but some of the actual com-; batants had not heard about those things by the end of February, and the paper published letters from various quarters telling of minor hostilities still in progress or momentarily expected. Meanwhile, President Madison had recommended that army personnel be to 6,000 and spirited debate on the subject was in progress in the house. The war was over, but members of congress —even as you and I—were undecided what to do with and about the peace. How familiar that seems!

ON MARCH 14, 1815, DANIEL GAIther offered a reward of $20 for the apprehension of a runaway slave named Ned; Ned's owner, who lived in Maryland, gave a detailed description of his slave, and said further:

"I bought Ned from the estate of the late Gen. Jeremiah Crabbe, late of Montgomery county, Md. Ned is an awfully tricky fellow, and is apt **to** get drunk whenever he can."

JOHN OTT, DRUGGIST, ADVERtised fresh garden seeds, naming many varieties, some of the names being still familiar. Among them were Drumhead, Savoy and Flat Dutch cabbage, ice lettuce and long green cucumber.

HYATT AND WILSON, CORNER OF Bridge and High streets, advertised that they had just received and had for sale the following: 100 quarter casks assorted gunpowder; 50 Ib papers Eagle ditto; 20 cannisters fresh Hyson tea, 2 Ib each; a few gross superfine and Henry the 8th playing cardls; 10 gross lead and carpenter's pencils; an assortment of stoneware; 5 dozen patent spicketts and fassetts, suitable for grocers; and a few dozen Jewsharps.

By W.P. Davies

COLLECTION OF TIN CANS LAST week was completely successful so far as the work of collection itself was concerned. Trucks were on hand to make the rounds of the city, the Scouts did their part in loading and unloading the cans, and ample space was provided for storing the empty cans until they could be loaded on cars for transportation.

Householders also, as a rule, did their share admirably. They had cleaned and flattened the cans according to instructions and placed them in suitable receptacles, and most of them deposited them at the block corners, thus obviating the need for several stops per block.

NOT ALL HOUSEHOLDERS, HOWever, were so considerate. There were numerous cases in which cartons left on the berm for collection were found to contain garbage lightly covered with tin cans.

Under the cans in some cartons were found bottles. All this stuff was collected and hauled to the storage yard, because during the work of collection there was no time to examine the contents of each container and make sure that it contained nothing but cans.

THE OWNERS OF THE STORAGE yard are left with a miscellaneous collection of unsanitary refuse on their hands which they must remove at their own expense just because a few selfish persons made use of a public and patriotic service in order to rid themselves of their own filth. It makes one wonder.

ON ONE OF THOSE SUNNY DAYS last week G. L. Andersen captured a caterpillar which he found crawling across the sidewalk at his home.

The animal is one of those brown-and-yellow ones of which great numbers are always seen in the spring and early summer.

I haven't the least idea to what species it belongs, but somewhere in its life cycle, of course, there is the butterfly form of which there are innumerable examples every summer. Appearance of this caterpillar late in January may be interpreted by some as a sign of an early spring. My own notion is that the caterpillar was fooled by phenomenally mild weather in to a premature appearance which it would have had cause to regret later on.

ALMANAC AND OTHER WEATHER forecasters go either on blind guesswork or on some mystical system which they have devised for themselves and in which, of course, some of them have unbounded faith. It makes little difference.

Their predictions follow pretty much the same general pattern and usually they are elastic enough to fit almost any kind of weather within a few days of the dates set.

An occasional lucky guess serves to support the claim of general accuracy. But if anyone had had the rashness to predict the kind of weather we have been having this January, what a wizard his followers would think him to be.

THE CRIMINAL POPULARLY known as "Lepke" Buchwaiter has been delivered by the federal government to the state of New York pending a decision by the governor of New York whether or not he shall be executed for murder.

Involved in his case are curious questions of rival jurisdiction between state and federal governments.

Lepke is a notorious gangster and racketeer who for years was head of a gang whose criminal activities ranged from petty extortion to murder. The exact sequence of legal proceedings in his case is not now recalled, but until recently Lepke was in a federal prison, cornit-ted for 14 years for offenses against federal law, while in New York there was on record his conviction in the state courts, with two others, of murder and of his sentence to death.

THE NEW YORK AUTHORITIES DEmanded possession of their criminal in order that they might electrocute him.

Federal officials were quite willing that the man be electrocuted, but they wanted to make certain that between the two jurisdictions he would not slip completely through the fingers of the law.

Finally they "lent" him to New York with the distinct understanding that unless the death sentence were carried out they should have him back.

His execution, with that of his two companions, has been set for February 7, but Lepke's counsel have petitioned the governor for clemency, and it is expected that there will be a postponement to permit a hearing.

By W. P. Davies

IN THE LAY MIND STRATEGY AND tactics are often confused. The confusion is quite natural, because, while in their main features the two are quite different, the line which separates them is not always clear, and there are occasions in which the borders of their respective areas appear to merge. In general, as we have repeatedly been told, strategy relates to broad plans made in preparation for future specific operations, to the shaping of campaigns which may be world-wide and months or even years in advance of their completion, or which may be confined to prospective operations on a single front to be undertaken within days or weeks. According to the same set of definitions, tactics relates to the immediate use in combat of the instruments which strategy has provided.

LONG BEFORE THE ALLIED LANDings in Africa the strategists had prepared plans for that operation, for the subsequent occupation of Sicily and invasion of the Italian mainland, and, doubtless, for further operations the precise nature of which has not yet been disclosed. In the making of these later plans, some of which have already been put into effect, changes were necessary as changes occurred in the situation to be met. Occupation of Rome was one of the Allies' objectives and when the landing was made at Salerno instead of near the mouth of the Tiber some amateur observers expressed surprise at the choice.

NEAR THE TIBER AND FOR SOME distance south the country is low and flat, most of it occupied by the Pontine marshes, the draining of which was one of Mussolini's really constructive works. There are no mountains in the vicinity, and no hills of consequence, and an invading force landing there would have met no opposition strengthened by natural defenses. At Salerno the coast is rugged, with steep hills commanding the narrow beaches, and with, range after range of hills extending into the interior. From those hills the enemy was able to pour a murderous fire on the invaders, and he could be dislodged only by desperate fighting. General Elsenhower explained the reason for the selection of Salerno as the landing place rather than the level country nearer Rome. It was imperative that the landing party, while at sea and while gaining foothold on the beaches, be protected by fighter planes, and Salerno was the point farthest north within the effective range of fighters flown from bases in possession of the Allies. On the beaches near the Tiber our men would have been without air protection.

THE BATTLE OF SALERNO WAS won, and it was a dificcult and bloody battle, and the slow and costly march northward was begun. Air basis for our fighters were established, and it became possible to undertake a landing nearer Rome. That was a part of the strategic plan, but the selection of the exact place and time for the landing became a matter of tactics. The line reaching across the peninsula bore a rough resemblance to one stone wall facing another. The Allies made progress, but it was slow and intermittent. In the vicinity of Cassino, General Clark's army was pounding against the line which the Germans were determined to hold as long as possible. While the Germans were occupied with that defense the Allies moved swiftly and landed almost without opposition on the becahes only a lew miles from Rome.

THE WHOLE OPERATION HAS been in a way a combination of strategy and tactics such as characterizes most military movements in some measure. One may compare the whole program to that of the farmer who prepares general strategic plans for the operation of his farm a year, or several years in advance. But while he adheres to his general plan, his actual operations are influenced each season by weather, market conditions and other factors which require modification here and there of his original plans.

ALLIED OPERATIONS IN THIS SECtor of the Italian area seem fairly clear to the onlooker. But there is still some mystery surrounding the behavior of the Germans. Their generals are understood to be past master in the art of war. It is inconceivable that, unkown to them, an Allied amphibious operation of considerable importance was being prepared against them. Yet all their movements indicate that they were taken completely by surprise by the landing which threatened the entrapment of 100,000 or more of their troops.