

THE OTHER DAY AN OFFICIAL IN Washington who is charged with responsibility for a certain line of defense production found that production in one important line was threatened with suspension because of a strike in another plant which supplied necessary parts, wrote to the leader of the striking outfit, setting forth the facts, and requesting that he permit the required parts to be supplied. He got his letter back with the notation from the strike leader, "This is O. K." So the government of the United States was graciously permitted to function a little longer. The incident recalls another, dating back nearly 50 years. Those were the days of Coxey's army and the A. R. U. railway strike. When the railway strike was called the North Dakota militia, which has since become part of the National Guard, was in camp somewhere in the state—I have forgotten where. The camp was just about over and the boys would soon be ready to return home. But the threatened cancellation of trains would complicate matters. In that emergency Governor Shortridge wired the people who were in charge of the strike asking that trains be permitted to run to carry the soldiers home. In that case, also, permission was granted, and North Dakota's army was provided transportation, granted safe-conduct, and permitted to return home without molestation.

IN THAT RAILWAY STRIKE THE strikers sought to avoid the charge of interfering with transportation of the mails. They tried to prevent the operation of passenger and freight cars, but professed willingness to permit mail cars to run. In the Great Northern yards at Grand Forks an engine to which a mail car was attached stood for some time with steam up and ready to start, and it could have been moved without interference. But the railroad people didn't move their mail cars that way. Mail cars were customarily attached to passenger trains, and the railway management proposed to move them that way or not at all. United States deputy marshals did operate a mail-and-passenger train out of Grand Forks. It was during that period that a detachment of regular troops was sent to Grand Forks to preserve the peace. Actually there was no serious disturbance.

IT WAS DURING THAT PERIOD, too, that "General" Jacob Coxey got together his "army" of unemployed for a march to Washington to secure the redress of what they considered their grievances. The marching was done principally by train. Motley groups in which were earnest men hoping to obtain work and others who merely went along for the ride, took possession of trains headed eastward and enjoyed the free ride toward Washington. The railroad people were helpless, as they were outnumbered hundreds to one. When hungry the tourists would unload and demand food, which local people were glad to give in order to get rid of the unwelcome crowds. In some cases where Coxeyites were expected to stop elaborate preparations were made for their reception. The main idea was to keep them moving on.

SEVERAL THOUSAND OF THIS MOTLEY "army" actually reached Washington, and Washington was about as badly stumped as any country village had been. The jails were not large enough to hold the invaders, and anyway it was no crime for anyone to visit Washington. The course of treatment which was finally adopted was similar to that which has been employed in some other cases. Coxey assembled his rabble on the grounds of the capitol and there made them a speech. He was arrested for walking on the grass contrary to the ordinance in such case made and provided.

ON A MORE RECENT OCCASION one Alphonse Capone, known to be the head of a gang of criminal racketeers, and believed quite credibly to be guilty of most of the crimes on the calendar, from murder down, was sent to the penitentiary, not for murder or racketeering, but for making a false income tax return.

EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN OUT in the country has seen swarms of mosquitoes, and even in the residential districts of the city it is not unusual in a year of abundant moisture to see mosquitoes collected in great clouds, like swarms of bees. But how many have seen mosquitoes in perpendicular columns, extending upward from telephone poles, fence-posts and Similar objects. That is a spectacle that I never saw, but it was seen by friends driving from Crookston to Grand Forks a few evenings ago.

It was still broad daylight, and the evening was very still, with just the lightest movement of air. The homecomers noticed what appeared to be columns of thin smoke rising from telephone poles along the way. The columns were of about the the same diameter as the posts, and they extended perhaps 30 or 40 feet above the polls. Curiosity impelled a closer inspection, and it was then found that instead of smoke, those columns were of mosquitoes. There were similar columns above fence-posts and above a line of commercial signs just off the highway. In each case the columns of mosquitoes appeared to be of about the same thickness as the object beneath, and while the mosquitoes were moving within the space of the column, the column itself remained stationary so far as could be observed. There were, however, other columns of mosquitoes, of similar size, but not quite perpendicular, apparently resting on the earth. These were moving slowly, presumably with the gentle wind. My informant says that neither he nor any of his group had ever seen anything like this before, and it is quite new to me.

THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS about mosquitoes that have puzzled me, and do still. Where do they come from? Of course they breed in stagnant water-shallow pools, rain barrels, and abandoned tin cans that have caught a little rain. But, although they are said to travel only short distances, in some seasons they may be found in great numbers far from any possibility of water.

ON WHAT DO MOSQUITOES LIVE other than the blood of human beings and the larger animals? In pioneer days travelers across the Prairies were pestered by clouds of mosquitoes which they encountered miles from human beings and their habitations and from horses, oxen and buffalo. There the insects were, having been bred by a preceding generation, rounding out their cycle far from all animal life other than gophers, rabbits and an occasional coyote. These little animals if attacked, would have been drained of blood by a small fraction of the mosquitoes infesting their home grounds. Moreover, those small animals have the protection of the grass and of their burrows, for the mosquito prefers to work in the open.

BIOLOGISTS TELL US THAT THE poison in a mosquito wound is in a fluid which the mosquito injects to dilute the blood of its victim and render it more easily assimilable. That is understandable. But why make the fluid poisonous? That doesn't help the mosquito; it enrages the victim; and it tends to make the mosquito unpopular. Seems as if nature slipped a cog there.

I MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY the tragedies of the birds' nests, the destruction to which parent birds and their young are subjected by the storms which demolish their homes and bring death to the young. A friend suggests that there are compensations which at times make life easier for the birds and tend to perpetuate the species. My friend lives near the river, and he says that in no other year has he seen birds as numerous or in as great variety as this year. He accounts for this on the ground of abundance of insect life which provides plenty of food for the insect-eating birds. Vegetation has also made wonderful growth this spring, and the seed-eating birds ought to be fat when the seeds ripen.

WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS OUR neighborhood has had an illustration of tohat is meant by the "tragedies of the tiests," of which E. P. Roe wrote long ago, and which I have mentioned recently. N o t i c i n g an unusual chirping of birds about his premises a neighbor found that three young orioles were distributed in his shrubbery, clamoring for food, while the parent birds were frantically dividing their energies between collecting worms for their progeny and teaching the youngsters to fly. A fourth fledgling lay helpless on the ground under a bush. Whether the little fellow had been hurt in a fall or was naturally a weakling did not appear, but it could neither fly nor cling to a perch. Left where it was it would soon fall a prey to some marauding cat, so it was taken indoors and given such care as was possible. Though helpless it was hungry, and whenever disturbed it would reach eagerly for food. It swallowed the small worms that were gathered for it, and it would take drops of milk from an eye-dropper. But the poor bird was doomed, and presently it gave up the ghost. There was one of the tragedies of bird life.

THE OTHER YOUNG BIRDS FLEW somewhat clumsily from shrub to tree and back again, and were diligently fed. So far as could be observed it was the male parent that did all the feeding. His brilliant color made it easy to trace his flight. Between intervals of feeding the young birds dozed, each clinging to the twig on which it was perched, with its head tucked under its wing. Darkness came, with one of the little birds in a tree near the house and another in a lilac bush. Then came the storm of Sunday night. The wind howled and the rain came down in torrents, and it seemed certain that the little birds would be blown away or drowned. But in the morning, there they were, just where they had been at sundown. In some way they had clung to their perches though they had been whipped this way and that, and they seemed none the worse for the drenching that they had received.

THE NESTS AND THEIR OCCUpants are the victims of tragedies, but in some way or other many birds seemingly helpless survive, notwithstanding the dangers that surround them. The ability of a bird to cling to a perch is remarkable. I have seen it explained that the clinging is done without any expenditure of energy, the weight of the bird automatically drawing the leg tendons and tightening the grip of the claws on the object to which they cling.

THE OTHER MORNING, HALF asleep, I listened to what appeared to be a family of grackles in conference just outside my bedroom window. Because of its marauding habits the grackle is deservedly unpopular, but it is an interesting specimen, just the same. With his purple head-dress the male grackle is a handsome bird, and instead of the hippety-hop of the robin, the grackle walks with stately tread which gives one the impression of dignity.

IT IS EASY TO IDENTIFY THE voice of the grackle, which, in certain tones, resembles a distorted human voice. I wonder if the grackle can be taught to talk. From the sounds outside my window I guessed that there were two parent grackles and two young ones. Probably that was wrong, but the voices sounded like that. At any rate, there was an extended conversation, such as may be heard occasionally in a human family group, and my interpretation was that the parent birds were remonstrating with, and sometimes scolding the youngsters, and the youngsters were sassing back. That's what it sounded like, anyway, and I'm glad I didn't get up to look, because I might have found only one grackle talking to himself, and my illusion would have been spoiled.

SOME OPPONENTS OF THE ST. Lawrence waterway improvement say there is no need for it. Navigation needs, they say, are confined to internal commerce, from lake port to lake port, and ocean vessels never would use the St. Lawrence even if it were made navigable for them. Then in the next breath they tell us that improvement of the river would draw so much traffic from New York and Boston as to cripple those ports, The objectors ought to get together with themselves.

AMONG THE INTERESTING CHARACTERS prominent in the early history of the northwest one of the most interesting was D. W. Hines, now almost forgotten, but remembered by a few old-timers as the promoter of a railway from the Red river valley to Duluth. A resident of Hannah in the early nineties Hines conceived the building of a farmers' railroad from the wheat fields of North Dakota to the head of lake navigation in order to provide an outlet for the farmers' wheat at transportation rates materially lower than those then current. The idea of a road from the wheat fields to the lake was not original with Hines, but the two particularly interesting features of his plan were that the road should be built and owned by the farmers themselves and operated in their interest, and that it should be built practically without the expenditure of money.

AT FIRST THE HINES SCHEME was ridiculed as visionary and fantastic, but community after community became interested, and before the scheme collapsed it had captured the imagination of thousands and it had the enthusiastic support of many substantial and influential men all along the line of the proposed road. During that period D. C. Macdonald, now of Grand Forks, was a boy living at Hannah and he heard much of the activities of the amateur railway promoter. Because of that interest Macdonald has collected a mass of newspaper clippings and other articles concerning Hines and his plan, the collection numbering probably several thousand items. The collection is interesting, not so much as presenting a story of Hines and his enterprise, as a record of the reactions of northwestern people to the scheme.

IN MY JOB AS A REPORTER I CAME to know Hines fairly well, as he visited Grand Forks several times in the course of his promotion work. Interest in his plan here, however, was only mild, and in general the man was regarded in Grand Forks more as a freak than as a railway builder.

THE ORIGINAL HINES PLAN CONTEMPLATED, briefly, the building of a railroad from Drayton North Dakota, to Deer River, Minnesota, where it was to connect with a short stretch of the Duluth and Winnipeg road which had been started but had become insolvent. Right-of-way for the road was to be donated by land owners along the line, or given in exchange for stock in the road. Grading was to be done by the farmers, and ties were to be furnished by residents of the Minnesota timbered area, payment for grading and ties to be made in railway stock. Then, with the roadbed built and the ties on hand, bonds were to be issued for the purchase of steel and rolling stock. Small sums were expected from persons along the line whose property would be benefited, but these were for preliminary expenses only. To all intents several hundred miles of railway were to be built through a wilderness without expenditure of a dollar.

IN THE PROMOTION OF THAT scheme Hines visited town after town, held mass meetings, and aroused great enthusiasm. He looked and acted like the plain farmer that he was, and he won the confidence of thousands of farmers and small-town people who would not have listened to a silk-hatted promoter from one of the great financial centers. The enthusiasm which he aroused seemed to go to his head, and he began to expand his scheme to include branch lines to almost every city that was interested in; having a new railway. From Drayton he proposed an extension north and west as far as Portal. A spur was to be run to Winnipeg, and another from Thief River Falls to Grand Forks. As the plan was expanded and actual construction on any part of the system was delayed, interest waned and presently subsided. The whole scheme evaporated about 1897.

RAILROAD PROMOTION WAS BUT one of the spectacular activities of Hines. He was a religious enthusiast with a marked strain of mysticism. During the height of his railroading activities he would postpone railroad meetings in order to hold mass meetings at which he would lambast one Horner, the apostle of a holiness movement which Hines opposed with all his might. A tattered number of a little newspaper which he published at Drayton in support of the railway movement has most of its space devoted to denunciation of Horner and the Hornerites rather than to the railroad that he was trying to build.

AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF HIS railroad scheme Hines became addicted to eccentricities so marked that he was adjudged insane and was sent to the Jamestown asylum for treatment. He remained there for a few months, then, wearying of the monotony, he walked out, and in the dead of winter and in blizzard weather he tramped on foot to Hannah. He moved to Blackduck, Minnesota, and engaged in lumbering on a small scale, then moved to Saskatchewan, where for some years he divided his time between organizing another railroad and promoting another religious cult. He died there just a few years ago.

WITH MENTALITY WHOSE PARTS did not mesh properly, Hines was in many respects shrewd and resourceful, and he had a vein of humor scarcely to be expected in a man so mystical and visionary. He sent an annual pass over his non-existent railroad to James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern, but received no similar courtesy in return. Calling on Mr. Hill later he referred to the omission, and Mr. Hill said that such an exchange would scarcely be equal. "My road is much longer than yours," he said. "That's true," replied Hines, "but mine is just as wide as yours." He got the pass.

DISTRIBUTED BY THE GREATER North Dakota association, the dictionary of spring wheat varieties just published by the Northwest Crop Improvement association, is a publication which should be of great value to the progressive farmer. In it are listed all the varieties of spring wheat grown in the two Dakotas, Minnesota and Montana, with description of the characteristics of each and notations concerning the suitability of each to various areas in the spring wheat territory.

THE COMMITTEE which is responsible for this booklet is composed of representatives of milling and elevator concerns, commission houses, maltsters and others interested in the grain trade of the northwest. All these concerns are vitally interested in the productivity of the northwestern wheat fields and in maintenance of the reputation of this great area for the fine quality of its wheat. In these factors they have a common interest with the farmer on the land.

IN THE PREPARATION OF THE booklet the committee has been assisted by members of the staffs of agricultural colleges in the four states and by representatives of the departments of agriculture in the United States and Canada. Results of research conducted by these authorities are represented in the descriptions given of characteristics of particular varieties of wheat and the recommendations made for or against the use of each.

EXPERIMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT of wheat have been in progress for many years, and scores of new varieties have been produced. In only a few cases have the strains produced proven wholly desirable. A given strain might be excellent from a particular standpoint, but defective in rust resistance, early ripening or some other essential quality. Many such strains are listed in the booklet with the notation "not recommended." The information given may save the grower costly experience with varieties of wheat which are not suited to his territory.

TRAVELERS WHO HAVE DRIVEN through what has been described as North Dakota's dust bowl report that the ranges so recently bare and brown are now clothed in luxuriant green, and that the picture now presented is one of beauty and abundance. The recent tour of farm managers took the tourists through the western range country, where they found lush growth of native grass on hills and in valleys, and herds of sleek cattle fattening on rich pastures and vast meadows covered with a tall growth that will soon be gathered into thousands of stacks of fine hay. Tourists were told by ranchmen that not since 1915 has the growth on the ranges been so abundant, and many of the old cattle men say that not even in 1915 was the growth so abundant.

ALL THIS IS IN A TERRITORY which has been described by magazine writers as a desert. We have been told with earnestness and solemnity that the drouth, assisted by over-grazing, had killed the grass; that with the destruction of the grass roots there was nothing to hold the soil together; that the fertile soil on millions of acres, thus loosened, had been blown away by the wind; that much of the territory so affected would never be restored, but would remain permanently desert; and that in the more fortunate localities it would take at least 50 years to renew the growth of grass. All of that has been told us by correspondents who, hearing about the drouth, came out to take a look at it, drew on their imagination and made the worst of it.

MEN WHO HAVE LIVED IN THE territory and understood it knew better. They knew, as everyone else did, that if it never rained again there would be no more grass. But they knew that those grass roots were not dead, and that the soil was not blown away. They knew that the one thing that the range needed was rain, and that when rain came the ranges would again be fresh and green. Rain came, and the grass grew, as it has done in the past. The sensational writers will not hear that grass is again growing on the ranges. They will be too busy hunting up other mares' nests.

SENATORS WHEELER AND NYE THINK that since Germany has attacked Russia it becomes the duty of President Roosevelt to urge upon Great Britain the negotiation of peace with Germany. Senator Taft, who has been critical of the policy of extending aid to Britain, does not go quite so far, but he thinks that there now exists the opportunity for the president to explore the possibilities of peace, but that his examination of the subject should be made without publicity.

ASSUMING THAT A PEACE could be negotiated, what would its terms be like? Would Hitler agree to withdraw his armies from Poland, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, restore their independence to the Greeks and Yugoslavs and permit the other Balkan nations to manage their own affairs in their own way? If not, if he insisted in retaining his strangle-hold on Europe, and subordinating the peoples of all that continent to the totalitarian system which he heads, would not that fact be evidence of his intent to consolidate his victories and strengthen his hands for a fresh attack on the civilization of the world?

AND EVEN IF HITLER SHOULD AGREE to conditions which on their face would make existence in the same world with him tolerable for men and women who love peace and prize liberty, what would such an agreement be worth in the light of Hitler's record? Hitler has already made numerous declarations of his purposes. He has made pledge after pledge. But every declaration of purpose that he has made has been thrown to the winds, and every pledge to which he has subscribed has been publicly and callously violated whenever change of plan or violation of promise has suited his purpose. What process of reasoning convinces senators that now is the time to negotiate a peace with Hitler when the very fact that what they think creates that opportunity is the deliberate violation of a solemn compact of friendship and non-aggression into which he entered with Russia less than two years ago? The record proves that no pledge of any nature made by Hitler is worth the ink required to sign it.

THE PRESENT CONFLICT BETWEEN GERmany and Russia has caused in some minds confusion which a little clear thinking ought to have prevented and ought to remove. Hitler and Stalin represent two social and political systems which, though different in some of their surface manifestations, are identical in their basic principles. Liberty-loving people have never been called on to choose between them. Without qualification they reject them both. But the situation that confronts the world goes beyond consideration of social and political systems. Hitler has undertaken to impose his peculiar system on the world by force of arms. By violence unparalleled he has suppressed free government in Europe, and he is engaged now in an attempt to crush Britain. If he should succeed in that there would remain only the United States between him and the realization of his ambition to establish the rule of his military dictatorship throughout the world.

HIS DECISION TO ATTACK RUSSIA NOW rather than at some other time does not change by a hairsbreadth his attitude toward the rest of the world, nor does it remove from the rest of the world any fragment of his menace to civilization. His conquest of Russia, if achieved, would supply him with material which he needs to continue his program of conquest, and it would remove from his path the hazard inherent in the existence of a powerful Russian army. The Russian system is as wrong as the German. Neither the American nor any other who loves liberty and values democracy can approve of or sympathize with either. But when one gangster who is engaged in wholesale murder and robbery turns on another who has been less violent and menacing, whatever the less powerful villain can do to impede and injure his greater adversary operates to the advantage of honest men. And perhaps the diversion may enable honest men to strike more effective blows at the major criminal

IN THIS NEW PHASE OF THE CONFLICT there is no issue of partnership with Bolshevism or Communism. But there must be a realistic approach to an existing situation. Russian resistance to Hitler creates an opportunity for democracy to assert itself with more effective force. Every German plane or tank destroyed in Russia, every German division compelled to waste its strength in the vast distances of Russia, represents a clear gain for democracy. And Hitler's conquest of Russia, if and when achieved, will help to feed and supply his armies and place in his hands new weapons with which to continue his onslaught on civilization.

IN THE CURRENT NUMBER OF the North Dakota Historical Quarterly is an article on the Turtle River state park, by Superintendent Russell Reid, describing concisely, but clearly, the park itself and the conditions under which it was established. The park area of 475 acres, on the Turtle river about a mile north of Arvilla, was acquired from the Board of University and School Lands in 1934, and development work was then begun by CCC workers. With one interruption caused by the temporary closing of the CCC camp, that work has continued until the present time.

SUPERINTENDENT REID'S ARTICLE outlines the geological history of the park area, some understanding of which contributes greatly to enjoyment and appreciation of the park itself. To the traveler along the adjacent highway the landscape is almost perfectly flat, but only a mile away one enters upon a bit of nature's rugged handiwork, bearing the marks of glacial action of thousands of years ago, and of the carving done by the subsiding waters of the great lake which succeeded the glacier. The park valley is as irregular in contour as one could wish, is heavily wooded, and through it winds the river which has given it its name.

ONE OF THE ATTRACTIVE FEATURES of the park is its primitive naturalness. Areas have been cleared for parking and camp sites. Space has been prepared for outdoor games, but much of the forest remains untouched except for the removal of dead wood and similar work, so that visitors can enjoy for a time the beauty of the natural forest in its changing aspects through the season.

THERE HAVE BEEN BUILT, OR are in course of construction, buildings of various kinds to provide for caretaking and for the needs of campers and , day-by-day visitors, but all this work is done in such a way as natural surroundings. This is characteristic of the park work now being done by the federal government and by the state governments. The idea has been to make the structures which it is necessary to build fit smoothly into the landscape so that they become part of it.

A USEFUL FEATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT Reid's article is a map of the park, showing the winding river, drives, camp sites, parking spaces, dam, swimming pool, etc.

EACH YEAR THE PARK HAS CONTRIBUTED to the enjoyment of increasing thousands of people. Family and community picnics are held there. Tent-dwellers enjoy there a summer vacation. Tourists find the park a pleasant place for a brief stay. Old settlers of the Red river valley have held their meetings in the park for several years. The park has become a real asset, not only to the immediate vicinity, but to a large section of northeastern North Dakota.

THE NORTH WESTERN BELL, house organ of the Northwestern Telephone company, recalls that 33 years ago Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, said: "The nation that controls the air will ultimately rule the world." At that time the airplane was little more than an interesting source of entertainment at fairs. Most of those who were airminded were skeptical of the practical utility of the plane and looked to the lighter-than-air craft as the real means of air transport.

DR. BELL'S FAME IS BASED ON his invention of the telephone, but his scientific mind led him also into other fields. Not only was he intensely interested in aeronautics, but he experimented for years with various forms of flying devices. While the Wrights were at work on the plane which was to make history, Bell built mammoth cellular kites which he flew at his summer home in Nova Scotia. Such cellular structures, he thought, might be so equipped with power that they could fly and carry useful loads. The success of the Wrights with the plane, of course gave the subject a new direction.

LIKE MANY OTHER SERIOUS-thinking men and several women, I am a mystery-story addict. Take the ingredients, a good, neatly-executed murder, an ingenious and resourceful criminal, and a detective who can find clues which are invisible to others and can follow them as unerringly as the bloodhound follows a trail, mix these together in proper proportions, add, perhaps a dash of romance, and entrust them to a story-teller as deft with words as the chef is with the ingredients that go to the creation of a cake, and you have a dish that I can enjoy as the hungryman enjoys a good meal. Why do I read mystery stories? Not for mental discipline; not to find the solution of some social or political problem. I read them just because I like them.

OCCASIONALLY, THOUGH RARELY, I dream of mysteries. I did the other night and while it lasted I had a fine time. I thought I was reading a book that dealt with a particularly fascinating mystery story. With the speed that is characteristic of the dreamer I read nearly the whole large book in what seemed to me several hours, but which may have been a few minutes by the clock. The story was well told and the plot was skillfully constructed. One A had been charged with the commission of a murder, and all the facts seemed to point directly to his guilt. Though no hint of the sort was given in the book, I knew, by virtue of that sixth sense which is the gift of nature to all dreamers, that A was innocent and that the real criminal was X, who has so contrived matters as to cast suspicion on A. I read until I reached the last chapter, in which would be shown the steps by which the sleuth had fixed the crime on X and the manner in which X had covered his tracks and almost brought innocent A to the scaffold. But before I could start on that chapter I woke up.

THERE I WAS, WITH A PERFECTLY good mystery story hanging in the air. That last chapter must have been a grand one, but so far as I was concerned it might as well have been blank paper. The story was a dandy, as leading up to a climax, but with the climax omitted, there might as well have been no story at all. Much of the enjoyment in reading a mystery story lies in anticipation of what comes next, but when one is led, step by step, through a series of anticipations, the pinnacle of which is to be reached in the last chapter it seems that somebody or something is taking an unfair advantage of a fellow.

LITERARY CRITICS ARE APT TO turn up their noses at the happy ending to a story. Because of a prevalent impression that there must be an ending of some sort, many writers deliberately hatch up an unhappy one. That is considered more arty. But is an ending of any sort necessary? A story was told long ago by a Frenchman who thought not.

ACCORDING TO THE YARN, ABOUT which I have my doubts, a new and thrilling three-act play was being produced in a French theatre. The audience was entranced, and at the end of the second act was waiting eagerly for the third and final act, when a man arose and addressed the audience about like this:

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: — WE have just witnessed two acts of one of the finest dramas ever presented on the stage. The situations as depicted are true to life, each followed by another with the inexorable logic and the inexorability of life itself. The characters are skillfully drawn, and in their stage presentation they are not impersonations, but re-creations. Up to the moment when the curtain fell on the second act we witnessed a supreme work of art, an episode from life itself. But, pursuant to a certain dramatic tradition, the third act will bend and warp the truthful delineations which we have seen into an artificial structure for the purpose of fitting them into a conclusion, when, in fact, life has no conclusion, but goes on and on in a never-ending series of situations, each giving rise to another. It would be too bad for us to impair the truthful impressions that we have gained from these two splendid scenes by waiting for the last act. Therefore I suggest that as the highest compliment we can pay to the authors and players, we leave the house now, before the third act is presented."

And according to the story, when the curtain rose for the third act, the theatre was empty. Though somewhat skeptical, I have enjoyed that story.

WHETHER TRUE OR NOT, THAT was a good story about the German dummy tanks with wood frames covered with canvas. If it is not true the Russian who started it going is to be congratulated on having manufactured an excellent yarn. If it is true, the framing of that plan was nothing short of a stroke of genius, to be credited to some Nazi Inventor.

Probably Hitler would resent the suggestion that anything half as clever as the use of dummy tanks was ever conceived by a Jew, yet we have the record of the achievement of a son of Abraham who stampeded a vast army with a mere handful of men armed with nothing more deadly than trumpets, pitchers and lamps or torches. That genius was one Gideon, the son of Joash, who lived as far back as 1000 B. C. You remember — or do you? — that a countless army of Midianites and Amalekites was in camp, ready to move upon and destroy the Israelites. From his small command Gideon selected 300 eager and resolute men, each of whom he equipped with a trumpet and a light concealed in a pitcher. Divided into three companies of 100 each the men took their stations at night on different sides of the enemy's camp. Then, at a given signal, the three hundred blew a loud blast on their trumpets, cash down their pitchers with a crash and waved their torches aloft, shouting "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon. The encamped soldiers, awakened from sleep by the din, saw lights all around them, and, believing themselves surrounded by an overwhelming force, became panic-stricken and each man fell upon his neighbor, and the great army literally destroyed itself. As an example of deceptive tactics it's a safe bet that Hitler hasn't a man in his army who can improve on it.

THEN THERE WAS THE FEAT OF the Greeks in getting a group of their armed men into the city of Troy concealed in a great wooden horse which they presented to the Trojans as an act of courtesy. There are those who say it never was done, but I ask them to prove that it wasn't. I take my stand with Homer.

CAMOUFLAGE OF VARIOUS KINDS has been used time and again when men have come into armed conflict. Some of us were talking the other day about an exploit of either the Youngers or the Ames gang, and nobody could remember which it was. Anyway, the bandits stopped a train in a wooded ravine, and when the trainmen and passengers looked out to see what it was about, their valuables were collected by three or four armed men, while from behind every bush and over every rock was pointed a rifle, with the marksman's hat just visible above it. Those rifles and hats were found there next day, as the robbers hadn't taken the trouble to carry them away. In preparation for the raid the small group of bandits had robbed a store, from which they had collected hats and rifles. These they had trained on the spot where the train would stop, and the victims of the raid had the illusion of being surrounded by a whole army of bandits.

IN THE FORMER WORLD WAR Allied war ships were sometimes disguised as slow freighters, and sometimes German raiders didn't discover the deception until shells from the "freighter" were exploding on or about them. During the Civil war a small company of Union soldiers was about to be gobbled up by a greatly superior Confederate force. The terrain was such that the Union force was visible to the enemy on only a short bit of road. The commander marched his men out of sight, then reversed under shelter of a screen of trees, and marched them over the same road again. This he did until the Confederates were convinced that they had to deal with a big Union force, and they retreated in haste.

I ENJOYED LOCKLIN'S CHAT about Paul J. (Coach) Davis, who had, and still has, many friends in Grand Forks, where he coached football for years. I wonder if Davis remembers the military drill in which he, Julius Bacon and Bill Panovitz participated at a Shrine Circus. Bacon was commanding officer and Davis and Panovitz were buck privates. And I defy any drillmaster today to put his company through more complicated evolutions than that squad performed. Then there was the baseball game at the same circus in which Davis and Panovitz played a whole game—without any baseball. I think one of those flies is up in the air yet. The two players have taken time out to attend to other matters while the ball soared into the empyrean.

I THINK IT WAS WASHINGTON Irving who wrote a sketch which he entitled "The mutability of literature." He told of visiting a great British library, where, seated alone in a room filled with ancient books and manuscripts, he thought, nodded, and fell asleep. Believing himself awake, he was surprised when a stout little quarto volume, several hundred years old, began to talk to him.

The talk was of literature, the literature of Queen Elizabeth's time, which was also the period of the quarto, and of still earlier times. The quarto talked of the great writers and great books of his own day, with which he seemed to be quite familiar, but as he named one brilliant writer after another, and mentioned masterpiece after masterpiece, Irving found that most of them were strangers to him, or if he had heard of the writers at all, it was as men who had enjoyed a brief hour of popularity and had quickly been forgotten. Works which the quarto considered great now gathered dust on bookshelves. Irving asked his friend what he thought of a writer who seemed to be coming into prominence about the time that the quarto was printed. The writer was one William Shakespeare. The quarto repeated the name with a snort of contempt. Yes, he had heard of the fellow, a scribbler of cheap doggerel, a hack who worked over borrowed plots into thrillers for the entertainment of the yokels who frequented his playhouse. Of course the man could never have written anything more important than a penny-dreadful. He was incapable of producing literature. The quarto was surprised that Irving knew Shakespeare's name at all, for the poor scribbler must have been forgotten before his ashes were cold.

IT WAS AN AMUSING FABLE, AND to recall it now reminds one that even in Irving's day when books and magazines were not produced at a tenth of their present rate, there was a high degree of mortality in literature, or that which passed for literature at the time of its publication. Books read with absorbing interest when issued were quickly forgotten, and out of the annual output of the presses there was only an occasional one that endured.

THAT WAS TRUE IN IRVING'S time. It is even more applicable now, when the volume produced is so much greater. Of the thousands of books published last year, how many are now read? Scarcely any. And few of the best sellers of today will be remembered next year.

WAR CONDITIONS HAVE TENDED to make current literature more transitory than usual. There is a demand for books dealing with war conditions, and numerous writers have undertaken to supply the demand. Some of the books are valuable, but a lot of them are thrown together hastily, are factually inaccurate, and are poorly written. Even of those in the better class there are few which measure up to reasonable literary standards. Those better ones are examples of good reporting, but their value is not as literary works, but as purveyors of information on subjects of current interest.

IF THE MORTALITY RATE AMONG I books had been high, it has been even higher among magazines. Stored away somewhere I have a few old volumes of Scribner's, Century, Harper's and the Atlantic. In their day those were grand magazines. Their essays, fiction and scientific articles were of high order. They had the quality of timelessness which is one of the characteristics of real literature. Scribner's and the Century are gone. Harper's has been streamlined in conformity to the present trend. The Atlantic retains some, though not all, of its original fine flavor.

SCORES OF OTHER MAGAZINES have come and gone, and it is difficult to recall even their names. Of the magazines which have come to take their place few are likely to last as long as their predecessors did, because the popular magazine of today is journalistic, dealing—often very capably—with the events of the day, up to the minute, to be laid aside and forgotten as soon as read. We drive our automobiles so fast that we miss most of the scenery. We devour books and magazines too rapidly to digest them, and many of them are utterly indigestible.

THERE IS IN PROSPECT, AND ALready partly harvested, one of the nation's biggest wheat crops, and the storing of It presents a problem of major proportions. The carry-over from former years is far greater than usual, and the war has closed most of the foreign markets. Many of the local elevators and some of the big terminals are already full, and difficulty is experienced even in finding space for the contents of farm granaries and bins in which much of last year's wheat was stored under the government loan plan.

Because the northern harvest is later than the southern, the spring wheat territory will feel the effects of the shortage of storage space most acutely. Under no circumstances would northern wheat be shipped to southern local elevators, but wheat from southern territory is already being shipped to the great terminals as the capacity of local storage is reached. By the time North Dakota's wheat is threshed many of the big elevators will be filled with southern wheat.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION IS AN IMportant factor in the disposal of wheat. Northwestern railways have been buying thousands of new cars and refitting old ones, and the railway managements say that they will be able to handle grain as fast as places are found to put it. To insure this, however, co-operation of shippers will be essential. Cars must be loaded and unloaded promptly, and shippers and consignees can do much in this way to keep the stream of grain moving.

SOME STUDENTS OF THE PROB-lem recommend that instead of threshing with combines during the cutting process, wheat growers bind and shock the grain p.id then stack it. Grain in the stack is relatively free from hazards of weather, and as a rule the quality of the grain is improved by being stacked. The time element also is important, as the threshing of stacked grain can be deferred, if necessary, until storage becomes available.

WHILE ALL THIS IS TRUE, THERE arises the question of labor. For several years, before the war emergency present-ed itself, farm labor was difficult to obtain, and that fact was responsible, largely, for the substitution of the combine for the ordinary harvester. If this big wheat crop is to be shocked, where are the men to be found to do the shocking?

A PROBLEM EVEN MORE PERPLEXing is that of stacking. The building of a grain stack which will stand up and be weather-proof is an art not to be acquired in a few days. In the old days, when stacking was general, there were relatively few good stackers, and those few commanded much higher wages than were paid for shocking or other field work. Most of those old stackers are gone, and we have not been developing new ones. The chances are decidedly against resumption of stacking on a large scale.

THERE ARE TWO PERFECTLY good ways of building a grain-stack, and both were employed in the northwest I when stacking was general. In one method the finished stack rises perpendicularly from the base for several feet, then tapers gradually to the peak. In the other the stack of bundles extend beyond the base, tier after tier, until the stack has a decided bulge, after which it is drawn up to the peak. A stack of either kind will shed water perfectly if it is well built, but the methods employed are quite different.

STOCKS OF THE LATTER FORM seem to be of German origin, and years ago when one saw a stack of that kind he might be fairly sure that the owner had come from Germany, either directly, or through a more or less long line of ancestors. In the country west of Euclid, Minnesota, there were the Stuhrs, Tiedemans and other families of German origin, fine farmers, and good citizens, whose stacks were uniformly of the "German" pattern and could be identified miles away. The habit of building a stack in a certain way seems to run in families and races, just as the women of a certain family, grandmothers, and daughters, are known for a certain style of cookery.

THERE WERE TIMES 50 YEARS ago when emergency storage for grain had to be improvised on the farms. Terminals might be glutted, railroads might be overtaxed, or the farmer might find it necessary to defer hauling until after fall plowing was done. Rough board bins, roofed with straw, served the purpose quite well, and it was not unusual for the farmer to build a well of filled grain sacks, dump a thousand bushels of wheat into the enclosed space and top the whole with straw. The latter plan answered tolerably if the grain were to be moved soon, otherwise it would absorb moisture from the earth and be damaged.

IN HIS WAR ARTICLE IN FRIDAY'S HERALD Kirke L. Simpson, one of the competent Associated Press commentators, refers to "what seems a Russian checkmate to the German Blitz." Simpson's figure is based on the game of chess, but the chess player may object that in this case Simpson has not said just what he means. In chess when the player who has the next move finds his king in a position from which it cannot be extricated and in which it could be captured by the opponent's next move, he is said to be checkmated, and he has lost the game. If the king is directly menaced, but can be moved or defended, that position is called check, and the player whose king is so menaced must move or protect it at his next move. Another position known as stalemate is that in which one's king is not immediately subject to attack but in which no move can be made without bringing it into the line of fire.

WHEN TWO ARMIES CONFRONT EACH other and neither can move without inviting disaster, that condition is often described as stalemate. In war, as in chess, checkmate ends the game in complete victory for one side. That condition has not been reached in Russia. There appears to be a condition of "check," in which the German advance has been held up. The Germans may continue their invasion by more powerful frontal attack or by flanking movements which would compel Russian retreat or result in the destruction of their forces. But nothing approaching "checkmate" has been reached by either side.

THE EXISTING CONDITION IN SYRIA can be explained only on the ground that Hitler has applied sufficient pressure to the Vichy government of France to compel it to reverse its position in respect to the armistice which it requested a few days ago. The fact that an armistice was requested is beyond dispute. The text of that request was given out by the Vichy government itself, and the request was received by and transmitted through the United States state department. It was entirely reasonable that such a request should be made. The condition which resulted in Frenchmen fighting Frenchmen, and in Frenchmen fighting each other, is one of the great tragedies of this war. Resistance to the British and free-French in Syria has been demonstrated to be hopeless, and it was to the interest of both parties that the conflict should cease without further loss of life,

HITLER, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO CONSIDER it to his interest that the conflict in Syria should continue in order to keep the British in that area occupied. Therefore, clearly in obedience to Russian orders, armistice negotiations were suspended, and in explanation statements were issued from Vichy so contradictory as to be completely unconvincing. In almost the same breath it was said that no reply had been received from the British, and that a reply stating terms had been received, but that the terms were unacceptably harsh. There could be no clearer demonstration that Vichy dare not do otherwise than obey whatever orders Hitler chooses to give.

AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF ICELAND brings the United States physically one step nearer the actual theatre of war. By opponents of aid to Britain that occupation is described as an act of war. And that is exactly what it is in purpose and effect, whatever technical interpretation may be placed upon it. And, on the same basis, the United States has been committing acts of war ever since the war began. Those acts have been performed as an expression of overwhelming American sentiment, regardless of what Senator Wheeler says.

EVER SINCE HITLER BECAME A POWER in Germany his acts have been consistent with his widely published statements, representing a fixed determination to rule Europe with an iron hand. And the kind of rule which he proposed for Europe involved of necessity his rulership of the rest of the world. Great Britain stood in his way, and must be destroyed. The carrying out of Hitler's plans would involve the United States in the catastrophe which would overwhelm the rest of the world, therefore the United States has taken progressive steps to assist Great Britain in the task of destroying Hitler and Hitlerism.

IN THAT LIES THE CAUSE OF AMERICAN participation in this war, and its justification. What form that participation shall reach, what shall be its extent, into what seas American ships shall sail in carrying it out, what distant outposts we may find it necessary to occupy, and with what forces—all these are matters for the future to determine. American action must be shaped accordance with the requirements as they develop and the developments are so swift and unpredictable that no chart can be drawn today by which our course can be guided tomorrow.

IN A RADIO ADDRESS RECENTLY Herbert Hoover set forth what he believed to be the correct program for the United States to follow with respect to the present war. He urged that all possible aid be given to Great Britain short of putting the United States directly into the war, and that the nation be armed to the teeth for defense of the western hemisphere. Two of his recommendations seem to merit comment. They are:

"STOP THIS NOTION of ideological war to impose the four freedoms on other nations by military force and against their will," and

"Go to the peace conference without the dates which come with war."

CONCERNING THE FIRST OF THESE it may be said that nobody is trying to impose any sort of freedom on anyone who does not want it. Instead, the United States is helping Great Britain to preserve for these nations, and for others that still possess freedom, the freedom that they already have, and to restore to several other nations the freedom which they possessed, which they prize, and of which they have been ruthlessly and brutally deprived.

CONCERNING THE SECOND RECOMMENDATION, the suggestion may be made that there is a place for hate as well as for love. And if Mr. Hoover were to occupy a seat at the peace conference which will be held some day he would be found hating with an abiding hatred the thing against which democracy is at war today. That thing is not the composite German people. It is not Hitler the individual. It is the spirit which finds expression in Hitler and his acts, the spirit of brute force which seeks to destroy what-ever stands in the way of its unholy ambition. And the peace conference which is not governed by hate of that kind will be a failure.

WINSTON CHURCHILL IS A MAN who easily and inevitably becomes the subject of anecdote. Among the numerous stories told about him this one has just been received:

Churchill was approached by a young man bubbling over with war enthusiasm. He wanted to be placed where he could be of service to his country, no matter where. Said he: "I don't drink; I don't smoke; and I am 100 per cent efficient."

Churchill replied: "I drink; I smoke; and I am 200 per cent efficient."

THAT BRINGS TO MIND THE FACT that quite a number of people make a virtue of not doing things. If the progress of the world had depended on those who pride themselves on not doing this, and not doing that and the other thing, and who are so interested in not doing that they neglect doing, we should never have got past the jelly-fish stage.

IN DISCUSSING THE OCCUPATION of Iceland, first by the British and now by American forces, Judge Grimson of Rugby, referred to one phase of that subject in addition to the comment which he made in an Associated Press article, He said:

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

"THESE CONDITIONS GREAT BRITAIN has entirely fulfilled. The relations between the army of occupation and the native Icelanders has been harmonious. Now the United States assumes those obligations and that it will fulfill them goes without question.

"For these reasons this occupation is for the best interests of Iceland itself, as it is necessarily to the advantage of the North American continent as has been pointed out.

"Personally, I believe that the military bases now established in Iceland should be leased and occupied by the United States after the war, for all the reasons heretofore stated.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE itinerant tinker went up and down the street calling "kettles to mend!" If there were any he would make the necessary repairs and take his pay, sometimes in cash, sometimes in clean cotton or linen rags which would later be turned into paper. Uncle Sam is not mending kettles, but he is figuratively driving up and down the alleys collecting pots, pans, kettles and other utensils and objects of metal. In this particular Job of collecting his preference is for aluminum, and patriotic housewives are ransacking their shelves for aluminum containers which are out of repair or have become obsolete, for the metal is needed for the building of airplanes and in the manufacture of other war material.

SOMEBODY HAS PROPOSED THAT the aluminum tip of the Washington monument be removed and cast into the melting pot as a contribution to this particular phase of the defense program. The quantity of metal thus made available would be negligible, but the idea is to make a patriotic gesture thought likely to impress the public and lead to a greater degree of co-operation. I have my doubts as to the value of the results to be attained in this manner. If the cap of the monument is removed it will have to be replaced with something else, and it seems that if an equal amount of energy were to be devoted to popularizing the conservation of aluminum in some other manner the results would be fully as good.

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT DURING the former war period intensive effort was made for the production and conservation of food—an excellent and necessary thing. But some enthusiasts¹ conceived the idea of digging up the lawns in some of the big city parks and planting potatoes there. In some cases that was done. Acres of fine lawns were destroyed, and people started planting potatoes who didn't know whether they would develop shrubs or trees. A few bushels of potatoes were grown at the cost of several dollars a peck, and the lawns had to be rebuilt, at still greater cost. It was all very patriotic, but it represented waste where economy was the prime essential.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE some 20,000,000 pounds of scrap aluminum kicking around and doing nobody any good. If that can be collected and turned over to the government it will help materially, though the prospect is that there will be needed a much greater quantity to make up what appears to be an acute shortage. Hence we may expect to see new aluminum utensils scarce in the near future. The aluminum plants will be processing the metal for other purposes.

SOME OF THE YOUNGER HOUSEWIVES may wonder how they are to make coffee if percolators, drippers and so forth are off the market. Really, the problem is not a very difficult one. Good coffee can be made by almost any process, and in almost any sort of vessel. If tinware is scarce, and tin is at a premium, an iron kettle will answer the purpose quite well. Coffee as good as any that I ever drank was made in an old kettle which had once been coated with tin, but from which the tin had long since been burned or rubbed off. And I have drunk horrible coffee that was made in some of the most newfangled appliances. The quality of coffee depends on the coffee itself and the way it's handled, and not on the vessel in which it is cooked. The new devices are convenient but they won't insure good coffee.

PERHAPS THERE ARE STILL homes in which one of the earliest morning sounds is that of the coffee mill in which coffee is being ground fresh for breakfast. I can remember when that was the rule. We used to buy Arbuckle's whole coffee in pound packages, or McLaughlin's XXXX, and there were times when we could get seven pounds for a dollar, although the usual price was about 20 cents. Those coffees were roasted and glazed with egg to retain the aroma. I have heard it charged that some of the manufacturers used eggs which had long passed their proper usefulness. I know nothing about that, or of the precise grade of coffee used, but the coffee made was good, anyway.

WHILE TEA HAS ALWAYS BEEN the national drink of Canada, as of England, the Canadians have used limited quantities of coffee, and in recent years some of them have learned how to make good coffee. There was a time when it was next to impossible in a Canadian hotel to get a cup of coffee that was fit to drink. That has all been changed. In my Canadian youth the store in which I worked bought its coffee in the green bean, in sacks which held two bushels or more. When we needed coffee for the retail trade we took a few sacks to the spice mill near by and had it roasted and ground. The demand for it was very small, however, for tea was the universal beverage.

A CANADIAN BULLETIN ON WAR activities discusses, among other things, the rumor that has been circulated that while the United States is "leasing" and "lending" war material to Great Britain, the Canadians are demanding and receiving spot cash for purchases made by Great Britain and are making handsome profits in the transactions. Statements to that effect have been made in this country by Senator Wheeler and other isolationists.

THE BULLETIN points out in the first place that Canada itself is at war, and is maintaining for war purposes, both at home and abroad, army, navy and air forces, the cost of which has imposed on the Canadians the largest public expenditures and the highest tax rates ever known in that country. Canada does not regard this expenditure as a "contribution" to Great Britain, but rather as her share in common effort in which she is paying her own way.

IN ORDER TO HELP TO MEET HER own war needs Great Britain makes purchases in Canada chiefly of bacon, wheat and other foodstuffs, metals and timber, and miscellaneous war supplies. For the period Canada has arranged a price structure as a safeguard against inflated prices, and, while there have been some price increases, these have been limited to cases in which the facts made them necessary. By agreement between the British and Canadian governments the price of bacon, for instance, was increased. This was made necessary by increased hog prices in the United States which, if not met, would have drawn the supply of hogs from Canadian plants processing for the British market.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR the Canadian mining interests contracted with the Canadian and British governments for delivery of their entire product at pre-war prices. Similar contracts were made with respect to timber.

FOR THE PURCHASE OF MANUFACTURED goods Great Britain makes partial payments in cash, but such cash payments are for raw materials which the manufacturers must buy for cash in the United States. In these transactions the Canadian government acts as the fiscal agent of Great Britain, charges no commission, makes no profit, and pays all expenses of administration. Canadian tax legislation is so framed as to safeguard against profiteering. Private concerns are subject to a basic tax of 40 per cent, with excess profits taxes running as high as 75 per cent,

DISCUSSION OF METHODS OF storing grain has reminded me of a type of field bin with which I was familiar many years ago. The framework consisted of separate units of two-by-six scantling, the base, or sill, and the rafter being each 12 feet long. Two feet from the end of each sill and rafter was spiked an upright 8 feet long. These units could be put together flat on the ground, as many as might be desired, hence the work could be done quite rapidly. The units were then set up on level ground 2 feet apart, enough for a bin usually 16 feet long. For walls and floors sound boards were used, floor-cracks covered, and wall-boards placed inside studding, and a few loose boards on the roof completed the lumber part of the job. This gave a bin 8 feet wide, 8 feet high and 16 feet long, resting on a base 12 feet wide and with a roof projection of 2 feet. The roof, covered with straw, would turn water indefinitely. Such a bin would hold around 700 bushels—figure it for yourself.

ONE ADVANTAGE OF A BIN OF that kind was its cheapness. Lumber good enough for the purpose could be bought for \$15 a thousand feet. It would be different now, with lumber difficult to obtain at any price. I was told that the Central Lumber company expected to rush its new building at the end of Walnut to completion—if only it could get the lumber.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ASKS CONgress for authority to install daylight saving time on either a regional or a national basis, and for part of the year or all the year around, as may seem desirable. The proposal is certain to provoke spirited and perhaps acrimonious discussion as it did when daylight saving was made the national order a quarter of a century ago.

It will be recalled that in those earlier years daylight saving was vigorously opposed by a good many persons on religious grounds. Time, said such objectors, was of divine origin, and for mere human beings to enact laws saying it is noon when according to all the laws of nature it is only 11 o'clock is nothing short of blasphemy. The promoters of the daylight saving, plan might have avoided that sort of criticism if instead of proposing that the clocks should be moved forward an hour they had proposed that all human activities, work and play, school sessions and official acts, should begin and end an hour earlier than usual. Surely in that there could be nothing sacrilegious.

THE PRESIDENT CITES FIGURES, obtained from some unnamed source, to the effect that installation of daylight saving on a nation-wide and yearly basis would result in an annual saving of more than 700 million kilowatts of electric energy. That quantity of energy would operate a lot of machinery.

NATURALLY, DAYLIGHT SAVING doesn't increase the hours of daylight. It merely shifts the use of what daylight there is to a period an hour earlier. The desirable or undesirable effect of that is in part a matter of occupation and custom, and largely of latitude. In this northern latitude we have, for nearly three summer months, from 14 to 17 hours of daylight each day. That is twice the mechanic's working day, and more than the ordinary working day in any occupation. Whether one goes to work at 6 A.M. or 7 A.M. he will start and quit his working day in broad daylight, and his consumption of affected in the least. In the winter time our daylight is correspondingly brief, and if the working hours were moved forward many of us would be going to work by candlelight.

IN THIS LATITUDE OF LONG SUMmer days the advantage of socalled daylight saving lies in the utilization of existing daylight in a different manner. During the former war many of our people developed the gardening habit quite intensively. With working time on the usual basis gardening time was divided into morning and evening periods, which many found undesirable. But with working time moved forward the regular task ended early, and there could be several hours of uninterrupted gardening.

THAT APPLIED TO OTHER HOME tasks than gardening. It also applied to various forms of recreation. In some cases, however, individuals preferred to do their gardening, their golfing, or what not, in the morning hours, and daylight saving threw them out of gear.

MANY FARMERS OBJECTED TO the plan, although their attitude was not easy to understand because the farmer does his field work, not by the clock, but by the sun and the weather. Eastern dairymen objected that the new schedule didn't fit in with the feeding and milking time of their cows, but they had to follow it in order to conform their deliveries to the new habits of their customers.

GREAT BRITAIN, I BELIEVE, IS ON daylight saving time the year around, at least for the duration of the war. The plan seems to be considered effective over there. Perhaps we may find it desirable here, although many communities in which it was in operation during the former war have gone back to the old schedule.

FOUR WEEKS AGO HITLER STARTED HIS invasion of Russia. Those have been weeks of hard fighting, in which both sides have sustained tremendous losses in men and materials. Just how matters are at the front the outside world has no means of knowing with any exactness. It is certain that German troops have forced the Russians back from all of the territory west of the line which separated Germany and Russia before Hitler began his series of smashing attacks upon his neighbors in 1939. It is quite certain, too, that at some points the Germans have at least driven spear-points through the great line of fortifications known as the Stalin line.

BEYOND THIS WE CAN DO LITTLE MORE than speculate. As bases of speculation we have completely contradictory reports from Berlin and Moscow, and reports more or less impartial from Vichy, Ankara and Stockholm. In one respect, contradictory though they seem on the surface, the reports from Berlin and Moscow respectively seem to be entitled to a certain measure of credit. Both sides claim victories, and it seems quite likely that both sides have been winning victories to the extent of inflicting severe punishment on the enemy.

THE WAR FRONT EXTENDS FOR 2,000 miles through broken country, and on each side there are not one, but several armies, operating separately. Hence, while the Germans may have broken through at one point, they may have been held, or even driven back at another. There is therefore some basis for the claims of successes made by each belligerent.

WHAT HITLER EXPECTED OF THIS Invasion in the matter of time we have no means of knowing. We cannot know whether or not he believed the boastful predictions of quick and sweeping victory that his agents made four weeks ago. Outside opinion generally was that Russian organized resistance would have collapsed after not more than two or three weeks of fighting, but the fighting is still in progress with unabated fury, and one is forced to the conclusion that Hitler has been delayed beyond his expectations, and that after a month of tremendous effort he still faces a fighting enemy who shows no signs of quitting.

THE PROSPECT IS THAT THERE WILL BE still further delay before Hitler can consider his conquest of Russia complete. He must not only penetrate Russia, but he must consolidate his positions in order to hold them. Every extension of his lines will increase the demands on his transport and on his supply services. And always his extended lines will be subject to guerilla attack which may leave brigades and whole divisions helpless because of lack of material. Russian performance thus far indicates that it will be some time before Hitler can draw material from the land over which his men are marching, because the Russians, in retreat, are destroying whatever could be of use to the enemy.

BRITAIN SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN USING these weeks, not as the breathing space of which some spoke, but as fighting opportunity. With German airmen occupied with the Russian invasion Britain has been relatively free from air raids. On the other hand, her own air force has been blasting German ports, air fields, factories and railroads with redoubled fury, and British official sources say that bombs have been dropped on Germany during these weeks at a rate never approached by German raids on Britain. The promise is made, too, that the rate of destruction will be vastly increased in the immediate future. With the expenditure of material that the Russian invasion costs, plus impairment of production and transportation at home from British bombing, it seems that the attrition to which the German machine is subjected must tell on it severely.

OUR ISOLATIONISTS ARE HARD TO SATISFY. They didn't want American forces to occupy Iceland. Now that we are in they want the British to get out. They seem to think that the British ought to have got out first, so that there might not be even a moment of joint occupation. That would have afforded Hitler a pleasant opportunity to slip in between. And, unless both British and American commands are sadly bungled, the British will remain until the Americans are firmly established, so that no chances will be taken of making a mess of the whole affair.

RETIREMENT OF FEDERAL JUDGE Andrew Miller from the bench reminds me of a fact that a good many have forgotten, namely, that the man who served so many years on the bench was actively engaged in politics in North Dakota in his earlier years. A rising young lawyer, he allied himself with what was known as the Progressive movement in the Republican party which gathered force during the first decade of the century, and which vigorously opposed the domination of the party to Alex. McKenzie.

IN THE CAMPAIGN OF 1908, MILLER was a candidate for attorney general and was elected. John Burke, a Democrat, was elected governor that year for the second time. Party alignments had become disrupted and Burke was supported by most of the Republican Progressives, as he was in his next and final campaign. Miller served three terms as attorney general, two under Burke, and one under L. B. Hanna.

I RECALL QUITE CLEARLY TWO incidents in that campaign of 1908. One was the Republican state campaign in Minot, which was the last of our state campaigns prior to the adoption of the primary law, and the other the address by Andrew Miller in Grand Forks in which he unmercifully scored the conduct of that convention and burlesqued the made there by Senator McCumber.

THE MINOT CONVENTION HAD been preceded by the usual county conventions, some of which were controlled by the McKenzie faction, some by the Progressives, with some in doubt. As the delegates assembled at Minot it was uncertain which group would control the convention, but McKenzie was there in person, and it was not long before he had a majority of the delegates signed up, a slate selected, and James Kenney pegged for national committeeman.

AT THE OPENING OF THE CONVENTION, when everyone knew what had happened, and the defeated were licking their sores, Senator McCumber, temporary and permanent chairman, took the platform to deliver the keynote address. He was an effective speaker, with good presence, good delivery and good command of language. In his most persuasive manner he poured oil on the troubled waters and appealed for unity and harmony. He brought cheers from the audience when he referred to the great Civil war conflict and cited the reunion of north and south as a glorious example to be followed. Altogether, the speech was quite a masterpiece.

LATER IN THAT SEASON MILLER spoke in Grand Forks. He made it clear that he and his associates were not fighting Alexander McKenzie. Rather, they were fighting an institution and method with which McKenzie's name had become associated, and which he called McKenzieism. Then he told how McKenzieism operated, and he made an excellent job of it, outlining the devious methods by means of which county conventions were often controlled and the influences brought to bear on delegates to state conventions.

ALL OF THIS WAS DESCRIBED STEP by step, together with the feeling of anger and disappointment felt by members of the defeated faction as the convention assembled. Then, said Miller, comes the harmony speech, which is a necessary feature to bring the disgruntled ones into the fold. Then he gave such a satirical reproduction of McCumber's convention speech that no one who had heard the original could miss the application, and his voice actually trembled as he repeated with suitable improvisations McCumber's description of the soldiers in the blue and the gray clasping hands across the bloody chasm of the Civil war, and his appeal to those who had now become angered over factional differences to emulate the splendid example of those patriots of years ago and, forgetting their differences, unite in support of the Grand Old Party. It was an excellent piece of campaigning, and I still think that if Andrew Miller hadn't been made a judge he would have gone places as a politician.

WAR TIME NEEDS ARE PRODUCTive of swift action, a fact of which we have one illustration in the manner in which regulations for the rationing of clothing in Great Britain were made public. On the last day of May there was no rationing of clothing in Great Britain, and, so far as the public was aware, there was no prospect of it. Next morning the British people were notified that rationing of clothing was in full effect, and that until further notice the purchase of garments and fabrics included in the list would be permitted only through the use of coupons which would be issued to each person. Plans for this system of rationing were kept a profound secret by the responsible officials, and it is said that only five persons in the kingdom knew that the system was to be adopted. Those five were the officials who prepared and announced the plan. The reason for this secrecy, of course, was to prevent unnecessary purchases being made in anticipation of the new regulations. As it worked out, the people, rich and poor, went to sleep on Saturday night without knowledge that their clothing was to be rationed; they had all day Sunday to become accustomed to the fact; and on Monday morning each person was entitled to 66 coupons which must provide for his purchases of clothing for a year.

OF THE 66 COUPONS ISSUED TO each person 13 must be surrendered upon the purchase of a coat by a man, and a woman must give up 11 when she buys a woolen dress. One coupon will permit the purchase of a collar or two handkerchiefs for a man or a pair of ankle-length socks for a woman. Fabrics by the yard call for coupons in accordance with the width and quantity, of the material. The coupons may be used as the owner desires, but if he buys too many socks, or neckties he may be unable later on to buy the suit, or pair of shoes that he needs.

THE ENGLISH TOWN OF DOVER has been subjected to heavy bombing ever since the Germans began to send their bombers across the channel. Many of the buildings are in ruins, and the people spend much of their time in the catacombs which honeycomb the cliffs. Some of those cavers are as much as half a mile long. The larger ones have been floored with concrete, bunks have been installed and water and sewage services provided.

NOT ONLY HAS DOVER BEEN bombed from the air, but it has been bombarded with shells thrown across the channel by the big guns planted along the French coast. On good nights the people can see the spurts of flame from the guns across the channel, and they find entertainment in estimating the distance of the guns by checking the time that elapses between flash and report. That must be an interesting way to spend an evening.

DOVER PEOPLE ARE EXPECTING invasion and are ready to meet it when it comes. There is considerable variety in their methods of preparation. One housewife, for instance, makes it a point to keep boiling water handy most of the time so that she may douse the Germans with it when they land. A young miss has armed herself with a sling-shot and keeps at hand a supply of pebbles with which to pepper the invaders. How can anyone deal with a lot of people as stubborn as that?

THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN SUPplied with figures tending to show that daylight saving all the year around would make possible a saving of electric current equal to something over 700 million kilowatts. As electric energy is measured in terms of kilowatt hours, and kilo watt hours are reducible to terms of horsepower hours, the figures which the president cites seem to be about equivalent to the energy developed by 75 engines of 1,000 horsepower each, running continuously 24 hours a day. That estimate is subject to correction by someone who has a slide-rule and a table of logarithms.

SOME OF US HAVE BEEN TRYING unsuccessfully to identify a pair of birds that have been building a nest in one of a neighbor's lilac bushes. The birds are unusually tame, as they have built within 10 feet of the house, and although people often pass within three or four feet from the site which they have chosen, they have kept diligently at their work of building, and now that the nest seems to be completed, the female bird remains on it contentedly while passers-by go back and forth.

These birds do not correspond to the descriptions that any of us have found. They are of about sparrow size, but of more slender build and with longer tails. Each has a sharp tuft of feathers projecting from the back of the head, similar to that of the waxwing or the blue jay. There is some uncertainty about the exact markings, as the birds are too active to permit detailed observation, but they seem to lack the peculiar knobbed feathers characteristic of the waxwing. They have brown heads, shading into gray on the back, and each has a touch of yellow on the breast. In building their nest they have thriftily used material from a nest in a nearby tree which a pair of robins started and did not complete.

ONE OF OUR FAMILIAR BIRDS IS the cowbird, which, on the farms, is often known as the buffalo bird. These birds will follow a team in the field all day, picking up insects which have been disturbed by the animals or uncovered by plow or harrow. Flocks of cowbirds often accompanied herds of buffalo on their migrations, to which fact some attribute one of the annoying and destructive habits of this otherwise desirable bird.

THE COWBIRD MAKES NO NEST and rears no young. Finding the nest of another bird it deposits its own eggs therein and leaves to the owner of the nest the task of hatching the egg and rearing the young. One theory is that because the cowbird was continually on the move with the buffalo herd it had no opportunity to establish a home of its own and was driven to the expedient of trespassing on others.

WHATEVER THE ORIGIN OF THE practice it has become fixed. Not only does the cowbird deposit its egg in the nest of another bird, but it will sometimes remove the other bird's eggs. Once I watched a cowbird destroy the nest of a chipping sparrow, for no reason at all that I could discover. Some birds have ways of out-manuevering the cowbird by building an extension of the nest over the trespasser's egg. In one of the excellent nature articles in the Winnipeg Free Press describes as follows some incidents in the warfare between cowbirds and some of its intended victims:

"IN THE WINNIPEG AREA, TWO-story nests of the Yellow Warbler are fairly common, and we believe that most broods of these warblers are saved from the parasite by the clever action of the parents. We have found several three-story nests with two buried Cowbirds' eggs, and there is on record a photograph and description of a five-story nest, each of the four lower stories at which contained a Cowbird's egg. We hope that such persistence resulted in the sturdy little warbler bringing off her brood!

BIRDMEN FIND TWO, THREE, FOUR and even six Cowbirds' eggs in one host's nest, but whether they are the eggs of the same bird is not known. We have found a Cowbird's egg of the black spotted type buried in the lower tier of a Yellow Warbler's nest, and an egg of the brown type in the second tier, indicating, we believe, that two different Cowbirds had victimized that nest. Similarly, in nests containing several Cowbirds' eggs, they often differ enough to warrant the assumption that several of the parasites had visited the nest. So far as we know, no observer has yet photographed a Cowbird sitting on a host's nest; in fact, we are not sure that the bird has even been seen doing so.

FROM TIME TO TIME, YELLOW Warblers are noticed feeding a young Cowbird. Just why these particular warblers failed to bury the intruding egg in the customary manner is not known, but his hatching resulted in the death of the warbler's young just as it does in the case of—may we say, the less intelligent—birds which have not learned to bury unwanted eggs by building a second nest to cover them up.

The Red-eyed Vireo is a common victim of the Cowbird. Only once have we found an egg buried by the Vireo; in all other nests the fast-growing, bulky young Cowbird brought about the deaths of the host's own young.

A BRIEF ARTICLE IN THE HERALD from Bismarck a few days ago told of the effort that is being made to increase highway safety. Among other things, Patrol Chief Hunter was quoted as saying that his department receives many complaints concerning the driving of cars by persons physically unfit by reason of defective hearing, defective vision or other physical handicap. The patrol chief said that when complaint is made it is checked by a patrolman and an examining physician, and if the examination reveals a defect which incapacitates the individual, his permit is denied. The article interested Arthur E. Erickson, 310 South Fourth street, an employe of the Grand Forks Ice and Fuel Co., who, unfortunately, is deaf, and who speaks a word in behalf of himself and others similarly afflicted. Of the deaf persons in Grand Forks he says: "Eight of us own cars, which we need for our work. We are all good drivers. The police will say so."

MR. ERICKSON SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING comment on the subject of deaf drivers from the Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph:

"ONE MIGHT SUSPECT THAT DEAF motorists, unable to hear the horns of other automobiles, would be peculiarly liable to accident. But Secretary of Revenue William J. Hamilton Jr., announces that deafmutes are the safest drivers in the state.

"Six hundred deafmutes in Pennsylvania are licensed as operators of motor vehicles and in two years only one of them has had a mishap, and that not a serious one, and apparently not his fault.

"We are reminded of a popular paradox to the effect that if you wish to live to a ripe old age the thing to do is to acquire an incurable disease early in life, it makes you take good care of yourself.

"We commend the safety record of the deafmutes to the attention of motorists who depend on their horns instead of their brakes."

A LITTLE PAPER PUBLISHED BY and in this interest of the deaf comments on the above:

"According to this sage of Pittsburgh, having acquired an incurable disease (i. e., deafness) early in life, we are now all set for a ripe old age."

IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE bare fact that one is deaf does not make him an unsafe driver. The fact of his deafness may cause him to be more careful, and more safe, than he would otherwise be. Conversely, the fact that one is not deaf and has no other physical handicap, does not make him a safe driver. Naturally, perfect physical equipment is highly desirable. But there are qualities of character and personal attitudes which may offset otherwise serious physical defects.

AN EASTERN MAN WHOM I KNOW well, and who is about 60 years of age, has never had any use of his right hand or arm since he was a small child, nor has he been able to raise his left hand to the height of his shoulder. For many years he has driven a car which he had equipped with gadgets to fit his requirements. Before he was given a driver's license he was subjected to a grilling examination and road test. He was declared to be one of the most competent and skillful drivers that the examiner had ever met.

AT DIFFERENT TIMES I HAVE PUBLISHED excerpts from letters received from Miss Elizabeth Burnham, for several years secretary of the Grand Forks YWCA who last year was assigned to association work in Istanbul, Turkey. Ending her work in Turkey sometime in June, Miss Burnham began to look about for transportation back to the United States, but the war has almost demoralized transport service all over the world. A few days ago a cable was received from Miss Burnham, who was then at Jerusalem and had taken up work there with the British YWCA while awaiting transportation to Australia. When she reaches Australia Miss Burnham will have visited every continent in the world with the exception of Antarctica, and some of her friends would not be surprised to learn that she had started in a side trip to Little America just to look the country over.

HARVESTING WILL BE IN FULL SWING this week, ripening of grain having been hastened by the torrid weather that lasted a full week. Persons familiar with grain conditions think it fortunate that the hot spell did not come a week earlier, as in that case much of the wheat would have been caught in the milk stage and would have shriveled until it would be almost worthless except for feed. As it is, the heat seems to have caused only a slight degree of shrinkage.

FEDERAL CROP STATISTICIANS have estimated North Dakota's wheat crop at between 134 and 135 million bushels, which will make it, I believe, next to the largest ever grown in the state. The yield per acre will be greater than in any other year because of reduced acreage.

ATTENTION HAS OFTEN BEEN CALLED to the opposing policies of the federal government with respect to agriculture. Because of the existence of troublesome surpluses of certain crops the department of agriculture urges farmers to reduce their acreage, and it actually pays them cash for doing so. At the same time it has been increasing acreage through the opening up of reclamation projects, and it is making every possible effort to increase yields per acre through intensive cultivation, seed selection and other better farming methods.

THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM, AS worked out, is full of inconsistencies is almost beyond question. But underlying the whole situation are certain important facts. Mechanization has greatly reduced human muscular labor as a factor in grain production. If the methods of production now were those that were in vogue before the reaper came into use, either the United States would not be producing enough wheat to feed itself, or American farm labor would be on the basis of the lowest peon or peasant labor to be found in the world. We produce vastly more wheat, corn, cotton and tobacco per man than could be produced by hand labor.;

WE HAVE NOT MADE SIMILAR ADVANCES in the utilization of the soil. On many of our farms slipshod methods have permitted fields to become foul with weeds. Soil fertility has not been conserved. In spite of the work of science in developing new and better strains and fitting each to climatic conditions, average yields per acre are far below what they were in pioneer days, and far below what they might be today. Experience of progressive farmers demonstrates that yields per acre as well as yields per man can be increased. The United States can grow more bushels on fewer acres, and, necessarily, at lower cost per bushel.

INTEREST IN THE WAR SHIFTED suddenly from the Atlantic to the Pacific because of the Japanese movement into, or toward French Indo-China. In this there is renewed evidence of the complete subordination of the Vichy French government to Berlin. Japan having demanded military bases in Indo-China, perhaps at the instigation, and certainly with the acquiescence of Hitler, Vichy awaited orders from Berlin and then consented. The Japanese statement that entrance into Indo-China is for the "protection" of the country from British and American aggression is a transparent fiction, and the assurance given Japan that the independence of the territory will be respected is entitled to the same degree of credit due other Axis pledges which have been consistently violated.

JAPAN'S THREAT AGAINST THAT SOUTHERN territory has been vigorously denounced by Acting Secretary of State Welles as a menace to the interests and security of the United States. The new bases, proposed to be occupied would facilitate attack on Singapore, the great British naval base, The Dutch islands whence we obtain most of our rubber, and the Philippines, which we are pledged to defend.

THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION THUS far that the Japanese movement will be opposed by American use of force, but orders have already been issued freezing all Japanese credits in the United States. During past months there have been frequent demands on this side that the United States prohibits the shipment of oil to Japan. The president explains that this was not done in order that Japan might have no excuse to move against the Dutch East Indies. The president thinks that the course followed has maintained peace in the Pacific for two years. Now, if trade with Japan is cut off and the Indies are attacked, how much further will the United States go?

MANY READERS OF THIS COLUMN have been interested in the letters which have appeared in it from time to time from Miss Elizabeth Burnham, former secretary of the Grand Forks Y. W. C. A. who has spent nearly a year in Association work in Istanbul, Turkey. Miss Burnham has recently been doing similar work for the British association in Jerusalem while awaiting transportation to, Australia. Friends here have received from Miss Burnham the following letter dated June 13, immediately after her arrival in Jerusalem:

"HERE I AM IN A LAND WHERE I have long wanted to be, and it is just as entrancing as I thought it would be. All the Bible stories take on a new thought and meaning and it is like a dream to walk over the country side where Jesus must have walked and talked with His disciples. Stones have a new meaning for they are so plentiful here and water I have never half appreciated until walking over these parched hills.

" MY LAST TWO MONTHS IN TURKEY were the most enjoyable ones of all because I had come to feel quite at home in the country and with friends there;and everything was at its best, with flowers, sunshine and deep blue waters. The trips up and down the Bosphorus were almost breathtaking in their beauty because of the fresh green on every side and the glory of the red bud, (or Judas tree as they call it here) which was everywhere. We often stopped for coffee in a wisteria covered bower along the waters's edge. The trip to the upper end of the Bosphorus to Kavak where you can look off to the wide spaces of the Black sea took two hours from the Golden Horn.

"ONE DAY AFTER A LUNCHEON party in an Armenian home we climbed into a "caique," a decorated boat, were rowed across the blue expanse of the Bosphorus just below the towers built before Columbus discovered America and slipped quietly up the "Sweet Waters" of Asia. The flower studded grassy banks and trees that met overhead I imagine were much the same as when the Sultans held court there beside the stream with their fair ladies in their elaborate costumes.

"PHOEBE CLARY AND I SPENT A long weekend in Brousa, the old capital of the Turkish empire down on the Sea or Marmora. It was a favorite place of Ataturk who, realizing the beauty of the place and its health giving hot springs, developed it into a popular resort. The most beautiful hotel in all Turkey is located here and it has every modern convenience worked out to the last detail. Many of the early Sultans are buried here and the Green Turbe or Tomb of one of them is perhaps more beautiful than any other in Turkey with its exquisite old tiles, stained glass windows and carved marble. Ataturk also had a large hotel built at Yalava where we spent an enjoyable day this spring. He had beautiful gardens laid out and a sanatorium built with a corps of doctors to see that the people took the right kind of baths in the hot mineral springs that abound there. One can hardly say enough for Ataturk in all that he did for the progress and welfare of Turkey, the mention of his name always brings a burst of applause from any crowd and their admiration for him is most sincere.

"ONE OF MY LAST DAYS IN TURKEY the Service Center staff took me to a rather secluded beauty spot up the Bosphorus where we drank the sparkling water from the Imperial Springs. I believe this water since olden times has been said to be good for your liver. Water from each spring in Turkey seems to have its own particular and much talked of virtue. After our picnic lunch we p roamed around the tree covered terraces and gardens catching glimpses of the blue Bosphorus far down below us. The girls gave me a "Mashalla" pin set round with turquoise. "Mashalla" is written in Arabic characters and means that the wearer will be protected from all evil. That will bring me back safely to the U. S. A.!

"FOR A TIME I ENTERTAINED THE idea of returning home by way of Russia, but as they told me at the Russian Consulate to return in two weeks every time I went to see if my visa had been granted I finally gave up the idea. Only three of the Americans out of the group of about 20 who applied received their visas. Some are still waiting for theirs in Istanbul. With Russia uncertain, Iraq closed, the Rome-Lisbon-New York route impossible the Beirut, Egypt - Bombay route was the only one left. Now of course no one can come through Syria.

STARTING OUT ON THE LATTER route Phoebe Clary accompanied me as far as Ankara to show me the sights of the Turkish capital where we had a delightful time for three days. Phoebe also wanted to talk to the Ankara girls about coming to the "Garden of Happiness Camp" on the Sea of Marmora. Much to our surprise and delight, the girls we saw were looking forward to attending the camp again in spite of unsettled times. It speaks well for the confidence they have in the Service Center. A former man who lives in Ankara, a most charm-president of the board, Bayan Lamia Freeing Turkish lady, entertained some of the former campers at her home for tea and will take charge of their enrollment for camp. Bayan Lamia's husband secured tickets for us to attend the National Youths Sports Day program to be held in the stadium on May 19. Our seats were not far from President Ismet Inonu who initiated the day's events. The first thing as always was the playing of "Istakal" the National song of liberty and freedom. Two thousand five hundred young people marched before us in their simple yet colorful costume. Different groups demonstrated in perfect rhythm and order gymnastic exercises, boxing, pole vaulting, tumbling and relays. The head of all education in Turkey spoke briefly to the youth to carry on for freedom and a young girl responded.

" ANKARA IS AN ASTONISHING new city built up in the last 15 or 20 years where there was nothing but a swamp before and a little old village built high on a hill top crowned with a medieval fortress. There are huge blocks of buildings, streets of ultra modern apartment houses, attractive shops, beautiful hotels, wide avenues and well kept parks.

We met many interesting people and among them my firends the Chinese minister to Turkey and his wife. We were at the Chinese legation for a sumptuous dinner with many Chinese delicacies I would not attempt to describe. I was glad to see Mrs. Chang looking quite well though they were worried about their young son who had just had an operation for appendicitis. Dr Chang told me if I had difficulty getting through into Syria to come

back and stay with them in their little retreat outside the city, and he said that was not just a courtesy invitation, but a real one.

BEFORE LEAVING ANKARA WE heard rumors of difficulties in Syria and wondered if we would get across the frontier, but we very calmly passed over and had a delightful trip by auto from Tripoli to Beirut along the Mediterranean shore line. It was planned to stay a few days in Beirut with Doris Boss my traveling companion on the way to this part of the world, but was advised to leave immediately or I might be there longer than I wanted. I had lunch with Doris at their attractive apartment and a look at the spacious guest room I would have occupied with a gorgeous view of the sea. In a special bus twelve of us hurried toward the frontier. We were stopped several times to be looked over or hold up our passports and were slowed down to go around barricaded spots in the road, but reached the Palestine frontier before dark. It was good to see those fresh young English lads in charge. We were held up several hours there because the passports of some of our European traveling companions were not in order. We started off into the blackness with very dim lights heading for Haifa, but alas we pulled in soon at a Standard Oil station where we waited for an hour in the darkness while our driver went off in search of the owner or perhaps he stopped for a sociable cup of coffee. We could not be sure though he told us in Arabic with many a gesticulation and shake of his fezed head. We finally arrived in Haifa just before midnight on the 21st."

MANY PERSONS IN THE CITY AND at the University heard with interest the descriptions given by Miss Irene A. Wright of the work that is being done by the government in the development of better cultural relations between the inhabitants of the United States and those of Latin America. Naturally, difference in language interpose a barrier to mutual understanding between the two great groups. As one means of overcoming this Miss Wright urged that greater attention be given in the United States to the study of Spanish and Portuguese. But, while this is altogether desirable, under any circumstances the study of foreign languages is likely to be confined to the few. In a letter to the division of cultural relations under whose auspices Miss Wright works, Mrs. Paul Nuss of Grand Forks has written of the superior advantages of Esperanto as a means of communication between, the two groups. In part her letter reads:

"THOSE OF US WHO HAVE STUDIED foreign languages know that it takes years of painstaking effort to acquire a relative fluency in any national language not our own, and only in exceptional cases does one acquire linguistic equality with the native speakers of the language.

"BECAUSE OF THE STATEMENT Miss Wright made that the government leaves it largely to the individual to establish better understanding with the peoples of the Latin-American republics, it doubtless will interest your department to know that members of our club, the 'Dakota Esperanto Pioneers' are at present corresponding freely with natives of Brazil and Argentina in the international auxiliary language Esperanto after only twelve lessons of one hour each, all as a result of a few such twelve-hour classes Which I gave last October. Soon we shall include other South American republics, and after the war, those who have studied Esperanto, either at home, without any instruction, or in these short classes, will be able to correspond in Esperanto with Esperantists all over the world, as Esperanto classes, clubs and organizations exist in over 100 countries.

"NOT ONLY IS ESPERANTO EASY to learn, it is also absolutely neutral, belonging to no one particular country, but to all alike. No matter what nationality, in Esperanto all can reach linguistic equality in a very short time. (I personally started corresponding with foreign countries after only three weeks of study.) Naturally, Esperanto does not aim to replace the national language. It is only a second or auxiliary language for international use."

SOME YEARS AGO—PERHAPS TEN or twelve—I read an article on dieting by Nina Wilcox Putnam, prolific writer of books, stories and magazine articles. In that article Mrs. Putnam recorded her own experience in reducing. She had become, she said, greatly over-weight and wished to get rid of some of the excess tissue. She studied many methods of reducing and found most of them objectionable, some because of their menace to health, and others because they entailed great inconvenience or discomfort.

HAVING COMPLETED HER SURVEY, Mrs. Putnam developed a system of her own which was the perfection of simplicity and which she put into practice with most satisfactory results. Making only slight variations in her daily menu, she continued to eat pretty much whatever she liked, but she ate a little less of everything. Instead of leaving the table with a sense of repletion, she left it just a little hungry. That practice, with a reasonable amount of exercise, materially reduced her weight and improved her health within a very short time, and the effects were so satisfactory that she wished to pass on her experience to others.

I WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN that article. I was conscious of no personal need to reduce. On the contrary, ounces to my weight I felt that I had if ever I succeeded in adding a few really accomplished something. But I knew of others who were suffering tortures in the effort to reduce weight, and there were innumerable cases of broken health due to the taking of dangerous reducing nostrums.

I regarded Mrs. Putnam as a real discoverer and a friend of humanity. Imagine the shock that it gave me to read the other day that Mrs. Putnam is starting to reduce again, and she expects that the process will bring her age down from 58 to 18. What can be the matter? Was her system not effective, after all, or didn't she keep it up? Perhaps her case is one of those in which conduct does not keep pace with knowledge.

DISCUSSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL situation and the events leading up to it involves much detail, and facts crowd upon each other so closely that it is easy to get them confused and distorted. Examples of this occurred in the addresses made in Grand Forks on Monday night by Senators Nye and Clark. To illustrate the point quotations are given below—not verbatim, but in substance—from statements made by the senators. Senator Clark: France and Great Britain lied when they permitted Hitler to invade Czechoslovakia, as both nations were pledged to defend the Czechs against aggression.

Actually, Great Britain had no such treaty with Czechoslovakia. France had.

SENATOR NYE: WHEN THE ROBIN Moor was sunk a vociferous demand came from the propagandists for an immediate declaration of war against Germany, if the ship had been carrying goods to Germany she would have been sunk by British war vessels.

There was no general demand for war on account of the sinking of the Robin Moor. There were vigorous and general protests against the brutality shown in leaving her passengers and crew adrift on the open sea at the mercy of the elements with no attempt made to insure their safety.

SENATOR CLARK: AFTER THE FORMER war Germany set up the Weimar republic. That republic was destroyed by British and French capitalists, and its destruction created opportunity for the rise of Hitler.

From the beginning the Weimar republic was beset by financial difficulties, due to war impoverishment, inflation and the demands made in the Versailles treaty. British and French capitalists co-operated heartily with those of the United States in devising plans for lightening Germany's financial burdens. The Young plan, the Dawes plan, and other plans were formulated and applied, each giving Germany easier terms than before. Those efforts were commended and appreciated by such leaders of the republic as Stresemann, Hindenburg and others. But Hitler, taking advantage of Germany's distress, worked his way into the government and destroyed the republic.

SENATOR NYE: THE BRITISH navy is the only navy with which the United States has had to contend in all its history.

Doubtless the senator was thinking of 1812. He seems to have forgotten that a little more than a century later the German navy sank American ships right and left, and the German government declared its intention of continuing that practice, although the United States was then a neutral nation

THESE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES taken as they are recalled, from Monday night's addresses. They relate solely to questions of fact, and the facts in each case are of record. They are altogether apart from matters of opinion, in which each person is entitled to reach his own conclusion in his own way.

MAINTENANCE OF A LAWN through ten days or more of blistering heat is not an easy task. Authorities on the subject often give advice on the subject of the use of water during dry hot periods. In spite of the advice given the mistake is often made of giving the lawn a light sprinkling instead of a thorough soaking. Grasses will send their roots in whatever direction water can most conveniently be reached. If the soil is moist several inches below the surface the roots will go down for water. But if the lower soil becomes dry and the surface is wet, surface roots will be sent out, the lower roots will die, and the plant will be dependent on its new system of surface roots. Then, a few hours of hot sunshine or drying wind will dry the surface and the plant shrivels. Thorough soaking once a week is far better than light sprinkling every evening.