

**THE MENTION OF AIR** raids automatically turns our attention to England. We here in America, have been accustomed to linking bombings and all their horrors with the British Isles. Naturally, we are inclined to give the inhabitants of those islands a great deal of credit for their courage and calmness during air raids when bombs by the score and possibly hundreds are dropping about them. That credit is rightfully due them, for they have suffered untold losses and agony but with conflicts raging all over Europe, the Near East and the Far East, there are inhabitants of other countries who have also come to take bombings as more or less a matter of course.

**FROM FAR OFF CHINA** comes a letter to friends in Grand Forks telling of some of the incidents that occur in that country when Japanese air raids are in progress. There, as in England, warnings are sounded. The people take to cover and remain there until the "all clear" signal is given. But there, as in England, it's "part of the job."

**THE LETTER REFERRED TO** was written by W. A. McCurdy of the Methodist Foreign Mission, Chungking, West China, who said at the outset that one good usually comes out of the Japanese raids in Chungking. "I usually find it the most stimulating time to get off correspondence," he said. An hour and a half before the letter was started the preliminary air raid warning had been sounded. The second was sounded an hour later and at the time McCurdy was waiting for the "urgent" which would send him and others in the city quickly to cover. The "urgent" meant only a short time would elapse until bomb laden planes would be dumping their loads on the city.

**M'CURDY HAD DECIDED**, however, that it would be best to get into hiding early, because three weeks previous he suffered quite a shaking when he lingered after the urgent. "The alarm had sounded," he said, "and I waited for the urgent, then took a little more time about the house getting things a bit more prepared for anything that might happen. Then I heard them coming, and started for the hospital dugout. They just came too fast that time. I was on the wall 20 feet from the mouth of the dugout when I heard one swishing and hurtling down. I had just time to hope feverently that it wasn't coming too close when a bomb landed, just outside the cliff below me. I was a bit shocked but not hurt."

**AS HE CONTINUED WITH** his letter, still waiting for the urgent, McCurdy told of several other close calls for himself and others, the damage that had been done to homes and public buildings and then said "people marvel that this section remains. Our dispensary building was completely destroyed by a direct hit, but our little corner of the city remains. After every air raid, we are told, the pressmen look to our corner to see if it is still standing. Our church is the only one left in the city that can be used. The roof has just been repaired, perhaps a foolish move when another raid may wipe it out. But, as with our house, which we have had repaired also, we think it best for the morale and general spirit.

**"THE AMAZING THING IS** that people all over the ruined city are rebuilding. Four and five story structures are being replaced temporarily by one and a half story shops. People still throng the streets, and one can buy almost anything. Down a block from our house you can see flower merchants operating in temporary shelters. Yes, they carry on in Chungking."

**"CHINA IS FIGHTING,"** McCurdy said. "Some treacheries on the inside I suppose, certainly some in high government much more interested in personal fortunes and positions than in their country's welfare. But the generalissimo and many others with him are wonderful, and the people's spirit is still amazing, due in large part to the generalissimo's leadership. I don't see what different attitude this government could take than it has taken. Japan's army raids the nation and is obsessed with the idea of conquest and invincibility that nothing will stop them but a first class defeat. It is a terrible prospect that looms ahead, but it cannot be so horrible as what is taking place in England." The urgent never came and McCurdy finished his letter, a long one. The bombers that had been sighted by the Chinese outposts had, apparently veered off to dump their destructive loads on some other nearby city.

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**NO MAN IS INDISPENSable**, a fact which has been demonstrated through thousands of years of history. But there are men who are irreplaceable, whose usefulness is so great and is expressed in so many ways that after their departure, many must be found to perform the tasks which had been performed by a single individual. Charles S. DOW was one of those irreplaceable men.

**DURING RECENT YEARS** Mr. Dow's major activity was that of secretary of the Grand Forks Building and Loan association. He brought to that position years of experience as a director of the association and an authority on property values. Not only was his counsel considered invaluable by the directors of his own association, but his guidance was sought by those in similar work in other cities.

**HE WAS VICE PRESIDENT** in 1940 of the North Dakota League of Savings Building and Loan associations, of which organization he had already served two terms as president. He was on the membership committee of the United States Building and Loan League and was in regular correspondence with the officers of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines.

**THESE CONTACTS MADE** Mr. Dow invaluable to the local association, but his activities were not restricted to this field. Recognized as an authority on real property values, he was called in as consultant when such values were to be established. At the time of his death he was engaged with associates in the re-appraisal of all Grand Forks real estate for purposes of taxation.

**IN ADDITION TO THESE** varied duties, he was ready at all times to respond to calls for service in promotion of civic and philanthropic movements. I mourn his departure as that of a valued friend.

**A FEW MONTHS BACK** there was considerable excitement over the flying of airplanes from United States factories to Canada, there to be put into service training Canadian pilots for the European war, and there was much interest in the movement of American youths northward to enlist in Canadian fighting units. With the launching of our own defense program we turned our attention homeward to watch our youths mobilize, receive preliminary training at home and then start off for the South for more rigid instructions which, it is expected, will continue for a year, but which persistent rumors indicate may keep them away for a much longer period. In those past few months the movement of Americans over the border to join Canadian forces has continued, and an interesting bit of information, unofficial of course, was brought back recently from Pembina, chief port of entry in this northwest area, which gives something of an idea of the scope of the northward trek.

**IT APPEARS THAT FOR** some reason every American enlisting in the Canadian forces is required to send his civilian clothing back to his home in United States after he has been equipped with a Canadian uniform. Bundle after bundle of such clothing has been checked through the Pembina customs office since the northward movement began. In a single month for instance, some 250 such bundles were shipped back through that one port, and the peak for a single day was 22. Pembina is only one port of many along the Canadian-United States border, but the returning bundles, generally packed in pasteboard boxes, indicate there is still a steady stream of Americans going north to join the Canadian forces, some because they have been rejected for minor causes when they attempted to enlist in this country, and others seeking a short cut to the excitement and thrills of the battle front.

**SOME OF THE CLOTHING** being shipped back is in good condition, but a certain percentage is badly tattered and practically useless. The bundles have caused considerable amusement and speculation for persons who have seen them opened. Some, it is said, contain shoes long since out of style; mismatched pairs of shoes; shoes with soles all but gone; overalls, some fairly good, some faded and full of holes, etc. The condition of the clothing leads to the suspicion that some of the youths, at least, might have disposed of their civilian clothing when given Canadian uniforms and then purchased or otherwise acquired cheap used outfits to ship back to this country.

**THERE IS, TOO, A GENERAL** understanding that most of the Americans going over the line, are chiefly interested in getting into the Royal Canadian Air Force, and many of them do land there. If the men can prove they are fliers and know enough about the planes, they are given transportation from the border to Winnipeg or some other air base, where they are given rigid training to prepare them for service in the war. Men who flew in the World war 20 years ago, it is said, have an excellent chance of obtaining commissions in Canada. They are given a "brushing up" course in modern air fighting and, if they make proper progress, are put to the task of training other fliers. That is the story of American enlistments in the Canadian forces that has been told in Pembina.

**ANOTHER ITEM COMING** from Canada tells of the efforts being made there to induce farmers to recognize the need for raising less wheat and more feed crops. Honorable J. G. Taggart, provincial minister of agriculture, has informed farmers in Saskatchewan that they can and should reduce their wheat acreage for 1941 by as much as 2,000,000 acres. Last year, he said, 15,600,000 acres were planted to wheat and the country is overstocked. The heavy increase in livestock in the province and the declining acreage sown to coarse grains means, he said, that the province is headed for a dangerous feed situation unless new planting methods are adopted.

**WE'VE BECOME** ACCUSTOMED, these last few years, of looking to the government for help in the form of finances, and it has appeared that the government has been holding the money bag open, in a manner of speaking, inviting us to reach in. For a time the plan of financing farmers was rather disorganized. Gradually it was put on a systematic basis, but now with the national defense program taking a goodly share of the country's finances another change is taking place. New methods are being devised which the nation's agricultural leaders anticipate will put farming on a self-sustaining basis.

**INFORMATION TO THIS EFFECT** has come from Washington where, we are told, there is a determined move afoot toward launching a wide-spread educational program. When the government began financing farmers several years ago, it was to give them immediate aid in what was described as an emergency. It is doubtful if anyone, even the men behind the scenes in Washington, had at the time anything much in mind but a hope that the situation would gradually right itself. However, that hope was not realized. The emergency became chronic and there has since been an increasing drain on the nation's pocketbook.

**BUT NOW FROM WASHINGTON** comes information that throws a different light on the situation. Government aid will undoubtedly continue for some time, but meanwhile a program of education is being framed. From experiments under way at such places as Park River, for instance, where a soil conservation program has been in progress for several years, will come a better knowledge of what grains to plant and how to cultivate them. Likewise from dairy and livestock experiments better production methods are being devised.

**THE MEN BEHIND THE** scenes in Washington have been recording the results of all these experiments and they are working out a program that will give the farmers new ideas on how they can raise more grain on an acre of land, thus cutting down labor costs; how they can get more milk from smaller herds, thus reducing feed costs, and how they can maintain themselves almost entirely on the products of their farms, thus reducing family upkeep costs. It is evident, from the tone of reports from Washington, that there will soon be noted over the country, a rapid trend toward diversion of government money from toward educational channels, which, over a period of years, should stabilize agriculture and put it on a more efficient basis.

**HOW A PERTH, N. D. FARMER** lost a prized pig which wandered onto the highway and was run down by a truck is told in rhyme by the farmer, the truck driver and a sympathetic friend of the farmer.

To the owner of the truck the farmer wrote:

My Chester White

Crossed the road one night a  
week ago today, When it was struck by your oil  
truck

That chanced to pass this way. You can't blame me—The Shote, you see, was grazing  
rather late. So kindly pen a check for ten this  
debt to liquidate.

**IN PLACE OF A CHECK THE** farmer received this: That our oil truck Caused you ill luck, It grieves us sore to know;  
But Chester Whites Out strolling nights Quite often meet with woe. Therefore, kind friend, We cannot send The check for  
which you write. Just bury the dead, Place over its head "Here lies a foolish Chester White."

**FROM THE SYMPATHETIC** friend came this: I heard of the plight Of the poor Chester White That met with its  
death in the lane. It reminds me of men Who will now and then Take a chance with an on-coming train. It were better by  
far To sit in the car And see the old train pass by Than step on the gas In trying to pass The mighty old train on the fly.

**THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL** and law enforcement work of the United States Secret Service, public loss through circulation of counterfeit money has been reduced sharply in recent years. In 1940, for instance, the loss was only 10 per cent of the average annual swindle through this medium over a recent five-year period. In that five-year period, the American public was swindled out of a million a year by accepting counterfeit notes; in 1940, this loss was only about \$100,000.

A **"KNOW YOUR MONEY"** campaign, conducted by the Secret Service, proved particularly effective in 1940, and again this year the service is stressing a similar campaign in newspapers, magazines, schools and business places, aimed at educating the public in the detection of counterfeit money. For 10 cents, any one may obtain a copy of a booklet entitled "Know Your Money," by addressing the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

**MUCH OF THE GLAMOR** associated with the Secret Service has been overshadowed in recent years by the activities of the federal G-men, the common designation of members of the Federal Bureau of Identification. But many a youth of another year has thrilled to the alleged exploits of the Secret Service, widely extolled in plays and "pulp" literature. Few now even know the functions of that section of our law enforcement agencies.

**THE SECRET SERVICE**, originally and now a bureau of the treasury department, was organized in 1864 by the treasury department without specific congressional authorization and had no direct appropriation for its maintenance. The specific duties of the Secret Service division is "the suppression of counterfeiting, the protection of the president of the United States, his family and the person elected to be president, and investigations of alleged violations of the farm loan act, the war finance act, and such other matters relating to the treasury department and the several branches of the public service under its control as are directed by the secretary of the treasury."

**MOST OF US GIVE LITTLE** thought to the genuineness of the currency or coin we handle every day, although we might view with some suspicion an exceptionally large denomination of currency proffered by a stranger. Like most of our transactions, we act with confidence in dealing with money when people we know are involved, and normally give very little attention to money received from strangers.

**THE SECRET SERVICE** points out a number of ways in which counterfeit money may be detected. There are, for instance, only three types of currency printed by the United States government for circulation. These are (1) federal reserve notes, which bear GREEN serial numbers and seal; (2) United States notes, which bear RED numbers and seal, and (3) silver certificates, which bear BLUE numbers and seal.

**WHILE ONE OF THE FIRST** methods of identifying genuine bills is through portraits they carry, few persons are familiar with which face graces what denomination. Here's the list, which you are certain to read and forget, but by publishing it I will be doing my Boy Scout deed for today: Washington on all \$1 bills; Jefferson on all \$2 bills; Lincoln on all \$5 bills; Hamilton on all \$10 bills; Jackson on all \$20 bills; Grant on all \$50 bills, and Franklin on all \$100 bills. Even with this information, I am afraid I'll look suspiciously at any 50 or 100 dollar bills shoved in my direction. My acquaintance with Washington's portrait is much more intimate than with that of Grant or Franklin.

**MY GOOD FRIEND,** ALF Eastgate of Larimore, has written me concerning a recent Herald Mailbag letter about protecting the fox. "From the tone of our friend's letter," Eastgate says, I am sure I was trapping and hunting in what is now North Dakota long years before the Mailbag contributor was thought of, as no one but a young man would care to make a 25-mile run every morning to cover a trap line just for the fun of watching a fox try to get away from a trap."

"**ABOUT THE SWIVEL-CHAIR** sportsmen," Eastgate continues, "I will gamble my right hand that there are a far larger per cent of swivel-chair sportsmen right now putting out for feed and seeing that it is put where the game birds can get it than the fox trappers and hunters are doing. If our friend likes to see an animal caught in a trap and try to get away, let him trap, but for my part, I would rather tie to a sportsman that will at least give the game a break and not get their pleasure out of tying their game up so they will be sure not to miss."

**CONTINUING, WITH REFERENCE** to the findings of the department of agriculture, Eastgate says: "Forty-eight years ago I was sent afield by the biological survey and have done more or less work for that department even up to now. Have a letter asking for information on the "Starling" so am not on the retired list yet, and that department makes mistakes. "If our friend will take the trouble to find the dens of the fox and keep careful account of what is brought in for feed he will be surprised, I think, for I would sooner have the value of poultry killed yearly in this state than the income of any person that lives in the state.

"**JUST LAST SUMMER WITHIN** three miles of town, I found the den of a fox and the turkeys and chicken remains would amount to more than many trappers make during the winter.

"And so it goes, the farm women work to raise the poultry— 85% is cared for by them. The only time of the year one will find the men interested in the poultry game is around the poultry packing plants when they are; packing for the holiday market, at the poultry shows and at the greatest of the turkey shows at Grand Forks. Watch them there—it is half of the show; sure the men raise all the farm grown feed, but boy, how they do like to see where the money goes.

"**AND A FEW FOX HUNTERS** want to set everything aside so they can have all the cream of the sport. Better look up the reports of the hide sale and see how far down the list comes the value of the fox. The poor skunk is way ahead in value and why not give the ladies a break and kill off the fox and tie to the skunk. You will have more cash besides much more aroma.

"It only lacks a couple of weeks to round out 60 years of living in this part and have seen many changes in all our animal and bird life, and often wonder what the next 60 years will bring. But the game hogs will be on hand just as they always have beer"

**I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH** great interest the recent unification of four Grand Forks civic groups and the comprehension of their functions in the single Civic and Commerce association. It is a noteworthy achievement and those who have worked for several years to bring about this union are to be congratulated. I am confident the community as a whole will learn, more and more in years to come, the true value of this new arrangement of community effort.

**IT HAS ALWAYS SEEMED** to me that a great deal of valuable time was wasted in repeated financial and membership drives for the several agencies in Grand Forks, when their work was so related that a single organization and a single financial-membership seemed the logical thing. Now that they have united, I am sure the results will be most beneficial for the community as a whole and will lead to greater community effort all along the line.

**TOO OFTEN DO SO CALLED** civic groups lose sight of their primary objective, as I see it. That objective should be, in my opinion, the improvement of the community as a place in which to live and transact business for those already there before there is a general reaching out for new industries and new businesses that may add new commercial activity to the community. A happy community, justifiably proud of its town, is a successful community, for it is certain to add something to the lives of the people who call it home.

**HIGH PRAISE FOR THE** All-American Turkey show held in Grand Forks in January is contained in the February issue of the Turkey World, published at Mount Morris, Ill. Its staff writer, Harry Yoder, who covered the show, termed it "the greatest and finest All-American I have ever attended." While a great many persons contribute to the success of the show, especially do pats on the back go to President Dyke Page, Secretary W. W. Blain and Manager Frank Moore. The All-American is an institution of vast worth to this community; more than any other local function has it attracted favorable national attention to Grand Forks.

**"FACTUAL REPORTS ON** the kingdom of Norway's continued fight for independence" is the description given the "News of Norway" issued weekly in Washington by "the Royal Norwegian government's press representative in the United States." Each issue consists of several mimeographed pages giving news from Norway, obtained through Swedish and other "underground" sources.

**THE MOST RECENT ISSUE** reports that "German promises to keep Norway adequately supplied with coal have now gone the way of other Nazi assurances." When the Nazis took over Norway, they said the coal formerly supplied by imports from Great Britain would be replaced by coal from Polish coalfields. Reports from Norway, however, now show there is such a shortage of coal that locomotives have to burn wood as fuel—a return to the railroading methods of over a century ago.

**WITH REGARD TO OTHER** shortages, such as food, Swedish newspapers quote the Nazi economist, Josef Wenschuh, as saying Germany has no intention of aiding any of the occupied countries by supplying food. "Germany," he is quoted as saying, "cannot be held responsible for food shortages in occupied territories."

**THIS, OF COURSE, IS CONTRARY** to accepted principles of international law, which provide that conquerors of a country must see that it is fed. This naturally presumes the conquerors have the resources in foodstuffs. Germany moved from Norway vast quantities of foodstuffs when the Nazis first moved in. Norway, learning a lesson from World War No. 1, had laid in stores of food sufficient for three years, but only such foodstuffs as the Norwegians were able to conceal escaped the raids of the Nazis. As the shortage of food in Norway becomes more acute there will be a corresponding increase in the unrest among the Norwegians which may lead to serious consequences.

**NO, JUNIOR, THIS ISN'T THE WEEK TO** approach Daddy concerning an increase in your allowance and Sister's suggestive references to a new spring suit might better wait another day. Mother knows best, for she knows this is the week father joins millions of other citizens of the United States in determining what income tax he will have to pay on his 1940 operations.

**BEFORE DAD —AND OTHER MILLIONS** of men and women—finds the final answer along about 6 P. M. next Saturday there will be much rumpling of hair, crumpling of paper and chewing of pencil stubs, with a great assortment of mutterings and outspoken complaints about the cost of government. It is in the hope of alleviating the suffering, in a manner of speaking, that I am giving here some comparison between the burden this country must bear and the taxes assessed against the British and Canadians—a subject I have previously referred to.

**THE BRITISH HAVE NOTHING TO COR**respond to our state income and gasoline taxes, etc., it is pointed out by Bertram Benedict of Editorial Research Reports. The general sales tax, nationwide in Great Britain, is to be found only in certain states of the United States, including North Dakota. Standards of living and prices in general are apt to be lower in Great Britain than in the United States, so that a \$5,000 income or a \$2,000 income means more there than here.

**THE VALUE OF THE POUND IN DOLL**ars and cents is figured in the table below at \$4, and it is assumed the maximum earned income deduction is allowable. Income tax, Mr. Benedict says, would be payable as follows at the income levels cited by a married man with two dependent children:

Net Income	Great Britain	Canada	U.S.
\$ 2,500	\$ 311	\$ 46	\$ None
5,000	1,196	391	75
10,000	3,451	1,780	440
100,000	76,276	50,860	42,948

**PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS IN THE THREE** countries are as follows:

	Great Britain	Canada	U.S.
Single	\$ 400	\$ 750	\$800
Married	680	1500	2000
Each Dependent	200		400

The British normal tax rate is 25 per cent on the first \$660 of net income and 42 1/2 per cent on the remainder. The rate of the corporation income tax on the larger corporations is: Great Britain 42 1/2 per cent; Canada 18 per cent, and United States 24 per cent.

As against an excess profits tax of 25 to 50 per cent in the United States, Canada has a rate of 75 per cent, while Great Britain takes all excess profits by taxing them 100 per cent.

**CANADA HAS A GENERAL SALES TAX** of 8 per cent on retail sales (sales of foodstuffs excepted). The British general sales tax is levied on wholesale transactions, but on retail prices works out about 12 per cent on goods commonly bought, certain necessities excepted, and 24 per cent on luxuries.

The British tax liquor about five times the rate of the United States tax; beer at almost twice the U. S. rate. An ordinary package of 20 cigarettes pays a 12 cents tax in Canada and 23 1/2 cents in Great Britain, while the federal U. S. tax is 6 1/2, with some states, such as North Dakota, adding a state tax. Tea is taxed at from 9 to 14 cents a pound in Canada and 10 cents a pound in Great Britain; coffee at 10 cents a pound in Canada and 2.8 cents in Great Britain.

**FEDERAL TAX FIGURES RUN INTO** large amounts, but so do certain operations in the field of private endeavor. Take life insurance. The Institute of Life Insurance reports that North Dakota families, during 1940, received an aggregate of \$1,735,000 from life insurance companies in settlement of death claims; the nation as a whole collected \$2,664,339,000, or \$303,000 every hour during 1940. The average size of each policy death claim was \$2,756 for ordinary life, \$2,057 for group insurance, \$219 for industrial insurance and \$969 for all policies averaged together. Policies maturing as death claims totaled 1,024,000.

**DESPITE THE NEED FOR WAR MATERIALS** in Canada, it is interesting to note that Canada's imports from the United States during 1940 included increased shipments of such items as electric refrigerators, table glassware and fruit juices.

Canada's imports from the United States in 1940 aggregated \$714,518,000, an increase of 46 per cent or \$225,000,000 over 1939. Heavier purchases of aircraft, metal products, textiles, coal, petroleum and chemicals were chiefly responsible for the increase.

**WHEN THE YOUTH OF THE** nation began moving to army training centers, a number of rumors cropped up. One was that widespread epidemics had broken out in the camps, sending thousands of men to their beds because of bad food and improper sanitation methods. These rumors were speedily put down, and it was discovered that conditions in the camps are on a high standard. The men are being given the best of medical care and precautions were taken long before the men arrived at the camps to see that proper sanitation equipment was installed.

**NOW THAT THE RUMORS** have been quieted, there is a cry of "fifth column" propaganda, charging that the Nazi propagandists are responsible for the wild yarns. Obviously anti-American propagandists would be more than pleased if they could cause such rumors to spread over the country to undermine morale of the families of the men in the camps. But such a situation is hardly likely in this day and age with means of communications such as they are.

**MOST OF THE TROOPS ARE** hundreds of miles from their homes, but it is an easy matter to write, telephone or telegraph any of the camps and within a short time receive a reply giving a true picture of conditions. Propagandists are smart enough to know that. Rumors start generally from fact—some of the men may have been slightly ill after inoculations — and then grow as they spread until they reach serious proportions.

**RUMORS IN THE DAYS** when communication was less efficient actually became a serious matter. Once a story of bad conditions got started, it became exaggerated each time it was told. The camp epidemic stories bring to mind some of the rumors that were spread during the Grand Forks typhoid fever epidemic in the winter of 1893 and 1894, when contaminated drinking water sent many to their graves and caused illness in many families.

**IN GRAND FORKS THERE** are men and women who were children at the time of the epidemic and heard the wild stories then or since, who will tell you that the "dead wagon" made nightly trips around the town gathering up the dead and hauling them in loads to the cemetery where they were dumped in large graves. Some will tell you that entire families were wiped out; that trains quit running into the city; that the number of dead reached hundreds or even thousands.

**THE STORIES, EVEN AT THE** time of the epidemic, gained wide circulation in almost every corner of the country and outsiders were afraid to come to Grand Forks, all because communication at that time was difficult and slow and outsiders learned of the epidemic chiefly by hearing greatly exaggerated rumors. Those yarns, of course, were based originally on facts and then enlarged upon, but, nevertheless,

Grand Forks did have a very serious situation. The town at the time claimed a population of approximately 4,000. Records show there were some 1,200 cases of typhoid fever and that 120 persons died during that winter.

**THE EPIDEMIC WAS THE** result of contaminated river water which was run directly into the city water mains without being filtered. It was estimated that the number of cases would figure about one to each family, but not every family was affected. All members of some families became ill, while in other families there was no illness. Investigations showed the families on the outskirts of the city were generally without typhoid cases. That was because those families used well water for drinking purposes. Families in the heart of the city suffered most severely. They were the families served with city water. The few in the outlying districts who became ill as a result of the epidemic were those who had business down town and occasionally drank city water.

**AUTHORITIES SOON DISCOVERED** the cause of the epidemic. Severe cold had caused the Red Lake river to freeze over entirely, leaving only a small flow of water under the ice. Sewage from Crookston contaminated the water and caused typhoid germs to breed, and they were being pumped directly into the mains.

Immediately after the source of the trouble became known orders were sent out against the use of city water for drinking and steps were taken toward construction of a filter plant. The first filter was built the following summer and Grand Forks was the first city in the Northwest to have any kind of a water treatment plant.

**MEMBERS OF THE NORTH** Dakota legislature, recently adjourned, did a splendid job in keeping appropriations approximately within the total of anticipated income without seriously crippling any of the normal functions of state. Then, too, it was an unusual, though happy, spectacle of harmony for a North Dakota legislative body and emphasized that reasonable men, having at heart the interests of their state, can do a real job.

**REGARDLESS OF PARTY OR** factional affiliations, members of the North Dakota legislature are all citizens of the same state and certainly, as public officials, should give first consideration to its welfare. This, I believe, was done in the 1941 session, which may well be accepted as a standard for future sessions. If in its business-like attention to detail with a maximum of harmony it can serve as a guide for future solons, we may be assured that we can look forward with confidence to the ultimate solution of all our vexing problems of state.

**PROF. A. WHITNEY GRISWOLD** of Yale university, writing in the Atlantic Monthly, insists the American people do not generally understand the degree to which Hitler actually represents the will of the German people. He says the "prevailing impression in the United States is that Hitler foisted himself upon the German people and dragooned them into the war." He continues:

"**THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY** false, this impression is certainly over simplified. It derives partly from Allied propaganda, partly from innocence of the facts. The British today draw the same distinction between the German people and their government as they did in the last war. This is an ancient stratagem, of which Napoleon was past master. It is at best a doubtful guide to the truth.

"Americans have heard a great deal about Hitler's partners in the Nazi revolution — Goring, Hess, Himmler, Goebbels, and the rest. They have heard still more about Hitler's victims. But of the Germans who were neither Hitler's partners nor his enemies, but who themselves represented and induced in others a state of mind that readily accepted Hitler's leadership and welcomed the war with England, they have heard little.

"**UNKNOWN IN THE** United States because never translated, the writing of these men indicate that the German people caused the war with Hitler as their instrument; they argue that both Hitler and the German people are slaves of a common master, an idea that unites all groups and classes in Germany and amounts to a national obsession, the idea of 'Lebensraum.'

"Even in Weimar days, prophets were spreading this idea among the faithful, and the faithful included all ranks of German society, rich and poor, military and political, warlike and peaceful. Compounded of historical and economic data, clothed in mysticism, the notion that Germany was suffering for want of 'living space' acquired in Germany a symbolic appeal not exceeded by Manifest Destiny and Democracy in our own experience. The men who preached this doctrine paved the way for Hitler and for war with England."

"**LEBENSRAUM. THE NEED** for space; space for farms as well as factories; space for the expatriates lost to Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Lithuania, for the emigrants lost to the Americas; strategic space in Central Europe; lost space in South Africa and the East Indies; space filled with foodstuffs and industrial raw materials; tangible items of current interest, vivid memories of things past; envy of England; the fear (common to all nations, including the United States, but more real to Germany than any of them) of a two-front war—these were the elements of a belief so popular and so strong that it paved the way for Hitler before 1933 and continues to do so today. For the British to drive a wedge between Hitler and the German people on this issue will take some mighty blows."

**RECENTLY I HAVE SOUGHT** relief from the constant clatter of war news, lend-lease debate and other earth-shaking events by scanning a number of "country weeklies" published in North Dakota cities and towns. And you may accept my word for it that if you know the right papers to select, you'll get your relief and at the same time an intimate picture of real American life, stripped of all make-believe, for it is through our "country weeklies" that life in the average American community is truly mirrored.

**I HAD OPPORTUNITY** Recently to mingle with the editors of our North Dakota weeklies at the convention of the North Dakota Editorial association in Devils Lake. Good fellows all, they are by nature optimistic, with hope in the future and belief in the power of man to make things operate with reasonable righteousness in the world. They are, in effect, a reflection of their own communities, and so I know their communities are quite generally happy places in which to live.

**THERE IS NO THOUGHT TO** give the impression that they are not practical business men, for they are, but they seem to have in their make-up a greater than average measure of human kindness. Obviously, too, they are doing worthwhile things for their communities. But all in all, it seems to me they find time to live somewhat more on the basis of give and take than is possible in a large city, where the battle seems more a struggle for survival.

**THE COUNTRY WEEKLIES**, however, make no pretense of solving the problems of the world. With few exceptions, they deem it their job to report the life of their communities with mention of such world or national events as find some reflection in that community's life. Mainly, though, they are committed whole-heartedly to the chronicling of community life, and in that they do a masterful job.

**TOM BROWN VISITING** over at Jonesville for a day, or Mary Smith shopping in a nearby larger city between trains is part of the community news on which their readers thrive. You don't have to live in a small town to enjoy knowing the activities of your neighbors, and in a small city everybody is your neighbor.

**POETIC LICENSE IS** Unlimited where editors of country weeklies are concerned. If they "kid" their neighbors, everybody knows they are "kidding," and it's all accepted in good humor. An example of humor and spice in the chronicle of a somewhat common event came to my attention in a recent issue of the Stanley Sun, published in Mountrail county, in western North Dakota.

**EDITOR CLAUDE R. KNICKERBOCKER**, reporting how one of the town's bachelors went away on a vacation and returned with a bride, lifts it out of the realm of routine reporting with this account:

"Elizabeth Lowery of Macon, Mo., and Ed Will of Stanley were married January 28 at the Methodist parsonage at Macon. Ed and the Mrs. had been home some time before us natives suspected. The first that set us wondering was the pink pajamas lashing in the wind on Ed Will's clothesline. A country newspaper person simply must keep track of small details or he won't stay in business.

"**WE NEXT SAW** A strange woman in Hanson's store buying groceries. She went north and turned west. Turned right into Ed Will's house. Right away we started adding and the first thing we knew Ed broke down and admitted that he had been off down in Missouri and married his boyhood sweetheart. Used to dunk her pigtails in the inkwell and stuff.

"And now fellers, let's drag out the chariot one of these nights and take Elizabeth and Ed for a nice long ride. German band and all."

**I THINK MRS. WILL IS GOING** to like Stanley very much. She could marry and move into a large city and spend her life there without knowing her neighbor next door, much less having a community celebration in her honor. That's a bit from real American life, and the part the local weekly newspaper plays in it, as always, is of first importance. Truly, there is no adequate substitute for the hometown weekly newspaper.

**SOME DAYS AGO THERE** was published in this column a brief account of the typhoid epidemic which prevailed in Grand Forks during the winter of 1893-94, and of the exaggerated stories which grew out of it. The purpose was to illustrate the manner in which wild stories are often built on slight foundation, and of the fact that not all wild stories are "propaganda." A further illustration of the same facts is to be found in connection with a case of scarlet fever which developed at the University many years ago.

**THAT EPISODE OCCURRED** during the administration of President Webster Merrifield. One of the students at the University was taken down with scarlet fever. The origin of the case was never discovered, but the case was not a severe one, the patient was promptly isolated and given proper care. Repeated checks of the entire population of the campus yielded no evidence of other presence of the disease.

**IN THOSE DAYS THE NATURE** and communicability of contagious diseases was imperfectly understood by the medical profession and not at all understood by the general public. People became panicky whenever such a disease made its appearance. Many would walk blocks out of their way to avoid passing a house which bore a scarlet fever or measles sign, and almost everyone would at least take the other side of the street.

**WHEN SCARLET FEVER** appeared on the University campus President Merrifield was greatly disturbed for fear that if information concerning it became public parents all over the state would become excited, that students would be called home, and that the work of the year would be disrupted. He visited the Herald, therefore, and asked that no mention of the subject be made in the paper.

**THAT PRESENTED TO THE** Herald a problem in newsgathering and in public relations. The paper could well afford to skip a bit of news, no matter how interesting it might be, if its publication would be likely to do injury. But an effort was made to convince President Merrifield that even from his own standpoint attempted suppression of the facts would be a mistake. Although the newspaper might remain silent, it could have no control over the gossip which would be circulated from person to person, and such gossip would undoubtedly go far beyond the actual facts. An effort was made to get the president to see that the wisest course would be to publish the facts just as they were, so that there would be at least some check on the wild stories that were certain to be circulated.

**BUT DR. MERRIFIELD WAS** a man of positive convictions, difficult to move when he had once made up his mind. He could not see the situation as the Herald did, and against its better judgment, the management agreed to make no mention of the scarlet fever case. That agreement was faithfully kept. But rumors were started, and spread. As in all such cases they went far beyond the facts.

**J. J. JORDAN OF THE FARGO** Call telephoned to ask about an epidemic of scarlet fever in Grand Forks. He had heard that almost all the students at the University had the disease, that the institution was closed, that the city itself was quarantined, and that trains were not allowed to stop here. He was set right, and he handled the story moderately, but it got into print. The Twin City papers heard the rumors and published stories. The story, in exaggerated form, got into many of the state papers.

**I CLIPPED ALL SUCH ARTICLES** as came my way and after the patient had fully recovered and the excitement had subsided, I sent the entire batch to President Merrifield. He responded like the scholar and gentleman that he was. He admitted that he had been mistaken, and that the best course would have been that which had been suggested to him.

**I SUPPOSE IF SUCH A SITUATION** should arise now, the exaggerated stories would be attributed to enemy propaganda. And that might be correct, for the propagandist will seize on anything. But during our typhoid epidemic and during the time of that single case of scarlet fever, there was no occasion for propaganda, and probably there was none. In the stories that were circulated concerning those two cases there was no evidence of malice on the part of anyone. There was simply the very common impulse to make much out of little and to give simple facts a sensational appearance.

**MENTION WAS MADE IN** this column a few days ago of the fact that Grand Forks was the first city in the northwest to install a water treatment plant of any kind. That movement resulted directly from the typhoid epidemic of the winter of 1893-94. The disease which affected so many residents of the city was traced directly to the city water, and steps were taken immediately to construct a filter in order to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

**TYPHOID WAS BY NO** means a new thing in the Red river valley. In some seasons it was quite prevalent, both in villages and on the farms. Popularly it was known as "Red river fever," and its identity with typhoid was seldom recognized, and when asserted was apt to be vigorously disputed. The general idea was that the fever was something peculiar to the valley, and that it was carried through the air. In most cases it was due to the use of contaminated water. Along the river residents drew water from the stream and used it freely for all purposes. Often it contained typhoid germs. On farms distant from the river wells were imperfectly protected from seepage, and the water in them, though it might be clear and sparkling, was often loaded with bacteria.

**IN GRAND FORKS THE** first municipal water system was a very modest one. A few mains were laid through the business section, and water was pumped from the Red river by a pump installed at the McCormack mill at the foot of DeMers avenue. But the discharge of sewage into the stream above the intake fouled the water, and a city pumping plant was built near the site of the present water plant, and an intake in the Red Lake river near its mouth was connected with the pump by means of a main laid under and across the Red river. Water thus taken from the Red Lake river was used in its raw state until the construction of the filter.

**THE FIRST FILTER WAS** elementary in its simplicity. Pipes laid on the bottom of the filter bed were covered with coarse gravel, finer gravel and sand. The basin was filled with raw water which seeped gradually through the sand, leaving impurities on the surface. After passing through the filter the water was conducted into a clear water basin, whence it was distributed through the city. While exceedingly simple in construction and operation, that filter worked well so long as it was kept in good condition and was not over-crowded. It sterilized the water perfectly, although at that time no attempt was made to soften the water.

**DIFFICULTIES AROSE** Because the operation of the filter was not well understood. Sand and gravel used in the filter often contained clay, and that caused stratification and impeded the flow of water. The surface of the sand became coated with a film which really increased the efficiency of the filter, but it slowed up operation. There were times when the process was too slow to furnish enough water for the mains, and on some occasions a crowbar was used to punch holes in the sand to let the water through. The water got through, but so did the bugs.

**THE ESSENTIAL FEATURE** of the old-style sand filter is that it must work slowly, the more slowly the better. As local population increased, and with it the demand for water, the capacity of the filter became too small for the community. Only by speeding up the process could sufficient water be got through the bed to supply the city, and speeding up impaired efficiency. Installation of a softening plant helped matters somewhat, as some of the organic matter was taken out with the mineral solids, but it became evident that a new system must be employed or the area of the filter must be greatly increased. To meet the requirements of the growing city with a slow sand filter it would have been necessary to provide a plant several acres in area. This would have been costly, and science had developed other methods, rapid and effective, requiring less space. As Grand Forks had pioneered in water treatment of any kind, so it pioneered in the installation of the modern mechanical filter, to which numerous accessories have been added.

**"TIPPERARY" WAS ONE OF** the popular war songs of 1914-18. N. Duffy of Starkweather, would like to know something about its origin. He has heard or read, that the author, Harry Williams, once lived at Mandan, N. D. Can anyone give the history of this famous and familiar song? I have read about it, but made no record of the facts, and I do not now recall anything about it. Information will be gratefully received.

**ACTION BY THE CONGRESS ON THE** lend-lease bill is, among other things, notice to Hitler, et al, that democracy is still a living force and that it is still at work. In its progress through the two houses the measure was vigorously opposed, not that there was substantial opposition to aid to Great Britain, but because many members felt that it would be unwise to place in the hands of the president some of the extraordinary powers for which the bill provided. From that standpoint the bill emerged in better form than the original. When it came to final passage the affirmative vote was overwhelming, and several of those who voted in the negative did so not because they were opposed to the major purpose of the bill, but in order to maintain a consistent record in respect to what they believed to be unwise delegation of authority by congress.

**CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD** the authorization bill, and the indicated attitude toward the vast appropriations required to Implement it, are sufficient notice to all concerned that the people of the United States are determined that the system which Hitler represents shall not be permitted to dominate the world so long as American industry can produce material with which to arm the nations which are not fighting for liberty.

**COMMENT IN THE TOTALITARIAN COUNTRIES** indicates clearly that the present rulers of those countries understand the meaning of the American action. Those governments have affected to treat the American action with scorn, and have attempted to belittle its effect. But those nations which are fighting for freedom are cheered and heartened by the action taken, and in the countries occupied by Nazi troops the people have been inspired with fresh courage, for they know that the day of their deliverance has been brought nearer.

**TO COUNTERACT THE EFFECT OF THE** action taken by the United States, Nazi sources have boasted that under the compact with Russia the great Soviet empire will be transformed into an arsenal from which Hitler will be able to draw arms and munitions, as Britain and her allies are intended to draw from the United States.

Russia has an abundant supply of raw materials of many kinds, but most of those materials are inaccessible because of lack of transportation, and in many cases because not even preliminary work has been done to make them available. For years Russia has been trying to develop manufacturing industries, but it is notorious that the effort has yielded only meagre results, and after years devoted to the development of industry, Russia is still in the market on a large scale for machines, machine tools and manufactured goods generally. Normally Russia has produced foods on a large scale, but in several recent years she has been unable to supply her own people with sufficient food to ward off famine.

**IN ANY SITUATION SUCH AS NOW** EXists there will be attempts at profiteering. Wherever they are discovered such attempts should be checked by rigorous measures. But it is to the credit of American business that in comparison with the immense volume of work to be done and the vast sums of money involved evidences of that tendency are few. By and large, American business is interested in maintaining the ideals and the institutions which have made this nation great and which must be preserved if the nation is to remain great.

**IT IS GRATIFYING, ALSO, TO NOTE THAT** while there are labor controversies here and there, and while the professional agitator is still abroad in the land, the general attitude of labor toward the defense program is that of loyal support. In some instances employes and employers have agreed on programs which will eliminate strikes, lockouts and other obstacles to continuous and expanded production and which provide for the settlement of all disagreements by peaceful means.

**IN THE HERALD'S WASHINGTON MERRY-Go-Round** column the other day there was published a list of new congressmen who have secured the employment of relatives in secretarial or clerical positions. Numerous cases of scandalous nepotism have been exposed from time to time. One case just recalled is that of a congressman who had his father kept on the payroll as a secretary or clerk for months or years, although during the period for which the father had drawn his salary he had never once visited Washington or done a stroke of work for the government.

**SUCH CASES OF COURSE, ARE INEX**cusable and intolerable. Quite different, however, is the case of the congressman who employs a relative as secretary or clerk when the person so employed actually performs the duties for which he is paid. A congressman is allowed a specific sum for clerk hire. If he is to perform his duties properly he must have a sufficient staff to assist him in his work. Some of that work is necessarily confidential, and there are cases in which it can be performed better by a near relative than by anyone else. Vice President Garner's wife served as his secretary for years, and everyone agrees that she did a good job. And I never heard Garner accused of chiseling.

**MARCH 15, 1941, WILL LONG** be remembered here as the day of the most furious storm ever known in the northwest. There have been storms that lasted much longer, storms in which snow was piled into greater drifts, but in the suddenness of its onset, the violence of the wind and, sad to say, the number of deaths resulting from it, the storm of last Saturday night eclipsed all others known up to that time.

**UP TO MONDAY, AS THIS IS** written, there had been definitely reported 60 deaths directly due to the storm. There were still several persons unaccounted for and it is almost certain that news dispatches will record other deaths, making this the most fatal blizzard that the northwest has ever known.

**ALL THE CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTED** to a high casualty rate in the Red river valley and adjacent territory. In Montana and the Canadian northwest, the storm set in during the afternoon while it was still daylight, and with a warning that a dangerous storm was on the way, persons away from home could return in comparative safety or arrange to stay where they were over night. Here the storm broke in full fury in the early evening while many were on their way home from shopping and other errands. The day had been somewhat unsettled, with light flurries of snow and temperature only a few degrees below freezing. The early evening gave no indication of a storm, and there was nothing in sight to deter people from making such trips as they had contemplated.

**UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS** the highway traffic was about what might be expected on a fairly mild Saturday night at this season. Within a few minutes all this was changed. The wind struck with the suddenness and in some place with the force of a tornado, the air became filled with snow which reduced visibility to zero and which strangled those who were exposed to it. All sense of direction was lost, and the driver of a car could only feel his way along the road. Hundreds of cars were ditched, some to be abandoned, others to give scant shelter to their occupants through the night.

**IT APPEARS THAT MOST** of the deaths were of persons who were in the open, seeking to find shelter in some nearby farm house. With few exceptions those who remained in their cars escaped with their lives, though many of them were severely frozen or exhausted by the effort to keep awake and maintain circulation in their bodies. Attempts to make way through the storm on foot were next to hopeless, and deaths occurred in the snow within a stone's-throw of safety.

**IN ONE REPORTED CASE** the engine of the stalled car was kept running in order to provide heat, but the exhaust became clogged with snow and all the occupants were asphyxiated. That is a danger of which one seldom thinks, but it is a very real one.

**WIND GAUGES AT THE AIRPORT** showed that in some of the storm's gusts a wind velocity of 85 miles an hour was reached. The highest wind velocity ever before recorded at Grand Forks was a little over 70 miles an hour for about 30 seconds in a summer storm which just escaped being a tornado. At various points in the state there have, of course, been actual tornadoes, the velocity of which is not known. But those tornadoes were summer storms of typical form, and quite distinct from the winter "blizzards" in which the wind has never before blown with such force.

**AMONG THE HISTORIC** blizzards in the northwest that are remembered by some of the older residents that of May 20, 1882 is recalled because of its lateness rather than its actual severity, although it was severe enough for those who were exposed to it. The Thanksgiving storm of 1896 was remarkable, not alone for its high wind, but for the volume of loose snow which filled the air and made breathing it next to impossible. A storm in March, 1892, was disastrous to many farmers because many of their cattle were caught in enclosed pastures from which they could not escape during the cold rain that fell through the night and were frozen in their tracks in the blizzard of ice and snow which followed. In more recent years there have been some severe storms, but nothing which parallel that of last Saturday night.

**DURING PAST MONTHS** I have given in this column excerpts from letters from Miss Elizabeth Burnham in which were described incidents of a journey from San Francisco across the Pacific and through the Orient to Istanbul, Turkey, where Miss Burnham is now engaged in Y. W. C. A. work. Another letter written December 12 has recently been received, and in it are described some features of life in Istanbul while the clouds of war have been gathering more and more menacingly over Turkey. Some excerpts from this letter follow, and others will be published within a few days. Miss Burnham writes:

**"LETTERS IN THIS LAND** just now are like the proverbial 'bread cast upon the waters'. I throw them out now and then hoping they will reach their destination at some future day traveling by land, sea or air, and that some fine day I will hear from all of you. As yet my mail as is everyone's has been scarce, one letter by sea mail took three months for the journey, my lone letter by air took one month, but it had not been opened by the censor, which was unusual. I hope other letters are on their way and I will be much happier when I receive them and know what my friends are doing and that they are well. No matter how long they take to arrive they are still most welcome and full of news to me. They do arrive eventually so don't let the postoffice there discourage you about sending them.

**"I CAN NOT READ THE** newspapers in Turkish and none are published here in English, but I do hear the world news from London every day and usually we can get the news from America at 6:30 P.M. our time or 11:30 A.M. New York time. Do listen to the Capitals of Europe program over the Columbia net work and hear directly from Ankara through Farney Fowl, the brilliant young son of one of the missionary families here. I had Thanksgiving dinner with the Fowls, a most enjoyable family and Farney was home for the event, though he travels around for news a good share of the time. We had the traditional turkey with all the trimmings and some extra Turkish delicacies. In Turkish they call the fowl we know as turkey—Indian—and it is very plentiful here. You see them frequently being brought in from the country districts to the city markets, herded like sheep through the streets, some times with only one boy or man in charge.

**"OCCASIONALLY ONE SEES** a peasant woman driving a donkey or carrying produce, wearing the long trousers with a smock like coat that almost covers her and a scarf tied over her head, many times brought down over her forehead and sometimes up over her chin. It is just a little remnant of the old days when women covered their heads and faces. You see some women on the streets wearing European clothing except for the black scarfs over the heads, but the majority wear hats and dress modishly and in common with men walk briskly on their their way. I am now quite a part of the crowd that uses the ferry boats across the Bosphorus traveling from Europe to Asia quite unceremoniously. The high waves blown in from the Marmora were tossing the boats about today so that walking off the boat over the guarded g<sup>^</sup>ng plank was most unceremonious and everyone walked crazily as you never knew if your next step would find the plank up in the air or down low. Yesterday on my trip I created quite a stir by appearing in my transparent green rain cape and carrying my green umbrella. That was something new to the crowd and I ceratinly was looked at and like the Latins, when they look you over here they don't miss an item. However, the people here are very kind and helpful if one is lost or wanting something and with only a very few words of Turkish to make the wants known. Life here is fascinating even if it is a bit difficult in places.

**"THE BEAUTY OF THIS CITY** with its buildings crowding up the hills and down to the waters edge on either side is spectacular. When I first came the Bosphorus was ever blue and the mosques, minarets and tall buildings were ever outlined clearly, but now that winter has come the Bosphorus is gray and the opposite shore is often in a haze. The other afternoon clouds completely covered the city with only the domes of the mosques and minarets visible. It was lovely then in its softness too. I shall never forget the splendor and thrill of those first nights when from Scutari I looked over at the opposite hill sides ablaze with lights from windows and streets while floating above all were the rings of light from the minarets. It was the month of fasting—Ramazon—for the Moslem world. It ended with the "Night of Power" when all Moslems crowded into mosques for their pledge of faith. We went to the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, called the Blue Mosque because of the famous blue tiles and watched the amazing sight.

**ALL WHO CAME IN REMOVED** their shoes at the door, went to one of the fountains at the rear and washed hands, face and feet. The men quietly went forward and sat in rows cross legged on the carpeted floor, while the women in like manner sat in the rear of the mosque. At an intonation they all rose, cupped their hands to their ears shutting out the voices of the world as they looked toward Mecca, bowed from the waist twice, repeating a formal prayer, kneeled and touched their forehead to the floor with another prayer. This was repeated at intervals. There was a time for individual prayer too. The chief priest in Turkish prayer for the welfare of Turkey in these critical times and for guidance for all. Many hands were held out with palms upward to receive the blessing of Allah. It was moving and beautiful to see this huge group under the glowing lights of the mosque."

**I MENTIONED THE OTHER** day that Grand Forks was the first city anywhere in the northwest to install a water treatment plant. That got me to thinking of other municipal improvements in which Grand Forks pioneered. There are several other such cases enough to warrant the assertion by residents proud of the record of their city that Grand Forks has been in fact the pioneering city of the northwest. One other such case is that of street paving, in which Grand Forks also occupies the "first" place.

**UNTIL 1896 NO CITY IN** North Dakota had a square yard of street pavement of any kind. There may have been some cities which had some of their streets graveled, where gravel was conveniently accessible. And in certain sections there were underlying strata of material which made a fairly satisfactory street surface for the light traffic of that period. But of actual pavement there was none.

**FOR SEVERAL YEARS** prior to 1896 the need for some sort of street covering in Grand Forks had been apparent. The soil here, as in other parts of the Red river valley, is of clay, hard and smooth when dry and well rolled down; greasy and tenacious when wet. Traffic on all the city streets had been growing. In the city there were trucks and delivery wagons, private carriages and hacks, and from the country came the market-day parade of farm wagons and lighted vehicles, all horse-drawn, and all with narrow, iron-shod wheels that cut deep into the clay when it was soft. And during the spring thaws and summer rains, how soft it was!

**RECURRING SEASONS** were marked by increasing difficulties in getting about. In 1896 came the climax. The spring break-up was slow, and rain after rain prevented the streets from drying. Every passing wagon cut a little deeper into the wet clay, and by June the downtown streets were an impassable morass, and the close in residence streets were little better. Wagons were stalled in the mud in the heart of the business districts and were abandoned. Blocks on Third street and DeMers avenue were roped off, and pedestrians crossed on slippery planks at the risk of plunging into the mud, which was kneedeep and of the consistency of thick soup. Store deliveries were suspended. Wholesale houses loaded and unloaded their freight cars by means of push-carts which were propelled by hand along the sidewalks. Practically, business was at a standstill.

**FOR SOME TIME THE CITY** council had been considering the subject of street paving, and the conditions of that spring brought things to a head. Deplorable as the conditions were, there was no unanimity of opinion on the subject of paving. It was evident that it would cost money to pave the streets with even the cheapest material, and pavement was opposed by some on the ground that it would bring about the confiscation of property for taxes.

**AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO** paving there were some who proposed that the streets be graveled, but it was generally recognized that under traffic conditions gravel would soon be ponded into the clay and driven out of sight. Another school thought that the downtown streets should be covered with heavy plank, but that idea was quickly abandoned as impractical.

**THE PLAN ADOPTED WAS** to use cedar blocks for a wearing surface. The streets were graded and rolled into shape and were covered with a cushion of sand about two inches deep. On this was laid a plank floor on which were stood on end round cedar blocks sawn to 6-inch lengths. Fine gravel was then spread over the surface, and when it had been scraped back and forth until the irregular spaces between the blocks were filled the excess gravel was removed. When new that provided a smooth and somewhat resilient surface, easy on horses and vehicles.

**THE CONTRACT FOR THAT** first job was awarded to Patrick McDonnell of Duluth, who handled much contract work in Grand Forks for several years. The price, as I recall it, was 94 cents per square yard, plus the cost of curbing, manholes, etc. Long cedar poles were shipped in from northern Minnesota to the plant which McDonnell set up on the railroad property across from the Hotel Northern. There the saws hummed merrily for many weeks, cutting long poles into 6-inch blocks, and by fall the principal streets in the down-town district were paved.

**THE CEDAR BLOCK PAVEMENT** soon began to show defects. The edges of the blocks wore off and left a surface like cobblestones, and the planking underneath rotted and gave way. There was some complaint that the city had been short-changed. But the pavement had cost less than a dollar a yard, which made the tax assessments low. Further, figures obtained from many other cities before the contract was let showed that the average life of such pavement under conditions such as ours was about eight years, whereas that first Grand Forks pavement kept us out of the mud for twelve years before it was replaced. The choice that had to be made at that time was not between cedar block pavement and the best that could be laid, but between cedar block and none at all, and I think the choice was wisely made.

SOME DAYS AGO I QUOTed paragraphs from the latest letter received from Miss Elizabeth Burnham, former secretary of the Grand Forks Y. W. C. A., and now engaged in similar work in Istanbul, Turkey. Former letters had described experiences on the way to Istanbul, which took her about three - quarters of the way around the world. Her recent letter tells something of her work in Istanbul. Further excerpts from this letter read:

"WHILE I WAS EN ROUTE here the Turkish Board and the Liaison Committee working between the Board and the New York office decided it was too critical a time just then to have Miss Clary, an experienced secretary in this country and one who knows the language, leave and that she needed additional help so I am working with her and the Service Center staff. Miss Clary is splendid and has given me a wonderful introduction to Turkish life and Istanbul. Besides Miss Clary the staff is made up of three Armenian girls and three Turkish girls, all most competent and attractive and it is a pleasure to work with them.

"LAST WEEK I WENT WITH the Camp Committee to the Center owned Camp, 'The Garden of Happiness' down on the shores of the Sea of Marmora. It is a heavenly spot situated on a low cliff with charming vistas of neighboring promontories, several islands and the limitless blue of the sea. The headquarters building is a typical lovely old Turkish house with its painted high ceilings, spaciousness and its ornate marble entrance stairway going to the second floor. The fifty or sixty girls lived in platform tents. They usually ate out doors under a huge pine tree right at the edge of the cliff. We were there the last Thursday in November and were lucky in having a warm day full of sunshine. The Fall has been very mild. Up until then I wore my Spring coat. The grass is still green and most of the trees still have their leaves. We had roses last week from the school garden here at Scutari and the Fall flowers have just disappeared.

"I HAVE CHARGE OF A sight seeing group of fifteen girls at the Center which is certainly combining work with pleasure for I have enjoyed looking up the history of some of the ancient land marks here and exploring them. We made our first trip to Saint Sofia which was first a Church, then a Mosque and now a museum. Some beautiful mosaics of the 7th and 8th Centuries have recently been uncovered and the man who is directing the work explained them to us. We studied about the Hippodrome this week and are going to visit the remains of that ancient Roman edifice next week. There are so many places that call out for exploration and I am so eager to see them all.

"AT THE CENTER I ALSO teach two advanced English classes, help on committees, give a little advice here and there, but mostly it seems to me I am just learning about the work here which I think most interesting. Two hundred and sixty girls are enrolled in classes and in formal groups of French, English, sports, typing, shorthand, dress making, cooking, handicraft, sightseeing, Turkish history and language, current events and the business girls group. The Center is always filled with girls and there is a program for all every other Friday afternoon. One of the five volunteers elected from the above number is always in the reception hall acting as hostess, messenger girl or what ever the case requires. I think that is a very nice touch. There was a tea dance last week for friends of the Center, a concert this and preparations are being made for a finance effort in January. The latter is done very quietly among friends. They are starting this Thursday to make some needed garments for the Turkish soldiers.

"THE CENTER HAS TEN ATtractive and adaptable rooms on the second and third floors of a building in Stamboul—the older part of Istanbul. The Board meetings are held in English for the most part and there is always tea. There are three Americans on the Board and one English woman, but the majority are from the country. A very fine, children's doctor is President; the secretary is a most attractive young doctor's wife. We also have the head of a Norman Training School, two teachers, two business girls and a lawyer, besides housewives. We think we have some red tape and record keeping in America but it is nothing in comparison. The Center is registered as a school and the books and records that must be kept in order to exhibit at a moment's notice is astounding. Every girl enrolled in a class or group must bring a passport size picture of herself together with a health certificate and much information about herself including the year of her birth. However it is rather nice to have pictures of all these girls who are so closely connected with the Center. The majority are brunette with sparkling dark eyes and all are eager to learn and enter into the activities of the Center.

"MY OWN PASSPORT PICTures have been greatly in demand by the authorities here who have I think fifteen of them now sprinkled around in their records. The office secretary, here at the school and at the Center have spent much time in arranging papers permitting me to stay in Turkey. Every now and then I have to go down to be looked over or sign a paper in their presence. The officials found nothing in the records against Hiram or Cora, my father and mother nor anything on record about any Elizabeth that looked anything like me. Last names did not enter into this particular picture.

**CONTINUING THE SERIES** of articles with reference to public enterprises in which the city of Grand Forks was "first," I wish to remind readers of this column today that Grand Forks was the first city in North Dakota to have a legally constituted municipal park system. It is a further fact that every city park system now existing in North Dakota owes its existence to legislation framed in Grand Forks for the primary purpose of enabling Grand Forks to have a park system of its own.

**UNTIL 1905, NO NORTH DAKOTA** city had a park commission, for there was no legislation providing for the creation of such a body. Nor could any city legally appropriate money directly for the maintenance of parks. Here and there, by roundabout methods, small sums had been taken from city general funds for the maintenance of what were intended to be public parks, but the expenditures were insignificant, and the cities could not legally obtain title to such properties. In Grand Forks a few dollars had occasionally been spent by the city council to clean up a part of what is now Central park so that the ground might be used for the annual Decoration day exercises, and sometimes a little hap-hazard work was done through the summer by members of the street force in cutting weeds. That was the extent of the park work done in Grand Forks, and no more was done elsewhere in the state.

**EARLY IN 1905 A COMMITTEE** of the old Commercial club framed a bill for submission to the legislature, which was then in session, providing that whenever the city council of any city accepted the provisions of the measure, it should then create a park commission by appointing five members of such commission, to serve without compensation for staggered terms of five years each. The commission thus created should have power to acquire by purchase or condemnation, property for park purposes and to develop and maintain it. Power was given the commission, within prescribed limits, to levy taxes and issue bonds in order to provide for the financing of its operations.

**THE MEASURE AS PREPARED** was approved by the directors of the Commercial club and was forwarded to the two men from the city who were then in the legislature, J. D. Bacon in the senate and John A. Sorley in the house, with the request that they urge its passage. This was done. The city council accepted the provisions of the new law and appointed a park commission of five members.

**THE FIRST NEED OF THE** new commission was for money with which to purchase park property, and steps were taken to issue bonds for that purpose. But before the bonds could be sold the purchaser had to be satisfied that they were legal. A friendly suit was taken to the supreme court for its decision. The court ruled that the city council could not delegate its taxing powers to an appointive body, therefore the new commission could neither issue bonds nor levy taxes. That suspended operations for two years, but in 1907 a new measure was presented to the legislature providing that the park commission should be an elective rather than an appointive body. That law, since amended several times, is the law on which the existence of every park commission in North Dakota is based.

**THE RECENT STORM** recalls that in the early years there were several cases in which farmers and others lost their way, and in some cases lost their lives in attempting to go such short distance as from the house to the barn during a winter storm. I have heard stories of such experiences ridiculed as absurd and impossible by later arrivals in the state. After the tragedies of last Saturday night this generation will understand that such things are possible.

**I HAD ONE EXPERIENCE** in a storm which I shall never forget. A wild storm had raged all day, and Axel, who helped me on the farm, and I, had agreed that we would not go to the barn for the evening chores until after sundown, on the chance that the storm would subside toward evening as storms sometimes did. That storm didn't. It got worse, and out we went into it in the darkness.

**THE WIND WAS FROM THE** northwest, and our course was almost straight south. But, knowing the danger of drifting with the wind, we agreed to bear strongly to the right, feeling sure that we should at least reach the broad side of the barn. We fought our way for some distance, always crowding toward the right, until we felt sure that we had gone too far to the right and passed the barn.

**THEN I STUMBLED OVER** some object and fell. Groping around I found that I had stumbled over the top of a pump which projected from a drift. The pump, instead of being to the right of the barn, was two or three rods to the left. In spite of our effort we had been carried away off our course. If it hadn't been for that pump we should have wandered off onto the open prairie seeking the building in exactly the wrong direction. In that case this column never would have been written.

**LAST WEEK WAS A WEEK OF SADNESS** for thousands of persons throughout the northwest. Members of their families or intimate personal friends were taken from them without warning and in circumstances the most tragic. Sudden storms have sometimes brought catastrophe on a larger scale to isolated communities, but in the area principally affected by this storm practically every community was called on to mourn the death of one or more of its members or of some familiar friend. Great areas of two states have been plunged in mourning. It is in time of trial that the fiber of men and women is tested, and while there is sorrow over the departure of those so suddenly taken away, there is occasion also for pride in the manner in which those to whom the supreme test was applied responded to it. Men are sometimes prompted to take great risks and to perform valiant feats under the influence of mass enthusiasm. The inspiration of flying flags and beating drums, the stimulus of applause, the natural reaction of the human spirit to the dramatic, these contribute to the performance of many heroic acts. But when life is deliberately risked, in storm, and darkness, and solitude, in bitter cold, and in the shrieking of the tempest, in the almost hopeless attempt to save the life of another, then does heroism stand forth in its simplest and most majestic form.

**IT WAS IN THAT GREAT STORM THAT** men left the shelter, imperfect as it was, of stalled cars in order to seek help for those whose lives were endangered, and that others left the security and comfort of their own firesides and plunged into the darkness to bring help to others. Those were acts of real heroism, and it is good to think that they were prompted by no extraneous consideration. They exemplified that which was spoken nearly two thousand years ago: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

**COMPLAINT HAS BEEN MADE THAT THE** weather bureau did not send out adequate warnings of the great storm of a week ago. Governor Stassen of Minnesota and Senator Langer of North Dakota have asked for investigation. It is quite clear that such warnings as were issued were not sufficient to keep people off the roads. And it is fairly certain that not many would have been deterred from starting on journeys which they had in mind by any warnings which might conceivably have been sent out.

**EARLY ON SATURDAY THE WEATHER** bureau gave notice of the approach of a cold wave with light snow and strong north wind and advised that steps be taken to protect livestock. That was accurate, as far as it went, but it gave no impression of the extremely dangerous character of the storm. Cold waves with strong winds and light snow are of common occurrence. Prudent persons make preparation for them, but when the weather is mild and there is no sign of an immediate stormy they do not expect the wind to strike with the suddenness and violence of a tornado. If they have places to go they start, and, perhaps, keep an eye on the weather.

**THAT STORM, IN ITS SUDDENNESS AND** fury, was a sensational one. Only warnings as sensational in form as the storm itself would have kept any considerable number of persons off the roads. If the weather bureau had issued such sensational warnings of a storm which had not yet developed its force, and the storm had then failed to meet specifications, the bureau would then have been charged with unreliability and reckless sensationalism. Probably a better organized system of public warning would have helped, but it would have prevented only a few of the tragedies which actually occurred.

**IN THE ESTIMATION OF MANY THE OFFICE** of vice president of the United States is a sort of fifth wheel to the constitutional wagon. But the office of presiding officer of the senate, which is held by the vice president, has its uses, and that official's absence from the desk may have results of some importance. While Vice President Wallace entertained friends at dinner the other day the senate rejected, on a tie vote an amendment to a pending measure permitting the purchase by the army of Argentine canned beef. If Mr. Wallace had been there he could have broken the tie. That incident recalls the one in which an administration measure was defeated on a tie vote before Vice President Dawes could be brought from his hotel to the capitol to cast the deciding vote.

TODAY I AM GIVING THE FINAL INSTALLment of excerpts from Miss Burnham's December letter, written in Istanbul, Turkey. Since that letter was written much has happened in the Near East. The Greeks have kept up their drive against the Italians, forcing them back until they have almost expelled them from Albania. Nazi troops have occupied Bulgaria and are lined up along the Grecian and Turkish borders. Demands have been made on Yugoslavia for passage for German troops, but the Yugoslavians have been holding out against those demands with unexpected stubbornness. The British, having done a fairly complete job of mopping up in most of Italy's African empire, are reported to have transferred a sizable army from Africa to Greece.

THUS THE PROSPECT OF WAR HAS BEEN brought appreciably nearer to Turkey, whose European border fortifications have been strengthened, and ancient Constantinople, now Istanbul, is practically on a war footing, with blackout and other precautionary regulations strictly enforced. These facts give special interest to Miss Burnham's letters, coming from what may soon be the center of a titanic conflict. Her letter closes with these paragraphs:

"I HEARD OVER THE AMERICAN RADIO tonight that the blackout in force in Turkey for three weeks had been called off. You knew it practically as soon as we did here for the news was in today's papers. It was only a precautionary measure and trial. However everything is in readiness now so that the whole city can be darkened at a moment's notice. After one or two attempts I just did not go out after dark during those days. If anyone was invited out for dinner in the evening it just about had to be for the night. I was a guest at Edwards home once and at the Damon home near Robert college after a party there. The Edwards are English people of whom I am very fond and where I have been a guest a number of times. Mrs. Edwards is chairman of the Liaison committee.

"HERE IN SCUTARI GIRLS' SCHOOL I AM teaching beginning cooking, sewing and home-making. I enjoy the American, British and Turkish teachers and it is interesting to know these younger girls in a more formal relationship. There are 308 girls from 12 to 18 years old in the school, more than for several years. We have steam heat here at the school, really quite a luxury, but the regulation Turkish bath in which you pour the water. It has its advantages and disadvantages. They tell me in January and February I will appreciate the steam heated building even more as that is when we have our coldest weather.

"MT. OLYMPUS IN BACK OF OUR NEIGHBORING hills here in Asia is covered with snow now. I am feeling fine and getting along very well with Turkish food. We teachers had pumpkin pie with whipped cream on it Sunday and chocolate cake for tea on Friday. Miss Martin, the head of the school here, is always preparing or arranging for some treat like this. There is plenty to eat in Turkey, though some of the prices have gone up. You can get most anything you want to wear or use here but some of the prices are terrific!

"SOME OF YOU WILL BE SURPRISED TO hear that I take a twenty minute walk from the boat landing to the Center every day I go and again the twenty minute walk on the return; and am enjoying it. Sometimes I make the trip through narrow winding cobble stoned streets that are filled with interesting sights—tiny shops fairly spilling their contents out into the streets, men hawking all kinds of wares, men carrying huge loads of most anything on their backs, past interesting looking candy and pastry shops. Perhaps I stop and have my shoes shined, putting my foot up on the iron rest right there in the street. I have my adventures in trying to buy this and that. If I am a bit foot weary I take the broader streets which have paved sidewalks for the most part. I am getting a little accustomed to I the cobble stones, but my shoes show the marks of their acquaintance with the stones. I should have brought more shoes with me as it is hard on shoes.

THERE IS MUCH WALKING TO BE DONE everywhere you go for even if you have a taxi, they can't, like the goats, climb the hills where people live and from where you have gorgeous views worth the climb. Robert college and some of the homes out near there fairly hang over the edge of the Bosphorus and what panoramas you have from there! I have been a guest in several of the American homes out there where most of the people are connected either with Robert college, the Constantinople Girls' college or the Mission. There is quite a large group of Americans here—a few of the men have sent home their wives and children, but really life here is quite normal. I have a great admiration for the Turkish people who have accomplished so much in so few years, and really want peace; to go on in their development.

"I HAVE NOT HAD THAT HORSE BACK ride yet, but I will if the weather continues mild and it stops raining for I have discovered two people who enjoy riding and know where we can get horses. I saw many beautiful horses in the parade in celebration of the founding of the Turkish Republic."

IN SOME RECENT ISSUES I HAVE told that Grand Forks was the first city anywhere in the northwest to install a water treatment plant of any kind; that it was the first North Dakota city to pave any of its streets; and that in Grand Forks was originated provision for the municipal park systems which are now common throughout the state. According to my best recollection, Grand Forks was also first in the so-called ornamental lighting of its business streets.

THE FIRST ELECTric street lighting that was done in Grand Forks as in most other cities, employed what was known as the carbon, open-arc system, in which lamps, suspended over the streets, gave dazzling light and cast deep shadows, to the accompaniment of the hissing of the incandescent carbon points. These were succeeded by various types of enclosed lamps which consumed less current and gave better light.

MANY OF THE LARGER CITIES INstalled lighting systems in their business districts which combined the ornamental with the utilitarian. Posts were placed on both sides of the street, several to the block, and these carried enclosed lamps in various combinations which gave to the streets the "white way" appearance which became popular.

ABOUT 30 YEARS AGO AGITATION was begun in Grand Forks for a downtown "white way." Installation of the required posts would cost considerable money, more than could be taken from the general fund for that purpose. It was proposed that the owners of property in front of which light posts were to be placed should pay the cost of material and installation, and the city would then provide the current and upkeep. Most of those approached were willing, but there were some hold-cuts. That blocked the plan, for to be effective the system must be uniform, and it wouldn't do to leave blank spaces for those who refused to pay. Moreover, persons otherwise willing to pay their fair share objected to increasing their payments in order to make up for those who refused.

FOR SOME TIME THE WHOLE PLAN was deadlocked, and it seemed that it must be abandoned. Finally, however, a solution was found. The city had been paving streets and installing sewers and water mains, in each case creating an improvement district comprising the property affected, and levying taxes on such property to pay for the improvement. The question was asked: If the city can levy special taxes to pave a street, why cannot it also levy special taxes to light the same street in the most approved manner. The legal authorities found no objection to that plan, and it was done that way.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DIScussion it was suggested that the city buy from Minneapolis a number of "goose-neck" lamps and posts which the Mill City was replacing with others of more modern type. They could be bought for a very small price. But after examination that plan was abandoned, and new units with clusters of lamps were bought instead. Those are the lamps which are now in use down town. The plan followed here of creating special improvement districts for light installations was later adopted by many other North Dakota cities.

IN HOTEL LOBBIES AND OTHER places where men congregate there has been considerable discussion of the behavior of horses in a storm. Sometimes the statement has been made that in such a storm as that of March 15, horses, if left to themselves, will make their way home, even right in the face of the wind. On the basis of some personal experience with horses in storms I vote in the negative.

A horse may travel willingly toward home in a moderate storm, but in a real blizzard it will, if it can, turn tail and travel with the storm. I have known horses loose on the prairie to drift ten miles with a storm when by traveling a mile against it they could have reached the shelter of the home barn. I do not believe there ever was a horse that would have faced that recent storm willingly, or that could have been driven into it, for more than a very short distance. Even if willing the horse could not have made it because its nostrils would have been clogged with ice and it would have smothered.

A BRITISH ARMY OFFICER, WHO in the World war of 1914-18 had served with French, British and United States troops, was asked which nation produced the best soldiers. His answer was that if he had to perform a difficult and involved maneuver under fire, he would prefer French troops. If his mission was to hold a position until the last man fell, he would choose British, but if he had to make an attack with the odds a thousand-to-one against him, he would want American troops.

RECENTLY AN OFFICER OF THE United States army was asked the same question.

"Properly trained," he replied, "it seems to me that the Manchus and Tartars of northern China would make the greatest fighters the world has even seen."

He explained that these people are usually larger than the Chinese or Japanese, they have learned to bear terrific changes in temperature without discomfort or disease. Many "have served as cargadores in a country where there is practically no method of transporting freight except upon human backs. Loads they have carried and distances covered in a day appear impossible to the people in this country."

THESE PEOPLE ARE USED TO LIVING upon a bare subsistence of rice and fish, with no modern conveniences or comforts as known in this country.

"An army of these men could carry larger packs, more ammunition and guns, than anything we know of in a military way. Rationing and uniforming them would be a simple matter. They are Inured to hardship, privation and great physical effort. They appear to be efficient fighters in small groups as the bandit history of Manchuria and Northern China will show. They are amenable to discipline and will follow instructions." "Genghis Khan organized them into about as formidable an army as the world had seen in the thirteenth century, and if we are facing another age of military conquest, it might be, a good idea for some power to take the millions of these people into consideration."

A PLEASANT LETTER IS RECEIVED from Captain Alvin Purcell from Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, enclosing a copy of the camp's Daily Bulletin, which is prepared by Captain Purcell in addition to his other duties. The Bulletin is used as an official directory in lieu of written orders to the eleven regiments in the 34th division. The number enclosed contains part of a recent Herald article dealing with the subject of exaggerated rumors. Soldiers in camp are urged to guard against the dissemination of camp rumors which can be twisted into sensation and utterly unwarranted reports.

CAPTAIN PURCELL SENDS GREETINGS to Grand Forks friends. He is a member of the judge advocate's section, headquarters, 34th Division, APO-34, Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, and letters so addressed will reach him. He will be glad to hear from friends at home.

MRS. LAURA A. GREEN WOULD like to know where to find the poem "The Inchape Bell" which she remembers from her school days. Her recollection is that it begins with the line "Sir Ralph the Rover tore his hair,"

THE POEM IS ONE OF SOUTHERY'S and I suppose it can be found in any collection of his work. It is rather long for quotation here, but a summary may suffice. Mrs. Green's recollection about Sir Ralph tearing his hair is correct except that the tearing of hair doesn't occur until near the end of the poem.

ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND THE good abbot of Aberbrothock caused a warning bell to be floated over the dangerous Inchape rock. The bell rang with the motion of the waves, and when sailors heard the sound, in darkness or storm they guided their craft to safety. "Then they knew the perilous rock, and blessed the Abbot of Aberbrothock."

SIR RALPH THE ROVER, FREEbooter and cutthroat, in order to plague the abbot, sent men to cut the bell loose and sink it, saying: "The next who comes to the Rock won't bless the Abbot of Aberbrothock." Then, goes the poem: Sir Ralph the Rover sailed away; He sailed the seas for many a day; And now, grown rich with plundered

store, He steers his course for Scotland's shore.

So thick a haze o'er spreads the sky They cannot see the sun on high; The wind hath blown a gale all day, At evening it hath died away. "Canst hear," said one, "the breakers

roar For yonder, methinks should be the shore!"

"Now where we are I cannot tell, But I wish I could hear the Inchape bell."

They hear no sound, the swell is strong; Though the wind hath fallen they drift

along, Till the vessel strikes with a shivering shock—

"Oh Fate, it is the Inchape Rock." Sir Ralph the Rover tore his hair, He cursed himself in his despair; The waves rush in on every side, The ship is sinking beneath the tide. But ever, in his dying fear, One dreadful sound could the Rover hear—

A sound as if, with the Inchape Bell, The Fiends below were ringing his knell!

A COPY OF BEN HUSSET'S WEATHER forecast for 1941 is received, together with a card from Mr. Huset saying that he predicted the storm of March 15. The prediction for that period is underscored. Mr. Huset, who hails from Crosby, N. D., has been making weather forecasts for several years. He says that his predictions are based on weather records and cycles as these are affected by the movement of the planets.

METHODS OF THAT kind were used, so the forecasters said, by one Irl R. Hicks, by Foster, and by others whose forecasts had wide circulation for a time, but which have been forgotten. The United States weather bureau is well staffed and well organized. Many other nations have similar bureaus. Associated with those bureaus, and in colleges and universities, working independently, are thousands of trained and intelligent men who have devoted years to the study of natural phenomena, terrestrial and celestial.

IT IS THROUGH THE WORK OF those scientists, aided by the contributions of volunteer observers all over the world, that weather forecasting has been brought to its present status, which is confessedly far from perfect. Forecasts covering considerable areas are made with a high degree of accuracy a day or two in advance. With lesser, though still considerable accuracy, general weather forecasts are made for greater areas for a week or so in advance. But although upper and lower winds, temperatures, rainfall and other phenomena in temperate, frigid and torrid zones, and the movements of all the heavenly bodies have been and are observed, and recorded and are compared with reference to their influence on future weather, are not yet able to say with any degree of certainty when or where marked changes in the weather will occur next year or next month.

IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC forecasting there are no secrets. Whatever discoveries are made by one qualified scientist are immediately made public so that all scientists may test their accuracy and proceed upon a basis of proven fact. And it is safe to say that when discoveries now unsuspected are made in the field of weather forecasting, they will be made by scholars such as those who are now engaged in that work, the results of whose research are recorded day by day as guides to further investigation.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MR. HUSSET enjoys the preparation of his forecasts and is convinced of their accuracy. But I have always been skeptical of such attempts. Of course the scientist, equally with the man on the street, can predict with reasonable safety that we shall have some cold weather in January and some hot weather in July, but beyond that we do not get very far.

WITHOUT UNDERTAKING TO ANALYZE Mr. Huset's forecasts in general, mention may be made of the feature to which he calls specific attention, the March 15 storm. The prediction reads: "Winds and probably a storm will take place between the 11th and 15th. Colder weather is also due at this time."

ALLOWING FOR THE MARGIN OF error of a day or so at each end of the period, an allowance which the reader is advised to make, that means that there is likely to be some storm weather about the second week in March. That is a safe prediction to make for any winter week. If there isn't something that can qualify as a storm in the week specified, it is certain to come a day or two earlier or later.

EARTHQUAKES MAY SAFELY BE predicted for any day in the year, for scarcely a day passes on which their are not earthquake shocks somewhere. There have been assembled lists of hundreds of thousands of earthquakes which have occurred during the period of human history. I believe North Dakota is the only one of the American states which has never experienced an earthquake, so far as human knowledge goes.

MY MEMORY PLAYED ME FALSE —as it often does— when I claimed for Grand Forks priority in street paving. After the article making that statement appeared, my attention was called to the fact that the flood of 1897 floated away some sections of Fargo's cedar block pavement. That happened also in Grand Forks, where the pavement was less than a year old, having been laid in 1896. Fargo also must have paved as early as 1896, perhaps earlier. To set the matter straight I wrote City Auditor Jorgenson of Fargo, who replied promptly with the facts.

FARGO PAVED SEVERAL OF ITS down town streets with cedar blocks in the summer of 1895, just a year ahead of Grand Forks. As early as 1887, writes Mr. Jorgenson, the subject of paving was discussed by the Fargo city council, and the council heard the representative of an asphalt company on the subject. That was in June. The record says that on June 25 there was a remonstrance against paving, followed by an adverse petition on August 1, and on August 5 the motion to pave was laid on the table. That ended consideration of the subject until 1895.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE Fargo block pavement, which Mr. Jorgenson quotes, were similar to those for Grand Forks which I described in the former article. The price was 92 cents a square yard for paving, 80 cents per lineal foot for granite curbing, 20 cents for wood curbing and 30 cents a cubic yard for extra excavation.

CONTRACTORS FOR THE FARGO work were D. McDonnell of Duluth and Henry O'Neill of Fargo. Probably O'Neill was associated with James Kennedy, prominent Fargo contractor and later Republican national committeeman. Paddy McDonnell was an interesting character who became a familiar figure in Grand Forks, as he handled several street paving and sewer contracts. He was a genial Irishman, shrewd and resourceful, and he would have made a grand horsetrader.

WHEN THE FIRST GRAND FORKS paving bids were opened and read before the city council McDonnell was low bidder by several cents a yard. I think all the other bids were over a dollar. My recollection is that Paddy's bid was 94 cents, and the contract was awarded to him in due form at that price. When that was done McDonnell made a neat little speech, thanking the council. "But," he said, "there was a slight error in the figure as read by the auditor. The price named in the bid is 97 cents. My bookkeeper made out the bid in a hurry, and probably the figures weren't quite distinct."

AT THE PRICE OF 97 CENTS McDonnell would still have been low bidder and entitled to the contract .The aldermen looked blank; then they all grinned. Then one of them said that inasmuch as the contract had been let at 94 cents, he guessed that would have to stand, or new bids must be called for. McDonnell accepted that with a good-natured wave of his hand. "We'll let it stand," he said. "It was our fault. Of course I'll lose some money on the contract, but that'll be all right." That additional three cents would have meant something over a thousand dollars, and there was no harm in trying to get it. As I have said, Paddy would have made a grand horsetrader.

M'DONNELL WAS A POWERFUL man, of stocky build, and in his younger days he had acquired some reputation as a pugilist. Long past age for the ring, he still retained a lively interest in boxing and wrestling and never missed seeing a good match when he could help it. Occasionally he promoted matches and sometimes served as referee.

MRS. M'DONNELL DIDN'T QUITE approve of her husband being actively kightntified with such sports, and Paddy had to use considerable ingenuity to enjoy the game and keep his tracks covered. Once when he was scheduled to referee a fight in which the contestants were of some prominence I asked him for a story for the paper. He gave it willingly, describing the fighters, their records, and so forth. But when it came to the referee he said "Don't say a word about me or my wife will never let me hear the last of it. Say the referee will be Flanagan." Which I did, or words to that effect

**THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES** BALKAN history has been a history of turbulence. Racial and tribal enmities, dating so far back that all trace of their origins is lost, have been projected into the relations of the Balkan peoples in modern times, and the resulting wars have brought about the creation and dissolution of new states and repeated changes in national boundaries. Yugoslavia as now constituted, represents an attempt to bring together in national unity former hostile and discordant elements. Serbs, Croats and Slovenes have long been hostile toward each other, and their grouping into one nation has scarcely made them friends. They have been held together less by a feeling of national solidarity than by the fear that if separated they would be absorbed, fragment by fragment, by other powers. The present crisis may do more to weld them into unity than all the negotiations of past years.

**YOUNG PETER, THE PRINCE WHO AT** the age of less than 18 years, has been proclaimed king of a nation, and is now performing royal functions, owes his position to an act of assassination committed just after the turn of the century. For several generations there had been bitter rivalry between the Obrenovich and Karageorgevich (sons of Black George) families, with control over Serbia alternating between the two. In 1903 King Alexander, of the Obrenovich clan, and Draga, his queen, were brutally assassinated by conspirators of the other faction. The conspirators organized a new government and invited Prince Peter Karageorgevich to the throne, an invitation which Peter accepted.

**ALTHOUGH HE BENEFITED BY THE ACT**, public opinion of the day generally absolved Peter of complicity in the murder of his predecessor, but apparent lack of energy in bringing the assassins to justice caused other royalties to look at him askance for some time. But Peter proved a wise, vigorous and public-spirited administrator, and by the time of the outbreak of the war in 1914 he had become the idol of his subjects. That feeling was intensified during the war, when Peter, then an old man, performed prodigies of personal valor and shared with his people the terrible privations which the war imposed on them.

**PETER WAS SUCCEEDED BY HIS SECOND** son, Alexander, his eldest brother, George, having been "persuaded" to resign his right to the throne for factional reasons. On a visit to France Alexander was assassinated at Marseilles, together with the French foreign minister, who had gone to meet him. Alexander's 8-year-old son, Peter, was put in training to assume the position of king upon reaching the age of 18, and a regency was created, headed by a relative, Prince Paul. Peter will not be 18 until next fall, but as a result of the coup of last Thursday he was proclaimed king and invested with the authority of that office. He comes to the throne in a crisis more menacing, perhaps, than any in the previous history of his country.

**TWIDDLING THE RADIO CONTROLS THE** other day I stumbled onto what appeared to be a series of dramatizations of stirring events in Europe, then but a few hours old. In one scene there was represented the anger with which a group of Yugoslavians viewed the course of the late government in yielding to German demands. Speakers denounced the government in unmeasured terms and declared that they would fight rather than submit to such an outrage. In another scene there was given a close-up of the meeting between the Japanese foreign minister, Matsuoko, and Hitler. The absurdly amusing, thing about it all was that all the characters, Yugoslav, Japanese and German, spoke in broken English, and not very good broken English, at that. Everybody knows that when the natives of other country talk to each other they do not use broken English. They talk in their own language, and talk it straight. Then, when for dramatic purposes it is necessary to translate their speech into English, why not give it to us straight?

**IT IS REPORTED THAT THE TWO PILOTS** from the Pensacola air field operating the plane which decapitated the woman working in an Alabama field "may" be courtmartialed "if found culpable." That is surely a sufficiently mild declaration. According to published accounts of the event the plane swooped low over the working women in order to give them a scare. Unfortunately the swoop was a little too low.

**THE AIR PLANE IS NOT A PLAYTHING**, and the sooner some of the young men operating planes are made to realize that fact the better it will be for all concerned. There are regulations against just such tricks as that attempted by the fliers from Pensacola, against flying low over inhabited places, against doing anything to interfere with the security and comfort to those on the ground. Those regulations should be strictly and vigorously enforced.