

JOHN DOWNIE OF WASECA, Minnesota, recalls that during the former World War he was in the British outfit in France which was commanded by Edward, Prince of Wales, now the Duke of Windsor. Edward being heir to the British throne, the government tried to prevent him from exposing himself to danger, and kept his little command as far as possible in quiet sectors, but on several occasions the prince managed to get into some fairly hot spots, to the consternation of those who were responsible for his safety. Mr. Downie says that he was exceedingly popular with his men, who knew him officially as "Captain Barnette." Downie says the prince was a fine horseman, and enjoyed racing with his men.

IN FORMER YEARS MANY facetious references were made to the prince's horsemanship because of his numerous tumbles, and it was sometimes assumed that he was a poor rider. In fact, he was unusually skillful, and his spills were generally the result of his furious riding and taking chances which few others would take. On one occasion when his equerry was asked why the prince fell so often that official replied indignantly "He doesn't fall. When his horse falls he gets off. What would anybody do?"

DURING THE EARLY PART of the World war a little Canadian boy, aged 3 or 4, accompanied his parents on a visit to Grand Forks. He wore a replica in miniature of the Canadian soldier's uniform, a garb which was then worn by many Canadian little boys. The other day he received a commission in the Canadian army, and presently, overseas, he will be wearing the real uniform of which his former dress was but an imitation. It seems shocking to think that for nearly a quarter of a century he has been growing and developing for what may await him in another and perhaps even more terrible World war.

THE FORT PECK DAM IS nearly completed, and the working force, which numbered some 10,000, will presently be reduced to 500, and to a much smaller number soon after. With the disappearing working population will go the mushroom towns that sprang up close to the site of the dam. The government town of Fort Peck will remain as headquarters for the permanent employees who will be maintained for care of the plant. Adjoining Fort Peck, and just off the government reservation, were two or three small towns which were built to cater to the patronage of government employees and tourists. In these, in addition to regular mercantile establishments were places of entertainment of many grades, and those outside towns had the reputation of being "wide-open." The boom being over, the towns will disappear.

DURING THE BUILDING OF the dam, Glasgow, the nearest railroad town, had its own boom, because the building of the dam attracted a big tourist trade. Unless conditions have changed during the past year or two, Glasgow business people did not make the mistake of launching out in expenditures based on the belief that the boom would be permanent. Buildings of every kind were in demand, and business was thriving. But the people realized that within a few, years there would be a big drop, and as a rule they prepared themselves for it conservatively. The city should be able to remain on an even keel after the boom is over.

RESIDENTS OF STURGIS, ON the eastern edge of the Black Hills,, have started a movement to have; Bear Butte, near their town, made a national monument. The butte rises 1,400 feet above the surrounding plains, and is a picturesque feature of the landscape. An artesian lake, fed by an artesian well, has been created at the base of the butte, and thousands of trees have been planted around it. All of this is most praiseworthy, and I am decidedly for it, provided they don't go disfiguring the hill by carving somebody's features on it, as they have done at Rushmore.

THESE ARE INDEED Parlous times, according to much of what we hear and read. Hair-hung and breeze-shaken over the bottomless pit, we seem destined to plunge at any moment into the abyss. Everyone who is anybody views with alarm the prospective doom of the race, and while there are innumerable devices intended to rescue us from overhanging fate, none but the inventors of those devices seem to have much faith in them. Men charged with the direction of our affairs are understood to be passing sleepless nights wrestling with problems that they cannot solve.

THAT IS AS IT MUST APPEAR to any one who listens and reads. But to one who looks at the pictures the outlook is altogether different. There all is gaiety, and life as seen through the camera is more than a comedy; it is a huge farce. Men who are supposed to be weighed down with the cares of state face the camera with mouths distended in broad grins. Before squeezing the bulb the old-time photographer said to his subject, "Now smile!" The current injunction is "Grin your widest." And the subject grins from ear to ear. Never before in the history of the world was there seen such a display of teeth as in the published pictures of movie stars, beauty contestants, preachers, teachers, statesmen and prizefighters who face the camera for the enlightenment of the public. And when the student of another generation reads the tragic records of this year of grace and then looks at the pictures of the people who now live right in the middle of it, he may wonder what was so funny about it.

ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT men of this period is Winston Spencer Churchill, British lord of the admiralty; otherwise, secretary of the navy. Churchill has had a colorful career as soldier, newspaper correspondent, politician, and —so say his admirers—statesman. Many years ago he made a journey through central Africa and wrote entertainingly of his experiences and impressions. I think often of a chapter or two which he devoted to the great African lake region and its people. That territory was then almost virgin, scarcely touched by the civilization of the other continents. Churchill described the primitive condition of the people, their willingness to accept guidance, and the natural wealth of the territory in which they lived.

THERE, HE SAID, WAS AN opportunity for the western nations to practice altruism on a grand scale. There were waterfalls which invited the installation of power plants, fertile land which could be made wonderfully productive under scientific methods, and a people ready to respond to the advances of sincere friendship. Let the advanced nations, he said, devote themselves to the intelligent development of that country, not for purposes of selfish exploitation, but, satisfied with reasonable return on their investment of capital and labor, conserving all surplus for the improvement of the condition of the natives in material wellbeing and in mental and moral standards. It was the beautiful dream of a young and enthusiastic idealist. I wonder if Churchill dreams such dreams yet.

HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE the word "malingering?" An applicant for a teacher's certificate in the state of New York pronounced the middle "g" with a "j" sound. The examiners thought the "g" should be hard. The applicant was denied a certificate, and he says it was all on account of that word. He is bringing suit to have the decision set aside on the ground that his mispronunciation of one word, if it was such, ought not to disqualify him. If that is all that was the matter with the man he should have his certificate. I have known some mighty good teachers who could, and did, mispronounce whole strings of words.

EIGHTY PERSONS HAVE been dismissed from the federal writers project of the WPA in New York City for lack of capacity. Director Somervall insists that writers shall be able to attain a certain standard of excellence, otherwise they will not be employed. Not only shall the work pass muster as to quality, but the writer is expected to deliver not less than 300 words a day. Thus in the course of a year each writer will produce for a book of 90,000 words, which is a moderate length for a book.

THREE HUNDRED WORDS A day seems a modest requirement. It is the equivalent of about one page, letter size, of double-spaced typewriting, a quantity that the typist can knock off in three minutes, provided she knows what she is going to write. Contrast that with Zola's 1,000 words a day, Jack London's thousand, or Anthony Trollope's 2,500.

ON THE OTHER HAND, Flaubert is said sometimes to have spent a week in search of a single word. It took Gray 12 years to complete his "Elegy." So if the writers on the federal project seem to be loafing much of the time, it should not be supposed that they are idling away their time. They are just thinking of words.

DILIGENT READERS OF newspapers must feel that Hollywood is a cruel place in which to live, and that movie people are a cruel lot. Every few days we read that some movie star has just been divorced, or wishes to be, and about nine times out of ten the complaint charges "extreme cruelty." And one wouldn't think it of many of them. Of course there are several kinds of cruelty. There is the plain, or garden variety, in which the husband disciplines his wife with a horsewhip or ties her to a bedpost. Of course there are no longer any horsewhips, and modern beds have no posts, but let it pass. Then there is the statutory form of cruelty, with which the divorce courts are familiar, in which the husband, asked for money, wants to know what his wife did with the thousand dollars he gave her yesterday, or the wife tells the husband that he made a flop of his last picture. Such things cause intense mental suffering, and the courts accept them as valid grounds for divorce.

KING GEORGE OF GREAT Britain inspected a small manufacturing plant the other day, and through a glass partition he watched workers polishing brass shells. The glass partition is necessary because the process is so noisy that only deaf mutes are employed in it. Employment of deaf mutes in such an occupation has its parallel in life in a totalitarian country. Although there is plenty of noise going on all around them the people are carefully kept unconscious of it, not because of any natural defect, but because government has decreed that they shall be deaf, dumb and blind.

THE LATE PAPAL Encyclical, like all papal pronouncements, and the first to be issued by Pope Pius XII, was written first in scholarly Latin, and then translated directly into every written language. The practice of translating directly from the original in all cases is followed to insure accuracy. So swift is the march of events of world-wide significance that according to a Vatican dispatch the pope had to revise his manuscript several times in order that it might be up to date.

A LEARNED PROFESSOR, H. L. Hollingsworth, of Barnard college, reports in a scientific magazine that "the collateral motor automatics involved in the sustained use of the conventional masticatory does result in a lowering of tension, and the tension thus reduced is muscular. In case you haven't guessed, the professor is trying to say that chewing gum is more or less soothing.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has issued his proclamation recommending the setting apart of Thursday, November 23, as a day of thanksgiving. His intention to do this was announced some weeks ago. His action has broken a tradition which has been followed for three-quarters of a century. That fact is not of itself important. Tradition must give way to current need, and if there had existed any real need for a change in the date of Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to a date a week earlier, doubtless that could have been arranged without much confusion or controversy. But the president committed the blunder of changing the date of a public holiday which has become a national institution without the slightest evidence of popular desire for such change, and with no reason to suppose that the change would meet with popular approval.

THE RESULT IS THAT TWO Thanksgiving days will be observed in the United States, not quite half of the states following the president's recommendation and one or two more than half observing the last Thursday in the month as usual. North Dakota's Thanksgiving will be on November 23, the statute providing that in this matter the state shall follow the presidential proclamation. Minnesota retains the old date, and communities just across the state line from each other, as Grand Forks and East Grand Forks and Fargo and Moorhead, will observe the holiday a week apart. Those communities are so closely associated that such diversity will create great confusion.

SCHOOL SCHEDULES WERE arranged long ago on the basis of the holiday being observed on the customary date. In the colleges of the state are students from Minnesota who will wish to go home for the holiday, but at home the holiday will be a week later. In the Minnesota schools are many North Dakota students who will be inconvenienced in like manner. Thanksgiving day is a great football day, and football schedules were arranged many months in advance. They cannot be changed summarily, and if they are not changed many of the big games will be played before empty stands because local people will be at work. Many other complications arise from this abrupt and needless change. If there were any good reasons for a change, it should be known at least a year in advance that the change would be made.

THE WAR, IT APPEARS, IS having its influence on the turkey business. I don't know how many turkeys are shipped from the United States to Great Britain, but the Winnipeg Free Press says that most of the Canadian turkey surplus goes to the United Kingdom. Because of transportation hazards such shipments will be greatly diminished if not altogether suspended. Canadian turkey producers do not relish the prospect, but Canadians who consume the turkeys regard the probability of lower prices with equanimity.

IN SPITE OF THE Application of machinery to almost every imaginable form of activity, the making of gold leaf remains a manual art, conducted just about as it was in the days of ancient Egypt. Now, as then, gold is hammered into thin leaves, being placed between sheets of parchment and pounded with hammers. The parchment is a thin leathery membrane obtained from one of the large intestines of the ox, and it is said to be the toughest parchment known. One article on the subject estimates the thickness of a sheet of finest gold leaf at 1-250,000 of an inch. The Egyptian beaters hammer out an ounce of gold to make it cover about 60 square feet. Modern beaters are able to stretch the gold three times as far, making the sheets only one-third as thick. It is recorded of one beater named Reaumer that in 1711 he beat an ounce of gold into sheets so thin that they covered 300 square feet.

THE SAN FRANCISCO FAIR winds up with unpaid bills amounting to \$4,600,000 and has applied to the courts for an orderly liquidation of its affairs. Its light bill, unpaid, is \$700,000. But everybody says it was a fine show.

TWO FACTORS HAVE Combined to make possible the Artists series of musical numbers now entering its third consecutive year. First is the enterprise of the Community Music association in seeking that which is best in music. Second is the existence of the High School auditorium which seats comfortably an audience of 1,500, and whose acoustic properties are such that voices from the stage can be heard distinctly in any part of the house. Nowhere are there given finer programs than have been and are to be presented in this series. These programs give enjoyment to those whose appreciation of music is already developed, and they afford others an opportunity to know what real music is. This season's course opens on Tuesday evening with John Charles Thomas, whose splendid voice and fine personality so delighted his audience here two years ago.

THROUGHOUT THE NATION this week will be observed as "Education Week." Special effort will be made during the period to bring to the attention of the public everywhere the character of the work that is being done in the schools and the importance of that work. The week will be observed in the schools of Greater Grand Forks with appropriate programs, and arrangements have been made for visits of patrons to some, if not all of the schools during day or evening periods, so that work as it is actually performed may be observed by those who are vitally interested in it as parents and taxpayers. The work that is done in the schools is the most important of our national and community activities. The better the work is done the better will the citizenship of tomorrow be.

ANNOUNCEMENT WAS made a few days ago of the forth-coming sale at public auction of the garment-making machinery at the federal homestead garment-making project at Hightstown, New Jersey. That marks the end of an ambitious subsistence homestead project on which \$4,000,000 of federal money was spent. A tract of 1,250 acres was obtained and on this there was built a garment factory and 200 homes were built for as many families. The business was to be operated co-operatively, and it was expected that workers in the factory would in their spare time produce enough from their gardens to decrease materially their living costs. About 150 families were moved to the project and the factory was started. But the co-operative was unable to market enough of its product to keep the plant running. The remaining 50 houses were rented to outsiders, and after a languishing existence of about two years the plant was closed and it was not reopened at all during the past summer. Tenants in the government residences have sought employment elsewhere, and it was decided to get rid of the machinery for what it would bring.

FAILURE OF THAT PROJECT is an illustration of what is likely to happen whenever an attempt is made to create arbitrarily a social and economic system and hand it down from above as a finished product. In the nature of things there is no reason why a co-operative society cannot operate a factory and providing opportunity for its members to do some gardening on the side cannot succeed. But such an enterprise is likely to succeed only when it originates in the minds and will of the members themselves and is the result of cautious experiment in which errors are discovered before they become disastrous and all the factors are properly related to each other. Such an enterprise, to succeed must grow from the bottom and not be handed down from the top. That is a fact which many enthusiasts have yet to learn.

DR. J. O. Perrine, OF THE American Telephone and Telegraph company, made a fascinating presentation of some of the marvels of electricity in his lecture here last week. In a most interesting way he presented many facts which are little known outside of scientific circles, but which it is to the advantage of everyone to know. In a thousand ways we are served by instrumentalities which we accept casually and take for granted. But, as Dr. Perrine said in another brief address, those things do not descend upon us from above "as the gentle rain from heaven," but are the products of intensive thinking and hard work. TO one group Dr. Perrine exhibited a little box a few inches square which contained a dozen small amplifying tubes. That little combination, he said, represented the equivalent of one man's work for 100 years. Many research workers had spent the equivalent of that time in acquiring and applying the knowledge which made possible the construction and use of that little piece of apparatus.

DR. PERRINE SPECIALIZES in the field of electricity, but what is true in many others. In college laboratories all over the world the work of research is going on and from those laboratories come discoveries which revolutionize current practices. And in great industrial plants there are constantly employed specialists whose duty it is to unravel some of the mysteries of physics, chemistry, biology or some other science and to find ways of doing things for merely impossible, or of doing familiar things more efficiently and economically than before.

STATEHOOD IN NORTH Dakota began only 50 years ago and the first white settlers came into the territory not many years earlier. In almost every community there are living those who were residents here and of voting age in 1889, and who might be supposed to have distinct recollection of events of that earlier period. Yet the newspaper man whose task it is to assemble facts relating to the early history of the state and who wishes to be accurate in the matter of names, dates and so forth is continually running into conflicting testimony. The memory of the eye witness of or the actual participant in the events of the past is often un-trustworthy.

BECAUSE OF THIS FACT there is conflict in written accounts summarizing the history of the state. The writers of historical works must go outside of their own experience for most of their facts, and unless the information which they seek has become a matter of official record in the files of legislative bodies, courts of administrative offices, absolute accuracy is next to impossible. When, at some distant day, perhaps, the real historian shall attempt to unravel the early history of this state, he will find it necessary to guess as to which of several conflicting statements is correct. Probably that is true of the collection of such information relating to bygone events. It is of importance, therefore, that as much as possible of the state's early history be put into permanent form before all who participated in it are gone. In this work the state historical society and its several local branches are performing valuable service.

SHIPMENTS OF CHRISTMAS toys will soon be on the way. At a recent exhibition of toys by manufacturers of toys in New York there was evidence of an interesting departure from custom in the almost total absence of toys suggestive of war. This may or may not be due to reaction from the war spirit with which the atmosphere of the world seems to be surcharged. At any rate it appears that tin soldiers, wooden guns and other toys suggestive of conflict and slaughter are this year to be conspicuous by their absence. Instead there will be toys representative of some of the best movie comedies that have been produced, toys to appeal to the child's mechanical instincts, toys embodying simple scientific principles, and, for the little girls, of course, toys representative of the home and the domestic arts.

I WONDER IF THERE ARE, stored away carefully, still any wax dolls left. There was a time when the possession of a wax doll was the height of every little girl's ambition. My young sister had one of those dolls, almost as big as herself, and it was an object of worshipful admiration for all the other little girls in the neighborhood. It has stunning silk gowns, lacy underwear, and a variety of elaborate headgear. It was brought out only on state occasions and at other times was laid away carefully in: a place specially prepared for it.

BUT WHILE THE WAX DOLL, was a prized possession, to be petted and admired, the child's real love was lavished on a homely and disreputable rag doll which would not have been admitted to any polite society. That doll was the child's companion in joy and sorrow, and I am sure that for old Topsy all the other dolls in the collection, including the regal one of wax, would willingly have been sacrificed.

TODAY THE PEOPLE OF California and those of Ohio will vote on "ham and eggs." The California scheme is the one providing for weekly payments of scrip to be used in the purchase of goods. It was rejected by the voters at the last election, but the majority against it was small, and many predictions are made that it will be approved this time. The Ohio plan is similar in its general features. I have seen no estimate of the probability of its success there. Both of them, like the Townsend plan, represent the fantastic belief that wealth can be plucked from the air.

THE NEW YORK TIMES FOR October 29 contained an article by S. J. Woolf about Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, famous scientists, explorer and author, accompanied by a portrait of Dr. Stefansson drawn from life by the author. The occasion for the article, which is in the form of an interview, was the forthcoming birthday of Dr. Stefansson, who was 60 years old last Friday. The occurrence of the birthday reminds me of an incident of many years ago in the history of the brilliant explorer while he was a resident of Grand Forks.

AS A YOUNG MAN STEFANSSON usually took the other side of any question that was being discussed, that is, the side opposite to that favored by the majority of those present. That habit resulted in some interesting experiences for him and those about him. North Dakota being preponderately a Republican state, it was inevitable that Stefansson should declare himself a Democrat. As he was a bright young man, the Democratic leaders of the state selected him as their candidate for state superintendent of public instruction, and he had agreed to accept the nomination, undoubtedly expecting to have a lot of fun in the campaign. But on checking up it was found that he was not 21 years of age. Though he would have overcome that difficulty before it came time for him to take office, the party managers considered it inadvisable to submit to the voters a candidate for a state position a candidate not yet old enough to vote. Reluctantly the plan was given up.

THE TIMES INTERVIEWER describes Dr. Stefansson as he neared the completion of his 60 years as hale and rugged, comfortably housed, with the walls of his rooms lined with books, with mind keen and alert, and with enthusiasm for the north undimmed. In all he spent 13 years in the Arctic regions, added more than 100,000 miles to the maps of the region, introduced entirely new elements into Arctic travel, and aroused fresh interest in the characteristics of the natives of the far north. He is happy in his present surroundings. He is an adviser to the government and to an air line on Arctic affairs and in addition he is at work on his fourteenth book. May the years deal kindly with him, and may he long continue to contribute to the sum of human knowledge.

ACCORDING TO A CHECK OF causes of automobile accidents road defects are blameless in 96 per cent of such accidents. Bad weather is acquitted of responsibility for 77 per cent of the accidents. Vehicular defects excluded in 85 per cent of the accidents. In the great majority of cases the accident is due to some error on the part of the driver.

A MAN BET MONEY ON A horse race and his horse won. Overjoyed, the man jumped over the fence intending to hug the horse, but the horse turned and kicked him. Surgical and hospital bills used up all of the winnings. There ought to be a moral to this, but I am not sure just what it is.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED from Professor W. H. Moran, of the University, a cluster of the first native -chestnut burrs, with nuts enclosed, that I have seen since I was a boy. Professor Moran gathered them this last season from a tree growing on a mountain side at the home of a brother-in-law in West Virginia. The tree on which they grew is about 15 feet high and its trunk has a diameter of from four to six inches, and it bore a heavy crop of nuts.

THAT IS THE ONLY LIVING chestnut tree anywhere in that vicinity, although years ago chestnut groves were numerous in that vicinity. Now there are to be seen the remains of hundreds of trees which were killed by the chestnut blight which swept the country not many years ago. The tree from which these nuts were taken is not seedling, but sprang up from the root of a blighted tree. Many other similar shoots came up in the same locality, but so far as is known, all of them died before attaining appreciable size. This one has surmounted the hazards of its early years and has reached the stage of production without showing a sign of blight. Some other such cases have been reported in various parts of the country and federal specialists in plant life have hopes that from the seeds of such trees new chestnut groves may be developed which will be immune to blight. The chestnut is prized for its beauty, its delicious butts and its valuable timber, and it is to be hoped that it can be restored.

THE NEW YORK WORLDS fair management received a letter from an unknown enclosing a 10 dollar bill. The writer said he owed the money because he had smuggled to the fair at children's rate youngsters who were over 14. He said it was a grand fair, and probably that fact had touched his conscience. The fair will continue next summer, and the management will spend the winter in making structural and other changes. It has been definitely decided that the regular admission price will be 50 cents, which removes what was an element of controversy last summer.

ITALY IS PROCEEDING ON the assumption that there will be something left of civilization by 1942. She is making preparations for a world's fair in that year, and the site is already studded with skeletons of buildings to be erected. Perhaps, if the war is not over, the belligerents will knock off fighting for the summer so that everybody can go to the fair. Or perhaps they will not have started fighting by that time.

CITIZENS OF NEW YORK City voted yesterday for candidates for the city council. One of the candidates was Alfred E. Smith, Jr. He may not know for many days whether or not he was elected, for the election was under the proportional representation plan, and under that plan the check may not be completed for weeks. The candidate's father, former governor of the state and defeated candidate for president, has no use for proportional representation. He can see no sense in it. You vote for a man, he says, or you don't, and that's all there is to it. The former governor has no use for any of the modern election methods. He would like to return to the old system in which groups got together, passed the hat for expenses, named their candidates and printed their own ballots. That would be going a long way back,

NORTH DAKOTA HAS NEVER adopted the proportional representation system for its elections, state or local. Years ago it experimented with first- and second-choice voting, with no very satisfactory results. Under the method employed the voter who voted for a second choice might be impairing the chances of his own first-choice candidate. Few voters paid any attention to it and the law was repealed.

ANOTHER NORTH DAKOTA experiment was with reference to senatorial elections while senators were still elected by state legislatures. Members of the legislature were free to vote as they pleased, but the North Dakota law provided that an advisory vote should be taken and the legislators were expected to elect the candidate who won in the advisory vote. That was superseded by the constitutional amendment providing for the direct popular election of senators.

LIKE MANY OTHER STATES, North Dakota experimented with the presidential preference primary. Candidates for president could file their announcements with the secretary of state and the voters of each party then voted for their preference. Delegates to national conventions were expected to support the candidates thus indorsed. That law also was repealed in North Dakota and elsewhere. Its futility was recognized, and convention delegates could not be bound by it.

THE UNIVERSITY'S Homecoming was celebrated in inclement weather and the football game on the second day was played in a snowstorm. Thereupon there was complaint that the date of homecoming is too late in the season, and there were recollection of other homecoming days that were cold and disagreeable. But now a month after homecoming we have had days that were perfect in every respect. The fact is that this year October weather was not in character. Instead of Indian summer the weather man gave us something strongly resembling-winter. And homecoming couldn't well be moved forward without starting the University year in the middle of summer.

NATURE HAS BEEN MORE than usually liberal this fall with her displays of northern lights, and I suppose these are those who will associate the frequency and brilliance of those displays with the war in Europe. Men have usually attached mysterious significance to things that they could not understand, and it is easy to imagine primitive man gazing fearfully at those flashing, trembling streamers of light, colored sometimes with all the hues of the rainbow, which came without regularity and without warning, quite unlike the movements of the heavenly bodies with which he was familiar. Clearly, that phenomenon must be the harbinger of great and terrible events.

AN INQUIRER ASKS IN THE New York Times Book Review for the poem containing lines relating to northern steamers which shot across the sky. Possibly the inquirer, living in some northern latitude, has also observed the brilliance of the northern lights of late and has been reminded of the poem by that fact. On other occasions I have referred to that poem, which was written nearly a century ago by William E. Aytoun, a professor of literature in Edinburgh university. It is entitled "Edinburgh after Flodden," and describes the consternation and sorrow with which Edinburgh received news of the disaster which befell the Scottish army in the historic battle of Flodden. The opening lines of the poem read:

News of battle. News of battle. Hark, 'tis ringing down the
street,
And the archways and the pavements
Bear the clang of hurrying feet. News of battle! Who hath brought
it News of triumph! who should
bring
Tidings from our noble army, Greetings from our gallant
king?
All last night we watched the beacons,
Blazing on the hills afar, Each one bearing, as it kindled, Message of the opened war. All night long the
northern streamers
Shot across the trembling sky: Fearful lights that never beckon
Save when kings or heroes die.

THIS IS EDUCATION WEEK and the schools and their patrons throughout the country are observing it with appropriate exercises. One of the features, and a thoroughly desirable one, is the series of visits to the schools by parents and others interested in school work. In some of the Grand Forks buildings classes are being held at night in order to provide an opportunity for public inspection of the work. In the nature of things, parents cannot watch the details of school work day by day, but it is possible for them to keep in touch with it at home and by means of occasional consultation with teachers. The exercises of this week are calculated to stimulate interest and lead to increasing co-operation the year around between parent and teacher.

IN MY BOYHOOD THE BIG day of the year in our country school was "examination day," the last day of the school year, when the people of the neighborhood were invited to attend and see and hear the children go through the round-up of the year's work. The children welcomed the day because it was to be followed by the long vacation, and the exercises included some carefully prepared entertainment and wound up with a big lunch.

THE "EXAMINATION" Feature was really an exhibition, for the teacher always made it a point to put on as good a show as possible. The youngsters were carefully coached and the promptness and accuracy of their answers were impressive. Sometimes prominent members of the community took classes in hand and quizzed them, but the teacher knew pretty well what to expect from them, and had his pupils prepared accordingly. Without boasting I may say that on those occasions we gave a good account of ourselves.

ONE TEACHER WAS FOND of giving the children trick questions, such as: How long will it take for \$4,265.37 to double itself at 5 per cent, simple interest. When such a question as that was given every hand in the class would be raised instantly, and the answer, 20 years, was immediately forthcoming. Perhaps some in the audience discovered the catch, but as a rule a question like that went over big, and the audience was duly impressed.

GRAND FORKS AUDIENCES are not demonstrative, and in that they do not differ from most American audiences. The audience that heard John Charles Thomas the other night was delighted with the program, and with the singer's magnificent voice and engaging personality. Its applause was spontaneous and sincere, but the audience did not "let itself go," as Italian audiences do, for instance. It would be interesting to know what are the reactions of a European artist who comes to this country and finds audiences polite, but undemonstrative, while in southern Europe especially he has been accustomed to hearing excited shouts of "Brava," and to seeing entire audiences rise to their feet and cheer, somewhat as we do at a football game.

THERE IS AN ANCIENT theory that the blood of northern peoples is chilled by the rigors of their climate and that this condition renders them reserved and apparently cold even to mental influences. Inhabitants of southern latitudes, on the other hand, are supposed, according to the theory, to be excitable, impulsive and easily moved to enthusiastic demonstrations of whatever passions move them. Physiologists and biologists may contend that there is nothing in that theory, and perhaps there isn't, but it is a fact that audiences from the Mediterranean countries or thereabout, express themselves more vigorously than do those in the countries bordering the Baltic or the North sea, and those opposite tendencies have been retained by the immigrants to this country and their descendants.

THERE ARE SURVIVALS OF Latin customs in some audiences in New York, Chicago and a few other American cities, where the populations contain a considerable percentage of Latin's. I wonder if artists who come to us from New York, with its cosmopolitan population, think our audiences are cold and unsympathetic.

THE AUDIENCE THE OTHER night was charmed with the singer's rendering of "A Home on the Range." I don't know just what it is that makes that song popular, but popular it is. Everybody knows it, practically everybody likes it, and almost everybody makes a stab at singing or humming it occasionally. And I suppose that after hearing Mr. Thomas sing it most of the audience went home with its measures repeating themselves over and over in their inner consciousness.

I NOTICED THAT MR. Thomas sticks to what I suppose is the original version of the line, "Where seldom is heard a discouraging word." Some singers have substituted the word "never" for "seldom." In its original form the line has suggested to me the thought that the writer had been determined to be accurate, even to the expense of his poetry. Perhaps he hadn't taken out a poet's license.

HERR HITLER'S ATTITUDE toward this war reminds me of the time that Pat Casey and Axel Swanson got into a fight. Before any damage was done the crowd rushed in and separated the two men, restraining them in their struggles to get at each other. Axel shouted, "More men hold Casey! One man is plenty to hold me."

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE Washington to get right at the bottom and the inside of things. After Ambassador Grew delivered; that speech "right from the horse's mouth," which got the Japanese all wrought up, certain of the Washington correspondents told us that the speech was the president's idea and that instructions had been given Mr. Grew what to say and how to say it when he was in Washington during the summer. Another correspondent, who professes to have the best possible sources of information, says that the president knew nothing about it, that it was contrary to his wishes, and that Mr. Grew will properly rebuked for making it. Thus we have our choice of two diametrically opposite statements of fact.

THE INTERNATIONAL Sensation of the week was the attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler by means of an explosion which was discharged eleven minutes too late to accomplish its intended purpose, with the facility which characterizes Nazi propagandists in interpreting the motives of others, even when there is not a scrap of tangible evidence, authorities in Berlin are attributing the attempt to British spies and Jews. That there are British spies in Germany may be taken for granted, but that the agents of any nation now at war with Germany would be commissioned to perform such an act is too fantastic to be considered for a moment.

WHILE CONCRETE Evidence is lacking, one is safe in assuming that the attempted assassination was the work of persons or groups native to Germany, either politically antagonistic to Hitler and his cohorts or seeking vengeance for the persecutions to which they and their families have been subjected. These latter include the Jews, but they are not exclusively Jews. Gentiles also have felt the crushing weight of the hand of Nazidom, have been dragged from their homes, often to disappear, the only report concerning them being "address unknown." It would be strange if among these many thousands who have suffered beyond belief there were not some who, rendered desperate, would avail themselves of any means to rid the world of the chief author of their misery.

HITLER, ONCE PROFESSING friendship for Great Britain, and wishing for an alliance with that nation, has reached the conclusion that Britain is responsible for all the ills which humanity suffers. While he has not yet made an issue of it, he has excellent reason for complaint against Britain on the score of weather. Because the great air movements are from west to east Britain gets a given sample of weather about 24 hours ahead of Germany. In time of peace that makes little difference, for reports of weather conditions and weather forecasts are made available immediately to all the world. But now that the war is on the belligerent nations keep their weather information to themselves. The British know what their weather is today and what it will be in all probability in Germany tomorrow. The Germans have not that information. In the matter of air raids, if and when they are undertaken, the British will have an advantage. They will know into what sort of weather they are heading, while the Germans will have to guess.

WHETHER THINGS ARE not as bad as they seem, or were once much worse than we think they were, the present is not the only period in which men have taken a gloomy view of the outlook. Here are a few quotations from men of other times who could see little basis for satisfaction in their own present and small hope for the future:

"There is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair." — William Pitt, British Prime Minister, 1800.

"I thank God that I am spared the consummation of the ruin that is gathering around us."—Duke of Wellington, on his death-bed, 1851. "In industry, commerce and agriculture there is no hope," Benjamin Disraeli, 1849.

"The disorder of Europe is due to defection at home, a wanton peace, irreligion and atheism, great ingratitude and self-interest, every moment unsettling the old foundations, and never constant to any one thing. Germany is drawing toward Vienna and Prance is swallowing up almost all of Flanders." — Diary of John Evelyn, 1663.

"Alas, times are not what they used to be. Children no longer obey their parents, and every one wants to write a book."—From a papyrus in the museum at Istanbul, said to be one of the oldest pieces of writing.

GOVERNOR MOSES HAS Approached the problem of the state's finances and the question of an extra session of the legislature in the spirit of an earnest and conscientious man who seeks a basis for constructive action in a time of great perplexity. It is obvious that with the revenues of the state falling far short of sufficient to meet current expenses matters ought not to be permitted to drift, for that course would invite complete collapse. There is little prospect that the revenues of the state can be materially increased by increased taxation. One of the great difficulties in the present situation is that such a large proportion of the taxes already levied remain uncollected, and those who cannot pay existing taxes cannot pay if the taxes are increased. Appreciable economies probably can be made in most of the administrative offices, and wherever this is possible it should be done, even though it entails some curtailment of existing services for the time being. The problem is a great one, and the governor is doing all that one man can do, to find a solution.

MOST OF THE Prognosticators were wrong in their predictions about the "ham-and-eggs" election in California. A few predicted that the pension measure would be approved. Nearly all foresaw an election so close that they were reluctant to hazard a guess either way. But the scheme was beaten 2 to 1. Perhaps the attitude of California's people on public questions has become as freakish as California weather has been of late.

MEMBERS OF THE Election board of Yonkers, New York, expected that the compilation of returns from the recent election in that municipality would require at least four days. The vote was under the proportional representation plan. As the facts are now recalled, it took several weeks to compile the returns from New York City's former election under that plan. Slowness in tabulating the vote is advanced by opponents as one reason against proportional representation. However, that is not a fatal defect. When people can wait two or four years for an election, they are not greatly injured by waiting a few days or weeks to learn how the election turned out.

ANOTHER OBJECTION urged against the plan is that it is complicated and confusing by reason of the requirement for shifting blocks of votes from one candidate to another. It is true that the tabulators may find it a little confusing, but they are paid for their work. For the voter the plan is fairly simple. All he needs to do is to mark the figure 1 against the name of his favorite candidate, the figure 2 against the name of his second choice, and so on as far as he wishes to go. The rest is for the tabulators. The voter performs just about as he does with a voting machine. With the machine he just punches the right button. He need not concern himself at all with the intricate mechanism of the machine.

THE TRANSFER OF VESSELS flying the American flag to registry in Panama or any other country would be legal without question provided it is permitted by the American shipping authorities. But, as the apostle said many hundred years ago: "All things are lawful, but all things are not expedient." If a transfer is to be permitted, why haven't some of the shipping men thought of hoisting the Swiss flag over their ships. A merchant marine under the Swiss flag would be something worth seeing. Somewhere I have read of an adventurer posing as an admiral of the Swiss navy, and getting away with it.

THE NEW YORK WORLD'S fair must have been a peaceful, orderly exhibition, if one is to judge from the grand jury record. The grand jury was held over all summer so as to be ready for anything that might turn up. The other day it was discharged as there was no business to come before it. There is a record of but one felony committed at the fair during the summer. That was the case of a chap who sold tickets for parking space when he had no parking space to sell. As his takings exceeded \$50 the case fell into the classification of felony. The grand jury, of course, had nothing to do with mere misdemeanors.

ONE OF THE BIG COLLEGES is granting the students Thanks giving holidays on both the 23d and the 30th, as some of the students come from states observing one day and some from others. The idea may spread. And, as there is only a week between the two dates, and not much can be done in the broken time, why don't we all observe both dates and also the days in between, making a solid week of it? That would be a Thanksgiving to be remembered.

SPONSORS AND CAST IN New York of the play "Tobacco! Road" celebrated the 2,553d performance of the play on the New York stage on the night of November 8. The New York production has been losing money for months, but it was kept going for the purpose of eclipsing the world record run of "Abie's Irish Rose," which was reported to have had an uninterrupted run of 2,552 performances. The management was chagrined to learn that it could just as well have stopped five months ago and still broke the record, as "Abie's Irish Rose" actually ran for only 2,328 nights. The higher figure was given in a book by Burns Mantle, who got it from the Abie-Rose management, but the figure was found to be more than 200 too high.

THE NAZI Propaganda machine has achieved at least one novelty. It has discovered in characters drawn by Charles Dickens faithful descriptions of the baseness and perfidy of typical British characters. German readers are being told in all seriousness of Squeers, Quilp and others whom every reader of Dickens has execrated as faithful representatives; of British character. The British' papers are having fun over the use that is being made of one of Britain's favorite authors, and even the staid London Times condescends to joke about it as in these paragraphs:

"THEN THERE IS THE Little matter of Poland, which has to be left as it is. Here Sam Weller has an appropriate word to say— and nobody can say a word against Sam Weller. Not once but twice did he lay down the rule that what was done cannot be undone, in each case illustrating his remarks by one of his famous and characteristic similitudes.

“ ‘IT WOS TO BE—AND WOS, as the old lady said arter she’s married the footman. Can’t be helped now.’ And even more to the point, ‘Well, it’s no use talking about it now. It’s over and can’t be helped, and that’s one consolation, as they always says in Turkey, ven they cuts the wrong man’s had off.’”

MILLIONS OF PERSONS HAVE started diaries, but only a few have kept them up. The schoolboy who started out determined to keep a faithful record of events, day by day, and to continue the practice through life, is quite apt to run out of material before many days have passed. He is quite likely to find himself reduced to casual observations about the weather and to the brief statement "Nothing happened today." If he has a gift of imagination he may find in the common things around him both interest and excitement, and if he is sufficiently endowed with patience he may become a real diarist.

THE PRIZE DIARY OF ALL time is that of Samuel Pepys, for in that the writer not only wrote of events around him, but revealed himself, frankly and honestly. For him nothing was too small to be recorded, and he was as exact in describing the details of his domestic establishment as in recording the return of a king. And he confided to the pages of his diary his own thoughts and emotions, his ambitions and peccadilloes. That makes of his diary a great human document.

FEW DIARISTS WOULD Attempt to compete with Pepys, but any diary that has been kept for years and which has been kept for the satisfaction of the diarist and not for the entertainment or enlightenment of the public, has its elements of interest. In some measure it must reflect the personality of the writer as well as being a record of events. After the lapse of years it must be a source of satisfaction to its owner because its notations will recall to him many things which have not been set down on paper.

IN MY YOUTH I STARTED one or two diaries, kept them up for a few days or weeks, and abandoned them. I have never undertaken to keep one since, a fact which has occasioned me regret. For my own perusal I have sometimes found satisfaction in an old collection of reporter's notes which served as a sort of substitute for a diary. Occasionally I have found tucked away among other papers pages of such notes which had escaped destruction, and after many years it has been interesting to look over those scribblings and recall their meaning. Often a note concerning some incident would consist of but a single word, perhaps a name. That was sufficient as a reminder, as the subject would be one concerning which all the facts could be remembered. Reading such notes after a long time it was often possible to recall not only the particular event to which the note related, but a whole collection of surrounding circumstances. Thus the perusal of the almost undecipherable notations made years ago has enabled me to live over again a day or week of the otherwise forgotten past.

MY REPORTING DAYS HAVE long been over, but in my file of clippings from this column I find material that interests me as I have occasion to look through them occasionally. The interest that I find is not so much in what is written as in the reconstruction of the conditions under which the writing was done. A paragraph itself may contain little that is of interest in itself, but the reading of it may recall why it was written, who said what, and what happened next. In that respect my collection of clippings has for me some of the qualities of a diary, although many of the features that appeal to me would be meaningless to others. My advice to every boy and girl is to begin keeping a diary. Not many of the boys and girls will follow that advice, and of those who do, not 1 per cent of them will keep it up.

I HAVE A LETTER FROM AN old correspondent, Milo Walker, formerly of Bowesmont, and for some time a resident at the Home for the Aged in Grand Forks. Mr. Walker is more than 90, but he retains a lively interest in what is going on and holds to his opinions as tenaciously as he did in his younger days. He is opposed to the issuance of bonds for any purpose, and never voted for any bond issue. He is shocked to see able-bodied young men and women living on charity and driving good cars. He would have such persons moved out to vacant lands and there turned loose to make their own living as he and other pioneers did many years ago.

A LETTER HAS JUST BEEN received from Mrs. George E. Black of Grand Forks, who is in Boston now awaiting the departure of her son Richard with the third Byrd expedition for the Antarctic. Sailing of the supply ship North Star was delayed because of mishaps to the mammoth snow cruiser en route by highway from Chicago to Boston. Meanwhile, the work of loading the ship with miscellaneous supplies was being rushed. As the letter was written on Armistice day, the big cruiser was expected to arrive within a few days.

FINN RONNIE, WHO HAD charge of the dogs on the second Byrd expedition, and who visited Grand Forks with Richard Black several months ago, will again function in the same capacity. For lack of a better term he may be described as master of the hounds to the expedition. Sixty-four dogs are ready to be loaded on the North Star, and 76 will be taken a week later on Byrd's ship, the Bear.

QUANTITIES OF POWDERED foods are being taken, including dehydrated soups and eggs and apple, banana and cranberry flakes. Some 20 tons of quick-frozen meats have been crammed into the North Star's huge refrigerator. Other foodstuffs amount to about 70 tons and 10 tons of chemicals have been packed into the ship, according to Harold Gilmour, assistant supply officer under Dr. Paul Siple.

AMONG ITEMS OF CARGO which will be definitely valuable in icy Antarctica are a lot of pad-locks, two regulation-size billiard tables (now in sections), enough I toothpicks to last 62 men of the I two landing parts for 18 months, chicken wire, jewelers hacksaws, 100 windproof suits made of pocket cloth and 150 suits of Byrd cloth, several ice cream mixers, some squirt guns for 25 gallons of insecticide and 4000 electric light bulbs for the power plant of the 'ice units.

SIXTY SMALL AMERICAN flags and 24 larger editions in cloth will be useful for marking and land-claiming purposes. Sixteen alarm clocks will get the men up early and will vary the notes of penguins piping in the hypothetical dawn. Psyllium seed and 3000 ; boxes of vitamin-plus capsules, guaranteed potent enough to stir polar bears out of hibernation, will help put pep into the expedition.

BOSTON PAPERS ARE Keeping close touch on the preparations for sailing, and several clippings tell of various phases of the work. The Boston Globe assigned one of its feature writers, Elizabeth A. Bogart, to the duty of describing the costumes to be worn by members of the expedition and the lady responded with a couple of columns describing what the well-dressed man will wear in the Antarctic and on the way there and back. She says:

"HE FIRST OF ALL PUTS ON a pair of heavy, long-handled underwear. These sets come in lovely shades of pale blue mixed with white. Or, if you prefer, you can take just plain white. Over that goes a 50 or 100 per cent lightweight wool blanket cloth shirt, done in subtle red and black checks.

THIRTY-TWO OUNCE WOOL melton—a type of cloth—trousers are next, these in black. For foot gear, he puts on, first of all, one pair of light weight wool socks. These are pretty white ones, with gay red borders. Over them go two pairs of heavier wool socks.

THEN HE MUST STRUGGLE into a pair of muklaks, shoes. These are high, coming up around the ankles, are made of reindeer fur with sealskin soles and are lined with three-quarter-inch heavy felt. After all that, he can rest a minute or go grab a cup of coffee.

BEFORE HE GOES OUT, though, he has to climb into his cotton dungarees. That's if the day is mild and warm, 40 below, for instance. If it's cold and there's a snappy wind howling around, he must get into a hooded garment that laces about the ankles, wrists and neck."

ON HER WAY TO BOSTON over the Boston and Albany road Mrs. Black saw the wreckage of the similar train of the day before, which had been derailed and partly overturned. Eight of the passengers were sent to the hospital for treatment, but there were no fatalities. In New York, Mrs. Black saw several former Grand Forks people—Rev. and Mrs. Mathews, Miss Edna Twamley, Francis Templeton and wife, Miss Nellie Kingsbury, Miss Ruth Gaulke and her sister "Nita," now Mrs. Huntington. Mrs. Black, her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Richard Black, and grandson, Fran, will leave for California immediately after the sailing of the North Star, which, I have noted by an Associated Press dispatch, was to sail yesterday, the big snow cruiser having arrived.

WHEN I READ OF SHIPS being sunk at sea by mines or torpedoes I am reminded, among other things, of the story of Professor Aloysius McGuirk. I read the story a good many years ago and was greatly interested in it. I have no idea who wrote it, or just when it was written. I would be willing to pay a dime for a copy, if anyone has one to spare, as I would like to read it again. It would be especially timely just now. In substance the yarn is as follows:

PROFESSOR McGuirk WAS an Irishman, and proud of it. A specialist in certain branches of physics he retired from the work of instruction when well along in years in order to gratify his passion for invention. Applying his vast knowledge of physics he invented gadget after gadget, of no particular use, but remarkable for their responsiveness to invisible forces which he directed upon them from without. Among other things he constructed little machines whose operations he could direct by means of notes which he played upon a flute.

PASSIONATELY FOND OF Invention, he was almost equally passionate in his hatred of everything British, for upon Britain he placed responsibility for every misfortune that had befallen his beloved Ireland. He determined to employ his inventive talent against Britain whenever an opportunity presented itself. He built a torpedo whose movements in the water he could direct by the notes of his flute. The first torpedo perfected, he built a whole flock of them, and in the secrecy of a secluded cove he experimented with them until he could guide them all at will. Standing on the beach and playing on his flute, he would send his torpedoes far out into the bay, causing them to go forward, shift, turn, and return to him as he pleased. He became so expert and his torpedoes so responsive that he could cause them to move about in the water and play like a flock of trained seals.

ATLAST OPPORTUNITY came. A British warship was about to pay a friendly visit to the seaport town in which he lived. Tuning up his torpedoes to concert pitch he loaded them with war heads and placed them in the water, standing ready with his flute to get into action. The ship appeared, entered the bay and got ready to cast anchor. Professor McGuirk began to play and with one accord the torpedoes started for the ship. Professor McGuirk had visions of that ship being blown skyward within the next few seconds, but a terrible thing happened. As the ship cast anchor her band began to play "The Wearin' o' the Green," and the sounds of the professor's little flute were completely drowned out. Every torpedo reversed itself and came sailing back to shore in response to the patriotic Irish air. In vain the professor tooted his flute. It could not be heard. On came the torpedoes and rushed head on against the beach. Every one exploded and Professor McGuirk was removed in small fragments from this earthly scene. Not even the flute was ever seen again.

TO MOST OF US DR. ALBERT Einstein is a man whose head is not in the clouds, but so far above them, in the interstellar spaces, that he belongs in another universe. Actually he is a human being who likes to play the violin. And, in an address to a group of teachers at Atlantic City the other day he gave evidence of having a very practical attitude toward education. Defining the principal tasks of the school he said:

"FIRMLY ESTABLISH Certain moral and social principles and standards, and conduct the character education of youth along these lines; develop important intellectual capacities, such as logical thinking, judgment, memory, art appreciation, creative ability, as well as physical fitness; transmit general knowledge and information, as well as skill in routine functions, such as reading, writing, arithmetic and languages; impart special knowledge and skill in preparation for a profession."

TWO EDUCATORS, ONE OF them a friend of mine, were discussing matters pertaining to the work in which both were interested. My friend's friend spoke of the progress that had been made in recent years in every branch of education. My friend agreed that there had been great progress in every field but one, that of textbooks in reading. In that department, he said, there had been no appreciable progress since Dr. McGuffey gave to the public his historic series of readers. He conceded that there had been changes, some of them desirable and necessary, such as the inclusion of material which was not in existence in McGuffey's day, and that there might have been some improvement in the arrangement of the selections, but in quality of content, he said, the McGuffey readers have never been surpassed.

SOPHISTICATED MODERNS often speak with an indulgent smile of the little red schoolhouse the backwoods teacher and the McGuffey readers. The assumption is that while all of these had some merit, they were all raw, crude, and on the whole, rather childish. So far as the readers are concerned, the fact is that most of the better selections in the modern readers appeared in the McGuffey readers. In the readers for advanced pupils there are included selections from the best authors, ancient and modern. In the books for juniors many of the numbers have a moral lesson carefully tacked on, a practice which now provokes a smile, but before McGuffey's time such readers as were in use contained little but moral lessons, and these were presented in such doleful fashion as to make morality itself unattractive.

DR. MCGUFFEY WAS NOT THE mere rustic schoolmaster that he is often supposed to have been. He was well educated in the classics and was a professor in Miami university and in the University of Virginia, and was respected and honored by the educators of his generation, Scholars of his time spoke and wrote in appreciation of the service which he performed in preparing for the youth of the country a fine series of readers,; the first consistent and comprehensive effort ever made in that direction.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT has a real grievance against Finland. The wind from Finland backed the water of the gulf up into the Neva river and flooded sections of Leningrad. I am reminded of a story told me by Peter Ferry, a fine old Irish gentleman who homesteaded on the marais just east of Manvel. His father in the old country had been an itinerant peddler, traveling with a horse and cart. His home was in the north of Ireland, but on one of his journeys he went far into the south. There he found the people kind and hospitable until they found that he was from the north country. Thereupon they fell upon him and gave him "the worst licking he ever had in his life," because the wind from his country froze their potatoes.

PENNSYLVANIA'S COURT OF appeals has ruled that a school board may not exclude children from a public school because of their refusal to salute the flag when that refusal is based on religious conviction. Children of one family, whose parents belong to a religious group which prohibits an act of reverence to anyone other than God, were suspended on that account and their case has long been before the courts. The appeals court in rendering its decision quoted the following paragraph from one of Washington's writings:

"I assure you very explicitly that, in my opinion, the conscientious scruples of all men should be treated with great delicacy and tenderness; and it is my wish and desire that the laws may always be as extensively accommodated to them as a due regard to the protection and essential interests of the nation may justify and permit."

THE COURT HELD THAT THE board had not acted with the delicacy and tenderness enjoined by Washington. It held that religious scruples must be respected except when that course would involve danger to the community, and it found no such danger involved in the omission of the salute by the children in this case.

SUCH MEETINGS AS THAT of the Traffic club here last week are useful in bringing together in friendly intercourse men whose immediate interests are often opposed to each other. In general the shipper and the consignee are interested in low transportation rates, while the carrier is interested in receiving a good price for its services. In the Traffic club shippers, consignees and carriers are all represented, and such contacts as are thereby made possible contribute greatly to the smoothing out of friction and demonstrate that men may work vigorously for the protection of what they conceive to be their own interest and yet concede to others equal honesty of purpose and equal desire to be fair and just in all their relations.

PROBABLY THERE IS NO other field in which there are encountered so many perplexing variables as in the problem of fixing transportation rates. Railroads often cite their average rates per ton mile, and it is a fact that American rates per ton-mile are the lowest in the world. But in the fixing of rates there must be taken into consideration other factors than weight and mileage. Otherwise all goods would be charged the same rate for weight and distance, with suitable differentials for car and less than car shipments. But everyone knows that rates are not and cannot be made on that basis. If it were so the rate on a car of wheat or coal worth a few hundred dollars, would be the same as the rate on a car of silk worth many thousands. If rates were made on that basis they would be prohibitive on all of the less costly commodities.

WE HEAR SOMETIMES OF rates being made in the old days on the basis of "all that the traffic would bear," and we consider that as an example of a narrow and grasping policy. But while the idea usually conveyed by that phrase is unsound and untenable, the words themselves may be given an interpretation which fits into an equitable and enlightened policy. Transportation rates must be fixed on a basis which will yield the carrier a fair return and at the same time shipments possible. To achieve that some attention must be given not only to size and bulk, but to value the shipper of goods in which great value is concentrated in small bulk and weight can afford to pay charges which would make impossible the shipment of goods of another class, and that fact is necessarily taken into account in the fixing of rates. In arriving at decisions those immediately interested must be guided by experience. They must cut and try, and with all their years of experience in transportation back of us no method of fixing rates has yet been discovered other than that of adjusting each rate to its surrounding circumstances. In this the combined knowledge of carrier, shipper and consignee must be brought to bear. And it is here that such an organization as the Traffic club has its great value.

SOVIET PAPERS CHARGE that the Finns are unfriendly to Russia. A similar charge was made by the Nazi group against the Austrian nationalists, against the people of Czechoslovakia and against those of Poland. They were all said to be unfriendly to Germany. Therefore Hitler moved in and took possession. Russia may undertake to cultivate the friendship of the Finns by taking possession of their territory. There is an easier and simpler way. Let Russia keep her hands off Finland, and instead of threatening and bullying her and making demands upon her for the cession of territory that belongs to Finland and no one else, let Stalin adopt a policy of real neighborliness toward Finland. That policy would, within a reasonable time, stimulate Finnish friendship for Russia. Threats will not do it.

AMERICAN SHIPPING Companies are doing their best to protect themselves against loss due to the interruption of their trans-Atlantic business. There will be some increase in trade with South America, and that may be of paramount advantage both to the shipping companies and to the United States at large. But there is not enough trade with South America in sight, nor can enough trade there be developed within an appreciable time to compensate for the loss of trade with Great Britain and the European continent, much of which must be suspended. The prospect is that in spite of all that can be done to offset it there will be net losses which cannot be recovered.

REPRESENTATIVES OF seamen's unions have protested against the transfer of American ships to a foreign flag. It appears now that such transfer will not be made, but it is not easy to see how the American seamen will be affected, one way or the other. If the transfer were made no Americans would be employed on the transferred ships. But with the transfer not made the seamen employed on most of those ships will be unemployed. In either case they would be jobless. Quite properly an effort is being made to find employment for them in lines which will not be in conflict with the newly enacted law.

GOVERNOR MOSES MADE his Thanksgiving proclamation brief and to the point. Probably, while he does not mention it in set terms, he finds personal for thanksgiving in the fact that it was not necessary for him to take sides in the controversy over whether or not the summary act of the president in changing the date was warranted. That matter was taken out of his hands by the legislature some years ago which decreed that the day appointed by the president should be observed as a North Dakota holiday. Just the same, it would take a multi-powered microscope to detect between the lines of the governor's pronouncement any evidence of enthusiasm for the change.

MR. ROOSEVELT HAS MADE it known that in 1940 also he will designate the last Thursday but one in November as Thanksgiving day. The year being leap year that Thursday will be the 21st. If Mr. Roosevelt should be elected a third time, and then a fourth, before he gets through he will be having Thanksgiving about the middle of the month, less than a week after Armistice day, to say nothing of the dangerous conflict with Halloween. Perhaps he will shift them, or bunch them all together.

I DON'T KEEP TRACK OF football dates, and I don't know what steps, if any, have been taken to adjust the big games to the new Thanksgiving date, but it is easy to understand that the change, made so late in the year, must have I been utterly confusing to the football managers. On that day the big games of the year are played, and schedules are necessarily made long in advance. Of course a game originally scheduled for November 30 can still be played on that day. But the schedules are arranged with reference to that day being a legal holiday, with great crowds at liberty to fill the stands. Games cannot well be shifted on a few weeks' notice, and the change will make a vast difference in gate receipts.

I WHILE FEW PERSONS, Especially in the interior of the country, have occasion to come in contact with the fact, it is a fact, nevertheless, that foreign goods of almost any kind can be brought into the United States without the payment of duty and without being bonded. A few acres of ground at Stapleton, on Long Island, constitute what is known as a "free port," where merchandise can be brought from abroad, unloaded, stored, processed and again shipped abroad, practically as if the United States had no import duties at all.

AT ANY OF OUR LARGER seaports there are continually received quantities of goods not intended for consumption in the United States, but which it is desired to store for a time, possibly to regrade or process, and then to ship to some other foreign country when the market is favorable, Such goods, of course, do not come into contact with domestic products. Until recently such goods were bonded to insure their ultimate removal, but there are inconveniences about the bonding process which it was desired to avoid. At one time there was a mild agitation for the designation of the entire port of New York as a free port, but nothing came of it. Instead the free port of Stapleton was established, and it is now doing a thriving business. It is the one spot in the United States where customs regulations are unknown.

A COMMITTEE OF THE Federal Communications Commission which has been studying the subject of television has made its report, and in that report it warns against premature enthusiasm over television. In no sense does the committee express doubt as to the ultimate success of that new agency, but it is convinced that much further research must be done before television can be on a widely popular basis. Television is now in operation in New York City, but the number of receiving sets is small, and only about 1,000 have been sold this year. Technical obstacles stand in the way of extension of the system into the country at large, and the smallness of the area covered and the limited number of receiving sets make it impractical to produce attractive programs.

THE COMMITTEE'S WARNING is directed in part to those who may be inclined to make investments in television properties, and in this field the committee urges great caution. Such a warning is timely, for every new invention has been made the basis of exploitation and no one knows how many millions have been sunk in investment in concerns, often fraudulent, which appealed to the public by holding out promises of fortunes to be made by those who would get in on the ground floor. At the present stage television is for the scientist and the investor who can afford to take long chances. The average fellow cannot.

ONE OF THE FLASHY Sunday publications devoted a page or more, with pictures, to the great pyramid and the meaning of certain measurements and inscriptions found within its chambers and galleries. Every little while the great pyramid gets into print with some investigator's interpretation of the symbols which he believes it to contain. Whatever one may think of the conclusions reached by these investigators, and of their method of arriving at those conclusions, their diligence and persistence are undeniable. The great structure has been gone over with microscopic care and men have devoted years to its examination. They profess to be able to identify great events in the world's history with certain features of the pyramid, and they are able to make their computations check with the known facts with remarkable accuracy. On the basis of this they continue their explorations into the future and predict what will happen then.

IN LOOKING OVER SOME items in storage I just came across a little book by our old Buxton friend, the late Budd Reeve. Like the pyramid researchers, Budd Reeve had his own way of interpreting the past and predicting the future. Whatever he wished to prove he could and did prove by the skillful juggling of letters and figures. He traced a mystical relationship among the twelve apostles, the twelve hours of the half-day and the twelve signs of the zodiac, regardless of the fact that the hours and the signs of the Zodiac are arbitrary inventions. By assigning mystical properties to the number 12 he could apply the number to many other things and prove whether he wished to prove. If the number 12 didn't fit it was easy to find one that would.

ONE PYRAMID STUDENT found a key to the mysteries which he sought to unravel by assuming that an inch of measurement in one of the recesses of the pyramid corresponds to year. On that basis he found records of great events of the past and of tremendous wars in the future, all neatly docketed as to date. It seems not to have occurred to him that the Egyptians who built the pyramid knew nothing of our inches, their standards of measurement being quite different from ours.

ON A PAR WITH THAT SORT of pyramid research is the "science" of numerology. By giving the letters in the name "John Smith" they find that the man who bears that name has certain characteristics and that fate has in store for him good or bad fortune, as the numbers may indicate. The only way whereby John can escape the evil fate that threatens him is to change his name, thereby changing his numbers. The strange thing is that notwithstanding the common knowledge that names are purely arbitrary designations, the result of choice or accident, there are many persons apparently of normal intelligence in all other respects who actually believe this sort of piffle.

IN THE SAME CATEGORY IS astrology, which has, apparently, an increasing number of followers. Syndicated articles profess to give all the ins and outs of that absurdity, and for a modest price one can have his horoscope plotted provided he will give the day and year of his birth. One peculiarity of this branch of fortune-telling is that if you were born a minute before midnight of a certain day your fortune will be thus and so, while if your arrival was delayed until a minute after midnight your fortune will be only such and such.

TELLING FORTUNES BY TEA leaves is a practice of long standing, and a great many who have no faith in it find amusement in it. There are certain definite rules; which must be observed in this as in other branches of magic. I recall a young woman, a very good friend of years ago, who knew all the rules and was quite adept at applying them. Her performance often gave amusements to a tableful of guests. She professed not to believe in the system, and to read the contents of the cups only for amusement. But it was not safe in her presence to speak slightly of the system. I suspect that she was like the old lady who declared that she didn't believe in ghosts, but said she was afraid of them, just the same.

ON NOVEMBER 28, AT 4 o'clock in the afternoon, says a Washington announcement, the British ambassador will deposit in the library of congress for temporary safe keeping the Magna Carta recently on exhibition in the British pavilion at the world's fair in New York. This copy of the famous document is the copy belonging to the dean and chapter of Lincoln cathedral, England, and is reputedly the best of the four copies known to be in existence. As the document is deposited, brief addresses will be given by the ambassador and the librarian. The document may be seen by visitors to the library during its retention there.

IT IS QUITE FITTING THAT a copy of Magna Carta should be exhibited in the United States. It is understood that the four copies now carefully preserved are all originals, that is, all were written at the time of the famous meeting at Runnymede more than seven centuries ago. It is not likely that the possessor of any one of them would be willing to surrender it, but if a change were ever to be made, Washington would be an appropriate place for one copy. Magna Carta was an important influence in shaping the American constitution as well as that of Great Britain.

THAT PACT WAS GIVEN Recognition many years ago in North Dakota when in response to a resolution introduced by Senator Leslie Simpson of Dickinson, the text of Magna Carta was included in the official state blue book, together with the constitutions of the United States and of North Dakota. Some of the provisions of the ancient document read curiously under the changed conditions of today, but the liberty of the individual is as precious now as it was those centuries ago.

A STRAY COPY OF A LITTLE paper entitled "Hollywood Red Ink" drifted into the office the other day, and it had the name of Sam Clark displayed prominently as part of the title. The paper declares itself to be "a volley of truth," and "a red-headed, red-blooded newspaper." The title is printed in red ink. It required not much guessing to identify the publisher as a former North Dakota man, who usually kept things boiling when he was around. The issue of the paper received is dated October 13, which was some three weeks before the "ham and eggs" election in California. At that time Sam was vigorously supporting the "ham and eggs" plan, which was decisively defeated.

THE BACK PAGE OF CLARK'S paper is devoted entirely to an article urging the adoption of the pension plan on the ground that the bill provided for a state bank, and Clark draws on his North Dakota experience for argument. The article is headed with this statement in big black type:

"The U. S. government does not own a single share of stock in the Federal Reserve system. There is only one bank institution in all America that is owned by the people—the bank of North Dakota.

The ham and eggs amendment provides for a similar bank in California. If a people's bank is a success in North Dakota—a people's bank will succeed in California! Ham and eggs will do it."

IN DESCRIBING THE Merits of the Bank of North Dakota, Clark neglects to say that during the first few years of its existence the Bank of North Dakota lost its entire capital stock of \$2,000,000, which had been appropriated for it by the legislature and contributed by the people in taxes. Since then, wise and conservative management has enabled the bank to get onto its feet, but the state has steadily refused to carry out the plans of the bank's original sponsors for branches of the state bank; in the several communities of the state. The idea seems to be that it would be unwise to tempt fate by carrying the experiment further.

AN ITEM IN THE NECHE Chronotype's forty-years-ago column says:

"The Grand Forks Herald claims to have gotten over the 3,000 limit on circulation, which is quite a circulation for a North Dakota daily to swing." We thought so at the time. It was by far the largest circulation of any daily paper in a town of similar size in the United States. The population of Grand Forks at that time was about 4,000.

FOR SOME TIME THE Herald had been struggling along with a circulation of 2,000 to 2,500, but in the late nineties a determined effort was made to boost the figures. Solicitors added new subscribers after new subscribers, and at length, when the returns were checked up, it was found that the phenomenal circulation of 3,000 had been reached. There was jubilation in the office, and a mild celebration. Everybody had been working hard, and the moment was one for jubilation and mutual congratulations. An article celebrating the event was written, and Straub embellished it with an appropriate cartoon based on the story of the "youth who bore through snow and ice a banner with the strange device 'Excelsior!'" In an expansive moment I offered to bet Winship a new hat that we would reach the 4,000 mark within a year. Winship laughed, but didn't take the bet, and I was secretly glad of it, because the thing seemed impossible. We had 4,000 Subscribers within six months.

THE HERALD NOW HAS A circulation of close to 22,000 — to be exact, 21,900 — some thousands more than the population of the city. This disparity between circulation and population often puzzles eastern publishers. Some years ago I visited the office of my old home town paper, the Brantford, Ontario, Expositor. The publisher, T. H. Preston, was a new man to me, but we got acquainted and had a pleasant visit. He asked the population of Grand Forks, which I said was then about 15,000. When he asked about the circulation of the Herald and I replied that it was then something over 16,000 he was amazed. He exclaimed, "I wish you'd tell me how you do it. Here we have a city of twice your population, and you have twice as many subscribers as I have."

THE EXPLANATION, AS I told him, was simple. Toronto, a metropolitan city, is only 60 miles from Brantford, and by means of fast train service its big papers can blanket those of cities of 30,000 to 50,000 practically throughout the entire province, reducing the latter to the status merely of local papers. The people look to the metropolitan papers for their general news. Grand Forks, on the other hand, is 300 miles from its nearest metropolitan competition, and it furnishes general news twelve hours ahead of the best that they can do. While both population and circulation figures are quite dissimilar, the Grand Forks Herald is to its field substantially what the big Toronto paper is to the entire province of Ontario. Because of that fact, and because of the effort that has been made to maintain and improve the quality of its news and other service, the Herald's circulation has reached its present figure.

O. J. BARNES HAS PASSED ON to me copies of blanks issued by the federal government on which bids for certain supplies for the federal reformatory at Chillicothe, Ohio, are to be made. Among the items called for are "green apples, fresh frozen, sliced, sugared," with a long list of other specifications. Mr. Barnes comments that green apples are now a drug on the market, and the question is why a reformatory should need them fresh frozen and elaborately packed. Other items are fresh frozen lima beans, fresh frozen cherries in perfect condition and of the finest quality, peas and strawberries, both fresh frozen.

BIDS ON IRISH POTATOES are invited. Of course, 64,000 pounds are required, deliveries of 16,000 pounds to be made on each of four dates in December. Mr. Barnes points out that this precludes all shipment of car lots, and; car-lot prices.

AS ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION of governmental methods of doing business, Mr. Barnes says that quite recently the government bought for relief 30 cans of onions in Montreal. At the same time that these were being loaded Fargo got a car of relief onions from Idaho. The government may not be aware that onions are grown in the Red river valley. Two years ago, says Mr. Barnes, the government shipped potatoes out of Grand Forks and into Grand Forks from Gilby on the same day.

IN LOOKING OVER SOME Material relative to Lincoln's Gettysburg address, which was delivered November 19, 1863, I was interested in some references to the use of "government of the people, by the people, for the people." In a speech in the senate on January 26, 1830 Daniel Webster used the expression "The people's government made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people."

Again, in speech delivered in Boston May 31 1854, Theodore Parker referred to "A democracy—that is, a government of all the people, by all the people, for all the people." Parker used the same expression in a sermon delivered in Boston July 4, 1858.

LINCOLN'S FRIEND Herndon visited Boston during that period, and took with him to Springfield several of Parker's speeches and sermons, to all of which Lincoln had access. With a blue pencil Lincoln marked the passage above quoted. Undoubtedly Parker had read many of Webster's speeches, had been impressed 'by the idea expressed by Webster, had clothed it in his own words, retaining substantial similarity of form and incorporated it in his own speech. Lincoln,' in turn, had been impressed, and when the time came for him to express that sentiment he did so in a form which fitted perfectly into its context and made a perfect climax to a perfect address.

THE OTHER DAY THE Herald outlined the history of aviation in Grand Forks. It has probably been forgotten that the first lighting of the Grand Forks airport was by means of an old windmill, an old automobile generator and a storage battery. George Lowers, chief pilot at the airport, installed the system, and he expected that during calm weather the battery would supply sufficient current for lighting until the wind blew again.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE airplane has had an important influence on the adaptation of wind power for the generation of electric current. For uncounted centuries the wind has been used as a source of power. The old wind mills, used for grinding and pumping, usually had many broad, flat vanes. Those gave considerable power, but were lacking in speed in light winds. Experiments with the airplane developed the streamlined propellers of the airplane type, whirling swiftly and generating electric current for farm lighting and power.

CHARLES BRUSH, inventor of the old carbon electric light, installed a windmill plant at his home in Cleveland, and by means of it he generated sufficient electricity to light his house and grounds. He also used a storage battery from which current could be drawn on quiet days. The plant was in successful operation for more than 40 years. Brush said that for him it worked perfectly, but he could not recommend it for general use as it often required attention by a skilled electrician, of whom there were not many in his time. Today almost any bright school boy would know how to handle it.

WITH SERVICE CLUBS AND many other organizations the song "My Hero" is a general favorite when there is demand for plenty of volume. The song has a fetching quality that makes anyone who can sing at all put his whole soul into it. Whenever "My Hero" is announced one can see the whole crowd bracing itself for a supreme effort. I suppose there are many of the younger generation who do not know that the "Hero" song was the star number in the comic opera "The Chocolate Soldier," which was sung in Grand Forks in December, 1910. Among the principals were Margaret Crawford, Antoinette Kopetzky and Frank H. Belcher. And could that chorus sing!

THE GERMAN-AMERICAN Bund is an organization whose purpose is to impose on the United States the kind of totalitarian government which now exists in Nazi Germany. It takes its orders and receives at least part of its revenues from Berlin. It is under investigation to determine whether or not its existence and operations are in conflict with American law. Its leaders maintain that it is a loyal American organization, and doubtless many of its members are sincere in that belief.

FRED KUHN, HEAD OF THE Bund, is just now in criminal court, facing the charge of embezzling funds of his organization. Whether or not the charge can be made to stick remains to be determined, but in such cases it is always difficult to shake the faith of members in the integrity of their dealer. But one development in the case has made Kuhn ridiculous, and that fact is likely to do more to awaken Bund members than all the arguments that could be presented. It has been brought out in court that Kuhn, a bulky, middle-aged married man, has been spending money lavishly on a woman other than his wife in whom he insists that he had only a friendly interest. But the lady had turned over to the prosecution amatory letters received from Kuhn such as might have been written by a love-sick fledgling. Realization by members that their fat leader is the author of those gushing epistles, and that he has been lavishing either their money or his own on their recipient they are likely to lose faith both in the leader and the cause which he represents. A man in a position of leadership can survive many things, but ridicule is likely to be fatal.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT celebrated his Thanksgiving at his "other home" at Warm Springs, Georgia. It would have been a joke on the president if the governor of Georgia had refused to follow Mr. Roosevelt's lead and had set Georgia's Thanksgiving on the usual date, the last Thursday in November. Of course, no sanctity attaches to any particular day. Because of the nature of the holiday some convenient time in the fall is the most appropriate for it. It is desirable that the time be fixed definitely so as to avoid such confusion as has occurred this year. For that reason considerable support will be given to the movement to have the date fixed by congress, and the chances are that if the subject reaches the floor of congress the prevailing sentiment will be for the customary date, the last Thursday. If the president had proposed the change which he made so abruptly and left it open for discussion he would have avoided the controversy which his precipitate action has caused and the change which he desired might have made with general approval. As it is, he has needlessly stirred up a hornet's nest.

DURING THE FORMER WAR, Henry Ford sent his peace ship across the ocean with a misfit delegation assigned to the duty of getting the boys out of the trenches before Christmas." The delegates wrangled among themselves, and the boys remained in the trenches for some time. In this war no trenches have been dug, but soldiers at the front occupy underground fortresses built along the Siegfried and Maginot lines. A description of the latter by Harold Denny of the New York Times suggests the thought that the men who occupy those fortifications may be in no hurry to leave. Veritable cities exist underground in which there are vast rooms, one story above another, with elevators, electric trains, restaurants, bicycle paths and electric lighting and heating, all secure against the heaviest bombardment. In those quarters the men live the life of Riley, and save for separation from their families have no reason to wish for a better place to spend Christmas.

MR. BABSON CALLS Attention to the tendency in state legislation to obstruct the free movement of goods and persons from state to state. Undoubtedly where such legislation is intended to be restrictive it should be repealed or amended. But some of the regulations of which Babson complains are justifiable. California has rigid laws for border inspection for the purpose of preventing the importation into the state of plant diseases and pests. Enforcement of such laws is merely a matter of self-protection. I think Ohio has similar regulations, and perhaps other states.

LAW S GOVERNING THE loading of trucks differ in the several states. If North Dakota were to adopt the measures which apply in the eastern states this state, with its small population, great mileage and limited wealth, would be compelled to build the costly roads necessary to carry the heavy traffic which is common in the eastern states. The task would be an impossible one.

IN THE SATURDAY EVENING Post is running the serial story of the childhood and development of the actress, Helen Hayes as told to her little daughter by Helen's mother, Catherine Hayes Brown. During Helen's experience as child actress Helen, known throughout the letters as "Mommy," was always accompanied by her mother. On one occasion she was billed to appear in Fargo in "Pollyanna," and of her experience the grandmother writes:

"Once we were caught between two blizzards. They kept shunting us off to sidings while the snowplow tried to make a path for us. We were 75 miles from the town and more than two hours late, when there was another shunting. The company were terribly distressed, for they just knew no audience would stay for a performance that late, and they would lose an eighth of a week's salary. When we finally reached the station, the manager was waiting to say the capacity audience was still in the theater.

"After the final curtain, the applause was so deafening that mommy called to the stage manager that she wanted to make a speech. I was panicky, for she had never made a curtain speech, but she stepped to the footlights with her face wet with tears and said, "I want to thank you for waiting for us." I have never been prouder of mommy. This happened in Fargo, North Dakota."

IT IS ONLY A FEW YEARS since we have heard anything about streamlining. While the word is fairly new the idea is not. Builders of ships, and more recently of automobiles and airplanes, have devoted much study to the problem of designing forms which would offer the least possible resistance to air or water in passing through those fluids. Originally it was supposed that the moving object should have its forward edge or end tapered to a sharp point so as to cut through the resisting medium. The schoolboy who is interested in aviation now knows that there is the least resistance when the moving object is bluntly rounded at the front and tapered toward the rear.

A MEMBER OF THE A. E. F. who was left over in France conducted a series of experiments in this subject on his own account and in an original manner. At Paris he spent many hours traveling up and down the Seine in a motor boat, towing behind him a bar of soap attached to a string. When the experiment was over the friction of the water had worn the soap down to the latest approved stream-lined shape.

ANOTHER INTERESTING Experiment was conducted by two scientists during the former World war. The British government wished to ascertain the best method of detecting the passage; under water of a submarine, and one problem was to learn the pitch of the vibrations made by its propeller. Lorth Rutherford, an eminent British scientist, undertook to make the necessary investigation. He had a friend, Sir Richard Paget, who had a marvelous ear for music, so that without the aid of an instrument he could name any musical note with precision. In a rowboat the two men went out on the Firth of Forth while a submarine detailed for that purpose cruised around underneath. Paget leaned over the side and stuck his head under water while Rutherford held him by the heels. After listening Paget emerged and named the pitch. One would suppose that two scientists of an inventive turn of mind could have devised an instrument which would serve the purpose quite as well, but they wouldn't have had¹ as much fun.

THERE HAVE BEEN Published many articles describing the evacuation of children from crowded British cities into the country to escape the danger from anticipated air raids. Those of us who have had no experience with it can have little appreciation of what such a movement means. As a means of getting right into the heart of such a situation I recommend a reading of McKinlay Kantor's story "How Happy We Could Be" in last week's Saturday Evening Post. The central figure in the story is little Neddy Hull, who is evacuated from London to a small country village. It is a simple, homely story which tugs at one's heart strings.

TO MANY OF US FINLAND is merely the name of a place on the map, To some others it is a cold, bleak country in far northern Europe which builds and sails ships, produces athletes and pays its debts. In recent weeks it has become known as the one country, big or little, that had dared to thumb its nose at the Russian bear. Actually, while Finland is neither large nor populous, it is anything but bleak and forbidding.

A booklet just received gives photographic views of some of Finland's interesting features. There are shown pictures of the countryside, where well-built roads traversing scenes pleasant lakes and have their background of forest. There are shown well, built roads traversing scenes of great beauty. Helsinki, formerly Helsingfors, the capital, is a well-built city, modern in every respect, with many fine specimens of architecture in its churches and public buildings, and its great paper mills are operated by machinery built in Finnish plants. Falling water has there been made a source of perpetual power, and electric current is abundant and cheap. The country is one in which there are neither the very rich nor the very poor, and in which great progress has been made in education and enlightened social service. In the field of art Finnish sculptors occupy an honorable place, and Jan Sibelius has achieved world-wide fame for his musical compositions. More power to the sturdy little nation in its valiant struggle to maintain its independence!

THE HOME INSURANCE company has sponsored the publication of a booklet entitled "Engine!— Engine!" by Kenneth Holcomb Dunshee, which is a concise and beautifully illustrated story of the development of fire protection in the United States, beginning with the organization of the first fire company of "not more than 42 men" in New York in 1737. The cover has a fine reproduction in color of the Currier & Ives lithograph, "Rushing to the Conflict," and the booklet has reproductions in all their gaudy colors of many of the early fire engines, all of which were operated by man-power.

THE MODERN FIRE ENGINE takes its water from a hydrant, or, if city water is out of reach, from a well, river or pool if one is accessible. The old fire engine carried its water with it in a tank called the cistern, which held a few hundred gallons. When that supply was exhausted it was replenished by means of buckets, or water was pumped to it from other engines.

PRESENTLY THE ENGINE was equipped with a suction hose from a well or other reservoir. Where the supply was distant from the fire several engines were lined up tandem, each pumping to the next until the fire was reached. Fire-fighting became a contest for honors, each company working desperately to flood the tank of the engine ahead and to prevent being flooded by the one at the rear. In such contests the fighters were apt to lose sight of the mere matter of putting out the fire.

OLD THEATER-GOERS MAY remember the comedy in which a village was plunged into confusion by the controversy over the purchase of additional fire hose. The supply on hand was reported to be only 6 feet 8 inches and one faction proposed that more be purchased, while the proposal was bitterly opposed by the other faction as a needless and wasteful expenditure. Bloodshed was averted by the discovery that the figures had inadvertently been transposed, and that the department actually had 8 feet 6 inches of hose, which everyone agreed was plenty. That was not as great an exaggeration as it seems, for the old fire hose was made, not of cloth and rubber, but of leather, and it was not bought in hundreds of feet, as at present.

THE OLD VOLUNTEER FIRE company was very much a social organization. It turned out spick and span for parades. Its balls were grand events. And its members usually were noted for capacity to "carry their likker." In actual service the captain's trumpet was useful in summoning members to a fire and in giving directions at the fire. At social gatherings, with a cork stopping the mouthpiece it became a fine drinking utensil.

THE FEDERAL SUPREME court has ruled unconstitutional several city ordinances prohibiting the distribution of handbills and other occasional publications, or requiring licenses for such distribution. The court holds that all such ordinances are in violation of constitutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of speech and of the press. It is conceded that the municipality may prohibit the distribution of printed or written material in such a way as unreasonably to impede traffic, and that it may also prohibit the promiscuous scattering of handbills on the streets, but there must be no interference with the right of the individual to convey information or express opinion by giving his circulars to all who are willing to receive them.

I AM WILLING TO GO ALONG with the Supreme Court in so far as the matter specifically covered by the opinion is concerned. But I wish that the court had declared itself definitely on certain phases of the subject not mentioned in the opinion. I grant that anyone has the right to give me a handbill if I wish to accept it, but I don't believe that he has the right to stick one into my pocket, or shove it down the back of my neck, or paste it on my hat, when I am not looking. Neither do I think he has the right to hang a circular on the handle of my car door, or paste it on my windshield, or open the door of my car and throw his circular inside. My car is my own personal property, as much as my hat or my trousers, and nobody has the right to take anything from it or put anything into it without my permission.

THE DISTRIBUTOR, IT seems, has a right to leave a circular at my house. But how about throwing it on an open porch or on the front steps, where the wind is quite likely to blow it into the street or deposit it in the shrubbery? If circulars may not be scattered on the street, may they be scattered on private property where nobody wants them? The distributor has his constitutional rights I but is there a constitutional obligation resting on the householder to I make a daily chore of gathering up litter that others have left on his premises? These are points that I should like to discuss with the Supreme Court.

IT MAY BE THAT THE Distinguished judges have never had occasion to deal personally with the nuisances that I have mentioned. Personal experience may induce the jurist to mingle a little human nature with the cold logic of the law. That was the belief of the colored woman who was brought into court on the charge of disciplining too severely her incorrigible youngster. The evidence all against her and the judge said:

"Well, Lucy, what have you to say for yourself?"

"Nuthin', yo' honah, but I'd jest like to ask a question."

"You may ask your question," said the judge.

"I'd just like to inquiah," said Lucy, "if yo' honah was ever the parent of a pufectly wuthless colo'd chile."

THE MAJOR PORTION OP the magazine department of the American Observer, of Washington, D. C., in an issue of a few months ago, is devoted to a description of three magazines "Your Life," "Your Personality," and "Your Health," originated and edited by Douglas E. and Mrs. Lurton (Helen Leo), both former members of the Herald staff for several years. Mr. Lurton was for some time managing editor of the Literary Digest, and one of the former publishers of the Digest, W. J. Funk, is associated with the Lurtons in their present magazine venture. Of the founding of the magazines the Observer says:

The idea behind all three of these magazines is that the most fascinating subject in the world is You—your life, your happiness, your health, your mind, your personality, your future. The magazines were immediately successful, for the theory that most people are primarily interested in themselves proved to be sound and insured the magazines with a large circulation. The initial publication was designed to be, in the words of the subtitle, a Popular Guide to Desirable Living.

"The personality behind the three 'Your' magazines is Douglas E. Lurton who, with his wife, launched the publication. They felt that with the increasing attention given to adult education, there was a place for the type of magazines which they later undertook. We were well aware of the ancient and persistent yearning of the individual to rise above the commonplace, writes Mr. Lurton. They felt that there should be a magazine which would translate into popular and entertaining articles the best findings in such fields as applied psychology, medicine, and the like.

The interest and financial backing of Wilfred J. Funk was obtained for the venture. The first issues of Your Life were prepared exclusively by Mr. and Mrs. Lurton in a \$20-a-month one-room office near their home in Scarsdale, New York. When it was apparent that the venture would 'take,' offices were opened in New York City, Mr. Funk became editorial director, and an organization was gradually built up."

IN ONE OF HIS SYNDICATED; articles Dale Carnegie gives an extended sketch of Douglas Lurton and his work.