

QUITE RECENTLY I PUBLISHED the text of a little poem entitled "The Nurse," which had been found among the effects of the daughter of a correspondent after her death. There was nothing to indicate the authorship of the poem, and, as the young woman herself had been fond of writing verse, members of her family wondered if this, also, might have been her own composition. Two letters just received show that the poem is of other, though thus far unknown authorship. One letter, from a member of the staff of St. Michael's hospital in Grand Forks, reads:

"Concerning the poem—'The Nurse' which appeared in your column in the evening edition of the Grand Forks Herald on August 27: I really doubt very much if the poem was original. For several years we have had framed copies of the poem. One copy which I saw in St. Paul stated that the author was unknown.

"Nurses all love the poem—and feel that the author must have been a nurse. It seems hard to believe that anybody else could possibly have written with such an understanding of a nurse's sentiments and problems."

ON THE SAME SUBJECT MRS. D. McLean of Hannah writes:

"In the Herald today I noticed you asked about the poem 'The Nurse'. We have one printed and framed in our home that our daughter, Donaldda, had given to her by another nurse while she was in training at Hill Crest hospital in , Minneapolis. That was over 20 years ago. One of the nurses did some painting in blue forget-me-nots on the border of the poem. I prize it all very much as my daughter sent it to me. I do not know the author but I understand one of the nurses in training with Donaldda composed it but maybe I am wrong. Was this young lady a nurse, for probably it might be the same girl."

SUCH INCIDENTS BRING TO MIND Longfellow's poem "The Arrow and the Song." It is familiar, but perhaps many who would enjoy it have not immediate access to it. It merits a place in my scrap book where homely sentiments are treasured. Here it is:

THE ARROW AND THE SONG. By Henry W. Longfellow

I shot an arrow into the air, It fell to earth, I knew not where; For, so swiftly it flew, the sight Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air, It fell to earth, I knew not where; For who has sight so keen and strong, That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak I found the arrow, still unbroke; And the song, from beginning to end, I found again in the heart of a friend.

SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF SO many toads, at odd times I have taken notice of their habits, a subject to which I never gave attention before. The other day a friend told me of watching a toad bury itself in the earth. I find that this is one of their regular habits. Occasionally I have watched the process, and every little while in the garden a toad will hop out almost from under my feet, leaving the shallow hole in which he had imbedded himself. This practice can scarcely be for the purpose of hibernation, as the digging ceases as soon as the excavation is deep enough to contain the digger, leaving his nose sticking out. More likely it is for the purpose of concealment, although the insects on which the toads feed seem quite indifferent to his presence.

SALVAGE FROM THE JUNK PILE: WASHINGTON — A civil defense mission which recently returned from London has recommended to the American defense authorities the finger-printing of all the people in the United States as a means of identification in case of air raids. The plan has been found useful in Britain and it is urged for this country just in case.

ONEOTA, N. Y.—Last fall someone hurled a ripe tomato at a picture of Wendell Willkie which was displayed in the window of Donald Baird's residence. Now the Bair family is picking ripe tomatoes from a plant that grew under the window from one of the seeds of the tomato.

NEW YORK—CARL BERGLUND, A resident of Long Island, drove his car 50 miles an hour on a New York City street and was taken into court for exceeding the speed limit. He admitted the driving charge, but explained that he did not know that he was in a city as he had seen no sign notifying him of the fact. His explanation was accepted and he was discharged, the judge finding that the entrance to the city was not properly marked. A better sign is to be placed so that tourists may know that they are in New York City.

HAMILTON, BERMUDA — A NEW York young man sassed the official censor for opening and reading a letter which he had written to his sweetheart. He was fined £10.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.—Snow-plows were brought out to clear the Denver highway of hail which lay on the road nine inches deep after a storm which swept over the mountains. About the same time Edmonton, Alberta and points north were covered with snow. .

KANSAS CITY — POLICE ARE SEEKING L. C. Barrow, who, with one male and two female companions, are said to have held up a small grocery store and walked off with a dozen cans of caviar. This Barrow is a brother of Clyde and Buck Barrow, notorious outlaws who were killed in gunfights with police in 1934. Clyde and his gun-toting sweetheart were killed in Louisiana and Buck was killed in Iowa. Nice family.

TRENTON, N. J.—SOMEWHERE IN New Jersey, New York or Philadelphia there is an egg dealer who has in his stock an egg worth \$25, but nobody knows where the grocer is—or the egg. In Jersey they have official egg auctions, and in accordance with custom, when the millionth egg was sold at the recent auction it was stamped with the state seal and autographed by the secretary of agriculture and was wrapped in a note certifying that it would be redeemed for \$25. Then they lost track of the purchaser of the case containing that egg.

PHILADELPHIA — AS AN EXPERIMENT an oil company has installed six girls as service station attendants. Tastily uniformed, with Sam Browne belts and overseas caps, the gas girls will sell gas and oil, wipe windshields and do the lighter work about the station, leaving the heavier jobs to men. (Note—If the oil company were to take a trip around the country it would find that employing girls as station attendants is not altogether an experiment. There must be several thousand girls and women who are not only doing the lighter jobs about gas stations, but running the whole thing.)

LOS ANGELES — WOMEN ARE BEING recruited for parachutist service with the California state guard. They will be equipped to give blood transfusions and administer other treatment to war casualties.

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND — INhabitants of the Cook islands have sent a protest to the New Zealand parliament because of the decision not to recruit islanders for military service abroad. The islanders say that they have two thousand good fighting men who are champing at the bit, eager to get into the fray.

MIKE MCGINTY, EMPLOYED TEMPorarily as a subway watchman in New York, wanted a steady job. He wrote an application and left it one evening at the home of the secretary of the transportation service. Not only did he leave the application, but with it he left an envelope containing \$1,000 in bills—just a little present for the secretary. The secretary turned the money over to the police and Mike was arrested for attempted bribery. By his attorney Mike is described as "naive," which seems to be about right. He seems also to lack a sense of proportion. The job which he sought pays \$1,800 a year. The thousand dollars which he was willing to invest in it was the total sum of his savings. Not many would be willing to pay a thousand dollars for a job of that size.

ASIDE FROM ALL THAT, THE chances are that Mike is completely mystified over the disturbance caused by his method of getting himself a job. He wanted a job and was willing to pay for it. The secretary could help him to get the job and was entitled to a substantial honorarium for the friendly service which he was expected to perform.

THE CHANCES ARE THAT MIKE IS a perfectly honest chap who was conscious of no impropriety in what he was trying to do. He had lived in an atmosphere in which payment for favors was considered right and reasonable, and he wasn't asking anyone to do something for him for nothing, and as a matter of fair dealing he was ready to do his part. I don't know what they've done with Mike, but I hope they treated him gently I hope he got his thousand dollars back, for almost certainly he needs it, and I'd like to know that he still has his old job. He is not a criminal or a menace to society, but just a child who had never grown up.

MIKE REALLY BELONGS A FEW generations back, in a period when bribery was one of the recognized ways of doing business. That is not to say that there are not cases of bribery now. There are altogether too many of them. But the public attitude toward bribery has changed. Of course, in theory, society has always condemned bribery. Away back in Old Testament times it was recognized as an offense. In Magna Charta, signed seven hundred years ago, King John pledged himself to "sell to no man and deny to no man either justice or right." But most of the pronouncements were mere lip service, and it was expected that the man who held a public office would sell the favors which he was in a position to distribute. Officials high and low did just that without losing caste.

MIKE M'GINTY UNDERTOOK TO DO what he believed to be the usual custom, a custom which appeared to him fair and reasonable. Living, probably, in a Tammany environment, he had not learned that society has taken a more positive attitude on some questions involving right and wrong. There are public officials who accept bribes, but they dare not do so openly. And detection means scandal, with the strong probability of punishment. There are still evildoers, but by and large our standards have been raised.

THE FACT THAT THE CASE OF Mike McGinty attracts attention is of itself evidence of a change in standards. Mike's case is by no means unique. Here and there are persons who in this respect are out of step. Society has moved forward while they stood still, and in perfect innocence they seek to employ the methods which may have been considered regular and normal by their great-grandfathers.

WITH REFERENCE TO THE POEM "The Nurse," Mrs. D. E. Weaver of Webster, N. W. writes that she has the poem in a booklet by Don McNeill, who says that it was written by a nurse and given to him several years ago. As in the other cases in which the poem has come to light, the authorship is not given. It may be that the author wished to remain unknown, or, perhaps, her name was dropped accidentally and the lines have since been circulated anonymously.

I HEREBY RETURN thanks to George Dryburg of Emerado for a collection of ripe plums from his orchard. The plums are of three varieties, Tonka, Assiniboine, and an unnamed variety whose origin Mr. Dryburg does not remember whose flavor resembles that of pineapple. The fruit is all large, plump and ripe, and Mr. Dryburg says that his trees were loaded with the fruit this year. He thinks we can produce as fine fruit right here as they do in California.

DURING HIS MANY YEARS OF farming Mr. Dryburg has also gone into horticulture in a most effective way. Years ago his collection of Dahlias was famous, but the plants suffered severely during the drouth period. Now his fruit orchard is thriving and yielding well.

I OFTEN WONDER THAT MORE attention is not given to fruit growing on North Dakota farms. It is quite true that an unprotected orchard will not thrive on the open prairie, but there are few sections of North Dakota where trees will not grow if given proper care. And wherever there are groves or shelter belts fruit can be grown. Apples as fine as any that I have ever eaten were grown in North Dakota. Many varieties of plums and several of grapes can be grown here successfully, and North Dakota strawberries and raspberries cannot be excelled anywhere.

TONS OF NATIVE WILD FRUITS fall to the ground every year or are consumed by the birds. Those fruits can be naturalized in the farm grove. It is quite true that in this territory fruit blossoms may be caught by late spring frosts or the fruit by early frosts in the fall. But hazards are encountered in the production of any crop anywhere. Rust and grasshoppers sometimes attack our wheat, but we keep on growing wheat. I am not suggesting fruitgrowing in North Dakota on a large scale and on a commercial basis. But in most years choice fruits can be grown here for family use, and apart from commercial values there is a thrill in picking your own fruit off your own trees which compensates for all the labor involved.

I HAVE BEEN READING WITH great interest "Revellie In Washington," a new Harper book by Margaret Leech, and I have found it fascinating. It deals entirely with the Civil war period, but instead of dealing with military campaigns, as so many books about that period, it is devoted to description of life in Washington itself. In reading the book one gets the impression that he is living in Washington, looking out upon the country, and being part of the confused life of the capital in a time which was one of alternating terror and triumph.

WASHINGTON IN THOSE DAYS was a hotbed of intrigue, political and social, though the capital of the nation, it was more southern than northern, arid secession sympathy was pronounced and active. It was a prize for which battles were fought; through it marched northern armies on their way to the front and into it were returned the thousands of wounded to be treated in poorly equipped hospitals by methods from which most of modern science was absent.

WE ARE GIVEN PICTURES OF LINcoln, weary, badgered by politicians and office-seekers, trying to organize the nation for a war with leaders of his own party in conspiracy against him, trying to find military leaders in the mob which surrounded him and from among generals who were often jealous, quarrelsome and incompetent. The book gives one close-ups of a life that was thoroughly dramatic, sometimes sordid and shameful, and sometimes grand and noble.

HOW LONG CAN A TOAD LIVE without food, or air? A friend has just referred to an article in which it is stated that a toad discovered embedded in cement was found living and apparently in good health when the cement was broken although the material was part of the foundation of a building that had lain undisturbed for hundreds of years. My friend asks if such a thing is possible. There have been innumerable stories of this kind, but so far as I am aware, there is no positive and indisputable evidence to support them. As the toad is a burrowing animal it is not strange that toads have been found occasionally where old foundations were being disturbed, nor is it strange that workmen have some times been convinced that the toads had been encased in the cement, but I think there is no case of the kind on record in which the circumstances were such as to excluded error or fraud. In its winter burrow, where there is no food and air is scant, the toad can live for a considerable time in a state of partly suspended animation. I think the scientists are agreed that the stories about toads surviving centuries of burial in cement have originated either in inaccurate observation or a desire to spring a sensation.

MANY OF US CAN REMEMBER THE "Egyptian wheat" fake of many years ago. In the sales promotion circulars and talks it was represented that a few kernels of wheat had been recovered from the tomb of an Egyptian king with whom it had been buried thousands of years ago; that the dry Egyptian air had prevented its deterioration and preserved its vitality; that those kernels had been planted and from them had grown wheat of unusually fine quality and far more productive than any modern wheat. Wheat from such plants had been grown through several seasons, and quantities of this marvelous seed were now offered for sale at prices ranging from several dollars a peck to many dollars a bushel. Credulous farmers bought the seed and planted it, and were rewarded with moderate crops of just such wheat as they had been growing. The "Egyptian wheat" was just ordinary wheat such as could have been bought on the market at ordinary prices. Neither it nor its ancestors had ever been near Egypt.

MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT ACCORDING to the archaeologists no wheat has been found in any of the Egyptian tombs that have been excavated. At any rate, if there has been any such wheat it has never grown. And careful experiments have shown that even under the most favorable conditions the vitality of the wheat germ can be preserved for only a few years.

PERSISTENCE OF SEED VITALITY varies with the species of plant. Some flower seeds begin to deteriorate after the first year and are dead after two or three seasons. Some may germinate properly after several years. Farmers know that the seed of wild mustard seems to be almost indestructible. Fields which have produced no mustard for several years have produced big crops of the weed after deep plowing had brought to the surface seed that has lain in the ground for years. The theory is, I believe, that the oil in the seed preserves it. But, so far as is known, the life of all seeds is limited to relatively few years.

THE "EGYPTIAN WHEAT" FAKE reminds me of another fraud by which many farmers were victimized. That involved the sale of hulless oats seed. The oat has a hard hull which has to be removed in milling. Years ago salesmen appeared with oats without hulls, which they offered for sale in my neighborhood at \$10 a bushel. They required no cash payment, but took the farmer's note for his purchase. They sought orders only from substantial farmers whose credit was good. Attached to each note was a guarantee that the sales outfit would buy the entire yield from the seed purchased, paying \$8.00 per bushel.

THE SEED WAS PLANTED AND IT produced hulless oats, just like the original, but there was no purchaser visible. The farmer was notified by a bank that it held his note and he was invited to pay. The farmer called attention to the guarantee which had been attached to the note, but the bank knew nothing about that. The guarantee had been separated from the original document, and all that was left was the farmer's straight note, which the bank had bought in good faith. The farmer paid, and fed his hulless oats to the chickens.

INVOLVED IN THE LAUNCHING OF A TORPEDO against an American destroyer in the north Atlantic is the possibility, though not the certainty, that the status of the United States may be changed immediately from that of a source of supply to a shooting belligerent in the present war. Whether or not that change shall take place at once seems to depend chiefly on the course and attitude of Germany. Certainly there will be no change in the declared purpose of the United States, which is to aid, by whatever means may be necessary, in the destruction of that malignant force of which Hitler is the organizer and symbol.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TORPEDO INCIDENT Nazi authorities denied knowledge of it. Among the possibilities to be taken into account are: That the German leaders knew of the attack, but wished to conceal their knowledge; that the attack was in a chance encounter of which Berlin had not been informed; that the American destroyer Greer had been mistaken for one of the practically duplicate destroyers formerly turned over to Great Britain.

THERE IS SMALL PROSPECT THAT THIS incident of itself will lead to open war. Despite confusion of counsel on a multitude of details, the American administration, the American congress and the American people have made clear their conviction that Hitlerism is a menace which must be destroyed, and their determination that this nation shall do whatever may be most effective for the achievement of that purpose. Thus far it has appeared that the most useful means that the United States could employ toward that end was to supply material to those who are actually fighting Hitler in the field, on the sea and in the air. It would be absurd if that attitude were to be changed by a single and comparatively trivial incident.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HITLER NEEDS no trifling incident to induce him to declare war against the United States. He wages war as he pleases, and if he had intended to take on a new antagonist now, his first move in that direction would scarcely have been on such a minor scale as that in the recent submarine attack. In the past his attacks have been made without provocation. In the case of the United States he has had abundant provocation in the fact that the United States is his declared enemy and the enemy of everything for which he stands.

IN ISOLATIONIST CIRCLES NUMEROUS stories have been circulated alleging that British representatives in Washington have been running up bills for extravagant living and charging the expenses to the lease-lend fund. Among these alleged charges were those for huge cafe and restaurant bills for rare wines and liquors and costly food and for hotel bills for luxurious quarters. One story was that the British agents had ordered 100 portable air-conditioning units in their hotel rooms, these being charged to the lease-lend fund to be paid ultimately by American tax payers. The air-conditioning story was repeated by Senator Nye in his recent address in Grand Forks.

WHEN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WAS asked about these stories at a recent press conference he denounced them all as wicked lies which he said were being circulated in an organized campaign to sabotage the defense effort. In its current issue the magazine "Time" has the following comment on the subject:

"THE BIGGEST SINGLE FACT ON WHICH all these stories was based was obviously untrue: no cash changes hands in lend-lease transactions. The British cannot possibly charge such items, as lend-lease is guided as much by what the United States needs as by what England needs, is concerned primarily with guns, tanks, planes, more and more with the direct shipment of foodstuffs.

"But the fact that such a story could be printed revealed how little the average United States citizen understood such a complex procedure. The story was easy to understand; and some isolationists even professed a grudging admiration for British sharpness—making it seem all the truer."

I HAVE SEEN NO ACCOUNT OF SENATOR Nye's withdrawal of the charge that he made at Grand Forks, or of his substantiating it in any manner.

DEATH CAME IN TERRIBLE FORM to those three children in an eastern city who, while at play, were drenched with burning gasoline from an army plane which had taken fire and crashed near them. One can sympathize deeply with the sorrow-stricken mother who wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt that her influence be used on behalf of regulations which would, as far as possible, present the flying of planes over crowded cities at low altitudes.

IT MAY WELL BE that under the strain to which she had been subjected that mother was mistaken supposing the army people who were in contact with the tragedy to be cold and brutal. One does not always judge fairly when in emotional stress. But it is an unfortunate fact that there are some men in the army who seem to have no conception of their responsibility to the plain people of the United States. Those of that fortunately small group appear to think that a uniform and a pair of shoulder-straps make of them superior beings, no longer required to observe the rules of decent conduct. The army can do itself no better service than to demonstrate its utter intolerance of that spirit.

DOUBTLESS IT IS NECESSARY AT times for army planes to fly over cities. But it is not necessary for them to fly so low as to be at once a nuisance and a menace. Nor it is necessary, or excusable, for inexperienced students to be permitted to fly over crowded centers at all. And the flier who has the idea that a plane is a plaything with which to play tricks on other people should have that notion eradicated from his system by disciplinary measures which will take hold and leave their marks.

SOMEBODY WANTS TO KNOW WHY Hitler began to hit, what made Stalin stall, and what good it did Mussolini to muscle in. I'm sure I can't tell him.

THE HABITS OF PLANTS ARE BEYOND understanding. Take the climbers, for instance. I know I have written about the habit that some twining plants have of turning always one way. Whether the plant be given to right or left turns there is no changing it. The morning-glory makes a right-handed spiral—at least, mine do. But its blossoms spiraled in the opposite direction. The well-developed but unopened blossom is very neatly twisted to a sharp point, and the spiral is opposite to that formed by the climbing plant.

IN CONCEDED THAT IT WAS their submarine that exchanged shots with an American destroyer the Nazis deprived Senator Nye of an opportunity to suggest that it was a British submarine disguised as a German that launched the torpedoes. Mr. Nye had an idea of that kind after the Robin Moor was sunk, but the Germans spoiled it by owning up and threatening to do more of the same.

JOHN HESKETH SAYS THAT ON his farm near Gilby it rained every day for seventeen days in succession, then let up for a couple of days and started in again. The rain was not uniform, ranging from a mere sprinkle to a downpour, but it rained.

SAM URAN IS MOUNTRAIL'S NEW county commissioner. The Stanley Sun says Sam didn't ask for the office and up to last Wednesday he hadn't made up his mind whether to take this one or not. But the Sun man went to interview Sam and found him moving a granary. The conversation, according to the Sun, ran about like this:

Know what you're letting yourself in for, don't you Sam?
Guess so. People will be wantin' most everything that the county can't afford, won't they?

Yes, and then some.
Well, I can holler 'no' louder than heck.
You'll make one of the best county commissioners that Mountrail county ever had.

And that's Sam Uran as the editor met him Wednesday, just before dinner time while he was moving a granary.

WHEN PREMIER MACKENZIE KING of Canada addressed a gathering of Canadian soldiers in England he was greeted with cheers, also with some boos. The Canadians abroad, it is reported, are dissatisfied because they have not had a chance to get into the fighting. Those in England naturally dislike being kept at guard duty when there is fighting going on all around them. Further, Australians and New Zealanders have been giving a good account of themselves in Africa and the Mediterranean area, and many of the Canadians feel themselves slighted in being kept in the background. In all probability the Canadians now in Great Britain are less well informed concerning Canada's part in the war than are Canadians at home and the people of the United States. At this distance there is the advantage of better perspective than is available to those who are nearer the center of things. An official publication on "Canada at War" tells something of what Canada is actually doing.

THE UNWELCOME QUIET WHICH some of the Canadians overseas are experiencing is confined to the army units. Both naval and air forces have been active and have abundantly demonstrated both their fighting ability and their usefulness. Canadian ships have destroyed enemy submarines and surface vessels and have assisted in the evacuation of beleaguered troops at Dunkerque and Crete. Canadian ships are now patrolling the Mediterranean guarding the landing of supplies for the besieged garrison at Tobruk. Canadian airmen are carrying their full load and have won distinction both in guarding Britain from enemy attacks and in raiding the enemy's ports and military centers.

THE FACT THAT CANADIAN ARMY units have not had a greater share in the conflict is ascribed by the official bulletin to "bad luck." In April of 1940 Canadian troops were on their way to Narvik, Norway when the idea of a landing at that port was abandoned and the expedition returned. Canadians were landed in France, prepared to take their part in operations there, but the collapse of France made necessary their withdrawal together with other British troops.

SOME OF THE CANADIAN UNITS are in Britain, doing useful work of various kinds. Others are in Newfoundland, the West Indies and Gibraltar. Until the American occupation of Iceland Canadian troops were also stationed there to guard against a German attack. In the several services there are now 90,000 Canadians in service overseas. These are all volunteers, as Canada has no conscription for overseas service.

MANY CANADIANS HAVE DEMANDED complete conscription. Men are drafted for domestic service, and are given opportunity to volunteer for service abroad. The response has been all that was expected, and more, for there are many communities 100 per cent of whose quotas drafted for domestic service have volunteered for service abroad. The demand for general conscription is not due to the need for more men, but to the feeling that the volunteer system creates opportunity for slackers. The reason for the present arrangement is that sentiment in the province of Quebec is definitely opposed to conscription, and the government has not wished to antagonize Quebec.

CANADA'S WAR EXPENDITURE for the current year is estimated at some where between 2,100 and 2,350 million dollars, a sum which equals 40 per cent of the total income of the country. On the basis of population that would be equivalent to the expenditure of \$35,000,000,000 for the United States. Canadian armed forces abroad are armed, equipped and maintained by their own government, and in addition Canada is sending to Great Britain vast quantities of supplies the purchase of which is financed largely by the Canadian government. Canadian purchases from the United States this year will approximate a billion dollars, which is twice her pre-war imports from this country. Half of this sum is for war supplies. Canadian contributions to the war effort include not only raw materials from farm, mine and forest, but manufactured goods as well. For those manufactures Canada buys in the United States many parts which are not produced at home. Canadian purchases are not included in the lease-lend program for aid to Great Britain. On the contrary, Canada is making important advances to the United Kingdom herself.

THERE IS SOMETHING INTERESTING in dating a flower garden, that is, in noting the dates on which certain plants come into bloom and then checking one season with another. I have never been systematic to do this with any thoroughness, but some dates recorded last year have proved interesting as a basis of comparison with this year. Thus far the only marked difference that I have noted in the blooming time of the various plants is in the case of lilacs. In 1940 pictures were taken on June 5 of lilacs which were then at the height of their bloom. This year the lilacs were fully two weeks earlier and were practically gone by June 5. I think the lilac crop of 1940 was the finest I have ever seen. With other plants the two seasons seem, to have run about parallel in point of time.

NATURE IS LAVISH IN PER Distribution of color, and in any general assortment of flowers one may find almost all the colors are combinations of color that are possible, but with all her lavishness nature usually apportions only two of the primary colors, red, yellow and blue, to a species. Thus we have roses in all conceivable shades of red and yellow, but who has seen a blue rose? Petunias run to red and blue and their combinations, but no yellows. Zinnias show brilliant combinations of red and yellow, but not of blues. We have red marigolds and yellow ones, but I know of no blue ones.

THIS GENERAL RULE SEEMS TO be fairly consistent through the families of flowering plants, though there are exceptions. In tulips we have all three colors, though the florists have not succeeded in developing a Darwin yellow that is dependable as to color, and the large yellow tulips that one sees are usually cottage tulips. Cosmos comes in all sorts of reds and blues, and we also have an orange cosmos, but this seems to be almost a distinct species, and its seed is much slower to germinate than that of the ordinary cosmos.

SIXTY YEARS AGO OUR SURVEYING crew in the James river valley carried a shotgun and a rifle as part of its equipment. Ours was a working, and not a hunting expedition, and the weapons were usually idle? Occasionally there was a shot at an antelope when there was time to coax one within range. We had no other use for the rifle. The buffalo were gone. We saw few prairie chickens or other members of the grouse family, for usually we were far from grain fields. I But the country was alive with ducks, and for them a shotgun was brought into use.

THE MEAT SUPPLY WHICH WE carried consisted of ham, spiced roll and canned meats and fish, and an occasional duck was most acceptable. If there were any game laws nobody had told us about them, and in general when we saw a bird that looked as if it might be good to eat we shot it without inquiring into its ancestry. Duck, fried in bacon fat in a frying pan over an open fire, salted, peppered and sprinkled with flour so it will brown, is good eating, especially after a day spent in walking miles and miles in the open air. The knowledge of hunting which I have retained since that summer amounts to about this: That ducks swim and chickens don't, and that a mallard duck is bigger than a teal. If I should go hunting now I should be afraid to fire a shot for fear of killing the wrong kind I of bird. I wouldn't know the difference.

WHEN PREMIER KING OF CANADA was in England he learned that Canadian soldiers there were champing at the bit in their eagerness to get where there was something doing. Perhaps it was on that account that Canadian units were sent as part of the expedition to take over Spitzbergen and destroy the coal mines. And how disgusted those Canadians must have been to make the round trip and not see a German, going or coming!

THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR for the long-range weather forecasters, the fellow who looks at the stars and the or examine the moss on the trees or the fur on the rabbits and then tell us what the weather will be like a year ahead. This year has been ideal for those prophets, because no matter what sort of weather they predicted for a particular week, they could refer to the weather for that date in some part of the country and say "I told you so." Thus, if the forecaster had predicted rainy weather for the past, few weeks he would have found justification in the record of North Dakota, where rain has fallen somewhere in the state almost every day for a month, in quantities varying from a sprinkle to a deluge. And, if he had predicted dry weather, he could have cited the case of Chicago, where they have had the driest summer in a generation. Southern Wisconsin has been parched, fields are burned brown and most crops are ruined, while northern Wisconsin has been swept by disastrous floods. Snow fell a week ago in Alberta, also in Colorado. Almost any kind of prediction would have been safe for this year, and any prophet might claim with safety that his system of forecasting is the right one.

YEARS AGO A WEATHER PROPHET named Irl R. Hicks did a thriving business in the publication of an almanac and in distributing a weekly weather letter to such newspapers as would buy it. I haven't seen a Hicks almanac for years, and the concern may have gone out of business. The promoter attached a "Rev." to his name, a title which I believe he had picked up as a convenient handle and which undoubtedly helped his standing with some of the credulous. His prognostications were always in vague, general terms, which, when analyzed, meant nothing at all except that on certain specified dates there was likely to be some weather somewhere. And, usually there was. Then there was Foster, whose newspaper forecasts were along about the same line, and which had a considerable following for several years. Those also have been discontinued, so far as I know. One curious thing is that while many persons professed faith in such forecasts, I can recall no case in which any person governed his action by them. They believed in principle, but didn't go so far as to give the principle practical application.

THERE IS A STRAIN OF MYSTICISM in many minds which leads to strange credulity in anything over which a cloud of mystery is cast. The weather faker talks in unintelligible terms about the influence of the planets and the signs of the zodiac, and people think there must be something in it. Of that type was the old Scottish lady who, after listening to the new preacher, said enthusiastically, "Yon was a grand sermon! I couldna understand a word o' it."

WE HAVE ILLUSTRATIONS OF this, sort of credulity in the featuring on the radio and in some newspapers of astrology, numerology and similar tommy-rot. Those programs and articles are followed with varying degrees of faith by many persons who ought to know better. Of course there are those whose interest in such things is only that of curiosity, but there are others who swallow them, hook, line and sinker. There was a story the other day about a movie actress of some note who had changed her name because her real name had not the right number of letters to comply with the requirements of numerology.

PROFESSIONAL GAMBLERS, WHO are supposed to be keen and hard-boiled, are notoriously superstitious. There are astrologers and fortune tellers of various kinds who make good incomes by giving advice to some of those who are trying to make quick fortunes on Wall street. Adolf Hitler is said to have on his staff an astrologer whom he consults frequently. King Louis XI of France had a soothsayer who incurred the royal displeasure by making a prediction which got the king into trouble, and the king resolved to hang him. Without notifying the charlatan of that purpose the king asked him if he could predict the day of his own death. The soothsayer smelled a rat, but he was resourceful. He said "It is given to those of my profession to know of things concerning themselves only with reference to the fate of others. I can say only that my death will precede that of your majesty by only three days." That frightened the king and he bade the servant go in peace.

DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY farmers in getting their threshing done because of wet weather reminds Walter Forbes of the fall of 1896 when farmers of his acquaintance near Hillsboro cut their flax on the ice. Rain had made it impossible to get onto many fields until the ground froze, and the water with it.

IN THE HOLY LAND EXHIBIT NOW on display at the city auditorium there are innumerable features of absorbing interest. Among other things, the exhibit is a mechanical and artistic marvel, unique in the field of reproduction. Scenes in the ancient city of Jerusalem, around the sea of Galilee, shepherds watching their flocks, fishermen drawing their nets, all are shown with remarkable faithfulness of detail and accuracy of coloring. The spectator is lost in amazement that human hands could construct and assemble so many thousands of pieces, transport them from place to place and reassemble them without confusion so as to preserve the accuracy and artistic beauty of the setting. Never before have scenes covering so great an area been reproduced on such a scale and in such minuteness of detail.

THESE FEATURES, HOWEVER, ACCOUNT for only a part of the interest which attaches to this exhibit. Relatively small in area, the Holy land is the stage upon which have been enacted some of the most dramatic scenes in human history. It was the home of the patriarchs whose history is recorded in the Old Testament. It witnessed the rise and fall of successive royal dynasties. There David played his harp before King Saul, and there Solomon built his temple. It was there that Jesus of Nazareth was born and baptized, thrilled the common people with his messages of hope and comfort, suffered death on the cross, and gave to the world a religious concept that goes to the very foundations of human existence.

A VAST VOLUME OF LITERATURE has dealt with the history, geography and social, political and religious life of the Holy Land, and the subject has been one of absorbing human study through many generations. Great multitudes have made pilgrimages there to see for themselves the setting in which those great scenes were enacted. To the greater multitudes who have not enjoyed that privilege this exhibit affords a priceless opportunity. During the period of the Minnesota state fair the exhibit was crowded day after day, and to the thousands who saw it examination of it proved to be one of the most satisfactory experiences at the fair. An hour or two spent at the auditorium while the exhibit is still here will give impressions of an enthralling subject, which will last for a lifetime.

AN ITEM IN THE THIRTY YEARS ago department of the Herald records that thirty years ago the Gentry circus was in town. That recalls a bit of entertainment history which many persons have forgotten. The paragraph does not say whether or not that was the first appearance of the Gentry show in town. If it was, it wasn't a circus at all in the ordinary acceptance of that word.

"DR." GENTRY—I DON'T KNOW know where he got the title—was a lover of animals who was unusually successful in teaching them tricks. He got a lot of dogs together and entertained small crowds by exhibiting them. Then he added a few trained ponies and took the road with what was billed as the Gentry dog and pony show. It was just that. There wasn't a human performer or an animal of any kind except the dogs and ponies. The show was a modest little affair, traveling, I think, in one car, and showing in a single small tent.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS OF THE circus parades, which have since been abandoned, more's the pity, and every show, from the Ringling circus to Uncle Tom's cabin, had to have a street parade. In compliance with custom, Gentry paraded his show. He had no parade wagons or other flamboyant equipment, but he did the best he could. He hired three or four local hacks, hitched his ponies to them, posed his dogs in tableau form in the seats, and thus traversed the city streets. His animals were well trained and they put on a good show. But the real flavor of the show was impaired as Gentry began to expand. He came back another year with an elephant or two, and each year other features were added until the show became pretty much like any other small circus. Then it was absorbed by one of the big concerns and I lost track of it.

WHEN THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED THE attempt by a German submarine to torpedo the American destroyer Greer he said specifically and without disqualification that the submarine fired first. Nazi headquarters in Berlin have said that the destroyer fired first. The president's statement was based on the report of the incident made by the commander of the destroyer. Unhesitatingly I accept the statement of an American naval officer in preference to anything that comes out of Berlin. The submarine fired first. Actually, however, the order in which the firing was done is of only minor consequence. When Hitler declared his purpose to subjugate the world and launched his program to effect that purpose by striking at lesser nations which were unprepared to resist him, there was ample justification for the employment against him by the United States or any other liberty-loving nation of whatever means might seem best calculated to check and destroy him. The fact that the United States did not immediately begin to shoot was not due to absence of the right to shoot. Other methods were employed for the time being as a matter of choice, but at any time since the war began the United States would have been justified in attacking and sinking German ships at sight, wherever they might be found.

LINDBERGH SAID AT DES MOINES THAT he believed that if it had not been for the hope that the United States could be made responsible for the war, financially as well as militarily, "England would have negotiated a peace in Europe many months ago and would be better off for doing so."

THAT ENGLAND COULD HAVE MADE peace with Germany months ago is indisputable. In fact, it is not many months—three years, to be exact—since she did just that thing. Hitler had been threatening war. Already he had invaded Austria. Then, during the summer of 1938, he menaced Czechoslovakia. There was the prospect of an eruption which would shake the continent and the world. British statesmen, with others, sought to avert that catastrophe. They argued and pleaded, but for a time Hitler refused to listen. Then, at that historic Munich meeting, a compact was made. The Czechs agreed to the cession to Germany of those portions of their country where the population was distinctly German. In the interest of peace Britain and France advised that concession, and Hitler accepted it, declaring solemnly that he had no desire for further territory in Europe.

MOST OF US REMEMBER THE FEELING with which news of that compact was received all over the world. Few liked the terms imposed on the Czechs, but at any rate the prospect of a great war was averted, and the world longed passionately for peace. Six months passed and Hitler sent his armored tanks and his bombing squadrons into Czechoslovakia, wrecked its cities and slaughtered its inhabitants and gobbled up what was left of the country. Still other nations waited, hoping that the monster's appetite was at last satisfied. Six months later came the attack on Poland, and the war was on.

BRITAIN COULD HAVE MADE ANOTHER peace with Hitler. She could make peace now. But all the world knows what such a peace would be worth. No matter how generous its terms, no matter how emphatically Hitler might declare his good intentions, a compact with him would be worth no more than his compact with Czechoslovakia was worth. The British people know that, and they will not make peace with Hitler on any terms. They know that their nation or Hitler must be destroyed.

WE IN THIS COUNTRY COULD HAVE peace with Hitler, peace of a kind, and at a price. If we should recall all our ships from wherever they may be on the seven seas and close our ports so that neither food nor munitions could be sent to those who are fighting Hitler, we should be secure, temporarily. Then, when Britain had been rendered helpless by lack of material, when her island had been invaded and her navy captured or sunk, the people of the United States would learn through actual experience what a peace with Hitler means.

A CORRESPONDENT WHO HAS been a faithful reader of this column ever since it was launched reports that often he has been on the point of writing concerning something that has appeared herein but each time he has let the good intention subside without action. Now he actually writes:

"Over the years there have been many discussions that made me want to talk back at you. That is why the letters that were never sent grew to such a total. I was especially pleased by your campaign against curlicues in magazine article headings, and your apparent success. I thought surely your readers would call for help when magazines went crazy over color, printing every color ink on every color paper. They are backing up somewhat, but are still bad enough. But I suppose the designer of colored toilet paper had to have a job."

I AM AFRAID THE DESIGNERS OF magazine headlines paid little attention to what I wrote about them, but so long as they seem inclined to mend their ways I am satisfied.

THE SAME CORRESPONDENT sends a copy of the Chicago Herald of March 30, 1917, which he found in an accumulation of old papers. It isn't a very old paper, and there is nothing remarkable about it, but certain of its features are interesting just at this time. The paper was published just a week before congress, on the recommendation of President Wilson, declared the existence of a state of war between the United States and Germany, and in the headlines and articles one is reminded how history repeats itself.

THE BANNER HEADLINE ACROSS the front page of the old paper reads: "Want No U. S. War, Says Hollweg." This is followed by other lines reading: "Declares Germany never planned attack; says America is responsible." "Puts onus on U. S." "Hollweg in Reichstag speech asserts U-boat campaign is essential for defense."

IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE Reichstag the German chancellor referred to the fact that President Wilson had given notice of an extra session of congress for the following week to decide the question of war or peace between the United States and Germany. Commenting on the relations between the two countries the chancellor said:

"GERMANY NEVER HAD THE slightest intention of attacking the United States of America and does not have such intention now. It never desired war against the United States of America and does not desire it now." That reads very much as if Hitler might have said it.

OF THE WASHINGTON REACTION to the chancellor's speech the paper's Washington correspondent writes:

"If Germany says flatly she will abandon submarine warfare, the United States would want something more definite than a promise. A year ago Germany promised and eight months later violated her word.

"But from the statement of Von Bethmann-Hollweg, it would seem that Germany has no intention of abandoning ruthless submarine warfare.

"To the authorities the chancellor's speech is regarded as an effort first to show the German people that the United States has forced war upon them and, second, to encourage the pacifist movement in this country and especially in congress.

"IF GERMANY "NEVER HAD THE slightest intention of attacking the United States," as the chancellor alleges, why, administration officials ask, have these things happened:

1. "Wanton and unwarmed destruction of American lives and American ships upon the high seas.

2. "Dispatch by Herr Zimmermann, "German minister for foreign affairs, of the intercepted proposal for an alliance of Germany, Mexico and Japan.

3. "Operations of German agents in Mexico designed to make that country inaugurate war against the United States.

4. "Activities of German agents in South America intended to array some of the states of that continent against this country.

5. "Vast military activities, fortunately prevented, by German agents in the United States.

6. "Execution of plots and conspiracies against the internal peace and safety of the United States."

IN PUTMAN COUNTY, NEW YORK, a man was named by the Democratic committee for a local office. He was away on his vacation at the time and was not aware of his indorsement until his return, which was after August 15. The primary election was to take place September 16, and the law requires that if one who has been designated as a candidate does not wish to serve he may have his name withdrawn only if he serves notice of his wish 30 days before the election. This candidate did not wish to serve, and on the contrary he intended to campaign for the Republican candidate for the position, but although he brought suit to have his name withdrawn his name appears on the ballot. There was no way out of it.

IN ANOTHER STATE THERE WERE two Republican candidates at the primary election for nomination to a certain position. One fell short by several hundred votes. But as the district is strongly Republican no candidate had filed for the Democratic nomination. A few Democrats wrote on their ballots the name of the minor Republican and he became thereby the Democratic candidate.

THERE ARE MANY ABSURDITIES in the election laws of most states. In the New York case the judge who tried the case commented on the absurdity of the law which he was compelled to enforce. He said the attention of the legislature had been drawn to this particular defect, but it had done nothing to cure it. It would be a simple matter to require the consent of the individual before his name is placed on the ballot. Also, the practice of writing names on the ballot has been responsible for many abuses. Those could be avoided by providing that no votes shall be counted other than those cast for candidates who have been regularly nominated and whose names are printed on the ballot.

THE GASLESS CLUB OF AMERICA has been organized. Its members are bicycle enthusiasts and they seek to popularize the bike rather than the auto as a means of getting around. A published picture of a squad of club members about to start out for a ride is somewhat suggestive of the eighties of the last century, but there are differences. The bikes of the former period had high front wheels and little rear wheels and the costumes worn were decidedly different from those seen now. The modern woman's bicycle is so constructed as to accommodate a skirt, but that couldn't be done with the high wheel. Women cyclists had to wear knickers, and on that account there was a strong feeling that cycling was no sport for a lady.

JIM CARNEY, ONCE A PROMINENT pugilist and former English lightweight champion died in London the other day at the age of 83. Carney was one of the few survivals of the bare-knuckle fighting which seems so strange in these days of padded gloves. He was a well-built chap, standing 5 feet 4 1/4 inches and fighting at 128 pounds. His most memorable fight was with Jack McAuliff, fought in 1887 in a barn near Boston for \$4,500 a side. The fight ran for 74 rounds and after five hours it was declared a draw. Twice during the bout Carney left the ring to knock out spectators whose behavior displeased him. His fight with Jimmy Highlands was broken up by police when ringside betting had reached 2 to 1 on Carney. Highlands died a few days later from injuries received in the battle, and Carney, convicted of manslaughter, served a prison sentence of six months at hard labor.

COMPLAINT IS MADE THAT SOME of the eggs sent to England from this country are bad when they reach the consumer. Small wonder when one considers the hazards encountered in getting them across. There is a superstition of long standing that thunder will sour milk. Isn't it possible that the concussion from bombs exploding in the vicinity may addle eggs? There's something for the scientists to investigate.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S SCREEN PLAY "The Great Dictator," is one of those denounced by Senator Nye as .propaganda, intended to drive this nation into war. I saw the picture the other night, and I came away without having my opinion or my attitude on any subject changed in the slightest degree. I suppose my experience corresponds to that of most others. Of all the hundreds of thousands who have seen the picture there is probably not one whose attitude toward war or toward any other national or international issue has been influenced by it. The picture is typically a Chaplin picture. Underlying its farcical caricature is a vein of wistful pathos which through the years has characterized Chaplin's pantomime and which is now carried over into his spoken lines. It is a hilarious farce, superimposed on a base of stern and sad reality.

INSTEAD OF CREATING SENTIMENT with respect to any great problem the picture became possible as a popular offering only after popular opinion had been formed, not by the appeals, open or disguised, of interested groups, but by tragic events which the whole world witnessed and by which it was shocked. Hitler had become a dictator; he had proclaimed his ambition; he had employed brutal methods of oppression; and in his grandiloquent flights of rhetoric and his childish posturing he had invited the pen of the satirist and the pencil of the caricaturist. The picture going public was ready for just such an artist as Chaplin, to deal with a subject which Hitler himself had made ready and concerning which the public had already formed its own definite opinion.

SUCH A PICTURE WOULD HAVE played to empty seats if public opinion had not already been formed, but even if it were "intended to influence public opinion those who would attempt to suppress it or to force its authors and exhibitors to display pictures calculated to offset its influence are treading on the thin ice of a censorship which, if admitted at all, can have no logical end short of that authority over human thought which Hitler frankly claims for himself, and which he is making as effective as he can in the countries now subject to his control. That control if undertaken, cannot be confined to the motion picture. It must extend to the radio, to the press, the pulpit, the platform, and even, as now in Germany, in Norway, in Holland, in France, to remarks made by neighbor to neighbor and even to conversations among the members of the family within the four walls of the home. It is that sort of censorship toward which the sub-committee headed by Senator Clark is headed.

DURING THE DRY YEARS ATTENTION was directed to the importance of conserving water, and all over the state dams have been built and pools have been dug to prevent such water as fell from running away. Now we are having too much rain in some places, and in practically all parts of the state it rains too often and the farmers can't get their grain dry enough to thresh. It's rather odd that someone hasn't come forward an argument in justification of the theory that by filling up the lakes and ponds of the state we can increase the rainfall.

THE THEORY IS A FAMILIAR ONE. Rain comes from the clouds. Clouds are formed by the evaporation of water from the earth's surface. Evaporation is greatest where there are bodies of water from which vapor can rise most readily. Therefore, the areas where there is the most water must have the most clouds and the greatest rainfall.

THE TROUBLE WITH THAT CONCLUSION is that it isn't so. Some of the driest areas in the world are completely surrounded by water or are immediately adjacent to water. Most of the coast of northern Africa is a sandy desert, down to the very coast of the Mediterranean.

THE LOWER CALIFORNIA PENINSULA, most of which is less than 100 miles wide, has the Pacific on one side and the Gulf of California on the other, but there are parts of it where rain scarcely ever falls. There are many small islands in the ocean which are almost completely rainless. The water goes up all around them, but it comes down some other place. Most of the rain that falls in North Dakota comes either from the Atlantic or the Gulf of Mexico. Scarcely any comes from the Pacific because it is intercepted by the mountains. All the dams that we can build and all the lakes that we can create will have no perceptible influence on our own rainfall.

THERE ARE STRIKING DIFFERENCES, not only in speed, but in number of combatants, between the famous battles of history and those which are now being fought on the Russian front. Rarely, in the American Civil war, did an army consist of as many as 100,000 men. In the battle of Gettysburg, which was the turning point of the war, although there remained much fighting to do, there were not more than about 160,000 men on both sides together. In that battle from one-fourth to one-third of the men engaged were killed or wounded. After his famous charge three-fourths of Pickett's men were left on the field. In the battle there were regiments which lost 90 percent of their personnel.

IN THE BATTLE OF SHILOH, ONE of the bloodiest of the war, each side lost so heavily as to be incapable of action for several weeks thereafter. At Chickamauga about 150,000 were engaged. At Borodino, where Napoleon won the battle that made possible his occupation of Moscow, Napoleon had 130,000 men against the Russian force of 120,000. Casualties in that engagement amounted to about one-fourth of the men engaged. The battle of Waterloo involved some 250,000 men, and the carnage in it was fearful. After the battle 45,000 dead lay in an area of three square miles. At one point the space which had been occupied by a British square was outlined plainly by the red uniforms of men who had been shot as they stood and whose bodies marked the position of the command.

IN EARLIER TIMES MEN FOUGHT in masses, a practice which, if followed now, would lead to complete annihilation of commands. Men standing or moving as they once did would be mowed down like grain before a harvester. Gun range has been so greatly extended that the enemy is often completely invisible to the artillerymen, who aims his weapon at an invisible target which may be many miles away. Infantry operates in such extended order that mass destruction is impossible and tons of ammunition are used for the slaughter of only a few men,

IT IS A MATTER OF HISTORY THAT George Washington wore false teeth, and a stray newspaper paragraph says that they were hinged. That reminds me of a story told, I think, by Ellis Parker Butler, who became famous by writing "Pigs is pigs." Butler never recovered from the effects of that story. After it he never could get anyone to take him seriously.

IN THE TEETH STORY HE TOLD of a young man of an inventive turn of mind who had a passion for devising gadgets which would do things differently. He noticed that chewing his food tired the muscles of his jaws, and it struck him that a lot of energy is wasted in chewing. He conceived the brilliant idea of having chewing done mechanically. He built himself a set of artificial teeth, hinged at the back and equipped with a strong spring which would start them chewing when he touched a trigger.

THE TEETH DIDN'T FIT VERY well, and to rest his mouth he kept them in a glass of water at night. Intending to get up early one morning he reached out in the darkness for a flashlight to see the time. In groping around he got his hand into the glass and the teeth; bit his finger. As he jerked his hand away he upset the glass and the teeth fell onto the floor and started chewing. When he got a light turned on the teeth had gnawed their way almost across a floor rug, and they zigzagged so rapidly that he couldn't catch them. He finally smashed them with a chair leg, but they had ruined the rug.

I MENTIONED THAT BUTLER never could get people to take him seriously. In that he resembled Dan McGillicuddy, one of two brothers who published a weekly paper at Kincardine, Ontario. Dan was a brilliant fellow and a great humorist. He was an entertaining speaker and he was in demand at sociables and other similar gatherings. As an entertainer he was a great success. But Dan had his serious moments, and he did not wish to spend his life merely amusing people. He tried serious speeches, but he couldn't make people believe they were serious. The moment he appeared on a platform they would grin, and his first sentence would bring a peal of laughter. He was known as a funny man, therefore whatever he said or did must be funny. Dan did succeed in getting himself elected to parliament, and I believe he made a good record, but I suspect that the voters who knew him thought that running for parliament was just another of his jokes and they voted for him to see what amusing things he would do next.

A CABLE RECEIVED FROM Elizabeth Burnham, former secretary of the Grand Forks Y. W. C. A., told of her arrival at Sydney, Australia on her way to the United States from Istanbul. A letter written on shipboard describes some of the conditions of the voyage, but there was permitted no mention of date, name or destination of the ship or anything which might be of service to an enemy. Following are excerpts from the letter:

"On this trip, I experienced three of the hottest days and nights I have ever known, yes even hotter than those days Doris Boss and I went through on the Persian Gulf last year. With port holes closed tight all night long we were literally bathed in perspiration even with the fan turned on us. Jessie Martin and I roamed the decks at times and watched for the grey dawn when we could open the port holes and perhaps get a little sleep. Since being in these hot countries I think the natives have the right idea about clothing. We all certainly cast most of it aside that first day and wore sandles and one or two garments and they were always drenched. One of our number said she was most humiliated to perspire in rivers as she did and require a continual mopping up, but we were all in the same boat. If perspiration cleanses the pores we are all cleaned up for years to come.

"HOWEVER, THE THREE DAYS ended and no one had anything worse than prickly heat, though we all looked wilted. Then the weather moderated and after a few more days passed we could see the Southern Cross. Now I have put away my light summer dresses, have pulled out the warmest things I have and think longingly of those warm wool dresses I left in Istanbul. However, I have my winter coat and sweaters so I can keep warm for the last stretch of this voyage. At the next port we hope to find spaces on an American ship soon and perhaps stop in Hawaii the anticipated port we missed on our way out last year.

"THE DAYS AND WEEKS OF WAITING for transportation in Egypt slipped by until I had spent six and one half weeks in the land of the Nile while my American friends were there almost six weeks. My time was divided between the Y. W. C. A. centers at Ismailia and Port Said on the Suez Canal and the Houseboat in Cairo. I was very glad for this opportunity to work with the uniformed women of the British Empire, to know them individually and to meet their officer friends. Most of them had been through Crete, Greece or some other difficult spot, but as a whole they were a cheerful lot and they said they didn't have time to think of any dangers they might be in. In July, there were about three thousand women in uniform in the Middle East; about 2,000 from England, 600 from Australia, 200 from New Zealand and 200 from South Africa. When the air raid alerts came they were staying to the Y. W. C. A. clubs they usually didn't bother to go down to the air raid shelters or even get up. I too calmly slept through several alerts though I was rudely awakened two nights by bombs falling a little too near to be exactly comfortable. There was quite a fire works display one night and most of us got up to watch it. I expect you knew more about some of these bombings than we did right there in the midst of it. No one was supposed to ask questions of those who really knew and if you did they might laughingly say, 'How do I know but you are a friend of Hitler's. By keeping your ears open you usually heard bits and could put them together to make quite a story which would be more or less true.

"IT WAS STRANGE HOW CALM everyone was, including myself, in the midst of all this. The British controlled newspapers told little of what was happening and of course there were reasons for all this. Even the day before I left Cairo when I actually had my rail road ticket in my hand I said only that I was going soon, as I too was impressed with the "Security" talks. However, I did not know the time of sailing nor the name of the boat until I read it for myself as our lighter took us out in the harbor to board it. What you don't know you can't tell. In spite of all precautions information does get to the enemy as Egypt is full of fifth columnists.

"I poured more cups of tea both in the morning and afternoon during those six and a half weeks than I have poured in all my life before. I registered "sisters" in, talked with them by the hour and in between times hemmed tray cloths, dresser scarfs, looked after the mosquito netting curtains, saw that the servants did their work well and other odd jobs. I had plenty of time for an afternoon siesta every day and took in all the sights, some of which I can't tell you about. The popular sports at Ismailia were swimming in the canal and sailing. I greatly enjoyed several sails on Lake Timsah, the Blue Lagoon and the Canal. Swimming I really enjoyed more at Port Said where I dressed in my own room, just walked across a green stretch of grass and a little sand for my daily dip in the blue Mediterranean. It was usually rather calm, but sometimes we had quite a battle with the waves and it was great sport jumping through or under them."

THAT KANSAS CITY STRIKE OF ELECTRICAL workers is described as an "outlaw" strike, that is, one not regularly authorized by the constituted authorities of the union. Officially, therefore, it is disavowed by the union directorate. That is something to be threshed out within the organization itself. The people of Kansas City are concerned with the strike itself and its effects rather than with technicalities relating to the manner in which it was called.

ARGUMENT OVER THE "REGULARITY" of strikes, and whether or not the industries affected by them are defense or non-defense industries begs the whole question of the right of the public to be protected from cessation of services essential to its life. The right of the people of Kansas City to be supplied with electricity for the lighting of their homes and their hospitals and for power with which to conduct their necessary activities is as sacred as the right of the nation itself to supply itself with guns, and tanks, and planes, and ships with which to defend itself from invasion and maintain intact the institutions of liberty and democracy.

NOWHERE IN THIS COUNTRY IS THERE any question as to the right of the workmen to quit his employment. Cheerfully he is conceded the right to join with his fellows for the purpose of negotiating with his employer. But no group or organization has the right to obstruct by violence, coercion or intimidation the employment of the man who wishes to work, nor can any such right be conferred. Legislation or administration which attempts to recognize that right of obstruction is in direct violation of one of the basic principles of the American constitution.

AS ONE OF A LARGE COMPANY, NUMBERING, I suppose, many millions, I have been perplexed by Hitler's attacks on American ships, and I can find no explanation of them that seems satisfactory. It seems scarcely reasonable to suppose that Hitler wishes to become involved in a shooting war with the United States just at the time when he has his hands full in Russia and when his long-intended invasion of Britain is indefinitely postponed. Yet he must have known that his continued attacks on American ships would bring him into direct conflict with the United States.

MEN WHO HAVE KNOWN HITLER AND those who surround him have said that while the Nazi group is remarkably efficient in organization, its members are completely dense in their estimate of the motives and the mentality of other peoples. It has been suggested that Hitler's sporadic attacks on American shipping were made in the belief that rather than engage in actual conflict the United States would keep its ships out of waters which the Germans had made dangerous and thus the stream of goods to Britain would cease or be diminished. Any expectation of that kind implies a mental density which is incredible, and that explanation is scarcely tenable.

THE AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION in Milwaukee declared itself positively and emphatically on the subject of "sending our boys abroad" if the nation should be engaged in war. Most of the delegates to that convention saw service abroad in the former war. They have no desire for war of any kind, anywhere. But if we must take part in a war they prefer that the fighting be done as far away from home as possible.

IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID THAT BEcause the Nazis have not been able to cross the narrow English channel the Atlantic ocean affords the United States ample protection from enemy invasion. It is quite true that no German army has been landed in Great Britain. But it is not true that Britain has been exempt from invasion. Survivors of bombing raids in every major city in the kingdom have reason to know that their country has been invaded, and to some purpose.

CERTAINLY THE CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC presents problems quite different from the problem of crossing the Channel. But bombers are now being flown across the Atlantic successfully, and no one in this country wishes to see American cities subjected to the pounding that has been given London, and Coventry and Manchester and Birmingham. The British made the mistake at the beginning of pinning their faith on defensive fighter planes. But not until they took the offensive and sent bombers into Germany itself were they able to hold their own in the conflict. A vigorous offensive is the best defense.

THE MOVEMENT FOR THE DISPOSAL and utilization of water has passed through some interesting phases and there have been many odd incidents in connection with the subject. One schoolboy who was asked to describe water wrote: "Water is what you get when you turn a faucet." Many years ago a young woman of my acquaintance living in Detroit, where she had been born, expressed wonder that people could actually live on farms. "Why," she said, "I understand they have to get their water out of the wells!" Like the schoolboy, she had always been accustomed to turning a faucet to get water, and that was the extent of her knowledge of the subject. People who had no faucets were as foreign to her as Fiji islanders and their way of living was as strange.

WHEN A WATERWORKS SYSTEM was first installed in Grand Forks the water was not metered. A flat rate of 75 cents a month was charged for a single kitchen faucet and the charges were graduated upward from that. Under those conditions probably more water was wasted than was used. Often water was left running on lawns day and night until the water ran in the gutters, and in cold houses the water was left running so that the pipes would not freeze.

WHEN METERS WERE INSTALLED one man protested vigorously against the iniquity of making a charge for water, one of God's free gifts to man. It was explained to him that if he wanted free water he could have it. He need only take his pail down to the river and help himself. The water was perfectly free. But if he wanted water delivered at his home, somebody had to pay money for the delivery. There were street mains to be laid, pumps to be provided, fuel to be purchased and money supplied for the wages of men engaged in performing the several necessary services. But even then the objector wasn't quite convinced. He felt that he was being wronged.

THE FIRST CONCERTED EFFORT to deal with the water problem in this section of the northwest tackled the subject from the drainage angle. The flood of 1882 had inundated low lands, and every year there was difficulty in getting onto many fields in the spring because of standing water. Belief was general that there was too much water, and that means must be found for getting rid of it. In the early nineties a big drainage convention was held in Grand Forks. There were hundreds of delegates, including dignitaries from North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. Ringing speeches were made and emphatic resolutions were adopted, and the convention adjourned. That was all.

THEN A FEW YEARS LATER WE had an irrigation convention, also in Grand Forks, with a similar number of delegates and dignitaries. The idea then was the irrigation of the whole Red river valley and the method proposed was exceedingly simple. The land immediately east and west of the valley is several hundred feet higher than the valley itself, and it was proposed to build great reservoirs on the higher ground and with water from those reservoirs to flood every farm in the level valley during periods of deficit rainfall. One of the speakers at that convention was James J. Hill, who told of the advantage of having moisture for the crops completely under control in this manner. It didn't occur to anyone to wonder where the water for all that irrigation was to come from in the first place. More speeches were made and more resolutions passed, and again that was all.

FOLLOWING THE RECORD FLOOD of 1897 there was developed the idea, under the guidance of Ledru Guthrie, a Grand Forks attorney, that the United States government was responsible for the damage done to the residents of the valley by the great flood. The argument was that the federal government had invited people to settle on these prairie lands, representing them as fertile and productive and the territory as suitable for the building of homes. Families had taken the government at its word and in good faith had filed on homesteads, built houses and begun the raising of crops, only to be flooded out. Therefore it was the duty of the government to make good the losses sustained by those who had been misled by the government's misrepresentations. A canvass was made and the estimated losses of hundreds of families were listed, the total amounting to several millions, and this sum the government was invited to pay. Guthrie prepared an elaborate and voluminous brief on the subject, but whether or not it ever got before congress I have forgotten. It is quite certain, however, that the government didn't pay the bill.

IN RECENT YEARS WATER CONSERVATION has taken on a different form. More and more have visionary and impractical elements been eliminated and there has come about a coordination of effort to bring to pass such effective utilization of water as nature has made possible, and a great deal that is worth while is actually being done.

ON HER ROUNDABOUT JOURNEY from Istanbul to the United States by way of Jerusalem, Cairo and the Indian ocean, Miss Elizabeth Burnham wrote from Sydney, Australia, describing some of her experiences. On her arrival in Sydney she was interviewed by local newspapers. Immediately following publication of the article relating to her she received a luncheon invitation from Lady Gowrie, wife of the governor general of Australia who is greatly interested in Y. W. C. A. work, and who wished to learn about conditions in Turkey and Egypt. The executive mansion, writes Miss Burnham, is beautifully situated on a point overlooking one of Sydney's many bays, and is set amid a profusion of spring flowers. One fireplace provided the only heat in the large living-room, and both hostess and guests kept their coats on. Like the English, most of the Australians seem to get along without central heat. Miss Burnham writes as follows of her stay in Egypt:

"MISS BEGG BROUGHT ME BACK TO Cairo for the official opening of the Y. W. C. A. house boat to which many important people of the army and the uniformed women came, as well as Egyptian officials and "sisters". All six of the Y. W. C. A. secretaries of the Middle East were present. The American flag which Miss Begg said was in my honor was flying with the British flag over the house-boat. Through the Red Cross, Miss Begg received from America a truck which will be used to transport women in uniform from the hospitals off in the desert to the Y. W. C. A. Centers, and six hundred woolen blankets which will be used in the Y. W. C. A. clubs this winter. Miss Begg and the others are most appreciative of American help. Some of the aviators told me how wonderful they thought the American Tomahawks were. There was general rejoicing when word came of supplies arriving from America. They needed this help perhaps more than you realized in America. I talked with many New Zealanders and Australians who had been to America and they all spoke of the wonderful hospitality of our country. I was amazed at the number who had been there and how well some of them knew our country. They feel a deep kinship with us and Americans are ace high with them. In general the English are more reserved in their admiration for us but they do appreciate our help now.

"I FOUND THE OLD BAZAARS OF Cairo most interesting and went back there enough times so that I could act as a guide. I paid more than I should have at first for little things but you learn by experience the value, which shops are better and just how far you can trust those wily merchants. If you buy as I did the first day when I went with a guide and six young officers, the guide gets a percentage on all you buy. Buying is a great game and you always come out with more than you intended to buy.

"THE MUSEUMS WERE ALL CLOSED and the treasures buried in tombs once again. I visited the Gize Pyramids and the Sphinx in the blazing afternoon sun and again by moonlight, much of the more enchanting time to see them. I had no desire to climb the pyramids but we did mount upward a little way on those huge stone blocks on that moonlight night. We had a drink at Mena House there in the shadow of the Pyramids, said to be the most expensive hotel in the world, but it does not look it . . . The huge statues of Ramses II and the alabaster Sphinx at Memphis, the tombs of King Ti and the Sacred Bulls at Sakhara were most interesting and impressive. They gave me an idea of the wonders at Luxor and Thebes, places too hot to visit at that time of year. The earliest sacred bull was placed in its granite sarcophagus 14,000 B. C. That makes the ordinary units of time in which we think seem as unimportant as the Egyptian of today considers them. I thoroughly enjoyed the camel back ride I had that day across the sand dunes even the double quick time my camel was urged into at my request. The only surprising part was getting under way. After you climb onto the kneeling camel the camel arises and you are thrown violently forward and then quickly backward as he gets on his feet. Then you are off with a rocking motion.

"THE CAMELS ARE AN EVER PRESENT and picturesque part of the Egyptian landscape. There is the lone desert patrol with a rider and all his trapping you run into every now and then. The processions of camels laden with produce of one kind or another go silently on their way more often than not led by a little donkey. When the burden is hay or straw, the camel is completely covered and you think a number of hay stacks have started moving across the landscape. The silent evening parade past the house-boat is perhaps the most unforgettable. On each, or every other camel, there is a torch or lighted fire in a basket hung on the side of the camel. These fires flare up at times orange against the blackness of the night giving you a clear outline of camel, burden and occasional rider. These fires are a most unique but much needed tail light as autos with dim head lights go spinning along this same road.

"LIVING ON THE 'LOTUS', THE Y. W. C. A. house-boat for quite a period, I became quite well acquainted with the river traffic, but never tired of watching it. The same families went by day after day pulling their oars and dragging their nets for fish, the woman rowing and usually the man with perhaps a child or two fast asleep in the bottom of the boat. When a breeze was blowing the large "feluccas" or snub-nosed cargo boats came majestically up the Nile with their tall sails twice the length of the boat, billowing in the wind. If there was no breeze, the men got out their heavy awkward looking oars and with a chanting song heaved and pulled together. Or sometimes they would pole the boat up stream and this was really quite a feat. The man's long night-gown-like garment would always get in his way as he leaned on the pole making his body almost parallel with the boat and walked forward on the precarious edge. Just as I expected him to trip over his gown he would grab it up and hold it with his teeth as he pushed while walking the whole length of the boat. He would then straighten up, drop his gown and walk back and repeat the whole performance.

"THE LENGTH OF THE NILE THAT I saw was a muddy yellow in color as are all the canals and certainly did not look inviting though you saw the "fellahins"— the peasant swimming in it, washing themselves and their clothes in it, taking it away in jars, yes and even drinking it. The so called Nile green color certainly does not come from the Nile that I saw but it might come from the strips of green vegetation that one sees along the edge of the Nile where ever the water is directed. Some times the desert comes right up to the Nile but again the desert is pushed back by means of canals and there is quite a wide belt of fertile soil. In many places I saw the yellow blossom of the cotton which is a symbol of

Egypt's greatest wealth today. Everywhere one sees and hears the creaking water wheel turned by a water buffalo, donkey or camel and the hand operated water lift by which water is brought to a higher level to flow through the canals."

ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, the New York Times observed its 90th anniversary. There was no celebration, but two columns on an inside page were devoted to description of some of the features of the first issue, especially the advertisements. Of the advertisers whose announcements appeared in that first issue of the Times, five are still regular customers of the paper. They are Harper & Bros., G. & C. Merriam, D. Appleton & Co., George P. Putnam and the New York Life Insurance Company. It is rather interesting to note that of the five concerns which have continued their advertising steadily through 90 years, four are publishing houses and the fifth a life insurance company.

LAST WEEK'S DISPLAY OF NORTHERN lights was preceded by disturbances attributed to sunspots. The sunspots disrupted communications by day and the disturbance was continued by the northern lights at night. The Brooklyn ball team was playing Pittsburgh and as the score stood at 0 to 0 and all Brooklyn was holding its breath, the radio went out of commission and everything became silent. Fifteen minutes later, when communication was resumed, Pittsburgh had piled up four runs, and Brooklyn was sure there had been skulduggery somewhere.

A NEW YORK CAFE OWNER WAS arrested for permitting drinking in his bar after closing hours. A detective reported that he had found the proprietor, his wife, a waiter, a bartender and the bartender's wife having a drink together 25 minutes after closing time. The magistrate dismissed the charge, saying that he believed the law was intended to control contact between the owner or his employes and the general public, but not to prevent the owner and his employes from having a drink together after the day's work was done.

IF YOU HAVE ON HAND STOCK certificates, bonds or other securities which were acquired in boom days and which you have since considered worthless, cheer up; they are worth real money. During the waste-paper drive in New York one man sold certificates of \$75,000 face value for 25 cents per hundred pounds. Even those old German marks may have some value.

AT THE BEGINNING OF A MURDER trial in New York five days were spent in examining prospective jurors with the result that one man of the twelve necessary was tentatively chosen. Even he may not be permitted to serve, as he is still subject to challenge. In the British courts it is seldom that the selection of a jury takes more than an hour, and it appears that the rights of all persons concerned are as fully protected under the British system as under ours. The practice usually followed in the selection of jurors in this country places a premium on lack of intelligence.

IN THAT PICTURE OF HITLER AND Mussolini in the Monday evening Herald one of the men is out of step. Which is it?

JOE LOUIS TELLS GRANTLAND Rice that it isn't the training or fighting that makes the life of a champion pugilist tough. It's the signing of autographs. Joe can trot 15 miles a day or exchange blows with another 200-pounder for an hour and scarcely notice it, but signing autographs for two hours at a time just wears him down. He agrees with Rice that there should be a law agin it.

ONE MIGHT IMAGINE THAT WHILE Joe is a young man of meager education, and in his earlier years unfamiliar with the pen, the practice that he has had in signing his name so many thousands of times would have given him a certain facility in the art, so that while the exercise would necessarily be boresome, it would not be otherwise trying. Moreover, the training that he has had for his many battles must have given his muscles suppleness as well as strength, imparting just about the kind of freedom of movement that is required in good penmanship. But it appears that training for athletics generally appears to be a handicap rather than a help toward easy penmanship. The athlete's movements are large and sweeping, and the movements of the penman's hand appear to be in a quite different class.

THERE ARE STILL A FEW PERSONS living in Grand Forks who remember C. P. Walker, now of Winnipeg, who observed his 88th birthday at his home there on Tuesday. At the Walker theatre, built by him, and which he operated for many years, the audience assembled for a concert responded heartily to a call for applause in honor of Mr. Walker, who was prevented from attending by inclement weather.

THE NAME OF C. P. Walker is intimately associated with the history of the theatre in the northwest. In the very early days Mr. Walker and a brother were associated with J. P. Hardy in a commercial printing business in Fargo under the firm name of Walker Brothers and Hardy. But C. P. or "Con" Walker was more interested in the theatre than in job printing, and, leaving the printing side of the business largely to his partners, he promoted several small theatrical enterprises and gradually enlarged his interests in that field.

GRAND FORKS HAD IN THE METROPOLITAN the finest theatre in the northwest. Built in 1890 it was visited by the great figures in dramatic art of that period, and for some 40 weeks each year it was open several times each week. But financial difficulties embarrassed the management, the mortgage given to finance construction was foreclosed, and the building became the property of the eastern mortgagees. Walker leased the building from the new owners and operated it as a lessee for several years until he purchased it outright for a mere fraction of its original cost. Later he sold it, and after several transfers of ownership the building was transformed into the present Uptown Bowling alleys.

DURING HIS TENANCY AND OWNERSHIP of the Metropolitan Mr. Walker also operated theatres in Fargo and Winnipeg, and about 35 years ago he built the Walker theatre in Winnipeg, a \$600,000 structure, which has also become dark because of changes in conditions surrounding the theatre. Until those changes came about Mr. Walker operated a circuit which extended far into the western Canadian provinces, and he sponsored several stock companies which played the circuit. For many years he has made his home in Winnipeg, where he lives in quiet retirement.

J. P. HARDY, ONE OF THE PARTNERS in the Walker printing business, was for some years secretary of the Fargo Commercial club and later he served as postmaster of Fargo. Of English birth, he returned to his native land to spend his later years with a sister to whom he was deeply attached. Hardy was a brilliant chap, keen-witted, and an excellent public speaker. At times he stammered badly, an affliction which he never overcame, but which never seemed to cause him the slightest embarrassment. Tangled up in the pronunciation of some familiar word, he would relieve the embarrassment of his audience by cracking a joke about it. I recall that while making one speech he said "I am s-s-s-satisfied—one s, please," and then continued as if that were quite the regular thing.

NOW THAT THE TOADS HAVE practically disappeared, we have something else to worry about—angleworms. What makes them behave the way they do? During the night they crawl under the garage door and in the morning the garage floor is littered with the slimy things. Why do they do it? How do they know there is a garage there? What do they think they are going to find? Or do they think at all? There is no food in the place, and nothing that one would suppose attractive to a worm, yet in they come. Why do scores of them get the same notion all at once? Have they some telepathic means of communicating with each other and of deciding that now is the time to make for somebody's garage? It's all very puzzling.

THE PRESENCE AND BEHAVIOR of these angleworms reminds me that they are comparatively recent arrivals. Many years ago I have hunted angleworms on the prairie with which to go fishing, but not even the most promising places would yield a single worm. Like the potato bug the angleworm follows settlement. But how do angleworms get into eavestroughs? Tell me that.

THE SUN HAS CROSSED THE equator on its journey south; nights in the northern hemisphere have become longer than the days; frost has shriveled some tender foliage and blighted some of our beautiful flowers; and birds are gathering in flocks preparatory to taking their departure for winter quarters. If the next few weeks follow the pattern of the years we may expect them to have many balmy, beautiful days, but there is no escaping the fact that winter is approaching. The flocking of birds in the fall is always an interesting sight, and of one example of it Mrs. J. B. Johnson of Maza, N. D., writes:

"HORDES OF BLACKBIRDS, LIKE A great dark cloud settled over trees, shrubbery, and fences over an area equivalent to several blacks. There were literally thousands of birds. With the aid of field glasses we could distinguish their markings clearly, and they weren't the familiar black or redwinged black birds; a good half of them were marked gayly about head, throat, shoulders and upper tail coverts with bright, clear, orange-yellow. The marking was indefinite—different birds had varying amounts of color. The remainder of the birds was all-black. They remained settled for about a half hour, when they took flight in a mass,

"THE TREES SEEMED TO BE leaved with black and yellow leaflets. Their calls, the typical whistle and trill of the blackbirds, blended together like the buzzing of millions of bees.

Although we know masses of birds during migratory seasons are not uncommon, the species was unfamiliar to us and were eager to learn more about them. Perhaps other readers would be able to tell us.

"CONCERNING THE TOADS' HABIT of burrowing under the soil in damp places, may I suggest that the little fellow who absorbs moisture through his warty skin, does this to assuage his "thirst" and prevent undue discomfort? On damp days, or at night, he gladly conies out to forage for food.

UNDOUBTEDLY THE BIRDS WHICH attracted Mrs. Johnson's attention were the yellow-headed blackbirds, similar in form and habit to the red-winged, and differing from them chiefly in color. In his book on birds Professor Roberts, of the University of Minnesota, writes as follows:

"THE YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-bird is pre-eminently a native of the Great Plains. Wherever it breeds it congregates in colonies, and these assemblages are often of vast proportions. It is very loyal to its home-sire, returning year after year even though the surroundings may undergo great and uncongenial changes, and deserting it only with the drying up of the marsh. The yellow-head is very closely restricted to its special nesting haunts. Since members of each colony go in the spring directly to their particular rendezvous and wander but a little way into the surrounding country until after the completion of the breeding period, they are easily overlooked if their nesting sloughs are not numerous or their homes are not actually invaded."

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BLACK-bird family are voracious eaters. Distributed in families through the summer their consumption of grain is scarcely noticed, but when they assemble in large flocks toward fall they will clean up quite large areas of late grain.

IN A PERIOD OF INFLATION BUSINESS booms and paper profits are piled up. But, as the tendency always is to get a little more, there are few who turn their paper profits into cash. When deflation sets in, as it is sure to do, the small minority of shrewd and farsighted are better off than they were, while the great majority find themselves, not only with their apparent profits gone, but with new obligations which they are unable to meet, and often their entire capital is swept away. That has been the history of every period of inflation, and there is no prospect that history will reverse itself.

SOME MEASURE OF INFLATION is inseparable from such the defense program. As the defense program the defense program. As the defence program could not have been avoided and cannot now be abandoned, short of inviting the destruction of the nation itself, we must reconcile ourselves to inflation in some degree. And if there is any doubt that some degree of inflation is already here, we have only to scan the tables of current prices in order to convince ourselves. With scarcely any exceptions prices have advanced. Today's dollar has less purchasing power than yesterday's dollar had, and unless the present trend is checked, tomorrow's dollar will have still less value. Inflation is an incentive to extravagance and a menace to thrift.

ONE WAY TO IMPOSE A CHECK ON INFLATION is to increase taxation, so that a larger proportion of increased government spending will be paid out of current income rather than from borrowing. That is being provided for in the tax bill just passed by congress. Individual incomes will be taxed that have not been taxed before, and all incomes, great and small, will be taxed more heavily than formerly. That is sound policy.

IN ADDITION TO INCREASED TAXATION of individual incomes, heavier taxes will be imposed on corporate earnings. Secretary Morgenthau proposes that corporate profits be limited to 6 per cent on invested capital, all in excess to be taxed at 100 per cent. Such a provision is at least of doubtful wisdom. In the business of corporations the difference in ratio of invested capital to indebtedness, operating costs and other factors is so great that it seems impossible to fix arbitrarily any single maximum profit to apply equally to all without leaving some practically unrestricted and imposing unjust hardship on others.

SCARCELY ANY ATTENTION IS BEING given to the checking of inflation by curtailment of government spending for purposes other than that of defense. In a time of great emergency, when every available dollar is needed for the defense program, the federal government is continuing practically unabated its expenditure on ambitious projects the cost of which runs into billions, some of which are only wasteful, while others, meritorious in themselves, might be deferred without injury to the public. Such expenditure is one of the factors contributing to inflation.

MOST OF US REMEMBER THE MANNER IN which inflationary sentiment reacted on the stock market a dozen years ago and of the disaster in which many were involved in consequence. Then there was a craze for the purchase of stocks, for prices were advancing and there were tempting prospects of quick profits. It has been freely charged that stock speculation was urged and promoted by brokerage and other financial concerns in order that they might grow fat on commissions. That there were concerns that advised their clients to engage in unsound speculation is undeniable, but the charge that all the brokerage concerns were engaged in that practice, like most blanket charges, is untrue.

DURING THOSE YEARS OF FEVERISH speculation many of the sound financial concerns pointed out to their customers that prices could not continue to rise indefinitely, that the top must be reached sometime, and that when it was reached there was sure to be reaction. With those elementary facts in mind, prospective investors were urged to be cautious in making commitments for the future and were told flatly that many of the stock prices then current were not justified by the actual condition of the companies represented, but were altogether and dangerously speculative.

THE SPECULATIVE FEVER WHICH REACHED its climax in 1929 was not due to brokerage propaganda, although that played its part. Primarily it was due to the speculative tendency which is active or dormant in most individuals, and in the desire to get rich quick sound advice went unheeded and discretion was thrown to the winds.

SEPTEMBER FROSTS HAVE DIMMED the brilliance of the flower gardens, and instead of all the glorious colors of the rainbow we shall see withered blossoms and browned foliage as the gardens go to sleep for the winter. Here and there hardy blossoms, or those which have had special protection, will survive, but the glory has departed. That is the natural course wherever the locality is subject to seasonal variations. Tropical gardens are different, but who wants to garden where there is no change from one year's end to the next? Away down east, also, they are getting ready for winter, and a writer in the New York Times offers these remarks on fall and other gardening:

"MAKERS OF GARDENS SEEM TO share the indomitable spirit of their plants, for large numbers of them are beheld nowadays, in overalls and old shoes, pushing the wheelbarrow, bending to the spade, as if it were April, not September. What's the calendar to them?

"One thinks of the annual horticultural fever as a phenomenon of Spring only, an effect, perhaps, of the International Flower Show of March. One supposed that garden fans had worked it off, hung up their hoes and locked the tool-house a good three months ago. At least, one would expect that the grim news of frost in the next county north would take the heart out of them.

"But no. Although a long, cold half-year lies ahead, a dreary time in which no amount of toil can coax a garden flower to bloom, still they are out there, gardening away, with mud on their knees, a calm, happy light in their eyes and music in their souls.

"NOT ALL, GARDENERS ARE PRESENT in this Autumn scene. There are, a Fall garden fan informs us, three kinds of gardenmakers. There is, first, the Spring gardener; he waits till May to start. By August he may have produced a show of a sort, but he runs a poor second to the season and seldom catches up.

"Then there is the fair-weather gardener, who is usually a Spring starter also. He is a trifler, fickle, and has no staying power; his zeal cools as the mercury rises. In August he deserts his garden, leaving it to sink or swim. Returning, around Labor day, he finds it so thoroughly sunk that he takes no further interest in it.

"LAST, THERE IS THE FALL, OR all-out, gardener. He stands by the garden when it most needs a friend, and that time, it would seem, is now, in September and on through October. Not next Spring but now is when it wants its riotous weeds policed, its unruly perennials shoved around, its beds revitaminized, its tender plants made snug for Winter, and its enemies arrested in their hideouts and put to the torch.

"The Fall gardener, our informant admits, is the one true gardener.

"IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO TRAVEL to Suburbia to observe the Fall gardener. Here in the stony city he may be seen after business hours, hanging around stores and shops that display strange wares at their doors: homely roots with gaunt stalks attached; onion-like growths of various hues and sizes, and tubers that aren't potatoes. Many an evening he misses the Lawnville Express just for the sake of acquiring a parcel of these uncouth vegetables.

"NEXT WEEK-END, WEATHER PERMITTING, he will insert them in the back yard, burying them carefully, as if they were priceless treasure—which, indeed, they are. They will entice Spring to his garden many weeks before she deigns to set foot on the premises of the improvident Spring planter next door.

"While the Spring planter is lolling in his easy chair listening to the broadcast of a baseball game that will be forgotten tomorrow, the Fall gardener takes the radio into the garden with him, and there, down on his knees between the sun dial and the bird bath, he delves in the cold ground, restocking the bulb bed, giving the garden what it craves, long after the last man is out in the last half of the ninth.

"THE FALL GARDENERS HAVE A rich reward for their faithfulness, andj they don't have to wait for it. So, at any rate, they say. Already, if you believe them, they feast their eyes on banks of golden daffodils, although these won't bloom before next Easter. They see regiments of gorgeous tulips also, and smiling blue muscari, together with Roman hyacinths no end and April squils and crocuses galore.

"And besides all that, and all the while, the garden is still doing its Autumn handsomest for them. They are a lucky people, the Fall gardeners."