

the first Pan-American Highway Congress, which is to meet in Buenos Aires next year. This will be an official governmental gathering. Among the topics which will be discussed at the Buenos Aires conference then will be the influence of improved highways on social welfare; the question of constructing a Pan-American highway which will unite the capitals of all the countries on the continent; international licenses for automobiles and other vehicles; the means of establishing between the countries of the Pan-American Union a permanent interchange of statistical information and of legislative enactments; also questions of a financial and technical character, including sources of revenue for highway construction; co-operation of the public in the construction of highways; and education of the public with respect to the importance of highways.

Another good idea is that of essay contests by high school children as to the value and importance of good roads. It is probable that in several of the South American countries the near future will see the establishment of these contests, now in their fifth year here. It is estimated that in this year's contest in the United States, the essays for which are now being judged, there were at least 150,000 school-children who participated. The four-year college scholarships awarded as the National prize to the winner have given great incentive to these contests. In addition there are State and local prizes, which in many instances are well worth while.

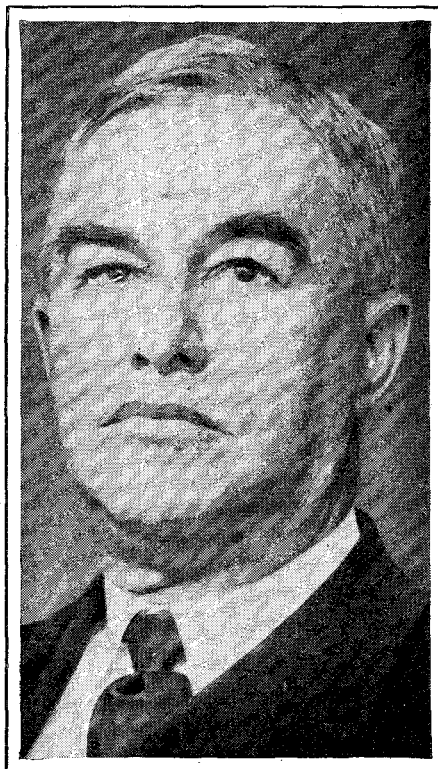
The best thing of all which the Pan-American road experts are taking back with them from the United States is a feeling of kindness towards the people of the United States.

When Roosevelt Prevented a War

At the Williamstown Institute of Politics, now in session, Dr. Tyler Dennett, an authority on Far Eastern affairs, said, as reported, that President Roosevelt was perhaps the first American statesman clearly to perceive the Far Eastern question as largely a phase of European politics, and that the weight of his influence, in a warning to France and Germany in 1905, quite possibly prevented a European conflict of world magnitude, more particularly, at the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War. Mr. Roosevelt, impressed with the possibility that Germany or France, or

both, might support Russia as against Japan, gave warning that, in this event, he would take whatever steps seemed necessary. The danger from Germany was perhaps greater than was at that time realized, as she had, it was believed, urged Russia into a war with Japan. The effect of the Roosevelt warning, according to Dr. Dennett, placed the United States as almost an unsigned member of the second Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

We would add that the following year President Roosevelt rendered a similar



P. & A. Photos

Rear-Admiral W. L. Rodgers, who spoke at the Williamstown Institute of Politics of war as inevitable with increased population

service. The Moroccan difficulty between France and Germany had assumed menacing proportions, and had war broken out other nations would doubtless have been involved. Largely due to Mr. Roosevelt's initiative, an international conference was called to meet at Algeiras, Spain. Mr. Henry White (who has been Ambassador to France and Italy and was one of our representatives at the Paris Peace Conference) was the official American delegate at Algeiras and contributed vitally towards a successful outcome. By it Europe, possibly the world, was saved an otherwise inevitable armed conflict.

Keeping the Palace in Peace

ANOTHER address at Williamstown has aroused considerable discussion and violent dissent. It was really not a

speech, but extemporaneous remarks in a discussion on the limitation of armaments. One sentence in particular has been the object of attack:

I do not suppose that the United States will ever desire to make war against any country before our continental population passes 200,000,000, but after that, if there remains any manhood in our mixed race of descendants, we will surely go to war to keep our place in the world.

These words were attributed by the daily press to Admiral William L. Rodgers, retired, of the United States Navy. Taken by themselves they seem to utter the old thought of every man who has dreamed of world domination for a particular nation or people. They seem to point to a time which might be called the American version of what in Germany was called "*der Tag*." They should not be interpreted, however, apart from their context.

We do not believe that Admiral Rodgers has any thought that the United States will some day imitate Germany. He was taking part in a discussion over a proposed treaty for disarmament which is to be brought before the Assembly of the League of Nations next month. According to that plan, a nation might be convicted by other nations of aggression and outlawed by being deprived of the protection of all international law. Admiral Rodgers's purpose was to point out the dangers which lurked in such a provision. He called his hearers' attention to the fact that other nations, envious of America, were more likely than we to make war, and less likely than we "in good faith to accept limitations upon their armaments." And he added, "We must be sure that such nations are not likely to take up arms against us merely to divide our wealth." Such a provision as was under discussion, Admiral Rodgers thought, might be safe if all the world had the same abhorrence of war that the American supporters of this draft treaty have. And he reminded his hearers of the saying of Jesus, "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace." To trust our destiny to other nations which might later convict us of aggression in case they had aggressive designs against us is to be too trustful.

Such, it seems to us, was the argument of Admiral Rodgers. It may not be convincing to those who think that

all nations are inherently peace-loving; but it does not sound to us exactly like an echo of William Hohenzollern.

When to Build Your House

CUSTOM, not weather, is mainly responsible for seasonal idleness in the construction industries. Nearly anywhere in the United States building operations could be continued practically throughout the year. Habits acquired in the far past, when the science of building had not triumphed over frost and flood, are still followed, with the result that large numbers of building-trades workers are out of employment during nearly half the year and the trades are not fully employed for more than three months. As a result, the overhead expense of contractors is increased and home builders pay more for their houses than is necessary.

That, in brief, is the conclusion of the Committee on Seasonal Operations in the Building Industries, appointed in 1921 as a result of President Harding's Unemployment Conference, which recently made its final report to the United States Department of Commerce.

The remedy, the Committee believes, lies with the public. Contractors, it is said, are already aware of the evils of unnecessary seasonal unemployment, and are doing what they can to abate them. But the contractors cannot do a great deal, it is said, so long as those for whom houses are to be constructed use no forethought in planning for the time of beginning operations. Practically any owner, the Committee believes, can find out how to schedule his building or repairs to take advantage of the time when competent workers will be available and when the contractor will not have to resort to the employment of slow and unskilled men for work that requires speed and dexterity.

The Committee makes a number of recommendations. The substance of them is this: You may start building your house any month in the year without much danger of weather interference. Most owners actually do begin in April. The man who avoids the rush and begins his building operations in September or thereabouts can have a better house for less money. These statements are, of course, qualified. It is said that each community must determine for itself the particular time at which the largest number of workers in the various building trades are unemployed, and it is suggested that community organi-

zations promote surveys for this purpose.

The big fact is that building operations can be carried on at any time of the year. The supporting and qualifying facts are contained in a very brief report, a copy of which may be bought for five cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Those who are interested in preventing the general depression due to seasonal unemployment as well as those who would like to save money in building or repairs might spare a nickel for such a purchase.

Mr. Davis Begins His Campaign

WHEN John W. Davis was nominated by the Democratic Convention, little was known, as we said at the time, of his specific views on debatable questions. He was indeed nominated because his views were not known, and therefore had not involved him in the factional war within the party. For that reason his speech of acceptance was awaited with some special interest and curiosity.

Published just as we are going to press, this speech makes it clear that Mr. Davis intends to base his campaign on criticism of the Republican Party rather than upon a distinctive, constructive programme. As the leader of his party, he has naturally sought for an issue on which the factions within his party can unite, and he has evidently decided that that issue is to be found in the weaknesses of his opponents. That part of his speech, therefore, in which he brings accusations against the Republican Party is the strongest part and the most specific. He outlines his charges as follows:

A Senator of the United States convicted of corrupt practice in the purchase of his Senatorial seat; a Secretary of the Interior, in return for bribes, granting away the Naval Oil Reserves so necessary to the security of the country; a Secretary of the Navy ignorant of the spoliation, in progress, if not indifferent to it; an Attorney-General admitting bribe-takers to the Department of Justice, making them his boon companions, and utilizing the agencies of the law for purposes of private and political vengeance; a Chief of the Veterans' Bureau stealing and helping others to steal the millions in money and supplies provided for the relief of those

defenders of the Nation most entitled to the Nation's gratitude and care.

Though not all of these accusations are proved by evidence acceptable in court, and though in one case at least (that of Senator Newberry) the accusation when brought before the highest tribunal, the United States Supreme Court, was not upheld, Mr. Davis has struck the Republican Party at the most vulnerable point. It is true that he does not fasten any guilt upon the present Administration, and can connect it with the past only by stating that it failed to take the initiative in disclosing the evils. We do not believe that when he speaks of "aid and assistance from the Executive branch . . . to suppress testimony, to discourage witnesses," etc., he was trying to bring any accusation against President Coolidge himself by innuendo, though his statement may have the effect that he was trying to do so. Only less vulnerable is the next point at which he makes his attack—the disorganization within the Republican Party itself, and the consequent failure of the President to secure adequate support from the members of his own party in Congress.

Mr. Davis, of course, fails to mention the fact that the Democratic Party avoided the worst scandals in the war only by adopting a cost-plus system which was as abhorrent a system as could well be devised, for it avoided illegal corruption only by legitimatizing extortion. Of course, also, Mr. Davis avoids reference to the disorganization and division within his own party.

In his criticism of the Republican Party for its foreign policy Mr. Davis is less successful than in his attacks on its misdeeds and failures at home. Apparently he regards words as more important than deeds. At least he objects not so much to what the Government under a Republican Administration has done abroad as to the fact that it has done it by means of men who are called "unofficial observers." Concerning the Washington Conference all he says of it in criticism is that it is "of more than doubtful value," and of the Dawes Plan, which has brought Europe for the first time since the war to the door of hope, that Secretary Hughes's statement—that if America had presented it as a Governmental matter we should have been involved in a hopeless debate—was "an amazing confession of . . . impotence." Mr. Davis apparently thinks that it is better to be present in Europe with official representatives, even if we do