It is more than eighty years since the battle of Bull Run which has been described as "the best planned and worst fought" battle of the Civil War. This initial struggle of the Civil War was fought just a short distance from Washington and could have become a major disaster. The Union Army of 43,000 men under McDowell and Patterson engaged a Confederate Army of 33,000 under Johnson and Buregard on an eight mile front along that shallow creek which history knows as Bull Run. In reality, about 13,000 Union troops and 11,000 Confederate troops actively participated in the battle. Considering the number of men actually engaged, the losses in dead, wounded and missing on both sides were enormous. The battle was a complete victory for the Confederates and had they pressed their advantage, the nation's Capitol might have been captured. But it was a hollow victory. It's immediate effect was to make the South over-confident while in the North, people were stirred to greater effort for ultimate victory. Eighty years later came Pearl Harbor. It too points the way to unity of effort and to victory.

"IT'S A LOT OF BIRD SEED"

The title is a rather common slang expression and thereby hangs an interesting story. Once we saw a beautiful poster issued by a seed company. It displayed a goat frolicing on the lawn and carried this caption, "Don't gamble with seeds. You get only once chance". Most everyone has at sometime or other had the distressing experience of filling his lungs with spring air, getting down the garden tools and preparing to produce toothsome and tasty vegetables. Preparation of the seed bed by spading the earth and letting the sunshine penetrate the soil brought hard callouses on the hands and a twinging ache to the back. With care and devotion the seed was sown. Laboriously, water was carried to provide moisture for sprouting. One took a peek for the arrival of some delicate green tendril sticking its head through the soil to announce that a seed had sprouted. In due time there came a few thin scattered sprouts like the fading hair on a bald head to indicate that much of the seed was bad. Then followed char grin and disappointment and after a few such experiences, one lost his faith in seed. It is one commodity which is bought on faiths. The Federal Government has been aware of this situation and has in the last few years come into the picture as a seed policeman to eliminate from the market, adulterated, misbranded and worthless seed. In the fiscal year 1941 the seed inspection service in the Department of Agriculture examined more than thirty-six million pounds of farm seed and one and one-half million pounds of vegetable seed imported from other countries. About one million pounds were rejected until re-cleaned, and nearly 375,000 pounds were denied admission into this country altogether. The records will show that from one foreign country came a large quantity of farm seeds which later proved to be nothing more than bird seed. If you contemplate tilling the sweet and expectant earth with the first advance of spring, you at least have the assurance that a reasonable effort is made by the Government to see that the seed which you hopefully place in the earth will sprout.
LAY-OFF WAGE PROGRAM

The conversion of the automobile industry into a giant defense establishment will mean the dis-employment of thousands of workers who heretofore have found work in building motorcars. Many of these workers will be unable to find jobs elsewhere. What provision shall be made to take care of them since their jobs were destroyed by action of the government? The President has submitted to Congress a training program for the duration of the war under which employment compensation will be paid to these workers.

As the matter now stands, unemployed workers who have worked for a certain time in each quarter of the year are entitled to compensation which roughly amounts to one half of their earnings for a period of 14 to 20 weeks. The new proposal seeks to pay such unemployed workers 60% of their wages for a period of not to exceed 26 weeks and not to exceed $24 per week. The amount over and above that which the unemployed person would normally receive under existing state laws would be paid out of a special fund to be appropriated by the Congress. For this purpose, an initial appropriation of $300,000,000 has been requested. The proposal would also cover salesmen in the industry if they have been paying taxes into the Old Age Fund as provided by the Social Security Act. These benefits however are conditioned on two requirements. The first is that the person who has been dis-employed because of war and defense demands must accept training for a war industry or he must accept a job if one is offered by the U.S. Employment Service. This whole proposal has stirred up controversy because of the belief that it is the opening wedge for the complete Federalization of the present program of unemployment compensation.

AIDE THE TWO PANTS SUIT.

Much of the wool consumed in this country is imported. War has restricted imports. Uniforms for soldiers has expanded consumption. Conservation of wool supplies thus becomes essential if civilian requirements are to be met. A few days ago, the textile industry submitted suggestions to the War Production Board whereby an estimated 25% saving in cloth might result. If these suggestions should be adopted the two-pants suit would be no more and double-breasted suits would come without vests. The patch pockets, cuffs and pleats on trousers would be eliminated. Belted suits would have to go and coats would be shortened by at least an inch. It was also suggested that the knee width of trousers would be limited to 22 inches and the bottom width to 18½ inches. That might prove hard on a fat man. Certain it is that the war will bring about a simplification and streamlining of men's suits. If the effect can only be preserved after the war, it will meet with wide approval.