WOODMAN SPARE THAT TREE. In round figures, the State of Illinois contains about 36,000,000 acres of land. A hundred years ago, 40% of this acreage was in timber. That would be substantially 14,000,000 acres. Today we have about 2 1/3 million acres of forests. That means that we liked to recite the old ditty about "woodman spare that tree" and let it go at that. Perhaps there was no adequate appreciation that trees help to fix and conserve soil moisture, stop rapid run-off of rainfall, help balance climate, help prevent floods, stop soil erosion. We appreciate it now since the nation has become soil-erosion-conscious. So we live and learn. But it costs money to learn in the school of bitter experience and we all help to pay the bill. Today, we are giving the United States Forest Service a restoration of the forests that were so ruthlessly destroyed. Since 1930, a move has been afoot to initiate Federal ownership and management of some forest areas in Illinois. Two units have been marked out. The Illinois Forest in Jackson, Union, Alexander and Pulaski counties contains about 317,000 acres. Perhaps $2,000 of this acreage will not be purchased because of price. 70,000 acres have been approved for purchase at an average price of $6.50 per acre. The Shawnee Forest in Hardin, Pope, Cassaco and Johnson counties will contain about 400,000 acres. To date 82,354 acres in this area have been purchased at an average price of $6.45 per acre. To round out the program an additional 194,400 acres must be purchased in the Illinois area and 338,532 acres in the Shawnee area.

OFF THE RECORD. When Committees of the Congress hold hearings on various legislative measures, persons from near and far and in all walks of life who may be interested in such legislation come to testify and indicate their reasons for favoring or opposing such measures. Farmers and lawyers, stockraisers and preachers, business men and club women, cabinet members and heads of government bureaus come before the committees. It is an endless procession. Everything said at a hearing is taken down by an expert shorthand reporter. He types his shorthand notes, binds them into a folder and then become the "record" of the hearings. Sometimes these hearings are printed. Sometimes they are not. Sometimes they are not. It depends on the importance of the bill that is being considered. Particularly in the case of persons who hold responsible administrative positions with the government such as bureau heads and cabinet officers, questions are often asked which might embarrass them if the answers were made public and so they are privileged to answer "off the record." Which means that the remarks are not taken down, nor are they repeated. This "off the record" business is a great business. It is surprising how freely some of our high officials talk "off the record." If the "off the record" remarks could be printed, you can be sure they would be extremely interesting reading for the public.

GRUB POISON FOR CASH. Some silly but wait until we tell you the story. Fly time and mosquito time are almost here. Soon we shall be squirting pungent powder or aromatic liquid from bellows boxes or nifty little blow guns at those buzzing flies, those pesky little red ants, slithering roaches, or zooming mosquitoes. Most of the insecticides with fancy names are made from a substance called pyrethrum. It is a powder which is derived from a flower known as Pyrethrum Cinerariaeffolium. Not only does it enter into the manufacture of poisons for flies and mosquitoes but also poisone to kill garden pests, pin worms in poultry and for other purposes. It paralyzes the nerve centers in insects but is harmless to man and animals. Oddly enough, we do not produce pyrethrum flowers in this country. We import about 12 million pounds every year. About 90% of these imports come from Japan and the rest from Yugo-Slavia. For nearly ten years, research work has been carried on to determine whether they can be produced in the United States and it seems that they can. It is a plant which will grow in most of the states of the union, It is not harmful to bees or livestock. One planting will last for five or more years under proper culture and yields a rather tidy return per acre. The whole plant can be harvested much like wheat and baled or the flowers can be harvested with a sickle. The stems seem to be adaptable for hay. Considering that mankind is plagued with about 4,000,000 different kinds of insects, we may have to grow more pyrethrum or some to be knocked out of those warning insect hosts.

HOW ABOUT ANOTHER INTEROCEANIC CANAL. A generation ago when the Panama Canal was opened, it was hailed as one of the great engineering feats of all time. There was a general impression that it was big enough to last forever. Then began a vigorous use of the canal and soon we found that it did not have unlimited capacity. In fact, engineers and experts in estimating future tonnage load that would seek use of the Panama Canal would exceed the existing facilities of the Canal. This might be remedied in one or two ways. An additional set of locks could be installed into a sea level canal at a cost of $1 billion. There were even suggestions about a second interoceanic canal. In 1929, the President appointed an interoceanic Canal Board to study the matter and report. This Board of five men, made a report in 1931. It considered and explored 19 different routes for another canal and then made a report on a canal to run across the Central American country of Nicaragua. Strangely enough the Nicaragua route was recommended in 1901 and was then discarded for the present Panama Canal route. The proposed Nicaragua Canal would start at Brito Harbor on the Pacific Ocean, then thru Nicaragua and Lake Nicaragua and then on to Greytown Harbor on the
Caribbean Sea. The total route would be 173 miles long, about 38 miles of which would be through the deepwater section of Lake Nicaragua. Estimated cost as of that time was about 722 million dollars.

TOO MUCH FISH. Nature plays strange tricks. These tricks are costly. Incidentally, gentle reader, they are costly to you because her tricks must be ameliorated out of the Federal Treasury in the form of dollars. Here's the rest of the story.

Off the Atlantic Coast are hundreds of thousands of fishermen. Brave hardy souls are they who go down to the sea in ships to fish and make a livelihood. In winter, the coastal fishing waters such as the Grand Banks are frozen over and they do no fishing. They mend nets, and prepare for the spring and summer season. This year, Nature became suddenly bountiful and sent a mild winter. Hence the fishermen could ply their trade all winter. Fish were caught, put into storage and frozen. Finally the supply became so large that the price went to ruinous levels so what were they to do? But Nature played a double trick. Out in the Ohio River Valley, she spilled out vast quantities of water, destroyed homes and factories, sent many people to relief. Being on relief, a considerable part of the market for fish was destroyed right in the Lenten season when the market is best. This was more grief for the fishermen on the Atlantic Coast. So they came and asked Congress to appropriate a million dollars with which to buy surplus frozen fish now in storage to be distributed to folks on relief, thus killing two birds with one stone. Accordingly, Congress heeded their pleas. Thus, because Nature was too mild in one region and too severe in another, the public Treasury must be resorted to temper this distress. It does appear paradoxical however that with too much fish in storage, that our imports of fish for the fiscal year were about 90 million pounds greater than two years ago.

PICK UPS. A soil erosion expert, testifying before one of the Committees of Congress stated that it requires Nature from 400 to 1000 years to produce one inch of top soil..... Just across the street from the one and only statue of William Jennings Bryan in the National Capital is a large brewery..... The Japanese beetle, a very destructive oriental insect that was accidentally introduced into this country a few years ago has carried its destructive work as far west as Ohio..... Dutch Elm disease, imported on shipments of elm logs a number of years ago has destroyed 20,000 fine elm shade trees in eastern states and has become so great a menace that a half million dollars may be appropriated to check its spread..... In the United States consular offices in foreign countries, we employ for the generous sum of $720 per year ($60 per month) native clerks who are for the most part graduates of several colleges, speak many languages, type in many languages, and handle a vast variety of matters such as finding lost relatives of American citizens, collecting bills, writing reports on business conditions and similar work.....