EAGER YOUNG SOLDIERS. We saw many of them during the late war. They were so eager to be a part of the great struggle that many of them had to fib a little about their age to get into Uncle Sam's Army. If that fact was discovered during service, they were discharged because of fraud or misrepresentation. The trouble was that those discharges were of the dishonorable variety. That appeared to be an unduly heavy penalty as a reward for wanting to fight for one's country, particularly so when it is remembered that that discharge is filed in the War Department and will be there for generations to come. Some humane person thought of all this, introduced a bill which was passed by Congress and signed by the President, giving these eager young soldiers an honorable discharge. It will make a difference in years to come if there should be a pension.

DESTINY HANGS ON TRIFLES. Some call it Persia and some call it Iran. The Persians forever like to have their country referred to as Iran. This column will humor them to that extent. Iran has a diplomatic representative in this country. He is accredited as a Minister. His name is Ghaffar Djalal. We dismiss all ability to pronounce it. One night, last summer, Mr. Djalal was driving thro' Milton, Maryland with his wife, Acacia, and somehow stopped him for violating the speed law. An argument ensued. The policeman took Mr. Djalal to the lock-up. After a short time he was released. His feelings were wounded, his pride outraged, his immunity as a diplomatic representative violated. At least so he said. He filed a complaint with the State Department. Two policemen were discharged as a result of the incident. The State Department formally expressed regrets to the Shah of Iran. But the newspapers saw it as a juicy incident, elaborated on it. Somebody must have sent the Shah some clippings. He didn't like the American brand of journalistic humor and complained. The State Department politely stated it had no authority over the press. The Shah began to pout. A few days ago he partially broke diplomatic relations with the U. S., by calling Mr. Ghaffar Djalal home. Apparently humor has no place in diplomacy. Maybe it should have.

TWO CENT FARES. Jules Loew, theatre magnate, once looked at one of his half empty theatres for which tickets were selling for $.2 per person. decided he could fill it at 10, 20 and 30¢, reduced prices and made himself millions. Daniel Willard, President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, pondering on empty trains, decided it cost as much to operate a full train as one that is half empty of passengers, and has decided to drop $60 fares to 2¢ per mile on June 1st, 1936. Their investigations indicate that of the passenger business lost by railroads, 8% went to airplanes, 7% to busses, and 90% to private motorcars. President Willard figures that 2¢ per mile is about equal to cost of gas and oil to the average motorist and puts railroads in line to retrieve some of this passenger business.

LABELS. The Federal Register as you know is a publication issued daily by the National Archives of the Government and by law, all administrative orders, executive orders and decrees etc. must be published therein before they have the effect of law. The issue of Friday, April 3, 1936 contains the regulations issued by the Treasury Department relating to the labelling and advertising of distilled spirits. Two or three items from these regulations will be of interest to the midwest. The following Government-approved sample forms are set forth among others; to indicate what the label must contain: "Distilled Dry Gin - 90 proof - 1 pint - 100% cane products neutral spirits." (That means gin which has been distilled entirely from blackstrap molasses). The label need only say "cane products." (2) "Spirit Whiskey - 80 proof - 1 pint - The whiskey in this product is four months old; 10% whiskey and 90% cane products neutral spirits. Contains bonding oil." That label would indicate that the bottle contains a small percent of whiskey and mostly neutral spirit made from molasses. This should be an indication to farmers as to what will happen to the outlet for corn in the distilled spirits industry when cheaper molasses whiskey begins to flow.

A FEW CENTS FOR PEACE. The State Department is that department of Government which handles relations with foreign nations, diplomatic matters, passports, treaties and kindred matters and for practical purposes is the only arm of government which promotes peace. The annual 1937 appropriation for this Department was just approved by the House. It calls for a little over 1½ millions of dollars. This department collects a trifle over 3½ millions annually in fees so that it's net expenditures for the next fiscal year will be about $2½ millions. This amounts to 2½/100 of 1 per cent of the total Federal Budget for the next fiscal year. Compare that with over 900 millions for armaments and defense.

INTERNATIONAL PUNES. In British Columbia, Canada has a smelter plant which gives off noxious fumes, smoke and odors. These fumes, smoke, and odors will not behave. They persist in blowing across the Canadian line and into the state of Washington. The Washingtonians have repeatedly complained and asked for damages to their property.
trees, foliage, and shrubs. What to do, since it is a question of international rights? An arbitration Commission has been appointed to dispose of the matter. Congress appropriated 380,000 for it's expense.

FINGER PRINT CONSCIOUS. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, better known as the "G-Men" will have 35,025,000 to spend for the fiscal year beginning June 30, 1936. A review of their work before the House Committee discloses that the G-Men now have 5,700,000 fingerprints on file and are receiving 4000 prints daily from 9300 scattered contributors. Last year, 50% of all prints received were found to correspond with prints already on file of some individual with a criminal record. This print system has identified 4403 criminals who are now fugitives from justice. Among the millions of cards in the fingerprint files, it takes but 8 minutes to locate any set of prints. The Bureau now exchanges thousands of prints with the crime laboratories in other nations. A Civil Identification Section is also maintained, containing fingerprint of a 100,000 persons, many of whom are prominent in business, industry, political or social life. Missing persons and those who are5 years of memory have been identified by this means. Isn't it singular that of the hundreds of millions of persons on this earth, nature gave each one a distinctive set of fingerprint markings, unlike that of any other person.

UNCLE SAM NEVER FORGETS. Back in Prohibition days, folks continued to raise a thirst, To slake that thirst was a profitable business. It came to be known as bootlegging. Making or selling bootleg beverages was illegal. The Government appropriated millions to enforce prohibition and catch the violators. Thousands were caught. Some were fined. Some were sentenced to prison. That seemed to be the end of it. But, not so. Congress has set up and appropriated $200,000 for a bureau known as the Taxes and Penalties Unit of the Treasury. It's job is to review 50,000 old cases of prohibition violations where there may be a possibility of collecting liquor taxes that were never paid on illegal liquor. Last year, this unit collected nearly a half million dollars. This year, it expects to do better. Many of these cases will be musty and yellow with age before Uncle Sam gets to them but he never forgets.

MISCELLANY. Departmental reports submitted to Congress are interesting things. They reveal what an amazing and far-flung Government we have. From them we learn that Uncle Sam's fur-seal herd on the Pribilof Islands has increased from 123,600 in 1911 to 1,500,000 seals in 1935 and that 57,000 seal skins were taken last year. In the Patent Office, 31,290 applications are pending before the Commissioner and at times, the patent examiners have been 18 months behind with their work. Our Shipping Board has what might be called a "laid-up" fleet of unused vessels in dry-dock. More than a half million dollars are expended to grease the machinery and maintain these vessels but no examination of the hull below the water line has been made for 10 or 12 years. More people are taking out citizenship papers. For the last six months of 1934, 59,518 petitions for citizenship were filed. For the last six months of 1935, it jumped to 67,655. Voluntary departures and deportations of aliens last year totalled 18,411. In 1910, we had 2075 persons confined in all Federal prisons, including reformatories and prison camps. By June 30, 1935, the number had risen to 13,708. Our prison population is of the shifting variety. They come and go. For the year ending June 30, 1935, 11,000 new prisoners were committed. Of these, 4618 were liquor law violators, 1384 counterfeiters, 26 homicides, 830 postal law violators, 1823 narcotic law violators, the rest for other reasons.

COMMEMORATIVE COINS. In the last two years, there has been a veritable flood of bills in Congress authorizing the coinage of 50 cent pieces to commemorate the anniversary of some historic event. In years gone by, special coins were struck off to mark some incident of national significance but today wholly local events appear of sufficient importance to warrant the striking off of specially designed, shining half dollars. Recent bills authorize these coins to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of Albany, N. Y., the incorporation of Bridgeport, Conn., the 50th anniversary of Cincinnati as a music center, the centennial of Cleveland, Ohio, the founding of the first settlement on Long Island, the 250th anniversary of Rochelle, N. Y., the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's statehood, the 300th anniversary of the landing of Swedes in Delaware, and for a host of other incidents. Soon, there may be new half dollars to mark the discovery of a new variety of cheese, or the invention of a new lollypop.