FIRST BATTLE OF THE REVOLUTION. In connection with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Constitution in 1837, patriots of Massachusetts suggested to Congressman Sol Bloom, Director of the celebration that suitable ceremonies be held at Concord, Mass., to observe the first battle of the Revolution. Mr. Bloom earnestly suggested some doubt as to whether the first battle was fought at Concord. As once, a hue and cry arose over the question of the first battle. Localities claiming to be the first battle ground began to deluge the Director with letters and telegrams and a merry controversy is in progress. Latest claimant for the honor of being the very first battle ground of the Revolution is Point Pleasant West Virginia. Point Pleasant not only claims this distinction but attempts to prove it from dozens of historians and offers the names of 1222 persons who fought in that battle. It purported to be a struggle between the Colonists and federated Indian tribes who were allied with the British and under the leadership of Chief Cornstalk.

HEROES OF PEACE. Peace has its heroes no less than war. They are the heroes who pass on in the performance of their duties as employees of the government. Their sacrifices are brought to light by a recent measure reported in the Congress authorizing the establishment of a Memorial in the new Labor Building to commemorate their services. Typical of those unsung heroes are Earl A. Roberts, border patrol inspector, shot and killed March 24, 1929 by a liquor smuggler at Algoma Michigan; Robert W. Kelsey, senior patrol inspector, shot and killed June 25, 1930 by Mexican liquor smugglers at Laredo Texas; Lawrence C. Jones, immigrant inspector, shot and killed at Sarnia, Ontario August 24, 1930 by train robber; while inspecting train en route to the United States border. They are the sacrifices in the cause of law enforcement.

U.S.S. OLYMPIA. She is a second class cruiser with a displacement of 5900 tons and was built in 1888 in San Francisco. She became Admiral Dewey's flag-ship during the Spanish American War and was commanded by Captain G. V. Gridley. She led the attack at Manila Bay in 1898 and on her decks, Admiral Dewey gave the celebrated command "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley." "Then the World War began, the Olympia was in drydock but was put in condition and became the flagship of the U.S. patrol forces. Since then she has cruised the seven seas, she landed troops in Russia, she quelled disturbances in the Orient, and she was designated to return to this country, the body of the "unknown soldier" who now sleeps in Arlington. Fourteen years ago, she was placed out of commission and from time to time, efforts have been made to send her to the junk pile but each time, a loyal group, attached to the Olympia because of the memories and traditions which attach to her, have intervened to save her from destruction. Their efforts have been successful for Congress has authorized that she be brought to Washington, to be permanently established at some suitable spot as a memorial to the men and women who served in the War with Spain. Thousands of school children will in years to come, have the privilege of walking on the decks that were once graced by Admiral Dewey.

ANDREW FISURSTECH. He is 82 and today lies in a local hospital stricken by a combination of maladies that may prove fatal. An artist of national note once said he had the most expressive face in all America. For a reason! In that face is written the sorrows of defeat, the gladness of triumph, the bitterness of failure. He has two homes, one, a dim-lit room in San Francisco, the other a humble room in the nation's capital. For almost half a century, his has been a familiar face on Capital hill. As President of the International Seaman's Union with a membership of 100,000, he has fought a lifetime for the betterment of conditions for men of the sea. He is cultured and loves music. Spartacus, the Roman gladiator is his favorite character. He lived as Spartacus lived and when he passes there will stand to his memory, the La Follette Seaman's Act and the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act. He did more than any other mortal to encompass the enactment of this legislation for labor. He stood side by side with Gompers in 1894 to defeat a socialist plank in the American Federation of Labor platform. For 50 years he has never missed a labor convention. Today, as a senan and longshoreman are struggling for recognition, he gives counsel from his cot in the shadow of the capital. It may be his last flight. When he goes, one of the finest men the author has ever known will pass. Truly a man.

WITNESSES. Coming to testify before the scores of standing committees of the House and Senate have been all manner of Witnesses. There have been noted divines like Rabbi Wise, Father Coughlin, Bishop Chase. Statisticians like Irving Fisher.
Professors like Kemmerer, Spahr and others, Bankers like Morgan and Loomis. Big business men, noted lawyers, farm experts, money experts, foreign trade experts. All have contributed testimony on various pending measures. But the witnesses who drew the biggest house was none other than the Heart Thriller Extraordinary and Crooner Plenipotentiary Rudy Vallee when he came before the Patents Committee of the House to testify against the Duffy Bill dealing with copyrights. All hearings on legislative measures with the exception of executive sessions are open to public and hence the fair familiarity of Washington was able to come into the committee room and see the glumorous crooner in the role of a witness without benefit of saxophone or orchestra.

EXHAUSTIBLE FISHERIES. In the course of hearings on a bill to provide for the construction and operation of a vessel for use in research work with respect to our fisheries and fish life on the Pacific Coast, some interesting data was presented to indicate that contrary to common belief, even our supply of deep water fish is not inexhaustible. It was developed that the salmon fisheries which in 1932, produced 6 million cases of salmon are menaced with depletion and extinction over a period of years. The jacking of pilchards on the Pacific Coast has reached a point where further expansion points to ultimate destruction of the industry. Valuable tuna fish of the Almaceo variety have virtually disappeared while the production of the blue-fin tuna fish has declined from 15 million pounds in 1919 to 1 million in 1932. Yields of tuna fish have been maintained only by extending fishing operations as far south as the equator and as far west as the Hawaiian Islands and also by catching and packing the less desirable species. All this but proves that fish life like forests, coal, petroleum and other resources are exhaustible and that only by proper conservation measures can it be protected for the generations to come.

UNIVERSITY OF THE UNITED STATES. In the language of the old gentlemen on first hearing a giraffe described, "there ain't no such animal." Yet, as early as 1788, there was a suggestion for a National University. Year in and year out the proposal has been discussed and advocated. Literature and pamphlets on the subject have been distributed and advocated. The very first amendment offered to this bill was in the nature of a substitute, 8 pages long, setting up on entirely new coordinate banking system of agriculture. Probably not more than 80 members of the House had an opportunity to read it. Then the bill languished for 12 months before sufficient signatures were obtained to get it to the floor for consideration. It was debated pro and con for six hours. Then began the reading of the bill, section by section for amendment. At the end of each section, any member can arise, secure recognition offer an amendment for the approval or disapproval of the house. The chamber is a noisy place. More often than not, amendments, when read by the clerk can scarcely be heard. Debate on the amendment follows. Speeches are limited to five minutes. Quite often, such speeches have neither beginning nor end. Too often, the purport of the amendments and their relation to the whole purpose of the bill is not understood. Thus do amendments creep in which completely distort the original intent of the measure.

The very first amendment offered to this bill was in the nature of a substitute, 8 pages long, setting up an entirely new coordinate banking system of agriculture. Probably not more than 50 members of the House had an opportunity to read it, let alone study it. This was overlooked. Then followed an amendment to include city as well as country property. This was rejected. Then 17 other amendments were offered and adopted. One in particular provided that where land on which a proposed 12% mortgage had been made was subsequently conveyed by the owner to any person other than to wife, husband, child, parent or by inheritances, the mortgage would become immediately due and payable. On the face of it, such an amendment sounds plausible enough. In reality, lands covered by a mortgage with such a provision would lose much of it's salability and would thereby lower the marketability of the bonds issued against such mortgages. Sponsors of the bill readily accepted this amendment. Little realizing in the confusion, what it might do. Difficult as it is, the rules of the House must somehow be changed, requiring that amendments cannot be considered unless they are offered in advance of the time when the bill is being considered and must be printed so that members can give them proper study.