In the very official downtown section of the nation's capital, there was a strange droning in the atmosphere. Capitolians inclined their ears. Yep! It was the unmistakable sound of wings in the skies. Perhaps the enemy invaders were here. Perhaps it was the beginning of a blitzkrieg. Perhaps those terrible Stuka dive bombers were descending on the capital. But there were no dugouts or cellars in which to take refuge. In any event, perhaps a further investigation should be made. Eyes ranged the skies. There was no sign of Stukas. Yet the droning persisted. Could it be that the blitzkrieg was still in the clouds and not perceptible to the naked eye? But somehow this droning seemed to come closer. There they are shouted someone. And so they were. They were Nature's own Stukas -- a swarm of bees, swarming in 15th Street in the very shadow of the Federal Treasury. Suddenly the swarm began to collect out of the air and became a vast living deposit of insects crawling over each other as bees will do. And where did these little Stukas suddenly come to rest? You couldn't guess in a thousand years. We'll tell you. They swarmed into the very folds of an American flag in front of the Treasury Department. The bees had been called to the colors.

SOME UNHAPPY AND EXPENSIVE FACTS FROM THE LAST WAR.

We spent One Billion dollars on aviation in 1917-1918 but not a single American fighting plane reached the front. We spent 116,000,000 on gas for our Chemical warfare units, yet General Pershing used gas purchased from our allies. We built 3 plants to produce picric acid and 7 plants to produce phenol used in the production of picric acid but none of these produced anything that was used in the war. We built 6 nitrate and powder plants in West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Maryland and Ohio, costing 3276,000,000 and none of them produced a single pound of powder or nitrates used in the war. We expected to use 86,000 horses in the World War and ordered 50,000 sets of double harness, 110,000 sets of single harness, 945,000 saddles, 2,800,000 halters, 1,500,000 horse brushes, 2,000,000 feed bags, 1,000,000 horse covers and 195,000 copper branding irons. (Apparently somebody thought that these items were eaten rather than worn by horses.) Orders were placed for 20,000,000 handgrenades but they were too complicated and General Pershing procured grenades from the British Army. If we were to comment on this, it would only be to say that the American people will want no more of such stupidity as we prepare the nation for whatever may arise.

TRY THIS ON YOUR PIANO.

Forget the war for a moment and give thought to this simple little problem and promise not to give up until you've read to the end of the sentence. "As a possible solution of this problem, the transcendental angle (gudermanian) was drawn (Gauss-Argand diagram) with a constant unit radius times the gudermanian of the angle. The ad-
vantages of this figure is that it retains the quadrants, passed thru zero continuously from plus 1 to minus 1 and indicates the rotation so well exemplified by the earth." Well, what's this all about you ask and what does it have to do with legislation? We freely admit that we don't know but it's part of some mathematical wizardry which has been compounded by a gentleman out in Wyoming by the name of Miff Butler and is supposed to be very important. Miff sent it to Congressman Horton of Wyoming and so it appears in the Congressional Record for June 5th, 1940, on page 11585. Maybe it contains the solution of something or other.

BRIEF CATALOGUE OF STRIKES IN 1939.

A statistical picture is now available on labor disputes in the calendar year 1939 and shows that for the entire year, there were 2613 strikes, involving 1,171,000 workers who were idle 17,812,000 man days. About 36% of these strikes lasted one week or less, 22½% lasted less than 2 weeks, 17.4% lasted less than a month, 14.4% lasted less than 2 months and 9.6% lasted over two months. The largest strike, involving 330,000 persons was in the coal industry. Only 6 Sit-down strikes were reported during the year. The textile industry leads in number of strikes and accounted for 20% of all strikes in 1939. Twelve percent of all strikes occurred in the building and construction industry. One-fourth of all strikes in 1939 took place in New York. Largest number of workers involved and largest amount of resulting idleness from strikes was found in Pennsylvania. New York City alone accounted for 597 strikes during the year.

SUPERANNUATION.

That's just a fancy word for over-age and it brings to mind that when the generals in our army and the admirals in our Navy reach age 64, we send them into retirement. For some reason or other, there exists a belief that they have outlived their usefulness in the defense establishment of the country and must make way for younger men. Yet how singular it is, that after they are retired, private industry recognizes their usefulness and capacity and hires them. In fact, even Government appreciates their ripened abilities and calls them to service in other lines. In Government, we might point to General Hines of the Veterans Administration, Admiral Land and Admiral Wiley of the U.S. Maritime Commission. In the business world one might point to General Wood, of Sears Roebuck and General Harboard, Chairman of the Board of Radio Corporation of America. There is growing doubt that our high officers are superannuated at 64.
War conversation brings up recollections of other wars and particularly the first World War. That in turn brings up the personalities who were associated with government in that day. Among them was Bryan who left Wilson's cabinet after a dispute over national policies. Two statues commemorate Bryan's service to the nation. One stands in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. It is a gift from the State of Nebraska. The other stands near the Potomac, just off of Constitution Avenue. The ironic thing about the location of this memorial is that it stands within a stone's throw of the only brewery in Washington. That brewery was established by Mr. Christian Heurich who came from the old country as a youngster and began this business. Christian Heurich is 95 years of age. This week marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of that brewery. When it was founded, Washington had snaky, dirt streets. A creek known as Tiber Creek crossed lower Pennsylvania Avenue and usually flooded sections of the city in the rainy season. Unbelievable as it seems, Tiber Creek and the old Chesapeake & Ohio Canal joined at a point just below the stately Capitol building. The city seemed so ill fitted as the site of the nation's capital that a serious effort got under way to move to the Capitol to St. Louis. It was proposed to spend millions on a new capitol in the Missouri metropolis. The movement was finally killed. It was probably the only serious effort to remove the capital to a mid-western state. It is interesting to speculate how the course of our national history might have been changed had this effort succeeded.