FREDERICK STILL PAYS. Frederick Maryland, one-time home of Chief Justice Roger Taney, of Francis Scott Key, author of the Star Spangled Banner, and of the celebrated Barbara Frietchie, lies about 50 miles east of Washington. On July 9, 1864 the Confederate General Jubal A. Early threatened to sack and shell the city (then 8000 population) unless it paid a ransom of $200,000. The city officials protested but finally paid the demand by borrowing from the banks with a promise to reimburse the banks. The city has been paying ever since. Thus far it has paid $331,000 in interest alone and it will be 1951 before the debt is discharged. Repeated efforts have been made to have Congress reimburse the city for these payments but for one reason or another Congress has refused.

EIGHTY ONE YEARS AGO. The civilian personnel of the Navy consisted of a Secretary, 42 clerks and 7 messengers. Today it consists of 288,000. In 1861, the Army personnel consisted of a Secretary, 92 clerks, 10 messengers and 5 watchmen. Today it exceeds 1,100,000. Those figures are exclusive of military and naval personnel. So have we grown.

UNGILTIED GOLD. The glitter has been removed from the gold. It is doomed less important in the war effort than Copper, Silver and other metals. Only 6% of the gold mined is used in industry. Thus came the order from the War Production Board to close the gold mines and utilize the miners in more important work. The order came unheralded and left 3000 miners and their families suddenly out of work. There is no glitter in that cold fact.

RED WARRIORS. Grandsons and greatgrandsons of red warriors who massacred the forces of General Custer on the Little Big Horn many years ago are now joining the forces of Freedom to demonstrate their prowess against the Axis enemies. The Sioux Indians in the Dakotas have an enviable record for both enlistments and inductions. Of our entire Indian population, 2400 have enlisted and 416 have been induced. This is about 7% of the whole Indian population of the nation. Our red warriors are back on the warpath.

EXIT INTERVIEWS. Homesickness is a common malady in Washington among those employed by government. The impact of haste and hurry, crowded quarters, high living costs and the problem of readjustment from a small to a large city culminates in homesickness and brings requests for transfers to some point closer home or finally results in resigna-
tion from government service. To meet this problem, the larger agen-
cies of government have created a department of "exit interviews." Some patient and kindly person tries to ascertain the cause that lies behind the request of a person to resign or be transferred and often results in a readjustment which makes service more congenial.

RUBBER PLANTS. Five products of Dame Nature are now the special concern of government scientists and technicians because they produce rubber. The first is Kok-sagyz, better known as the Russian dandelion. In addition, there are Rabbitbrush, Goldenrod, Guayule, and Cryptostegia. Experiments with guayule are now under way on an extensive scale in the southwest states.

HARD FIBERS. Hard fibers like those extracted from hemp are essential to the manufacture of cordage and rope. War has seriously affected the supply because much of this fiber was imported from the Pacific islands. What to do? The answer is to produce our own fibers. A project is already under way for the production of 300,000 acres of hemp in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky in areas suited to its culture. This will require about 70 hemp mills employing from 6000 to 8000 persons.

TAX COLLECTORS. The new Revenue Act of 1942 which is in process of completion by Congress means more taxes. More taxes mean more tax collectors, investigators and clerical aid. The Bureau of Internal Revenue reported that the new tax law would require an additional 5428 persons in the collection unit, 102 in the intelligence unit and 5 in the administrative unit, making a total of 5553.