More than 2100 years ago, the first month in the calendar was called January. The name derives from Janus, the ancient Roman god, who presided over doors and openings and was regarded as the doorkeeper or "janitor" of Heaven. He had two faces. One with which to look back at the fleeting Old Year as the door to the New Year opened and one to look into the New Year. On January 1, 1943, we the people who are the janitors of earth can look back to 1942, assess our mistakes and shortcomings and find inspiration for work and courage. We can look into the New Year, conscious that our country, our world will be the kind of country and world that we want it to be and go forward with new resolve.

Hey, Soldier! What do you think of this?

"Headquarters, Fort Riley Kansas. General Order No. 2. First, Members of this Command will, when shooting at buffaloes on the parade ground, be careful not to fire in the direction of the Commanding Officers Quarters. Second, the troop officer having the best trained remount this year will be awarded one barrel of rye whiskey. Third, student officers will discontinue the practice of roping buffaloes. Fourth, attention of all officers is called to paragraph 107, Army Regulations in which it provides under uniform regulations that all officers will wear beards. (Signed) J.B. Beauregard, Colonel, Calvary, U.S.S. Commanding." Hey, wait a minute. We forgot to tell you that the date of that order was October 25, 1862.

Planes versus Trains

Super-optimists insist that Congress will be confronted with the task of careful regulation of the air transport industry after the war on the ground that the plane will gradually supereode the train as a means of transporting freight and express as well as passengers. Let's look at planes compared with trains for transporting freight. A 50 car freight train with 30 loaded and 20 empty cars (that's average) going from Chicago to San Francisco and return will carry 780 tons each way or a total of 1560 tons of freight. Fuel cost for the trip will be about $3,400, labor cost $5,000, and total operating cost for the round trip about $50,000. To transport the same load by air, 57 planes carrying 2½ tons per load would have to make 11 round trips. This would mean 2,500,000 flying miles, 1½ million gallons of gas costing $200,000, require 400 pilots costing $200,000 and require a total operating cost of $1,750,000 or 35 times more than the cost of moving the same amount of freight by railroad. What's the conclusion? Just as the plane has its place, so rail transportation will always have its proper place.

Deferral of Farm Workers

Whether a farm worker will be deferred from the draft depends on the kind and amount of farm produce which he raises. It has been worked out on a point-system as a guide for draft boards. In general a farm worker should have a score of 16 points or more under this system to secure deferment and even then, final decision rests with the local draft boards. But here is how the point-system works. An acre of corn equals 1/5 of a point. A milk cow equals 1 point. A hog equals 1/20 of a point. One hundred hens equal 1 1/3 points. Feedlot cattle equals 1/20 of a point. One acre of fruit trees equals a point. Thus, a farm worker who tends 45 acres of corn, 30 acres of pasture, 25 acres of oats, 30 acres of wheat, 15 acres of timber, 5 milk cows, 12 hogs and 100 hens would have a score of 19.75 points. No credit is given for such crops as popcorn, hops, watermelons, garlic, and artichokes, eggplant, cucumbers, horseradish etc., because they are not considered to be essential war crops. It's a very point-od business.