is Democracy's First Line of Defense.

Thursday, June 28, 1945

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Land Mines, Many thousands of land mines of all Shells and Bombs kinds were left here. The forces when they retreated from France. Helgium and Holland. In addition, there are thousands of unexploded shells in the soil and other thousands of unexploded herey and other thousands of unexploded heavy nearly hombs mined overticus, they constituted here thousands of unexploded heavy nearly hombs mined to excitous, they constituted here. The French estimate that 100,000,000 land mines were laid by the Germans in liberated France and that more than 300,000 acres of agricultural land are unsafes. Accidents are reported daily in France and Belgium and the work of demining the soil is set dangerous that officials estimate that as many as thirty thousand workers may be killed in the process.

process.

The French and Belgium press suggest that the Allied High Command assign German war prisoners to work in de-mining groups. The Belgians, particularly, point out that when the Germans occupied their country in 1940, they forced civilians to remove mines and other obstacles left by the defeated Anglo-French armies. They think it is now the turn of the Germans.

"What's "whether a thing is tough or not depends on what's in In Front" front of you," declares General Courtney H. Hodges, Compander of the U. S. First Army, now in the Pacific.

This stangest designed for the Court of the Pacific This stangest designed for the Pacific This stangest design

the United States on his way to the campaign in the Paefic?

This statement should be borne in mind in connection with the reports of American losses in ousting the Japanese from various included by the control of the statistics, but the price of victory depends "on what's in front of you."

Obviously, in appraising losses, this important factor's hould not be overlooked. It has been a tendency in the United States, when the control of t

Why Government
Costs Money

The government, through the Defense Plant Corpora-

Why Government Costs Money

Costs Money

tion, is to huy \$20,000,000 worth of troop sleepers and kitchen cars for use in moving soldiers to the Pacific area.

The fact that the cars will be needed for a temporary use explains the fact that the government is having them built for its account. Obviously, the railroad companies would not be justified in an expenditure of this kind, considering the limited opportunity to make profitable use of the equipment. Eventually, however, the government will be through with its use of the rolling stock. What will become of it? The answer is that it will be sold as surplus war goods and the chances are that the railroads will buy the cars at a bargain price.

The process explains why it is difficult, if not impossible, for the government to make a profit on its transactions, either in times of war or peace:

V-2 Bombs on all the facts have For Japan German V-2 hombs, which are pronounced by experts to be a devastating weapon, both materially and psychologically. When the Allies captured a big underground factory in Germany practically inthet, something like 100 vompleted V-2 were sent to the Uniquel State-for study by experts.

The fact that the V-1 design was adopted by this country, with a few minor improvements and went into mass production for use against Japan indicates that the same course is contemplated with the V-2.

Volney D. Hurd, correspondent of The Christian Science Monitors, says that British defense, which stopped two-thirds of the V-1s from getting into England, will not avail against the V-2 which goes straight with the testing the strategylet is in the case down transported to the trategylet in the transport of the transport of the trategylet is in the case down transported to the trategylet in the transport of t

The end of the fighting in Steel

The end of the fighting in Steel

Europe brings additional Pipe Lines revelations of Ingenious methods adapted in order to mount the invasion of Normandy.

One of the greatest problems of the invading army was the possession of adequate supplies of gasoline and old. It was solved by twenty pipe, lines, laid under the English Channel, from Britsian to France, which street hast August have pumped 120,000,000 gallons of dog under the Channel.

Three-inch steel pipes were wound on the problem of the pipes were wound on the pipes were wound on the pipes were wounded to the steel pipes. The understaing was handled by the British. The United States Army had a similar project bur abandoned it in order that all energies be concentrated on the British plan.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

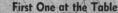
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## Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO

"The wife of a Big. Beaver man found her son, Willy, surrounded by a mob of boys. The following mob of boys. The following boys. The following the following

pants."
"Detroit is pretty thoroughly peppered with smallpox owing to the alleged incompetency of its late Health Officer Dr. McLeod, who has been bounced—too late, thought to prevent the spread of this decaded disease. Some talk is heart of Detroit being subratilise.

Helto, Judgel'
'Hello, Carrill'
'Hello, Carrill'
'Hello, Carrill'
'Hello, Carrill'
'En first live in thirty-seven years
lyrother. C. R. from Denver, resently. The Judge was in his awast
habir, straightehing out the usual
chabir, straightehing out the usual
chabir, straightehing out the usual
chabir, straightehing out the usual
room a familiar figure.

Upon the discovery of his broth
er, there was no falling on one
traditional produgal fashbor, but
true to the dignity that befits a
judge there was the brief 'Hello,
Carrill', and "Hello, Judge' from
across the space of nearfy forty
'Birmingham was soulve a little

5 YEARS AGO

## Bits of Birmingham

Continued from Page 1, Part 2



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