Bulletin Editorial Comment

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SURTY-FIRST YEAR.

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Threat Is Great

Many of us have been saying that it's going to be easy to whip Japan. We've been saying that "little" Japan is no serious threat in the Pacific and that we'll polish that nation off in short order. We forget that altho Japan is small, she is mighty. We forget also that the Japanese empire is made up of thousands of small islands making it extremely difficult to launch an effective attack against the empire. Until we are able to stage an offensive on land, the battle must be at sea. Japan's strength on the sea is not to be underesti-

We quote some figures on the lineup of sea power in the Pacific given in the Dec. 12 issue of the United States News. "Exact figures on the number of warships in the United States and British far eastern forces are closely guarded military secrets," the article says, but the information given was based upon available data, including authoritative estimates of the size of the Japanese fleet in service

Up to the start of the war on the Pacific estimates showed that the United States, Great Britain and the Netherlands East Indies had mobilized approximately 345 major warships in the Pacific, against a Japanese total of 274-not too safe a ratio for the democracies. Total tonnage for the democracies was 1,501,000 and for Japan 1,131,000.

A breakdown according to types of ships is as follows: Battleships: Japan 11, United States 14, Britain 2, Netcherlands East Indies, none. Airplane carries: Japan 9, United States 5, Britain 2, Netherlands East Indies none. Cruisers: Japan 49, United States 30, Britain 27, Netherlands East Indies 4. Destroyers: Japan 130, United States 104, Britain 47, Netherlands East Indies 12. Submarines: Japan 75, United States 65, Britain 15, Netherlands East Indies 18. Those of Great Britain include the forces of Australia and New Zealand.

These figures are self-explanatory. The combined forces of the democracies add up to just 71 more warships and 370,000 more tonnage. The figures indicate that Japan probably can be defeated in the Pacific, but the victory will not be easy against this "little" foe.

Educators Need Public's Support, Appreciation

"The present world crisis has made it imperative that in our country the schools shall rededicate themselves to effective citizenship training. We must create a real tolerance toward those who differ from us in race, wealth, occupation or belief. We must study the weaknesses of our government and economic system, as well as their merits, and we must point the way to needed corrctions. It is of the utmost importance that the public realize the difficulties faced by the teachers of this country as we attempt to shoulder these heavy responsibilities. Hundreds of thousands of us are underpaid, employed without contracts, or from year to year, and subject to discharge without cause or notice. Various minority groups are unjustly criticizing and attacking teachers, school management and school expenditures, textbooks and courses of study. It is important in this period of peril that schools be well financed and that necessary protections be given teachers that we may work at greatest efficiency. But it is of the utmost importance that we have the support, appreciation and respect of the public if we are to succeed in protecting our democracy." Donald DuShane, president, National Education association, asks public understanding of the educator's task .- ACP,

Behind the News

By David Thompson

U.S. Faces Test

So far all the news that we have heard in this war has been bad. That applies to the official as well as unofficial information that is being circulated thruout the nation But that is what we have been warned to expect in the early weeks of the conflict, and as a result there is no reason to be overly discouraged by it. The American people have been living in a "dream world" too long, and now that such an illusion of invulnerability has been punctured, we can only face the bitter facts with the courage and determination that have always been the chief characteristics of our nation. Just remember that the chief aim of the enemy is to create a feeling of oefeatism in our minds to hinder a successful prosecution of this war.

Democracy faces the greatest test in its whole history. We all realize that its major criticism has been that it is too cumbersome and slow moving, that it cannot adapt itself rapidly enough to face crises. On the other side of the story we all must realize that in spite of all its other preponderant handicaps, totalitarianism is efficient and moves with a rapidity hard to appreciate. That accounts more than anything else for the initial successes credited to the axis in this far eastern phase of the greater world war. The test of our form of government, then, is its ability to cushion the initial shock and then go on to a final crushing victory, iaspired and made possible by the fearless, independent and inventive people whose development has been fostered by a democratic way of life.

The admitted loss of the two British capital ships in the far east the battleship Prince of Wales and battle cruiser Repulse, is a serious blow to British-American naval strength. It will take valuable time to replace them. We can thank our lucky stars that the U.S. has had 18 months in which to get our naval building program started. Several new capital ships have been commissioned for service and several more have already been launched the not yet commissioned. There is no doubt that we will need them before this Japanese naval threat is destroyed. Even more serious, however, is the necessity for adequate air protection for our far flung fleet, as indicated by the fact that both the British ships lost yesterday were sunk by Japanese aerial attack.

Don't fool yourself, we were not completely prepared for this war. The threat never seemed imminent enough for us to realize the need for full speed ahead. Only now that the bitter truth faces us will all efforts be expended to bring about complete production effort. Those of you who blame our aid to Britain and Russia for this had better stop and think a moment. Had it not been for that, we would be facing the full might of the axis alone, and realization of that should sober even the strongest critics who now view the effect of a Japanese at tack by itself.

On Other Campuses By Marjorie May

Missouri U will hold an informal dance Friday in the Rothwell gymnasium to the music of Russ Morgan who will play there for the Mortar Board blow-out. Price of admission is \$2, "stag or drag." * ' *

"Hello Week"-similar to our Howdy Week, only coming later in the year-was held last week on the Fresno State College in California to renew an FSC campus tradition. Students there are supposed to greet each other, friends and stranger alike, all during the week.

Intorducing a new honor system with the December exams Utah State university is trying out a method of student co-operation to prevent and eliminate cheating. Mortar Boards on that campus launched the program which operates as follows: During a test when students see some one around them cheating, they tap on their desks with pencils or pens. This is sufficient to inform the offender of their disapproval and it is assemed that in most cases the guilty person will change his tactics. However, if he persists in cheating the tapping will be taken up again.

This measure is being introduced largely as a protective measure for consientious students who resent the unfavorable reputation which the university is getting from persistent cheating and who also resent seing their study go to waste when fellow students get thru a test by not opening a book until the exam has started.

NYA funds on the Indiana State college were cut last week and 512 students received a flat 25 percent reduction in pay and working hours, the Indiana Student announced recently.

After 12 Years Growth . . .

How About Getting Lead Out Of Andrew's Target Range?

. . . For National Defense

strained, and if it were, at least a

If Sgt. G. W. Johns wants to do, the target ranges has never been some more for national defense, he might get the lead out of his target ranges. After 12 years of use in the Andrews hall, the mili- department. tary department's target ranges contain, it is estimated, nearly a ton of lead.

This lead is pulverized in the sand that serves as a backstop at the target range. After the bullet is fired the lead is deflected from a metal backstop and then settles in used. the sand.

According to Sergeant Johns, military storekeeper, the sand at

Corn Cobs Hold

ton of lead would undoubtedly be revealed because of the continual use of the range by the military Some Brass. However, the brass in cartridge

shells is saved by Sergeant Johns and is sent to Omaha to be used as salvaged junk. He remarked that the brass was not used over again as cartridges but because of the present war the brass may be sent back to armories to be

Each year two boxes of brass are sent to Omaha. Each box originally contained 2,000 rounds of live ammunition. Sergeant Johns emphasized that the brass that was saved was from the 30 calibre bullet and not from the 22 calibre bullet. He said that the war department requested the return of only the heavier calibre bullet.

Post-Basketball Dance Friday

Corn Cob actives will hold an informal dance Friday night after the basketball game. According to Frank White, "There'll be lots to eat and every one will have lots of fun." The party will be a barn dance, to be held at Leavitt's barn east of Lincoln.

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ENLISTS in the nation's defense effort

— a type of carrier telephone circuit — is now being built into many miles of Long Distance cable lines to increase their capacity.

Engineers at Bell Telephone Laboratories developed this circuit which enables two pairs of wires in parallel cables to carry as many as twelve separate conversations at the same time.

K carrier is one of the ways we have found of adding a lot of long circuits in a hurry to meet defense communication needs. Such problems constantly challenge Bell System men with pioneering minds.

