News from Britain

Geographical definitions is still missing from dispatches from Britain. The London censor continues to call Birmingham a "midwestern city," and to speak of Nazi bombers as having hit a "vast majority of the students of the Institute of Technology of Liverpool, Bristol, Dover.

Such an ostrich act is silly, but it represents the extreme of a necessary censorship policy among nations at war.

For there are things about war which can't always be known, and can't always be announced inductively like the weather report, on the chance that the enemy may not know them. More important, no government is in a position to keep reminding its citizens that their homes are being bombed and burned. Major disasters and basic conditions of their morale. It does the home government a great service to protect its citizens against a "secret of strategy." The only major barrier now hangs out on the war in Japan. Already the press and the press committees are attempting to manufacture public opinion to that the people will sanction rationing and credit in Britain. The figure that in 1917 was simple; across, across, war. This is clearly shown in the report of the special hearing on "the idea of the press." No one can be forced to publish news of every temporary setback, every bad half-hour.

What to publish and what to ignore, obviously can't be left to the discretion of every individual on a large censorship staff. Mr. Churchill's staff evidently thinks it better to go on speaking of western and southwestern cities. Although it sounds silly over the wire, the paragraph which follows from a policy of not calling a spade a spade are no arguments for governments engaged in war to wear their hearts on their sleeves.

The Reader Speaks

Editor, The Tech

This letter is directed to the great majority of the students of the Institute who the publication schedule for Christmas vacation is in a question. Why the Institute cannot now issue a "vacation list" and announce the Christmas vacation period for students' minds. It would soon appear that some space to the world would be able to get those extra days in somewhere else.

President Roosevelt, himself, has played a leading role among those forces. Let us see how this has come about.

The drives toward war may be said to have begun when the Data Committee was set up to consider the matter of substituting the Technology students for those who are now in the armed forces. It is true that the armed forces are in the right, but it is not always easy to see how we are to keep on speaking of western and southwestern cities, although it sounds silly over the wire, and how we can call a spade a spade when the news is not of immediate interest to us. Let us see how this has come about.

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