

let the members persuade their correspondents in other parts of the country to send them picture postcards for the collection.

So far as is possible let the children themselves gather information for the club meetings. If the school has no library and there is no lending library near, this won't be easy. But if books are accessible, send each member direct to the source of wisdom to read up some one particular point and present it to the club. They might be trained to write short papers, one to be read each week, and you could give the writer credit for the work on his regular competition requirement.

Which brings us to the fact that the travel club will supply subjects for essays the livelong winter through. Sometimes you can have the children write as if in a diary the account of a stay in Chester, or Stratford; at another time the essays might take the form of letters home. The children may be encouraged to attempt fiction, inventing little mishaps and adventures which the club is supposed to have encountered on its way. The young writers will find English flowing freely and naturally off their pens if only they have something to say.

#### THE WAR

On March 21st last the Germans began their great drive for Paris, following this with four other drives which resulted in the loss to the Entente Allies of much territory and many prisoners together with large quantities of war material and heavy guns. A few weeks ago General Foch began a counter offensive which resulted in the driving of the Germans from the Marne salient. The French, American and British have all participated in this great offensive. All or nearly all the territory won by the Germans since March 21st last has been recovered. The number of prisoners and amount of war material taken by the Allies is not known, but it is known that a very large number of the enemy have been captured together with vast quantities of war material and a very large number of heavy guns. The enemy is still being pushed back. Their man-power is decreasing while that of the Allies is increasing with every transport reaching Europe carrying United States troops. The British are nearing Cambrai and St. Quentin. General Pershing celebrated his 53rd birthday on the 13th September by making an attack on the enemy in the Loraine section, driving him out of the St. Mihiel salient, capturing 12,000 prisoners and advancing within four miles of Metz. This brings the Allies to within striking distance of German territory. The Canadians have been in the thick of the fight in the Picardy offensive, and have won much praise for their valiant deeds.

The Teutons, seeing their chances of winning fading

away, have started a new "peace offensive." Germany has offered, it is said, peace terms to Belgium, while Austria-Hungary has asked the Entente Allies and neutral countries to send delegates to some neutral place to discuss peace terms. The United States and Britain have said over and over again that peace terms will be dictated by the countries fighting for liberty and not by Germany and her allies.

Premier Lloyd George recently stated, "That General Foch's counter offensive was the most brilliant in the annals of history; that during the month of July 305,000 American troops had been brought over, of whom 185,000 were brought in British ships; that since August, 1914, including those already with the colors, Great Britain alone had raised for the army 6,250,000 men; that the Dominions had contributed 1,000,000 men; India 1,250,000 men; that one hundred and fifty German submarines had been destroyed, more than half of them in the last year; that the American army would soon be not far short of the German army itself; that when war began, the British Navy, then the largest in the world, represented a tonnage of 2,500,000, and that now, including the auxiliary fleet, it is 8,000,000, and that every trade route of the world is patrolled by its ships."

#### GREAT BRITAIN'S FINANCES

Great Britain's daily war expense is \$34,930,000. Before the war the people of Great Britain paid about \$1,000,000,000 a year by way of taxation; today they are paying taxes annually to the amount of \$3,270,000,000. And yet for her third War Loan she has raised \$5,000,000,000. She is spending \$9,305,000,000 on her army, her navy, her air services and her munition factories and supplies. And yet she has advanced loans to her allies amounting in the aggregate to \$8,160,000,000.

After more than four years of exhausting war, Britain's credit is still unimpaired. Her "silver bullets" are being turned out by the hundred million, and every one is finding its billet. Her people are cheerfully bearing the ever-increasing strain which has been placed upon their shoulders, and will spare no effort in blood or treasure till victory is assured.

#### THE COUNTERSIGN WAS "MARY"

'Twas near the break of day, but still  
The moon was shining brightly;  
The west wind as it passed the flowers  
Set each one swaying slightly;  
The sentry slow paced to and fro  
A faithful night watch keeping,  
While in the tents behind him stretched,  
His comrades all lay sleeping.