

available material relating to the recent disastrous flood in the Mississippi Valley.

In this connection, I should appreciate it very much if you would be good enough to aid the Committee by furnishing me such material as you may have available on this subject.

Very truly yours,

FRANK R. REID,
Chairman.

METRIC STANDARDIZATION

At the new session of Congress advocates of decimal weights and measures for the United States will energetically back the liberal Metric Standards Bill that is being introduced in the House of Representatives by the Hon. Fred A. Britten of Illinois.

At its recent convention at Lake Placid, the Metric Association outlined plans for greatly increased activity. The All-American Standards Council is also urging prompt legislative action by Congress to establish the decimal metric units for general use in merchandising throughout the United States after 1935.

Instead of the present liquid quart, pound avoirdupois, and yard, it is proposed to substitute the liter, the 500 gram weight or world pound, and the yard respectively.

PREPARING FOR SNOW REMOVAL

In the northern half of the United States and in Canada the highway authorities are now busily preparing for the annual struggle with snow. The possibility of keeping country roads snow-free throughout the winter was hardly dreamed of ten years ago. In response to the demands of motor traffic this possibility has now become a reality on a gigantic scale. Last winter snow-removal operations in 36 states of the Union were conducted on 106,721 miles of rural highway, at an expense of \$4,641,037, according to admittedly incomplete figures gathered by the United States Bureau of Public Roads. During the coming winter an increase of about ten per cent is anticipated.

The development of snow removal in America within the last few years has been spectacular. Besides entailing the expenditure of much human energy and large sums of money, it has given rise to a remarkable technique and a variety of ingenious mechanical equipment. Part of the problem is to prevent drifts from forming on the roads. Methods of prevention include the removal of drift-forming obstacles from the borders of the roads and the erection of "snow fences," which cause drifts to form away from the highway instead of on it. Both permanent and portable fences are used for this purpose.

A large proportion of the snow-removal equipment is pushed in front of trucks or tractors. In areas where deep snowfall occurs, the snow plows employed on the highways rival those of the railroads in size and