Something good has come out of the World War at last!
And paradoxical as it may seem a little creature known to hundreds of children as Tinkletoes and Earl Haig, the war hero of England started it all.

There is a far call between a writeup of an interview with Haig at his home at Bemersyde, Scotland, for the Liberty Magazine, and creating with the pen such delightful little creatures as Tinkletoes for young Oklahomans but for Rex Harlow there is a close call between the two.

Rex Harlow, ex '15 of the Rex Publishing Company and the Harlow Publishing Company in Oklahoma City, has turned his pen to children's stories and how it came about is a story in itself.

Returning home in 1925 from a world congress of ex-service men of the World War II, Harlow tuned his typewriter to the rhythm of the waves and was met in New York by representatives from the Saturday Evening Post and Liberty Magazine each bidding for the article he had done from his interview with Earl Haig in Scotland.

Liberty outbid the Saturday Evening Post and bought the article. The editor of Liberty at lunch with Mr Harlow later asked something about the Oklahoman's background.

"He seemed particularly interested when I told him I had always wanted to write fairy stories," relates Mr Harlow.

"From childhood I had created imaginary characters and built stories about them often provoking my mother by my insistence that she stop and listen to a new one. It had seemed to me in those early days that there was no end to the fairy stories that were inside me waiting to be told.

"But the arduous life on a farm does not lend itself to fairy stories and as the years passed I lost the desire to tell them. For some strange reason during this period I had not the least desire to write them.

"Hard work, a little schooling, some fun and frolicking—and the first thing I knew I was in Oklahoma City," Mr Harlow continues.

He finished high school in two years, attended the University of Oklahoma and went from there into business with his brother, Victor. Then came the World War and he went to France and that experience had not been particularly conducive to the writing of fairy stories.

"When I confessed to the editor of Liberty that I had never attempted to satisfy my urge to write fairy stories he pounded the luncheon table and told me I was several kinds of an ass. I laughed and he became slightly nettled.

" 'We haven't had a real fairy story writer since Hans Anderson. Maybe you have the quirk to pick up where he left off,' he told me. I laughed heartily at this and he responded sharply, 'Well, I'll stop your laughing. You want pay for this Haig article don't you? You won't get it until you write me a fairy story. What do you think of that?' And I must admit I thought just this about that— I wrote a fairy story."

And that is how Tinkletoes, a little book now being used by school children in eighteen states came to be. Such success did Tinkletoes bring that other stories followed until now Mr Harlow has organized a publishing firm of his own, known as the Rex Publishing Company, and publishes a series of little books or magazines for children.

The magazines are about the page proportions of the average school text. Each is thirty-two pages in thickness and each is delightfully illustrated by Oklahoma artists in pen and ink sketches.

They are issued in a graded series. The first is strictly imaginative dealing with pets and animals familiar to the small child. The second of the series, used in the third and fourth grades is composed exclusively of fairy stories. The third, used in the fifth and sixth grades is composed exclusively of fairy stories. The third, used in the fifth and sixth grades consists of current events of historical value written in a style adaptable to the child mind. These are very informative and require much research for the general newspaper accounts of such events as the Lindbergh flight, the building of the Boulder
From him came a love of the better and finer things of life—of literature, art, philosophy, religion. We walked in a beautiful world of intellect.

Then came the war. I went to France. The horror of the thing left its indelible stamp upon my soul.

Home from the war he wrote a history of my organization in the war which sold by the thousands of copies. He helped organize the American Legion both locally and nationally.

In addition to this writing and the new endeavor with the children's work Mr Harlow is author of Trail of the 61st. George W. Austin, His Life and Works, Successful Oklahomans, Oklahoma Leaders, The Home-Story Reader, The Perfect Sale and A Biography of Everett Wentworth Hill. He also compiled Makers of Government in Oklahoma.

But the fairy story is his field—undoubtedly—and one hopes his present enthusiasm for his latest venture will not die but as the stories say 'live happily ever after.'

Mrs Harlow, who before her marriage was Miss Ruby E. Wilson, a native of Oklahoma City, is a writer herself. The Harlows have two children, Esther Frances, five, and William Bruce, seven. They live at 1011 West Fourteenth street, Oklahoma City.

HOPE FOR DEMOCRACY


Democratic institutions everywhere seem to be subjected during these post bellum days to open cynicism, and even to rebellion. Mussolini establishes a dictatorship in Italy. Germany is threatened by the serio-comico Hitlerites. Latin American nations to be deserving the reproof of Sir Henry Maine, who said that in certain Latin American countries the people dated events from the occurrence of the last revolution. Spain is in a perilous condition, with the constitutional monarchy endangered.

It is comforting therefore to find such a searching analysis as Felix Frankfurter of the Harvard law school—one not prone to rejoicing at reaction—appraising democracy with reassurance, in a series of lectures delivered at Yale university and published by Yale University Press in the series "Yale Lectures on the Responsibilities of Citizenship." Professor Frankfurter, it will be recalled, wrote the report submitted to President Wilson urging a reconsideration of the cases of Mooney and Billings; more recently, he was a champion of another "lost cause," in the case of Sacco and Vanzetti. He has observed the less laudable features of democracy at first hand, and in a manner not calculated to encourage him. But he is made of harder stuff. He finds the constitution of the United States a remarkably conceived document, that, in spite of the changing times, still functions in a way that would have been eminently satisfactory to the founders of the nation. He remarks that England, said perenially to be nearing its end, is still vital in the society of nations, and as an exponent of democracy.

The complexity of modern life has created a different demand on government, than existed in the days of the relative agrarian simplicity at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Mr Frankfurter proceeds with his keen mind to inspect these demands of modern life, such as the multiplicity of laws, demands that have resulted in more far-reaching activities of the government than the founders had anticipated. Mr Frankfurter then discusses the question, "Does law obstruct government?" Prohibition he labels a "nettle" and observes that it marks the entry of the government into "matters traditionally reserved to the states." The supreme court through its interpretations tends to destroy the initiative of states, through the legal veto of its decisions. However:

In simple truth, the difficulties that government encounters from law do not inhere in the constitution. They are due to the judges who interpret it. For, in the language of the present chief justice (Hughes) spoken when he delivered his New York address on the judiciary, "the constitution is what the judges say it is ... ." That document has ample resources for imaginative statesmanship, if judges have the imagination for statesmanship.

Illuminating is Mr Frankfurter's discussion of the relation of public services to the people and their government. Finally, government must attract able young men to its service, a professional governmental service like the British civil service. In order to do so, there must be safeguards for the public service, Mr Frankfurter's contribution to the Yale lectures on responsibilities of citizenship is eminently worth while, not only because it records the observations of one of America's finest minds on the hydra-headed problems of democracy, but because of the significant recommendations he makes towards securing better government. Following Professor Pipkin's theory that one may read forty books a year, (and having read my quota) I can unhesitatingly recommend The Public and Its Government for inclusion in the Year's Forty.

J. A. B.