

Pathfinder Aug. 14, 1946

Capital People



TRAVEL-HAPPY. Byrnes is roaming again.

help wipe out illiteracy and ignorance. It is a phonetic alphabet with 37 letters which, he says, both adults and children of any nationality can learn in a few hours.

Born of Scotch-Irish and Indian ancestry at Lynchburg, Va., Owen has behind him a distinguished career in politics and statesmanship and is an authority on Latin, Greek, French, German, English and Anglo-Saxon.

Ready for Press. Before a recent hearing of the ~~Committee on Foreign Relations~~ Committee Owen proposed his plan to make English a world language. He presented his alphabet in parallel columns of Russian, Chinese and English. He said he had it ready for the press in Spanish, Portuguese and German as well.

Testimonials from world scholars and linguists approve it.

The letters resemble a combination of Gregg and Ben Pitman shorthand. They represent sounds used in all modern languages, minus the confusion of the Roman alphabet where in English alone the letter "a" has nine different sounds, the letter "e" six.

Everybody's English. It works like this. A student relates the phonetic alphabetical symbol with a given sound. Those sounds are in all languages. Alongside, in whatever language text the student uses, is the regular vocabulary of simple, usable words.

Basic English, says Owen, requires only 846 words, 1,200 to converse well.

Although translation of language through the phonetic alphabet can be made from any foreign language into English or from English into any other language, Sen. Owen claims the emphasis would be on learning English which would become a universal language.

Backward peoples, he says, would profit by our agricultural and vocational booklets, industrial, commercial and even political tracts. World production would benefit by the increase of knowledge, and peace, not conflict, would be the universal goal of mankind.

Global Shorthand

Robert Latham Owen of Oklahoma served three terms in the U.S. Senate, then was stricken blind and retired. Now 90, but still in good health, Sen. Owen wants to give the world a global alphabet which he believes will



LINGUIST. Owen and his world alphabet.