

1—Dan Moody, who will be the next governor of Texas. 2—Traffic court on wheels established by Ingleswood, Calif., to dispose of cases quickly. 3—Senators Reed and LaFollette of the senate "slush fund" committee hearing evidence in Chicago on the cost of the Illinois senatorial primaries.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Mexican Government's Conflict With the Catholic Church Reaches Crisis.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT CALLES and the Roman Catholic church in Mexico are now in the midst of one of the bitterest struggles of recent times and the outcome, not at present easy to predict, may be of vast importance to the republic below the Rio Grande. Calles and his government are determined to enforce the new religious laws, and they now have behind them the Labor and Socialist parties, which control a majority in the Mexican congress. On the other side stands all the power of the mighty Catholic church which claims the allegiance of nearly all the inhabitants of Mexico. Early in the week an episcopal letter, signed by Archbishop Mora y del Rio, the seven other archbishops and thirty bishops, was sent to churchmen throughout the country instructing them that after July 31 no religious services would be held in the churches and the priests would be withdrawn from them, though the buildings would be kept open. The letter set forth that penalties would inflict on those of Catholic faith who were in any way responsible for the religious laws or who in any way aid in their enforcement. There was a plain hint of excommunication, and immediately there were many reports that bishops and others were being arrested for sedition. These were unconfirmed, but such arrests are not unlikely.

The government's reply to the letter was a statement that all churches abandoned by the priests would be taken over by the civil authorities and entrusted to citizens' committees to be used for worship and other public purposes. The secretary of the interior said once the churches were thus taken, they never would be returned to the clergy. The church properties thus liable to seizure were estimated to be worth \$300,000,000. The attorney general sent a circular to his agents throughout the country asking them for statements as to whether they support the government wholeheartedly in its determination to enforce the religious laws. It is reported that all those who do not sympathize with the government will be removed from office at once.

Catholic leaders said they would continue the fight for modification of the religious laws. One of their latest moves was an appeal by the women to Senator Natalia Calles to defend their cause before her husband, the President. They said: "Your husband will do whatever you desire because man is noble and easy to lead. . . . We demand equity, tolerance, and justice. We desire peace, union, and welfare. You are a woman, a wife and mother, and we hope that you will hear our appeal."

Directors of the League for Religious Defense—the lay Catholic organization—having been arrested on charges of sedition, the league appointed new directors but kept their names secret. All last week the churches were thronged and baptisms, confirmations and marriage ceremonies were astonishingly numerous.

Organized labor demonstrated its adherence to Calles' policy by holding great parades in Mexico City and other centers. "We are determined to fight the issue to a finish in the interest of the liberation of the working man from the trammels of centuries," said a prominent labor leader. "As we see the question, the issue is whether we workmen will be allowed to think or have our thinking done for us by the makers of creeds and preachers of superstition. We are behind the President to a finish, through peace or war."

WHAT the Illinois senatorial primaries cost, where the money came from and for just what purposes it was paid out were the objects of the investigation opened in Chicago last week by the senatorial "slush fund" committee. Chairman Reed—he is in effect the committee until the time comes to write its report—found out a lot of interesting facts, and as the inquiry goes on he probably will

dig up a great many more, including those concerning the political activities of the Anti-Saloon league in the Middle West.

As had been expected, Samuel Insull, the public utilities magnate, was the leading character in the first part of the proceedings. It appeared that he was a sort of horn of plenty for both parties and for several factions of the Republican party in Cook county. The donations made by Mr. Insull, so far as made known up to the date of writing, were:

Table listing donations: To Frank L. Smith \$125,000.00, To George Brennan 15,000.00, To Deneen county faction 10,000.00, To Barrett-Crowe county faction 10,000.00, Spent for anti-world-court propaganda 32,735.19, Total \$192,735.19

Senator W. B. McKinley, who was defeated by Smith, paid his own expenses, which reached the large total of \$358,616. The total collected and spent for Smith was \$287,282; that for George E. Brennan, Democrat, who had no real opposition, was \$20,841. For the Deneen county ticket \$129,894 was spent, of which no part was contributed by Senator Deneen. The Crowe-Barrett faction, which was generally victorious in the county, spent \$150,000. Some of these figures may be changed by later testimony. Edward H. Wright, a colored political leader of Chicago, refused to answer many of the committee's questions, and so did Mr. Insull. Later they may be compelled to reply. Also Senator Reed planned to call on the Governor Small-Lundin faction for an accounting of the amount of cash they collected and for information as to what was done with it. It has often been charged that this group squeezed something like a million dollars from state employees and contractors. This was supposed to be a fund to aid Governor Small in his fight to avoid paying about \$1,000,000 which the Supreme court has decided he owes the state.

GOV. MIRIAM A. FERGUSON of Texas was rather badly beaten by Dan Moody, the attorney general, in the gubernatorial primary. Dan had a majority of about 900 over his four opponents and led Mrs. Ferguson by 125,000. "Ma" had promised that she would resign if Moody beat her by so much as one vote and now he and others are calling on her to make good. But she has called a special session of the legislature for September 13 to consider certain legislation she wishes passed and therefore plans to retire from office about the first of November. Moody's nomination by the Democrats is equivalent to election.

JOHN W. DAVIS, who because he was the Democratic Presidential nominee in 1924 is considered the party's leader, has joined the movement for abolition of the two-thirds and unit rules in Democratic conventions. At least twenty Democratic national committee members favor the change. Mr. Davis believes, however, that if either rule is retained, neither should be discarded.

PREMIER POINCARÉ at this writing has good prospects of putting his financial program through the chamber of deputies, which already has expressed its preliminary confidence in the new ministry by a 358 to 131 vote. The veteran statesman proposes to raise 5,000,000,000 francs in new taxes, and when the financial commission of the chamber refused to approve one section which calls for a 15 per cent increase in passenger and freight rates, Poincaré told it that the project could exist only as a unity and he would make the passage of every article, once the plan reached the chamber, a question of confidence. The commission naturally did not wish to contribute to another cabinet crisis so it approved the whole plan, adding to it a clause increasing the salaries of deputies from 27,000 to 45,000 francs. Communist and Socialist deputies are still opposing the premier's plan, but the necessity of adopting these new taxes on French business and industry is generally recognized. The government also has introduced a measure designed to safeguard the country's wheat supply.

DEMONSTRATIONS against Americans in Paris are decreasing but have not entirely ceased. President Coolidge, in his summer camp, has

taken notice of the ugly feeling in France and through the correspondents there he urges the American people to adopt an attitude of moderation, forbearance and sympathy toward European nations struggling to repair the economic ravages of war. He especially deprecates the bumpiness of many tourists and hopes foreign peoples will recognize that these are irresponsible individuals whose utterances do not represent the sentiments of the American people.

The President evidently has no thought of yielding to the barrage of French and British criticism of America which is believed to cover a concerted revival of the effort to force complete cancellation of the war debts. He is standing pat on the terms to France representing a cancellation of more than half the entire French borrowing and all of the portion obtained for actual prosecution of the war before the armistice. He is standing pat on the British settlement, representing a 25 per cent cancellation.

GERMAN industry is being throttled and that country's financial and material recovery is prevented by the national welfare laws forced by the Socialists, according to a statement by interallied experts. These men say the German industrial situation had improved this spring and early in the summer, but now the unemployed are increasing. Every week new plants close down because they have not enough export orders to warrant the expenses of production. The main reason for the unfavorable situation is that the German prices are so high the country cannot sell goods abroad. The chief reason for the high prices is the social welfare laws, which have forced the employers and workers to pay \$631,000,000 in 1925 for alleged welfare, when the entire exports of the country for the same period amounted only to \$1,518,000,000.

MANY millions of dollars of damage was wrought by a terrific hurricane that swept through the West Indies, up the Florida east coast and along the Georgia coast. While there were some deaths in Florida, the greatest loss of life was in the Dominican republic, where three vessels were wrecked and scores of passengers drowned. Property damage at Palm Beach was estimated at \$1,000,000, and at Miami, Stuart and other Florida localities it was in the hundreds of thousands. At Nassau, in the Bahamas, it was said the damage might reach \$5,000,000, as several of the great hotels there were heavy sufferers.

ON THE twelfth anniversary of the beginning of the World war the League of Nations office at Geneva gives out statistics showing that Great Britain, France and the United States, in the order named, are spending the most per capita on preparations for new wars. Great Britain's average annual outlay, including military, naval and aerial budgets, is \$573,000,000, or \$12.96 per capita. France has an average annual expenditure of \$255,000,000, or \$6.43 per capita. The figures for the United States are \$554,000,000, or \$4.94 per capita. Italy's per capita expenditure for armaments is \$3.86; Japan's is \$3.68; Russia's is \$1.45, and Germany comes last of the nations noted with \$1.70. The British house of commons was officially informed last week that Germany has failed to keep faith with her disarmament promises.

ROBERT TODD LINCOLN, last surviving son of the Emancipator, died last week at his home in Manchester, Vt. The end came peacefully in the night, death being caused by cerebral hemorrhage. The body will be placed in the Lincoln tomb at Springfield, Ill., beside that of his father. Mr. Lincoln, who would have been eighty-three years old on August 1, had a noteworthy career. He was secretary of war in the cabinets of Presidents Garfield and Arthur, and President Harrison appointed him minister to Great Britain. After the death of George M. Pullman Mr. Lincoln was made president of the Pullman company, which position he resigned in 1911.

George Inness, Jr., an eminent American painter and son of a yet more noted artist, passed away at Cragmoor, N. Y. He spent his winters in Florida and many of his pictures were of Florida scenery.

Hints To Those Who Would Write



HENRY L. MENCKEN

WOULD-BE writers have a better chance today of getting their stuff into print than at any time in history. One look at a well-stocked news or magazine stand will tell you why. Where one magazine held forth twenty-five years ago, two or three are in the rack today. And, despite the wall of publishers, more books are launched and sold today than ever before.

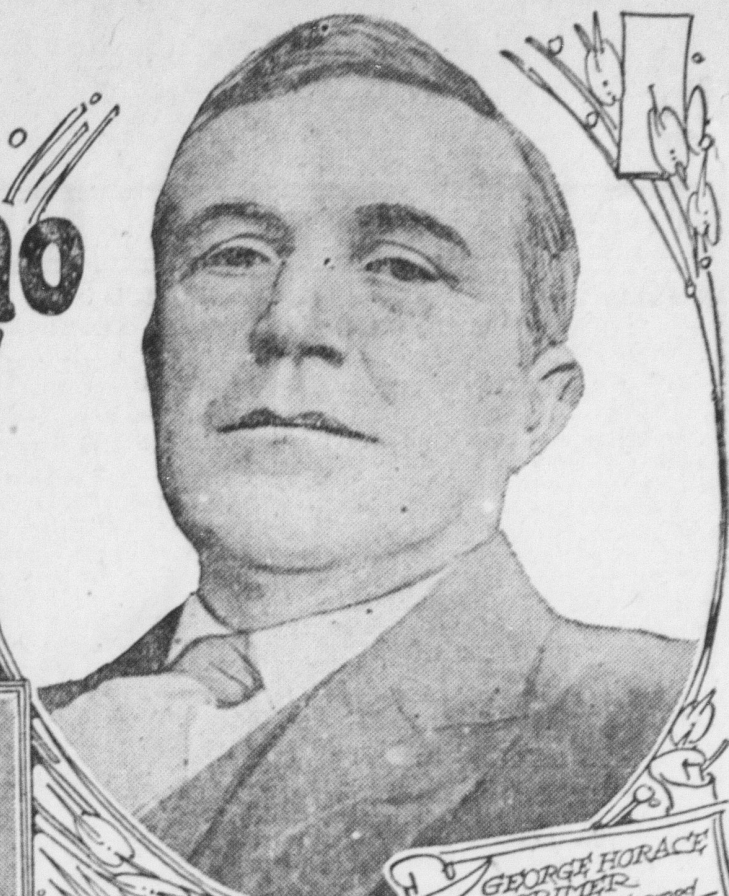
Consequently, with all this space to be filled, there is a continued and increasing demand for filler. Realizing this demand, nearly everyone who can compose a grammatical sentence—and many who cannot—feel deep within themselves a strong desire to contribute to the supply. In most persons this desire rarely gets beyond the "want to" stage. To sympathetic ears they will confess their desire, adding perhaps that they "know they could write if they took the time."

If they do take the time and compose something which at least has a beginning and an end, their troubles start. The manuscript generally comes back with the rejection slip. This great demand begins to seem not so pressing after all.

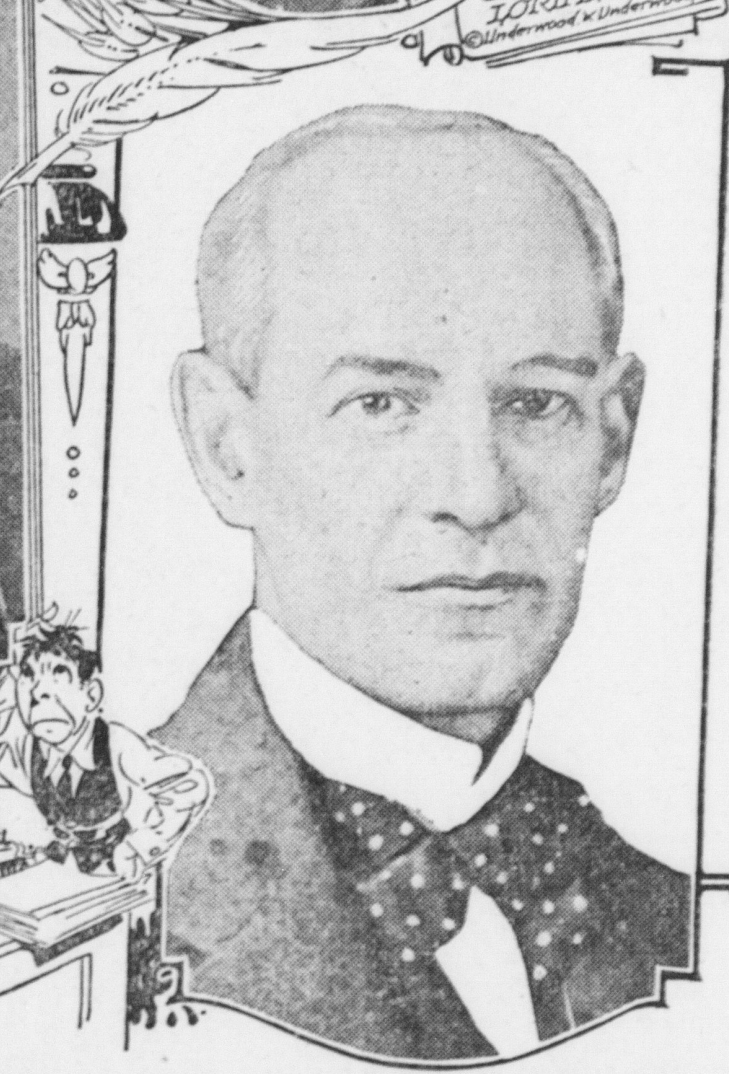
According to George Horace Lorimer, editor of the Saturday Evening Post, the young writer is the victim of no conspiracy, nor are there any secrets, which, once learned, will land him on the royal road to fame. Mr. Lorimer is the hope of thousands of strugglers after fame, who "feel that they could do much better than anyone who is writing at present if they could only attract his attention."

"Learning to write is more difficult, perhaps, than learning other professions," said Mr. Lorimer in an interview published in the International Book Review, "because it is a lonely process. The thing most young writers fail to realize is that they must serve an apprenticeship. To be a doctor or a lawyer one must also serve an apprenticeship, but it is less painful, because it is laid out along prescribed lines. The young student of medicine must have years of training at school. Then he becomes an interne and finally starts out to build up a practice for himself—which is a long, arduous proceeding."

"The best thing for the would-be author to do is to take a position on a newspaper. The training he receives there is invaluable. He is probably pretty young when he goes there, and the first thing it does for him is to give him experience and a perspective on life. He learns to write every day about what he sees. He begins to write for magazines, and he sends out things which promptly come back to him. Now, the difference between learning to write and learning other professions comes here. When a young doctor begins to practice, he does not consider it a personal affront if people do not come to him at once. He tells himself that he is not well known as yet. He has not made enough acquaintances. But the young writer who creates something—a story, a poem, an article—has put something of himself



GEORGE HORACE LORIMER



JOHN GALSWORTHY

into it. He draws upon his very soul for his material. And when it comes back to him with a printed slip of rejection, he cannot help feeling that it is a reflection upon himself. This is natural. There is a feeling of hurt, however sensible he may be, which affects him deeply. Writing is, after all, the expression of one's ego, and the ego is a sensitive affair which is easily wounded."

"When we get a manuscript which we think shows promise, we try to get in touch with the writer. If possible, we send a man to see him. We talk the thing over with him and make suggestions. We try to help him to develop his own talent. For, despite impressions to the contrary, we welcome new writers. We want the fresh point of view of the young person. It is like injecting new blood into an old body."

"The public is not made up of fools. It is as enthusiastic over the good work of an unknown author as it is over that of the man with a big name. Big names sell stories, of course. That is because the public has liked some previous work of the well-known man and looks for something as good again. But if his work falls below the standard he has set for himself, if it does not measure up to what the public has learned to expect of him, it is worse for him—and for us—than if he had been an unknown, because there is the element of disappointment."

"My advice to the young writer is this: Serve your apprenticeship, knowing it for what it is. Learn all you can about life, about men and women, about history and the affairs of the world, about literature and the conflict of ideas. Learn to think. Make yourself a master of words. Develop your individual style. Then, when you are ready, if you have anything to say, you will find your market."

Another authority on the writer's art who was caught in the far Southwest and interviewed for the same magazine is John Galsworthy. Asked to tell how he got the ideas for his stories, he said:

"Really, no idea, as such, comes to me at once for a story," he began. "Usually some little, ironical incident, some occurrence, some character, appeals to me and takes form so that I see it in the shape of some kind of a story. I do not deliberately shape it to carry out an idea; it seems naturally to shape itself. It is impossible to give you a rule for this."

"One can indicate it by taking some definite example. In 'The Broken Boat,' in 'Caravan,' you will find a short story that grew out of an ironical incident. Ironical situations, somehow, always appeal to me most. 'It happened that I met an actor in a country town where I was stopping,

I knew him slightly many years before. He had acted in one of my plays. I talked with him not more than two minutes. I noticed that his boot was slit across the toe twice between lace and toe-cap. The irony of it occurred to me. He was making the best of things, putting on the air, almost, of a swell. The incidents that follow in that story are pure invention—not incidents of his life at all, I assure you, for I knew nothing of it. I have not seen him since that brief conversation. But the broken boot suggested the irony of his life. The rest is imagination."

Writers are a lazy lot, according to Henry L. Mencken, editor of the American Mercury. Their conversation is just as banal as that of the Babbitts of which some of them write, he declared recently. Proceeding on the theory that they are lazy, Mr. Mencken took it upon himself to point out some of the opportunities which have been staring American writers in the face.

"The republic swarms with creatures who are intimately national and immensely amusing, and they cry for the services of the novelist. Yet our writers neglect them all, from the university president to the police captain, and from the go-getting pastor to the realtor. Worst and most incredible of all, they neglect the American of Americans, to wit: the malignant moralist, the Christian turned cannibal, the snorting and preposterous Puritan," he said in a copyrighted article in the Chicago Tribune.

"I know of no American novel in which this most typical and gorgeous of Americans is even half limned. What a great novel is in him! Indeed, what a shelf of novels! For he has as many forms as there are varieties of human delusions. Sometimes he is an evangelist, sweating to transform Oklahoma City or Altoona, Pa., into the New Jerusalem. Sometimes he is a strict Sabbatarian, bawling for the police whenever he detects his neighbor washing bottles on Sunday morning."

"I throw off the guess that there are at least forty novels in him. What are the springs of his peculiar frenzy to harass and punish his fellow men? What is his typical life history? Here is the work for the novelist, which is to say for the professional anatomist of character."

Famous Roman Temple

The Maison Carree is a Corinthian temple at Nîmes, in southern France, erected during the time of the Roman occupation of the country. It has been carefully restored, and is used at present as a museum. The structure is rectangular in shape, measuring 85 by 45 feet. The Maison Carree was at one time attributed to Augustus (27 B. C.-14 A. D.), but a closer study of its architecture has

led to the opinion that it was erected during the period of the Antonines (138-180 A. D.). It is said to have suggested to Thomas Jefferson the plan of the state capitol at Richmond, Va.

Here It Is Again

A nervous passenger on the first day of the voyage asked the captain what would be the result if the steamer should strike an iceberg while it was plunging through the fog. "The iceberg would move right along, madam,"

the captain replied courteously, "just as if nothing had happened." And the old lady was greatly relieved.—London Tit-Bits.

Fuchsia's High Place

The fuchsia is one of the gardener's most valuable plants, not only for the beauty of its flowers and graceful form of the plant but also because it is adaptable to flower beds and borders and grows with such freedom and such little care. As a house plant it is very desirable.