



1—Ruins of "Ravensworth," home of Gen. Robert E. Lee in Fairfax county, Virginia, after fire that destroyed the mansion and many relics. 2—Scene at the funeral of Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa at Des Moines. 3—William Hale Thompson, former mayor of Chicago, as he appeared before the senate "slush fund" committee.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Senator Reed Is Defied by Two "Slush Fund" Witnesses in Chicago.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

SENATOR REED of Missouri, conducting the slush fund inquiry in Chicago, struck a snag last week—two snags, in fact. They were Samuel Insull, the Santa Claus of Candidate Smith, and others, and Robert E. Crowe, state's attorney of Cook county. Both refused to answer certain of Reed's questions, and persisted in their refusal even though the senator warned them that he would report them to the senate for punishment for contempt. The questions had to do with the source of primary campaign funds that were expended in behalf of other than senatorial candidates, and the witnesses contended that the committee had no right to make such inquiries. The public utilities magnate read replies prepared by his attorney, and Mr. Crowe presumably depended on his own legal abilities.

Mr. Reed sought an admission from Mr. Insull that he had donated more than the \$125,000 to Frank L. Smith, \$23,000 in propaganda against the world court which he admitted benefited Candidate Smith, and \$15,000 he had given George T. Brennan, Democratic candidate for senator. Mr. Insull declined time after time to say whether he had given \$10,000 to the Crowe-Barrett organization and a like sum to the Deneen group. Finally Senator Reed, with a trick question, tripped Mr. Insull into admitting he had given Roy O. West \$10,000 for the Deneen group.

Altogether the examination of Insull and Crowe was a pretty exhibition of cross examination and evasion, conducted politely and seemingly without rancor. Whether the two recalcitrant witnesses will ever be punished for contempt is a question. Before they were put on the stand former Mayor William Hale Thompson told the committee he had received \$25,000 from Smith's campaign manager and turned it over to the Crowe-Barrett organization. He said representatives of that faction sought his support, promising in return to aid him if he were a candidate for mayor next year. Not much was learned from Fred Lundin, one of Governor Small's chief supporters, but he put on record his opinion that Small is "a wonderful, fine, soulful man—a victim of criminal prosecutors." Ira C. Copley of Aurora, interested in utilities, told how and why he contributed \$25,000 to the Smith campaign; and County Judge Edmund Jarecki painted a picture of the crookedness and corruption in the last primary with its alleged ballot box stuffing, short-pencil cheating, kidnaping and imprisonment of judges and clerks and the work of gunmen and sluggers who drove election officials from polling places.

Frank L. Smith was permitted to file with the committee a long statement in which he declared that there was a clear understanding between him and his campaign manager that he was to be put under no obligations for contributions.

PRESENT indications are that the contest in Mexico between state and church will be protracted but will not involve actual armed hostilities. At the appointed time the priests abandoned the churches and the buildings were taken in charge by civilian committees and kept open for prayer, the government having directed they should not be used for other purposes except by special order. The episcopate, while asserting the church would never approve of an armed uprising, says it will accept no settlement of the controversy except that it include recognition of the rights of Catholic priests as Mexican citizens. It is supported by a telegram from the pope condemning the Mexican religious laws. So far, President Calles has

shown no smallest intention of yielding or compromising, reiterating the intention of his government "to enforce, without fearing interdicts or supernatural punishments" the constitutional provisions regarding religion. Replying to a "harmony" message from President Legula of Peru, Calles seeks to prevent the social and political evolution there, and he concludes:

"If God is the supreme manifestation of good, both in individuals and nations, I do not believe in this instance He has taken sides with those who for more than a century have been responsible in Mexico for internal calamities, international invasions and intrigue, as well as unrest in the conscience of the people."

Up to this writing only one priest, in Alvarado, state of Vera Cruz, has submitted to the government regulations, and he was promptly excommunicated and suspended from the priesthood.

The development that is most threatening for the government is the economic boycott started by the League of Defense of Religious Liberty. Outside the City of Mexico this is having considerable effect, and bankers are said to be very apprehensive of general withdrawals of deposits with the purpose of converting them into gold. It was reported that a bankers' committee asked Calles to suspend the religious laws for one year and consent to a plebiscite on them, but this the government does not admit. In addition to the support of organized labor, Calles has the backing of former President Obregon, who says the high dignitaries of the church provoked the conflict and must yield.

HAVING forced his fiscal legislation through the chamber of deputies, Premier Poincare easily put it through the senate, the vote being 250 to 13. The project is for the raising of new taxes designed to meet the 2,500,000,000 francs (\$86,750,000) deficit in this year's budget and pile up 11,000,000,000 francs (\$293,700,000) for next year.

Late in the week the premier asked that the chamber of deputies be muzzled and bound by emergency procedure and that it give the cabinet a vote of confidence on every item of its projects, authorizing the Bank of France to issue an unlimited number of bank notes secured by the purchase of foreign currencies and authorizing the establishment of a national tobacco corporation as a prop for the sinking fund to retire national defense bond issues.

In the matter of immediate action on the debt accords with Great Britain and the United States M. Poincare was balked by members of his cabinet. Such action was greatly desired by the premier for it is necessary to his plan for speedy stabilization of the franc through the obtaining of credits. Bankers also were urging it. But Herriot, Tardieu and Marin strenuously opposed, and Poincare gave in rather than to face a split in his cabinet.

PRIMARIES in Missouri resulted in victories for the wets, the Republicans nominating Senator George H. Williams to succeed himself, and the Democrats naming former Congressman Harry B. Hawes.

Former Governor Jonathan M. Davis, accused and acquitted of pardon selling, was trailing Donald Muir, young attorney, for the Kansas Democratic gubernatorial nomination. Gov. Ben S. Paulen, Republican, was re-nominated on the face of nearly complete returns. The Kansas Klan fight was reflected in the apparent decisive victory of three Supreme court judges, who handed down a decision ousting the order from the state and by large pluralities given the anti-klan candidates for attorney general and secretary of the state.

Henry M. Johnson, reputed Klan candidate, maintained a 7,000-vote lead for the Oklahoma Democratic gubernatorial balloting with two-thirds of the vote counted. W. T. Otjen of Enid, Okla., led the field for the Republican nomination. Late Oklahoma returns widened the gap in

the Democratic senatorial race, in which J. C. (Jack) Walton, deposed governor, trailed Congressman Elmer Thomas by more than 11,000 votes. The Oklahoma Republicans renominated Senator Harrel, and those of Kansas again named Senator Curtis, Republican floor leader.

PRESIDENT AND MRS. COOLIDGE made a little trip over into Vermont and spent some quiet, pleasant days at the old Coolidge farmhouse at Plymouth. Before leaving the Adirondacks camp the President made an address, speaking over the long-distance telephone wire to Denver, where his words were broadcast at exercises commemorating the semicentennial of Colorado's admittance to statehood. Urging again the cause of state sovereignty, Mr. Coolidge emphasized the importance of local self-government, and declared much of the strength of the federal government "lies in the fact that the states have the power to function locally and independently, subject only to the restrictions which they themselves have invoked by accepting the national Constitution."

On completing three years as chief executive, Mr. Coolidge told the correspondents at the camp that the business of the country had been better than in any other three years in his history. He did not take entire credit for this prosperity unto his administration, but shared it with the American business man's wisdom and caution. He also noted distinct progress in education and improvement in moral standards.

CONTROL of the senate by the regular Republicans is threatened as a result of the death of Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa. It is assumed in Washington that Smith W. Brookhart will seek to fill the vacancy at the short session. And anyhow it is believed there that he will be elected for the long term in November. With the death of Mr. Cummins the senate is composed of 54 Republicans, 40 Democrats and one Farmer-Laborite. But of the Republicans five—La Follette, Howell, Norris, Frazier and Nye—are usually lined up against the administration, and Brookhart is sure to flock with that group. Others who cannot always be relied on by the regular organization are Borah, McMaster, Norbeck, Couzens, Gooding, Capper and McNary. So it is evident that the administration's control of the upper house will be mighty small or non-existent.

Senator Cummins' body lay in state in the Iowa state capitol in Des Moines and then was interred with simple ceremonies. His sudden death was sincerely mourned by men of all political faiths, for it was recognized that he had been a most able and devoted public servant of the highest type.

THERE was a threat of war last week between Bulgaria on one side and Rumania and Jugo-Slavia on the other. Raids over the frontiers by Bulgarian bands of irregulars have been so frequent and exasperating that Rumania declared a state of siege on the entire Dobrudja border, and Jugo-Slavia sent to Sofia a note of protest that was practically an ultimatum. The reply of the Bulgarian government was that it was doing all it could to compel the irregulars to cease their activities. It is presumed the matter will be taken up at the next session of the League of Nations.

ABOUT three thousand Chinese were drowned by floods that followed the bursting of dikes on the Yangtse river in Hupeh province. Two thousand miles of farming lands were inundated and vast damage was done to crops. This may mean another terrible famine. Northwestern Japan also suffered severely from floods.

ISRAEL ZANGWILL, eminent Jewish novelist, poet and playwright, died in England at the age of sixty-two years. He was an ardent Zionist and founder of the International Jewish Territorial organization, and was persecuted in Russia under the czarist regime.

Unsung Heroes of the Theatre



HERE are many persons in the show business who never appear on the stage. They are the unsung heroes of the theatre of whom the audience see or hear little or nothing at all. They endure most of the hardships incident to the business, yet they are never permitted to bask in the limelight.

Who are they? They are the stage hands, electricians, the maids and valets of the stars, ticket-takers, box-office clerks, scene-shifters, ushers, dressers, stage-door keepers, and last, those individuals whose job it is to keep before the public the names and faces of the players by whom they are employed, keeping themselves the while more or less in obscurity—the press agents.

The thrill of the show business affects the life of every person connected with the theater. Once bitten by the microbe of the stage, these individuals are doomed to live in, by, and for the theater. It is their bread and butter, and try as they may to tear themselves away from its gripping fascination, they seldom make the break.

Take, for example, the stage-door man, who represents perhaps the theater's saddest story, says the New York Times. While he receives a wage which is not out of proportion to the service he renders, he has long hours, and sometimes is forced to work seven days a week. His chief consolation—and an important one in the show business—is that if he proves himself capable, which is not difficult, he may be assured of steady employment in season and out.

Fortunately, all stage-door keepers are not married or have families to support. They tell the story of the door keeper said to be worth \$20,000, who worked his ten hours or more a day and never offered the slightest hint of his somewhat comfortable circumstances. The average door man is either old or crippled. Consequently the task of holding the fort by the stage door where he can read his newspaper and smoke all day long without being disturbed too often is as comfortable an occupation as he could hope to find anywhere.

Consider, next, the dressing maid. She is taught soon enough to bear the brunt of her mistress' temperament. While the star by whom she is employed may be thrillingly happy today, the maid has learned from experience to be always on the lookout for some mishap, which, however slight, will alter her employer's feelings completely.

The maid of almost any theatrical celebrity is to all appearances one of the happiest and most punctual persons in existence. She is a quiet and efficient worker and learns quickly enough the necessity of not missing either performances or cues, always preparing in advance for the next change of apparel.

Most maids and dressers are expert with the needle and often inherit the discarded but still serviceable gowns which their extravagant employers have abandoned. There is a New York dancer who is far from the ranks of stardom but still affluent enough to employ two maids and a chauffeur. When things go wrong backstage she may be heard to shout and scold them with a thoroughness that halts at no form of expression.

And yet, for all that, she is ordinarily quite a pleasant being, and the two maids have been with her for years. Stage managers, too, are outside the theater picture. And yet, like the maids and valets, they live in a world which revolves upon every whim of some temperamental star or producer. When the sheets are tallied it will be seen that they also contribute largely to the success of the people and productions which they are working for.

The average stage manager has gone through several years of preliminary training before he reaches his station, a training that may include in its schedule anything from having been a call-boy to a playwright who is trying to earn his keep between the gaps of his various produced works.

The stage manager is, of course, an important cog in the theatrical machine, really a minor factor in the life of a production. The stage director, a more important person, for having produced and staged the play, teaches the stage manager exactly how the lines are to be delivered, and after that the latter must see to it that no alterations are made.

Occasionally the stage manager may be asked by the show's owner for his opinion concerning the selection of an understudy. But, all told, he will ordinarily be found back stage looking at his watch, taking note of curtain times, seeing to it that every one is ready for the next cue and everlastingly "shushing" loud talking.

Sometimes it happens that the stage manager has time to play a small part in the production. He may have been an actor once himself, and he is still useful because he does not suffer from stage-fright. There are even stage managers who are ex-producers, having previously lost in their own theatrical gambles.

The lot of the understudy is more often one of promise than of fulfillment. But the odds are usually worth taking, for there is the eternal hope that some time she will be called upon to assume her superior's role. One such chance may decide a whole career, and in this fashion many a player on Broadway today has earned her first chance.

The man in the box office prides himself upon his ability to understand human nature. He is a shrewd gentleman and occasionally may sell an orchestra seat to a person who feels he would prefer to sit upstairs. He knows, for instance, that there is a difference in the technique of selling tickets to men and women. He knows the laws, rules and regulations for both.

Ticket-takers and ushers may be combined as perhaps the most detached employees of a theatrical or-

ganization. Few of them undertake their jobs as their sole means of support. It is thus no great worry to them when a production shuts down. Among ushers there are college students, and young women, married and unmarried. Their hours of work are short, and they have plenty of spare time for themselves. Ticket-takers in the daytime have been known to be letter-carriers, store-keepers, students and even clerks.

Although this list of unsung, unrecognized heroes of the stage might be continued indefinitely into the outlying branches and offshoots of the theater there is one more person who cannot be neglected here, namely, the press agent.

There are all sorts of definitions concerning a press agent. At a meeting of the board of directors he may be fraternally called a publicity director. In social intercourse he may be referred to as a press representative, and the managers, too, usually have their own quaint descriptions of him. Even the detached observer must admit that, while his inventiveness is astounding, his work is not always appreciated, for, like other human beings, the press agent sometimes errs and when he does there is a price to pay. If he "pulls a stunt" that is pure fake, dramatic editors and city editors learn to classify him properly and it is a long time before he can come out of his hiding place to face them again with another idea for publicity.

On the whole, his is perhaps the most fascinating function of the long list of persons who attach themselves to the show business. He interprets to the outside world the lure of working behind the scenes among painted and powdered troupers, beautiful chorus girls and principals of every rank.

A successful press agent is among the world's most indefatigable and resourceful beings. His statements to the paper are, as a rule, couched in picturesque and sometimes illuminating language, and he leaves many an editor gasping and guessing as to whether or not he is telling the truth. He is not necessarily a pillar of veracity nor is he likewise at all times a pillar of the lesser falsehoods. There are those who believe that the press agent is one of the most important factors in the production of a play. He can run a good one with stupid publicity and sometimes he can "make" a bad one through intelligent planning.

Neglected Studies

There is a lot of trouble in this world because some men think they have learned finance before they have learned simple arithmetic.—Atchison Globe.

Unkind Thought

Maud—"That man over there has been staring at Reggie for quite a while. Wonder who he is." Marie—"Where? Oh, he's a celebrated mind reader." Maud—"Must be on his vacation."—Boston Transcript.

Violin of Glass

Attempts to make violins from a material other than wood have all failed until recently, when a German glass blower who is also a village musician in a town in the Riesen-Gebirge, has succeeded in making one of glass. The inventor's name is Bartel Hoellerlein, and Reclams Universum (Leipzig) speaks of his invention as follows:

"One can really use the expression

'a crystal-clear tone' in reference to this instrument. Before this violin is played it must be 'blown,' so to speak. Herr Hoellerlein is about to blow a double-bass viol, which will be presented to the Provincial museum at Breslau."—Literary Digest.

Peculiar Figurehead

The cumbersome old warships of several hundred years ago carried the most resplendent examples of prow carving ever known. Perhaps the handsomest figurehead of which there

is record was on the frigate Prince Royal, launched in 1608. The Prince Royal carried on its bow a huge and elaborate representation of the ill-fated son of King James I on horseback.