THE CALL

"AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER-THE NEWS PAPER OF AUTHORITY"

The 'Best Seller' and Its Most Facile Maker In Need of Correction

Robert W. Chambers has received much of that praise which is more sincere than imitation-the praise of royalties from the sale of his rapid output of

making such a match, and so offers to join with him in a "common law" arrangement. Of course, virtue triumphs valiantly in the end and there are real wedding bells, but the suspense is awful while it lasts.

This scandalous appeal is all to the middle class. To quote Mr. Creel

But your middle class, apart alike from the labor of the lower crust and the distractions of the upper, has plenty of time for curiosities and specu-The pruriency that is a potential factor in all human meditation boils up in them like soft soap in a kettle, and can just as easily be stirred. And Chambers, in the last analysis, is a master stirrer. He has reduced his appeal to pruriency to an exact science, for even while he is teasing it

deliberately, he still manages to keep within the law and the conventions. maker and a fascinating story teller. If he were not all that, his books, no matter how teasing and daring, would fail of popularity. He has those qualities combined in stronger union than any contemporary American writer, but in force, in passion, in prospective, in vitality, he can not compare with Mary Johnston, Theodore Dreiser, Robert Herrick or the late David Graham Phillips.

It serves no purpose to wrangle with people who read Mr. Chambers He entertains them, and that is all they ask. But it should serve a purpose to wrangle with Mr. Chambers himself. It should be easier to reform him than the whole conglomerate "middle class" of Mr. Creel's analysis.

Struggle of Word Experts a Healthful

William Dean Howells and his wife over the exact meaning of a word. At last,

for January on the relation of language to logic and to usage is no exception.

No. Tommy, he said, 'you can't have turkey. Take your choice, my lad, take your choice, but you can't have turkey." priety of expression depends, not on usage, but on reason. In the paraphrase of Omar, he would "divorce old barren reason" from his dictionary and take tend. Without just cause, to be all

Yet, as the Springfield Republican says: "Professor Lounsbury, for example, is dissatisfied with usage in spelling and, as an influential member of the simplified spelling board, is doing his best for reform. Logic may of the simplified spelling board, is doing his best for reform. Logic may had a fi dictate 'thru,' but conservative usage prefers to take the time needed to write feigned

dictate 'thru,' but conservative usage prefers to take the time needed to write 'through,' and it remains to be seen which will prevail."

A nice point is raised in the history of the use of "you are" instead of "you is" when referring to a single person. The logical singular statement would be "ye is," but the second person singular is obsolete, so the second person plural is used, and the agreement comes, not with the singular human antecedent of the pronoun, but between the plural verb and its plural—and illogical—subject. For 150 years prior to the nineteenth century "you was" was in vogue among the best writers of the time, but logic crumbled before usage.

It is good sport for the professors, this quest of the proper word and the proper usage, but, like Mrs. Howells, none will be moved by authority the word "none" in the preceding sentence. One school holds it to be a singular noun, and the other insists that it is plural and demands a plural verb. Fortunately for the purity of this paragraph in both camps, the form of the verb is indifferently singular or plural, and we thus avoid committing ourselves.

In the battles of language, save when the word "shibboleth" was used to detect the uncultured Ephraimites at the Gileadites' ford, the sword is never used and the minority party can not be exterminated, but can survive and of harass and publish books and, in time, possibly, wax into a majority and establish its lexicon and grammar as the philological law of the land.

State University Shows Signs of Becoming A Real Open Forum

Universities have long been marked with the stigma of "conservatism" by those to whom the word is odious. In truth, a university should be an open forum for the discussion of aspects of government and history. Modern and American war illustrate this truth. current conditions should be considered Hardly a man who took a prominent

were possible, as are the French revolution and the polity of Julius Caesar.

For a college faculty to ignore those political doctrines which are styled "progressive" because they are new, or even because the majority of the faculty might not approve of them, is to be as false to the responsibilities of the teaching profession as it would be for a medical college to ignore. were possible, as are the French revolution and the polity of Julius Caesar. faculty might not approve of them, is to be as false to the responsibilities of the teaching profession as it would be for a medical college to ignore a

of the teaching profession as it would be for a medical college to ignore anesthesia because it was not practiced in the fourth century, B. C.

The University of California is not to err in that fashion. Thomas H. Reed, associate professor of government, has issued a syllabus of lectures

The land heroes, not the got away without a hazing.

The land heroes, Shafter, Roosevelt and Miles, fared no better. Miles' sometime through Porto Ricco is not forgotten yet, while Shafter's hammock has outlived his victory, and Roosehe is to deliver before university extension classes on modern government. In his course he will deal with the faults of modern governmental practices and with progressive reforms. An idea of his point of view is succinctly conveyed by this quotation from the syllabus:

At present the courts are not genuinely respected, because they are not

respectable, yet respect for the courts lies at the basis of civilizati Not so many years ago it was considered anarchistic to speak in any such fashion of those sacro-sanct institutions, the courts. Now wiser men realize that the only way to avoid anarchy is to speak frankly and truthfully of the courts. There were only five men in the United States senate who defended former Judge Archbald on the first ballot. The others were not averse to acknowledging by their votes that a judge can do wrong.

Direct elections and the short ballot will be supported in the new course at the University of California. Many learned men, deeply read in their histories, hold that because the military Roman republic failed to live and the heterogeneous republics of ancient Greece, constituted of a small free population fed and fattened by slavery, could not survive, the American republic, given more and more to education and freedom, can not accomplish

self-government. Professor Reed will put new light into the old faculties. The great significance of Reed's work, after all, is that the University of California feels the urge of the people toward progress, and accepts progressiveness as a real issue, a vital instinct of modern life, as important a subject for study as irrigation and hydro-electric power,

SUPREME COURT'S ANSWER TO BRITAIN'S CANAL DEMAND

By WILLIAM R. WHEELER, Manager Chamber of Commerce Traffic Bureau

It is rather surprising that in all of in the same ports by vessels of the the discussion of the free tolls provi- United States.' Neither the exemption sion in the Panama canal act scarcely of coastwise steam vessels from pilotany reference has been made to a de- age resulting from the law of the cision of the United States supreme United States nor any lawful exemp-In Need of Correction

novels—and he has occasioned much comment and criticism. A story teller comment and criticism. A story teller of facility and popularity, he is the king tof the "best sellers," and a serial by him, published in a magazine, gives a phenomenal impetus to its circulation.

But Mr. Chambers' shortcomings are too many to escape notice, and ample consideration is given to them by George Creel, writing in the Rocky Mountain News of Denver. Mr. Creel's analysis of Chambers' popularity is shrewdly maintained. His discovery of the reason for Chambers' popularity is shrewdly maintained. His discovery of the reason for Chambers' grip on his addience is given thus:

Read the Chambers' serials—and there are very few who do not—and it will be found that their appeal is entirely made to the great middle class—the majority class that lies sungly bucked in between the upper crust and the lower crust. By has puth middle class—the majority class that lies sungly bucked in between the upper crust and the lower crust. By has puth middle class—the majority class that lies a new gorm or Burrougha a new butterfly.

And, looking close and following him carefully, it will be seen that the object of his study has been the vanities of this middle class—the sungly without discriminations of the crust of the sungly has been the vanities of their middle class—the port of the things in human nature that the most of us have, but which all of us would rather die than admit their possession.

Mr. Chambers pictures the man who can drink all day and still preserve his perfect manners, still remain the perfect gentleman. This talent for excessive inebriation, coupled with unshakable poise, is, according to Mr. Creat, the aim of many young men of the middle class—"young fools," to guite exactly. They find their mitror of perfection in Mr. Chambers' books.

More seriously Mr. Creel attacks the "best seller" for tile pruriency of his tales, naming particularly one which concerns the fastidious consideration of a pure arists model court, which plainly expresses the at- tion of coastwise vessels created by titude of that body. It will be recalled the state law concerns vessels in the

TOLD AND RETOLD

WONDERS

Ernest Thompson-Seton was narrating anecdotes about his beautiful residence Wyndygoul, at Cos Cob, Conn., which he has just sold.

"And one day," he said, "I asked a little boy in one of my camps to tell me something wonderful about birds.

"Why,' said the little boy, 'how they come out of the eggs, that's wonderful."

"Now' I went on "tell me some."

HIS OPINION CONFIRMED Theodore Dreiser, who, at the age of 40, has produced only two novels, be-lieves in slow, painstaking composithey ask. But it should serve a purpose inself. It should be easier to reform him the class" of Mr. Creel's analysis.

There is a delightful story, frequently reprinted, regarding a dispute between will think the same," said Dreiser coldly.

"These monopolies in their treatment of the small dealer remind me of Mr. Blanc," said Upton Sinclair. "Mr. Blanc said to his little son on Christmas day.

was upheld in definition and usage. "Whose authority does it the unconvinced Mrs. Howells," promptly replied the authority promptly. "But Mr. Blane began to hack away at the gristly, gray, cold mutton." "No. Tommy," he said, 'you can't

said at a recent dinner. "I recently called on a famous Scot. The Scot was an ardent disciple of Burns, and had a fine collection of Burnsiana. The bluffer looked at the volumes with feigned interest, and then said

The late William C. Clark, head of the well known thread works, was fond of couching in aphorisms good advice or couching in apporisms good advice for young men.
In an address before the young men of Newark Mr. Clark once said:
"Get money, my young friends. Become independent. Poverty is not a crime, but it is always punished by hard labor."

Our One Living Hero

The living hero has a hard time, specially in a republic. The dead hero is the only safe one from the fluctuations of public opinion. heroes produced by the Spanishwith quite as much impartiality, if it part in it on the American side es-

CONCERNING NEW CALL

(Porterville Messenger.) There appears to be less glee over the amateur methods-once so called-of the new owners of lowing change in ownership of that metropolitan journal. As a matter of fact the new management of The Call has already rejuvenated that publication, and it is rapidly becoming a force in California journalism. Thus far it has been conspicuous for dignity, fairness and independence. It is sincerely to be hoped it will continue in its present course. It will be refreshing to have one

"Woodrow Wilson naturally believes in a college education for boys and girls alike," said a banker at the Princeton club in New York.

"Mr. Wilson, lunching with me here, once said in his quaint way that the old idea about a college education unfitting a lad for work had quite died out.

out.

"We no longer hear," he declared, "stories like that of Gobso Golde.

"When Gobso Golde's son Scattergood," he explained, "desired to go to Princeton, he said to the old man:

"Pater, is it true that boys who go to college are unfit for work afterward?"

"Of course it ain't true!" snorted the old man indignantly. "Why I've got a Princeton graduate running my freight elevator, two of my best coal heavers are Harvard A. B.'s and a Yale B. S. is my star truck driver."

AN ADVERTISING STORY F. I. Fletcher, at a Sphinx club din-ner in New York, told an advertising

story.

"A man," he said, "entered a shop one bitter cold day and bought a woolen muffler. When he opened the muffler, he found inside it the photograph of a beautiful glrl, together with a of a beautiful girl, together, note saying:
"'If you are single, please write to

But Endless Conflict

after argument had failed, the arbitration of the small dealer remind me of Mr. Blanc," said Upton Sinclair.

"Mr. Blanc said to his little son on the novelist found that his contention was upheld in definition and usage. "Whose authority does it cite?" asked the unconvinced Mrs. Howells. "Howells," promptly replied the authority of the small dealer remind me of Mr. Blanc said to his little son on Christmas day:

"Tommy, which will you have, turkey or cold mutton?"

"Turkey, please,' Tommy answered promptly."

"Turkey, please,' Tommy answered week he had failen head over heels in love." love.
"So he wrote to the girl. Another week passed, a week of anxious nerve

man received this crushing letter:

"'Sir: The Mary Smith to whom you wrote was my grandmother. She died nine years ago, aged 86. Yours truly."

"Our heart broken bachelor, on look-

THE TURKEY STIFFER

"These scratches on my face," he said, "don't indicate that I am unhappily married. They indicate that I am a turkey stuffer.

"High grade turkeys, the last week or two before Christmas, are brought up to the proper degree of corpularce.

ONE DIFFERENCE

Senator Lodge, at dinner in the Back Bay district of Boston, indicated very neatly the difference between a states-man and a politician. "A statesman," he said, "thinks of the next generation; a politician of the next election." velt's charge up San Juan hill i tainted by satirical flings.

George Dewey, the here of Manila George Dewey, the hero of Manila, bore himself so well while on his quarterdeck that calumny seemed baffied. But the minute Dewey came ashore, the sharpshooters got him. His petulant two days' candidacy for president and the Dewey house scandal were the ammunition. But Dewey recovered himself, pulled out of politics, satisfied the public that he had subscribed for the house, got his admiral's flag from congress, and lives today a modest, quiet hero.

stranger to his room.

"Fireproof," he repeated to a crony on his return, "why there hasn't been a pound of coal in the cellar this year."—

Chicago Evening Post. His One Plot

RAILROADS

THAT 1913 SMILE

Millianighiliff

Assemblyman Stuckenbruck has another mission at Sacramento besides the destruction of the meadow lark. He is after the loan shark, and would make it a felony to charge more than 1 per cent interest. Stuckenbruck of Acampo has some pretty good ideas that ought to find a place on the books. If he keeps on advancing them the public may conclude that it would be the part of wisdom to send more blacksmiths and fewer lawyers to Sacramento.—Bakersfield Californian. A chicken raiser of Sawtelle contends that a rooster thinks.

There is no disposition here to take issue with the gentleman.

It would be interesting, however, to know the quality of thought that surges through the roosterly mind when, at 3 a. m., it feels impelled to call the neighborhood out of pleasing dreams.—Los Angeles Tribune. When people had to buy schoolbooks 30,000 did the business; now that they

In the State Press

FREE SCHOOLBOOKS

PARCEL POST FUTURE

The extortionate rates charged when here was no parcel post were discourging, while now, with a delivery that ill take every package to a man's our whether he live in city or country, a percel idea is greatly strengthened

WANT THE BEST

for contempt the supreme court of Idaho has but augmented the real contempt felt toward it and openly expressed—outside the state!—Sacramento Bee. An estimate of Sacramento's population based on the number of names in the 1913 city directory, and making the usual allowance of two and one-half in population to each name, places the number of inhabitants at 71,527. That is, there are 28,611 names in the directory. This, of course, is not absolutely accurate; it is not claimed to be other than an estimate, but it is the method of estimating ordinarily adopted, and it is conceded to come fairly close to the statistical fact.—Sacramento Union.

GIVE AND TAKE

The belated and frantic appeals of our steamed progressive contemporaries to congress not to ruin the citrus industry of California by placing lemons on the free list or cutting down the protective tariff on these fruits will lose much of their force from the fact that prior to election the editorial columns of these journals were filled with diatribes against the republican doctrine of tariff protection.

How, it may be asked, can these inconsistent journals ask for a high tariff on lemons and demand a low tariff on steel goods? How can they call for a protective tariff on wool and deny it to manufactures of cotton? How can they clamor for a tariff on beet sugar and demand that shoes be admitted free of duty?—Los Angeles Times.

FOR THE COMMON GOOD

A fine spirit of co-operative helpfulness is being evinced by the banking and other interests of Southern
California in promptly and generously
offering to extend credits to citrus
fruit growers. It is through mutual
loyalty to all interests in this state
for the common good on the principle
that when one industry thrives all
thrive and vice versa, that magnificent
progress is being made along diverse
lines. California can not do better
than to make itself one vast cooperative colony to the extent that
each individual and each locality, each
industry and each interest, shall strive
harmoniously for the common good—
Pasadena Star. By providing for the sale of the surplus Owens river water, the tax payers will save themselves \$23,000,000 expended for the aqueduct and interest.—Los Angeles Express. There will be a lot more automobile sales on the west side this year, for the farmers over there never had a better prospect and when they wint they want the best in everything that money will buy.—Stockton Independent

FROST PROTECTION

Already first in the nation in the matter of advanced constructive reforms. California will move another long stride ahead. The Hewitt bill, backed by the Johnson administration and sure to pass, will, when enacted into law, make this state the first in the union to adopt a civil service code with relation to state employes. The act insures again the moral sincerity of the Johnson regime.—Los Angeles Tribune.

FROST PROTECTION

While it is very unlikely that citrus growers will again suffer damage by frost for many years—this borne out by past records—yet it is during this protection should be carried on by the government. And as the reptact in the union to adopt a civil service code with relation to state employes. The act insures again the moral sincerity of the Johnson regime.—Los Angeles Tribune.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

dadmiral forbade involuntary retirement. He is heard from only once a year. On his birthday, which comes is near Christmas, he is interviewed on his health, and makes some sage remarks about keeping away from late banquets.—Minneapolis Journal.

Some Hostelry

In a cheap hotel on the north side the proprietor, who was janitor, porter and clerk, objected to the constant burning of gas by one of his guests. He was advised this way:

"If you would wash your windows you would have to buy curtains. I'm onto that. As long as I can't see out in obody can see in, but in winter I've got to see my way around. Til shut off the fass if you'll turn on the daylight."

In the same hotel an arrival asked if the hotel was fireproof," is should say; it was," answered the owner, turning himself into a beliboy and escorting the stranger to his room.

"Fireproof," he repeated to a crony

ORIFLAMME—R. A. T. Q., Blehmond. Orl. dadmiral forbade involuntary retirement. He had abone of St. Denis. When the same possessed of the abbey, on the subject of "Whipping the Baby": "The following is what Robert G. Ingersol as you on the subject of "Whipping the Baby": "the following is what Robert G. Ingersol as you on the subject of "Whipping the Baby": "the following is what Robert G. Ingersol as you on the subject of "Whipping the Baby": "the following is what Robert G. Ingersol as you on the subject of "Whipping the Baby": "the following is what Robert G. Ingersol as you on the subject of "Whipping the Baby": "the following is what Robert G. Ingersol as you on the subject of "Whipping the banner in the sared into their hands, and when, it to the the same hote is one of you here who expects to whe the same subject of "Whipping the Baby": "the the same, he banger of the subject of "Whipping the Baby": "the following is what Robert G. Ingersol as the the same, when the subject of when the subject of whether death and the same house in the subject of when the subject of the subject of the same in the subject of the subject of the subject of the s

FRIAR LANDS—Subscriber, City. It was in 1902 that William Howard Taft, then civil governor of the Philippines, visited Rome on orders from President Roosevelt to confer with the popen relation to the sale of the friar lands in the diands. He reached a general basis for agreement with a committee of cardinals and

HOTEL NEWS

Palace. Mr. Palmer left his wife and two daughters, the Misses Dorothy and Evelyn winter in order to attend the season of opera in the metropolis. While in Portland a few days ago Mr. Palmer fell and injured himself.

Harry Bolte, one of the largest sugar planta-tion owners of Honolulu, is at the Sutter. Mr. Bolte has been in the United States for a year aking of the future of the islands, Bolte said: and many of the large banking corporations of the east are sending agents to investigate con-ditions there. Personally, I think the islands have a great future, and that the opportunity

F. H. Gilman, Pacific coast representative of the

tered at the Sutter.

W. L. Gaylor and B. B. McLennon, wholesale

merchants of Manila, are at the Manz. They have come here to purchase their spring stock.

A. J. Lafranchi and A. F. Tomassini, business staying at the Manx.

Ross, and Mrs. Chandler and A. L. Lytle, real estate operator of Los Angeles, are at the

Major and Mrs. H. D. Todd, Major and Mrs. E. V. Bookmiller, Captain and Mrs. Edgar A. Sirmeyer, Captain and Mrs. W. William Mc-Cammon, Captain Dennis P. Smith of the United States army and Paymaster and Mrs. Walter Hamilton, U. S. N., registered yesterday at the Stewart, having come here on the army

Frederick Kimball Steams and Eugene Dyke, nanufacturing chemists of Detroit, are at the

of Pasadena; Colonel V. M. Backus, banker of Vancouver; Wesley Austin, assistant manager of the Utah hotel, Salt Lake City; A. W. Maltby. capitalist of Antioch, and Dr. Leon Wallace Mansur and a party of five of Los Angeles were among those who registered yesterday at the St. Francis.

James T. Dorgan, president of a wholesale and retail coal company of Omaha, and Mrs. Dor-gan are at the Palace. G. B. Bullard, A. W. Con and Edwin Kent. railroad men of Phoenix, are staying at the

C. E. Pearsall, a lumber man and banker of Eureka, is registered at the Palace. Burton Gedge of Spokane, who has a large shingle mill, and Roy D. Gawthrop, an insurance man of Portland, registered yesterday at the

Bremerton navy yard, is at the Bellevue with

O., is registered at the Bellevue.

J. A. Porter, a prominent business man from

G. A. McPherson, cashier of a bank in Rose-ville; O. G. Wagers, manager for a dried fruit packing establishment in Healdsburg, and R. H. Ely, a merchant of San Jose, and Mrs., Ely are at the Argonaut.

A Paean of Peace

Let the battle drums be silent,
And the battle flags be furled,
And the guns no more be violent,
And the shells no longer hurled.
Let the swords be hammered over
Into Labor's useful tools,
Sow the camps with corn and clover,
Change the arsenals to schools,

Close the grim and gory pages
Of the records of the past;
Man has climbed through countless

And has reached the light at last.
He has learned the greatest glory
Is to save and not to slay.
And a hero's proudest story
Is the toller's humble day.