

Reporting Is Strenuous In Britain, Too

It is the popular belief in the United States that in no other land is a live newspaper to be found and that only in America will a reporter imperil life or limb in an endeavor to secure for his paper a scoop or beat, a coveted picture or an interview from an unwilling and surly repository of valuable facts.

But word comes from across the sea that journalism of the type termed "yellow" is looking up among our English cousins. The work of the newspapers in the Crippen murder case, the enterprise which sent a bright young Briton to New York and back on the Mauretania, leaving him a few hours to see Gotham, Philadelphia and Washington, and several other modern instances have convinced the Yankee reporters that lively things can happen outside the U. S. A.

A characteristic example of this enterprise came to light during the recent general election, and the shining light was Alfred J. Rorke of the Central News of London, who scored a beat on every one of the fourteen pollings which he was assigned to cover. As the British parliamentary elections were held any time within a month and the public interest in the results of each contested polling were of the most intense character it behooved each news agency and paper to get the result to London as quickly as possible so that it might keep the mass of the people posted to the minute on the progress of the fight.

Of all these beats the election at Peckham shed more glory on Rorke than any of the others. He gleaned a big advantage by cozening the returning officer into giving him the exclusive newspaper right in the polling



Photo by Central News, London.
ALFRED J. RORKE (IN THE REAR), THE HERO OF FOURTEEN ENGLISH ELECTION BEATS, WATCHING THE BALLOT COUNTING AT PECKHAM.

room and then elaborated upon his concession by getting in a bureau photographer and taking a flashlight of what to the Englishman is the "holy of holies." In England such a picture is regarded as something akin to tampering with the ballots, hence sacrilege.

But the count was finally concluded, and Rorke, with the totals on a slip of paper, rushed from the room to a telephone for which he had arranged in advance. Outside the door he fell into a sea of mud left by the street scavengers, and while trying to arise from the muck he was knocked down by an automobile. This time his shoulder was dislocated and an arm and wrist were badly torn. Despite these handicaps he gained the phone and got his news to London first.

Bust Umbrellas to Cheer Widows.
The widows of Paris have a new scheme for publicly mourning their husbands, and it has already made its appearance in New York. It is the display of a bust of the deceased in place of the usual umbrella handle. But this outward expression of devotion to the departed is not likely to become too popular, as it represents the outlay of considerable money. The bust is made of silver and must be modeled from photographs as a rule, with added descriptions from the widow. One that was seen recently was striking in design, for the silver had been treated, dark oxidation marking the hair and the cheeks in spots, while the mustache, cut off sharply at a level with the upper lip, was a dead gray. The remainder of the features were slightly burnished metal, and the eyes were bored out conically, as in bronze figures, to give expression.



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PANAMA IS "AGIN" POETRY.

Governor Thatcher of Canal Zone In Disfavor on Isthmus.
There is more trouble in the Panama canal zone. Not only is the Culebra cut again being assailed by mysterious waters, but the fame of Governor Maurice H. Thatcher as a poet is being denounced, excoriated and anathematized. According to a circular letter of protest which has reached the president and both houses of congress, "life down here (the canal zone) is bad enough at best. With Governor Thatcher's poetry it is insupportable."

The petitioners do not ask for Governor Thatcher's removal, as they say



GOVERNOR MAURICE H. THATCHER OF THE CANAL ZONE.

he is a well meaning man, but shy on versifying ability. What accentuates the poetic conditions particularly are the parodies that canal poets write.

For instance, Governor Thatcher's latest outburst, according to the circular, is entitled "Scene at Ancon" and ripples along thus:

Drift, clouds, drift far o'er the western sea,
Rift, clouds, rift in loveliness for me.
Blow, winds, blow,
Flow, tides, flow,
Gild all with glory, sun, we ask of thee.

Smile, hills, smile like the peaks of by and by,
Pile, hills, pile till thou pierce the tropic sky.

Rise, islets, rise—
Oh, this is paradise,
A paradise of beauty that can never die!

"This would not be so bad," the letter continues, "were it not that a gifted bard who wet nurses a steam shovel in the daytime has written a parody on the governor's poem which he calls 'Heard at Ancon.' Here is a sample:

"Crow, cocks, crow from sunset until dawn,
Bark, dogs, bark in torture unto me.
Moo, cows, moo,
Croak, frogs, croak,
Make life a hell. This we owe to ye.

"Toss, martyrs, toss like the sinner by and by,
Pile, pillows, pile till ye stifle every cry.
Rise, sufferer, rise
And from out this paradise
Hurl the brickbat or the poem that can never die.

No congressional investigation has yet been ordered.

LOWELL AGAINST "RAH-RAHS"

Harvard Head Stirs Wrath by Denouncing Students' Cheering.

It seemed bad enough, from the undergraduate point of view, anyway, when the university faculties began dabbling in football reform, but the hardest blow dealt at collegiate institutions in many years came recently in Boston when A. Lawrence Lowell, president of Harvard university, de-



nounced the powerful, rolling "Rah, rah, rah, Harvard," as well as other organized cheers.

"Of all the processes of expressing emotions," quoth President Lowell before the music teachers' national convention, "organized cheering is from every point of view the worst."

The trouble was started by Mr. Lowell's address on the decadence of the musical taste, which he opened mildly by stating that "one of the saddest things is to go to a gathering of educated men—say college men or alumni—and note the kind of music given at their dinners. It is ragtime, and ragtime of a very poor quality. These men seem to care very little for good music. What they want is a catchy song after they have exhausted their voices in organized cheering."

People of Note

Snapshots at Celebrities Talked About



THE street car doctor of the United States has received another hurly call and will soon be on his way to Philadelphia to inject business anti-toxin into the Quaker City's surface transportation and administer revivifying tonics born of long and successful experience.

This transportation physician is Thomas E. Mitten, president of the Chicago City Railway company, and he is being loaned to the Philadelphians for a good fat fee. Mr. Mitten performed what seemed to be a miracle in his reorganization of the big and demoralized Chicago system, following similar successes on a more modified scale in both Buffalo and Milwaukee.

The Philadelphia Rapid Transit company, which operates all the surface, elevated and subway lines there, is the new patient, and \$10,000,000 is to be spent in rehabilitating the entire system and making it thoroughly modern. The company controls about 600 miles of trackage, but politics and strikes, it is asserted, have greatly weakened its powers.

E. T. Stotesbury, a leading Philadelphia banker and harness horse enthusiast and a business associate of J. Pierpont Morgan, was called upon to save the system from wreckage, and he immediately consulted with Mr. Mitten, and the \$10,000,000 expenditure was settled upon.

Manuel, the deposed king of Portugal, while awaiting a call to return to his throne intends getting a regal education. The former king is confident the Portuguese will call on him to again assume the reins of monarchy, and he intends to thoroughly equip himself against that time and to prevent any further contretemps such as the recent revolution.

As is known, Manuel has had a residence rented for him at Richmond, near London, and as soon as he is settled there it is his intention to attend lectures at Oxford university and other English centers of learning. The boy king's tastes are said to be literary



EX-KING MANUEL OF PORTUGAL.

and scientific, and he expects great benefit from the lectures, though he has no intention of seeking a degree.

But the important part of Manuel's post graduate educational course is to commence when he finishes at the universities. He has planned a tour of the world and intends visiting Australia, Africa, Canada, the United States and the nations of the orient, with the idea of carefully studying the different forms of government.

Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, the woman attorney of Washington who ran for president in 1884 against Grover Cleveland, James G. Blaine and Benjamin F. Butler, is defendant in a suit



for \$10,000 damages, the plaintiff being James B. Brackett of Dalton, Ga., and the charge malicious arrest in an attempt to extort money. The case is attracting much attention in the national capital, where Mrs. Lockwood has practiced for many years.

The litigation grew out of a government settlement of the claims of the descendants of the eastern Cherokee Indians. Brackett's family, it is stated, received something more than \$4,000 of this money, of which Mrs. Lockwood demanded 10 per cent. This demand was refused by Brackett on the ground that he had not employed the erstwhile presidential aspirant to handle the case. When Brackett received the money Mrs. Lockwood had him arrested on the charge of larceny after trust. When the case was heard, however, the charge against Brackett was dismissed.

In the Limelight

Gossip of Persons In the Dispatches

A BRAND new issue has appeared in time for the annual electoral battle of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the Great American Baby. The skirmish lines already thrown out by the principal candidates indicate that the infant will play a strong part, and certainly no candidate who fails to show grandchildhood has a chance of becoming president general of that patriotic body this year.

At present the three foremost figures in the society are Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, president general, who desires a second term; Mrs. Donald McLean, her Warwick, who is working for her re-election, and Mrs. William Cummings Story, leader of the opposition, who nearly defeated Mrs. Scott at the last balloting and thinks she can do it this time.

All are members of the Order of P. G., which, translated, means, not president general, but proud grandmother. Of course there are other issues, such as whether Mrs. Scott declared she would not be a candidate for re-election and such. They are minor issues, but may become of importance, since both candidates are recognized members of the O. P. G.

This is the season of the year when prosecuting attorneys the country over are proudly pointing to the records of victories attained during their terms of office, but it is doubtful if any will be found that will excel that of Ed-



EDWIN W. SIMS.

win W. Sims, district attorney at Chicago for the department of justice of the federal government. He can show the books to prove that he has won 95 per cent of the cases he has prosecuted in the last four years, among them being some of more than national reputation. Not only that, but the office has had the greatest period of activity in its history, so that proves even more than the bare percentage statement of Mr. Sims' office record.

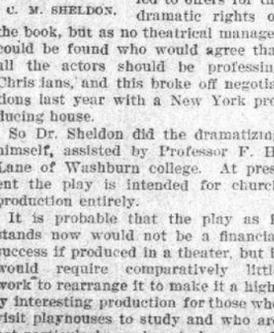
Especially during the last year have notable cases been tried or instituted. Prominent Chicago packers, for instance, have been twice indicted, and investigations of the oleomargarine frauds and the so called paving brick trust have been made.

There are few playwrights in all probability who decline to sell their wares at any price unless their conditions are agreed to in full. Yet that is the experience of the Rev. Charles M. Sheldon of Topeka, Kan., known the world over as the author of "In His Steps" and later as the clergyman who handled the Topeka Daily Capital for one week "as Christ would have run it."

The popularity of "In His Steps" soon led to offers for the dramatic rights of the book, but as no theatrical manager could be found who would agree that all the actors should be professing Christians, and this broke off negotiations last year with a New York producing house.

So Dr. Sheldon did the dramatizing himself, assisted by Professor F. H. Lane of Washburn college. At present the play is intended for church production entirely.

It is probable that the play as it stands now would not be a financial success if produced in a theater, but it would require comparatively little work to rearrange it to make it a highly interesting production for those who visit playhouses to study and who are not particularly anxious to be amused



C. M. SHELDON.

"JIMSWINGER" FOR OKLAHOMA

Any Old Coat With Flapping Tails, Says Governor Cruce.

Another edict as to sartorial modes has come out of the west, and this time it is official for gubernatorial inaugurations, so far as Governor Lee Cruce of Oklahoma is concerned anyway.

When Mr. Cruce began to be consulted about the plans for his inaugural ball he declared himself. He would



GOVERNOR LEE CRUCE OF OKLAHOMA.

not wear full dress, nor would he dance, but he would wear a "jimswinger."

Immediately the country was agitated by a pleasurable excitement. Here was a phase of Oklahoma not treated of in that famous constitution. What was a "jimswinger"? Was it a frock coat of the lofty order affected by Senator Beveridge of Indiana? Was it the nifty cutaway of great former popularity and now struggling for re-installation? Was it the ordinary sack coat of business life or the "round about" of Hoosier poesy? Was it a pair of high cut overalls or a flannel shirt set off by a bandanna and a cartridge belt?

So important became the inquiries that the governor elect felt constrained to explain to the world the exact definition of the term "jimswinger," and here it is:

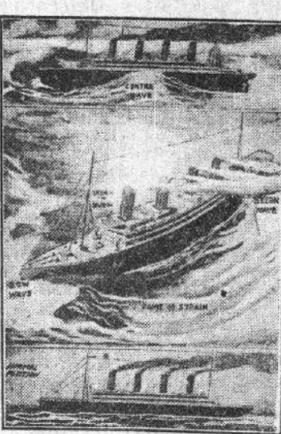
"Any old coat with long tails that may flap out behind in the wind. Just at present it applies directly to long Prince Alberts fashioned much like my usual suit for dress occasions. Why do they call it a 'jimswinger'? Why, because that's an old expression of the southern negro which is applied to any long coat with tails that flap behind."

OCEAN STRAINS DISCOUNTED.

Great Liners Scientifically Constructed to Skim Waves.

In these days of monster ocean liners with their almost maximum attainment of comfort there are few who realize the great strides that have been made even during the last twenty years. It is the traveler of before the war times who knows the difference and who appreciates the delight of skimming the tops of the waves in a Lusitania or similar floating palace instead of pitching and tossing between gigantic combers or wallowing in the trough, as in the days of the short and stubby passenger vessel.

This skimming the waves theory is by no means new, yet it is the secret



PICTORIAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF HOW A LINER STANDS THE OCEAN STRAINS.

of modern sea travel. Not only does it make for luxury, but it lessens the strains of the ocean's pounding on the sides of the vessel. But even the long liner cannot overcome the side twists that old Neptune is wont to give those who brave his power. For this season the strain is counteracted by means of double plating on the sides, while to allow a certain play or flexibility divisions are purposely made in the upper works.

It is the old traveler who will recall the Great Eastern, which was launched in 1858 in England and advertised as the model of comfort. This boat, built at an expense of \$300,000, was 280 feet in length and was constructed with the idea of attaining the wave-skimming still sought. It made all other ocean liners of the time look like pygmies, but the pygmies had their day, for the Great Eastern proved utterly unmanageable and speedily degenerated into a troopship and then as a layer of transatlantic cables.

Wintry Swim In Atlantic Joy of Many

THE old English habit of taking a cold plunge on rising is certainly spreading to an alarming extent. The Americans nat-

urally were the first to follow this practice, which is now quite general throughout the world. But that was merely the first chapter in the progress of cleanliness. The second combined endurance and hardihood with the ablatatory process, and the third chronicles the daring stage.

There were a number of estimable cold water devotees in London who found their fancy was no longer a novelty or badge of distinction, whereas upon they established what is now a historic London institution—the Christmas Bathing club. The members of this organization solemnly and sturdily bathe annually each Christmas morn in the Serpentine in Regent's park in the conventional abbreviated costume, breaking the ice if necessary to permit a header from the springboard.

Not desiring to be outdone in such a manner, various members of the New York Athletic club, aided and abetted by sundry other arctic swimmers, have instituted a daily dipping association with the roaring Atlantic or Sheepshead bay as the receiver general, to use a pugilistic term. Coney Island is the brink of this fountain of perpetual youth, so it is evident Ponce de Leon was several miles out of the way in his bootless quest.

One of the most remarkable of the charter members of this club is Mag-



BATHERS ON BEACH WITH THERMOMETER AT FIFTY DEGREES—READY FOR A SNOW RACE.

istrate James E. Tighe of South Brooklyn, who for thirty years has followed the practice of taking a wintry bath, carrying an ax with him in case the ice proves refractory in Sheepshead bay. The judge is now about sixty years of age, so it is evident the congealed plunge either agrees with him or he is possessed of a marvelous constitution. He admits that he uses a mental science, persuading himself that the water is delightfully warm, else, as he candidly confesses, "it would be all over with me, for with one shiver I'd have to quit."

But all the Coney Island bathers are admittedly not as hardy as Judge Tighe, for they warm up with a medicine ball before entering the surf and confine their dips to brief spasms. It is quite a fad for New York motorists to watch the ice defiers.

New Yorkers, particularly residents of Long Island, have another winter pastime that is equally as exciting as the ocean plunge and less chilling to the majority. This is scooting. The habitat of the scooter is on Long Island sound and the Great South bay in particular, and the number of its admirers increases annually.

What is a scooter? Well, it is neither an iceboat nor a yacht proper, but its construction is of such a nature that it combines the advantages of both and travels with equal facility on ice and water. The bottom is shaped somewhat like a spoon and bears



SCOOTER YACHT USED AS A DUCK BLIND.

two long steel runners. The craft is usually twelve to sixteen feet in length and carries a sail and a jib. It is steered either with a long pole tipped with an edged runner as a rudder or by the jib. As for speed, the scooter has the reputation of having beaten one of the fastest iceboats in the east.

The scooter is utilized as a winter lifeboat by the relief station at Smith beach, Long Island, but it is particularly popular among sportsmen. Duck hunters, for instance, can visit hunting grounds twelve miles away in less than half an hour and find spots that would otherwise be inaccessible at that time of the year. The scooter can also be used as a blind.