

The Daily Mail

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A SPANISH NOVELIST.

No Spanish novelist of our time has been so well known outside of Spain as Vicente Blasco Ibanez, who died an exile in his villa at Mentone. Though he wrote much, his fame rests largely upon two of his later novels, "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" and "Mare Nostrum." The first gained popularity in all the Allied countries as an overwhelming indictment of German ruthlessness. The second took the Mediterranean as its theme, with incidental stress upon German submarine warfare. In both cases Ibanez used a large canvas filled with human figures. He had breadth of style as well as intensity of feeling, and he was freely compared with Victor Hugo. In his earlier writings Balzac was more obviously his master; he essayed to portray all phases of Spanish life with convincing reality.

He did not fall wholly short of his aims, but among his own countrymen he was never as highly regarded as Valdes or Galdos, who were his superiors in artistic skill and masters of a more consummate style. It may be that his political activities somewhat qualified his success as a writer. He aspired to be a revolutionary leader; he headed street demonstrations, he assailed the authorities in violent terms, suffered imprisonment and twice was forced to leave Spain. More than thirty years ago, however, he returned and lived there unmolested until the bitterness of his attacks on the King made him so much disliked that he went to France. It must be said that his political career was rather futile; his temper was destructive rather than constructive.

The best of his work in fiction will no doubt survive the animosities he aroused in his lifetime. It is too soon to assign him to his exact rank among Spanish writers. The epic quality of "Mare Nostrum" suggests that it may prove to be the crown of his career. No one who knows and loves the Mediterranean can read it without a thrill.

THE FONDEST DREAM.

Long life is, has and probably always will be the fondest dream of men.

No matter how much poverty exists or how troubles pile up, we poor mortals are sufficiently content with our lot on earth to keep it as long as we can. If we were not suicide would long since have become the fashion.

Desire for long life has not only intrigued poets, philosophers and savants since the dawn of consciousness, but it has opened the door to the most fantastic beliefs and the worst frauds that ever plagued humanity.

Elixirs, white magic, fountains of youth and all kinds of curious cures have become popular at one time or other because of the hope they offered of prolonging life.

This, more than anything else, reveals the depth and universality of the desire.

The lives of Mrs. Sadie Radtka and Mrs. Rose Cross, of Baltimore, Md., run parallel. Their husbands died on the same day in December last and they are going to marry on the same day and at the same place. Mrs. Radtka will become Mrs. Albert J. Smith and Mrs. Cross will be Mrs. Milton F. Smith. The double ceremony will be performed at Atlantic City, N. J., April 30. The women have been friends since childhood. Each has one child.

With 121,219 games of solitaire to his credit, Charles Conklin, of Decatur, Ill., is sure he holds the world's record. For more than 30 years he has kept a book account of the play to determine the chances of winning and losing. He has won only 628 games, of about one in 190, and that without any unfair concessions to himself. At the age of 74 he is still at it and proposes to play as long as he can shuffle the pasteboards.

Montreal Gazette: The New Brunswick oyster beds will be turned over to the Dominion, says Premier Baxter, if that will help the oyster. It does seem that some very radical changes will have to be made if the Canadian bivalve is to be made than a succulent memory. The oyster bears his deprivations in silence, but not so with the epicure who finds his menu bereft of its crowning glory.

At the annual meeting of J. Clark & Sons Ltd., of which His Worship Mayor Clark of this city is president, it was reported that the sales last year had passed the million dollar mark. His Worship is also head of the Lounsbury Company, Ltd., which concern at its annual meeting at Newcastle a few days ago, also reported that the million dollar mark had been passed last year in the volume of sales.

It is a poor heart, says the proverb, in which hope cannot find something to feed upon. When a man or woman tells you that hope is dead, you can be pretty sure it is just a pose and a pretense. Hope almost never dies entirely. If hope dies in the heart you have reached the end of the rope. For the death of hope is the death of everything.

It was Glenn Frank, president of the University of Wisconsin, who said that the average newspaper editor underestimated his readers' intelligence but overestimated their information. The lack of information on the part of people who are really intelligent is a startling disclosure to anyone who will take the trouble to investigate.

Mr. Frank B. Kellogg, secretary of state for the United States will pay a visit to Ottawa this week.

If the groundhog ventured out of his den on Candlemas day it is a safe gamble that he saw his shadow.

Maybe that mysterious Skellerup Comet was just a skjumper that never came down.

QUEEN MARY IS INDISPOSED

(Special cable to The Daily Mail by the British United Press)

London, Feb. 6.—Queen Mary is suffering from a cold and will be unable to attend the ceremonial opening of Parliament with King George tomorrow, it was announced at Buckingham Palace today.

Last week it was said that the Queen was recovering normally from a cold.

TO CARRY ON AS MODERATOR

Toronto, Feb. 5.—Rev. Dr. A. J. McGillivray has arrived here from Guelph to carry on the work of Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada until the General Assembly next June, elects a successor to the late Rev. Dr. W. L. Clay, who died in Winnipeg Thursday night. Rev. Dr. McGillivray was the late Moderator's predecessor in office and he has been acting Moderator during the illness of Rev. Mr. Clay.

Police Were Busy.

Members of the provincial police were quite busy over the week-end making calls other than for social purposes on citizens engaged in the dispensing of liquor refreshments. At one place visited a search was conducted but nothing of an incriminating nature was revealed.

Inspection Trip.

Moncton Times: Mr. Arthur E. O'Leary, Inspector of Stores for the N. B. Liquor Control Board who has been on an inspection trip through the Northern and Eastern sections of the province left yesterday for his home in Richibucto to spend the week end.

Southampton Estate.

In the estate of William J. Briggs of Southampton letters of administration have been granted by Judge Fenety to his son Bird S. Briggs. The estate is valued at \$16,100 of which \$11,000 is personal and \$5000 real.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Texas average girl thinks she is above the average. She would.

Making a success of matrimony is a fine career for any normal woman.

After the meek have inherited the earth—how long will they remain meek?

Human nature being what it is there isn't much hope that many hell bent drivers will begin the new year by swearing off.

Doing things "by the simple twist of the wrist" is old stuff. But nothing much ever happened as a result until the radio came.

It has been said countless times that it takes all kinds of people to make a world. But even so, there seems to be a lot of waste material.

That old feather bed of vivid memory, which mattress manufacturers say is almost gone, had the distinction of being hard to get out of on a cold morning.

Probably the most hopeless advice so far as results are concerned is this: Forget it. Bob Ryder.—Try offering it to the fellow who owes you \$10.

Enthusiastically the young agent declared the book contained a complete education. Which seemed all right until he explained that his purpose in canvassing was to obtain funds with which to support him in college.

BATTLES TO BE FOUGHT IN THE AIR IN FUTURE

(Special to the Daily Mail by the British United Press)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 6.—Battlefields six miles above the earth are forecast by the war department which today announced that pursuit planes recently ordered would be equipped for fighting 31,000 feet in the air.

The planes will have apparatus to feed oxygen to the pilot and super chargers to feed air to the motors. Airmen without such protection have been forbidden to rise more than 15,000 feet above the ground. Another order forbade flying lower than 75 feet over persons or constructions.

THE VATICAN ANNULLED 27 MARRIAGES

Special cable to the Daily Mail by the British United Press)

Rome, Feb. 6.—Twenty-seven applications for annulment of marriages were granted by the Vatican during 1927 it was announced today and an additional 26 applications were rejected. The most important annulment was the Senator Guglielmo Marconi radio pioneer.

NO TRACE OF MEN LOST ON LAKE ERIE

(Special to the Daily Mail by the British United Press)

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 6.—After bucking savage ice flows along the Canadian shore of Lake Erie the tug Ward E., manned by coast-guardsmen under command of Capt. Paul M. A. Fornier, returned to its base today where the report was made that no trace could be found of the ten fishermen who have been stranded on an ice field since yesterday afternoon.

Council Meeting.

The City Council will hold its regular monthly committee meeting this evening at eight o'clock. A special meeting to order the assessment for the ensuing year will be held later in the month.

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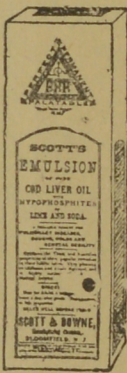
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