

THE SOUREST-NATURED DOG THAT LIVES

(Two Gentlemen of Verona II, 2)

Sykes in the Buffalo Commercial



From Julius J. H. Hayn, Buffalo, New York

HARD TO HELP

seniority rule which has long obtained. The precedent now established will be followed, we are informed, in the next reorganization of the House, when more capable men will be placed at the head of those committees whose present chiefs are regarded as weak.

Mr. Madden has been a member of the House since 1905. His recommendation by the House Committee on Committees for the Chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee was followed by a unanimous vote of ratification from the House.

The new Chairman started his new work by introducing a resolution certainly important in the direction of budget reform. The Appropriations Committee has the responsibility for that reform in the House of Representatives, and Mr. Madden's resolution may, we think, be regarded as an essential corollary to the Budget Act. As the Constitution, authorizing the President to veto any bill passed by Congress, does not authorize him to veto any single item, Mr. Madden offered a joint resolution empowering the President to disapprove any item or provision of an appropriation bill, while approving the remainder.

Some States give this power to their Governors. Why should not the President have it? The amendment should have been adopted long ago. It would have permitted our Presidents to eliminate many an extravagant "rider."

The adoption by Congress of Mr. Madden's resolution will also show how earnest that body is with regard to the campaign for economy in expenditures now that it will have, it may think, to clip its own wings a little.

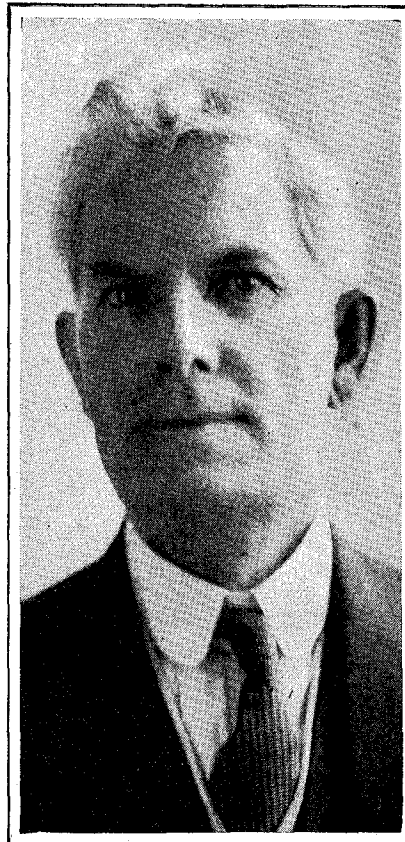
ACQUITTAL, YES; VINDICATION, NO

THE baseball players and gamblers' agents accused of throwing games in the World Series of 1919 have been acquitted by a jury. But the public remains convinced that there was crookedness that summer in which some players and some gamblers participated.

Our law does not admit of the old Scotch verdict, "Not proven." To prove beyond reasonable doubt is always difficult under a conspiracy charge. The jury must acquit if reasonable doubt exists. In these cases perjury was clearly committed by some one, for of the persons alleged to have taken part in a talk at a given time and place some swore that all were present, others the exact reverse. The jury could not decide which men were lying, nor do we attempt to decide. Such an acquittal is not a vindication.

Public opinion is not bound by the

technical law of criminal evidence. Judge Landis, now the super-umpire of the two major baseball Leagues, says: "Just keep it in mind that, regardless of the verdicts of juries, baseball is entirely competent to protect itself against the crooks, both inside and outside the game." And the lovers of clean sport applaud Judge Landis's promise: "No player that throws a game, no player that undertakes or promises to throw a ball game, no player that sits in a con-



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MARTIN MADDEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ference with a bunch of crooked players and gamblers where the ways and means of throwing games are planned and discussed and does not promptly tell his club about it, will ever play professional baseball."

There has been some maudlin sympathy for the wives and children of the accused players. If the men are free from guilt, they and all theirs are entitled to sympathy. But it remains true that professional ball players of famous clubs are not nowadays penniless and needy; they are highly paid experts, often earning \$10,000 a year or more. If such a man plays "dirty ball," he plays for plain, sordid greed. Again it is said that the players were pursued vindictively, the big gamblers laxly. This may or may not be true. But one man's fault does not excuse another. Bribe-

givers and bribe-takers alike are the vermin of honest sport.

CHURCH UNION IN CANADA PROBABLE

THERE is strong hope in the minds of many church leaders in Canada who have long worked for organic church unity as between Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists that the "United Church of Canada" will in the not distant future take shape and form. Recently the Presbyterian Church of Canada in its General Assembly voted by a large majority (414 to 107) that the time for union had come and appointed a representative committee to carry out the wishes of the Assembly by conferring with the other two religious bodies with whom organic union is desired.

One development in church life in Canada that has led to the feeling that there is no real obstacle to what sounds like a radical step has been the springing up of several hundred "Union Churches," organized on the proposed basis of union. These are neither Methodist nor Presbyterian, and they have "presbyteries," having oversight of pastoral charges. These Union charges have been urging the parent churches to hasten the organization of union, and threaten, if there is any further delay to perfect their own organization of a new church.

It is now about ten years since the Congregational and Methodist churches in Canada declared themselves ready to proceed toward organic union with the Presbyterian churches upon the general lines of a basis which had been formulated in principle in previous years in discussions at successive Presbyterian General Assemblies. There seems, therefore, no radical difficulty likely now to be encountered.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of this summer, the Rev. Dr. Charles W. Gordon, better known to most of us by his pen name, Ralph Connor, before the important question was put said:

I think we all agree that we have passed through a great crisis in our history. I am not saying that there are no shadows along the horizon; I am saying this with every confidence that the deeper shadows are behind, and I am not going to allow any one to persuade me that anything untoward is going to befall our beloved Church in the days and months before us. I think we owe a vast deal of thanks to both sides of what has been a really burning question for their fine Christian and brotherly spirit.

A well-informed correspondent of The Outlook in Canada points out that Canada has been a particularly fruitful