

has complained against the ouster of the Socialists has been interested only in the principles violated in that ouster. It ought to be possible for citizens in a free nation to distinguish between sympathy with individuals or their beliefs and recognition of principles involved in dealing with those individuals.

(2) We see no objections to any one advocating a change of the American Government either into a communistic republic or into a monarchy so long as he advocates the use of Constitutional means to effect the end desired. If Americans are not intelligent enough to see the fallacy in the arguments put forward to advance such ends, they are not intelligent enough to be intrusted with self-government.

(3) Defense of the doctrines of the Bolsheviki and a defense of the right of an electorate to representation in an American legislative body are two separate and distinctive things. They cannot be put in the same category.

(4) Debs and Berger were punished for direct violations of law. Berkman and Goldman are almost as far removed in theory and practice from Debs as they are from the New York "Times." Debs believes in making the Government everything, Berkman and Goldman in making the Government nothing. At least this was their view when they were expelled from the United States as aliens convicted of crime. We have heard rumors that after an experience with Bolshevism in its own home they have come to see that America is not as bad as they thought.

(5) Alliance with the Socialist party may be *prima facie* evidence of a desire to change our Government. It does not necessarily imply a desire to overthrow our Government. The difference between these two positions must be, as we have said above, clearly and distinctly drawn.

(6) We are bewildered somewhat by the sentiment in this paragraph. Perhaps our correspondent differs from us in the definition of free speech. Free speech to our correspondent apparently means the right to say anything at any time without responsibility for the result. On the contrary, free speech means no such thing. It means the right to express one's views in speech or in writing, but it does not involve freedom from liability for the results which spring from what is said or written. Our correspondent is free to call his next-door neighbor a thief. There is no censor appointed to tell him in advance what he may or may not say. But if his neighbor is not a thief the neighbor can sue him for criminal libel, and if he cannot justify his charge he may go to prison or be



MARY ROSE (MISS RUTH CHATTERTON), HER HUSBAND, AND THEIR "GILLIE" PICNIC TOGETHER UPON "THE ISLAND THAT LIKES TO BE VISITED"

forced to pay a heavy fine. In speech, as in other things, freedom does not mean license.

A SHADOW OVER A PLEASANT LAND

A SHADOW has fallen on a pleasant and familiar land, the land of Barrie's make-believe. Perhaps those who saw "Dear Brutus" two seasons ago might have foretold the coming of this shadow, for there were elements in that play which hinted at darkening skies. At least in retrospect and in the presence of "Mary Rose" these warnings of an approaching change seem visible.

Barrie's new play, "Mary Rose," belongs in a world that never was on land or sea, but, unlike Barrie's other-world dramas of the past, the warmth of sunlight has almost disappeared and left in its place an eerie and tragic dream-land, peopled by fairies without delight and wraiths of souls lost to both the world of men and the world of dreams.

Mary Rose is the daughter of a middle-aged couple whose life is unclouded save by the memory of a strange happening of her childhood. When Mary Rose was a very young girl, they had taken her to a lonely place in the Hebrides, where in the midst of a loch lay a tiny island called in Gaelic "The Island That Likes To Be Visited." Left alone on this island, the little girl disappeared for a month, to be found again after thirty days with no memory of her absence and no trace of whatever

experience she underwent, save a certain remoteness of spirit which touched her only at lengthening intervals.

Her parents have concluded that when it came time for her to marry they must tell her future husband of this strange interlude in an otherwise normal life. Her lover is told the story when he asks for her hand, but the mystery does not deter him from making her his wife.

After their marriage and the birth of her son she journeys with her husband to the Hebrides and brings him to The Island That Likes To Be Visited. They picnic thereon, but when the time comes for them to depart voices heard only by Mary Rose call her away and she disappears.

It is no thirty-day interval which intervenes before she is brought back to her old father and mother and her husband, now a gray-haired captain of the Royal Navy. Thirty years have passed, her son has long since been lost in the vastness of Australia, but to Mary Rose this changed world does not exist. She is still the slender girl-wife who vanished from this mortal earth on the strange Island That Likes To Be Visited.

Much of what happens after her return is left to the reader's imagination. The last scene of the drama, like the first, is played in the deserted and broken mansion which was once her home. In the first scene of the play her son has returned in search of the familiar places of his youth. The play is a vision which he sees in one of the darkened and deserted chambers of his old home. The last scene of the play

returns again to this broken home and finds the son confronted with the ghost of his mother, searching for her lost child. Her troubled wraith finds only a shadow of comfort in his presence and at last disappears in answer to the call of the strange voices from that island which has played so tragic a part in her life on earth.

As in all of Barrie's dramas of lands that never were, he imparts a reality to fantasy which no other modern writer has achieved. His audiences are always ready to believe in fairies, ghosts, or phantom islands at his command. This illusion of reality is not absent from his present play, for Barrie has a truly creative imagination, an imagination which not only has the power of seeing with more than mortal eyes, but also the power of giving this sight to others. Somehow, we hope, however, that the next time Barrie calls his spirits from the vasty deep he will bring them from a land which has less of shadow and more of that sunlight of other years.

The title part of "Mary Rose" is played by Miss Ruth Chatterton. She is supported by an admirable company and she herself is a capable actress. Whisper it not among boarding-schools, but a Barrie play at the Empire must have evoked in many minds a longing for somebody long associated with that playhouse and that playwright. Except on one of Barrie's mystic islands, however, time passes and familiar faces one by one depart. They tell us that Maude Adams will never again be seen behind the familiar proscenium arch of the Empire, that the dauntless spirit of "Peter Pan" is to be for us all henceforth only a triumphant memory. What is to be, is to be, but perhaps Miss Chatterton will forgive us if at times we saw her with the unforgiving eyes of those who witness a strange figure seated in a chair filled with an eternal spirit of the past, and longed for other days.

ON DEAD CENTER

A STEAM-ENGINE when it can neither go ahead nor back is said to be "on dead center." Governments as well as steam-engines occasionally get "on dead center," and our own is no exception to this rule.

In fact, our Federal Constitution as it is now applied makes such a condition at least a quadrennial certainty; and in the last four years we have also learned that the limitations upon the physical strength of Presidents are likely to involve the country in such a state of Governmental stagnation at any moment.

The Constitution provides that the

President, together with the Vice-President, "shall hold office during the term of four years." Owing to the difficulties of travel at the time of the election of Washington, it was not until more than six months after the choosing of the electors by popular vote that he was inaugurated President of the United States. As a matter of fact, he did not assume office until April 30, 1789. As his second inauguration took place on March 4, 1793, his first term did not strictly conform to the Constitutional provision which we have quoted. Every President since his time, however, has had, save in cases of death, the full four years allotted by the Constitution, and therefore we have continued to inaugurate our Presidents nearly four months after they had been designated by popular vote. In practically every instance this period between the popular designation of a new President and his inauguration has been a time in which the Government has rested "on dead center." The disadvantage of this enforced term of idleness has been especially marked in the present year.

Possibly some astute lawyer might be able to work out a plan under which the retiring President could resign in December and his successor be inaugurated on the first of January following his popular designation. But undoubtedly the change could be effected by a Constitutional Amendment which would shorten some specific Presidential term by two months. Such a change would undoubtedly help towards making our Government a more responsible democracy.

There is another clause in the Constitution which requires no amendment to remove the difficulty which it involves. It is the clause which reads: "In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice-President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability, both of the President and Vice-President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed; or a President shall be elected."

The Congress has definitely provided for successors to the President and Vice-President in cases of removal, death, or resignation, but it has never provided a method for determining what constitutes the inability of a President to discharge the powers and duties of his office.

President Wilson's serious illness during the last year undoubtedly made him unable to perform the duties of his

office. Congress at the present session should see to it that such a contingency does not arise again. Various methods have been suggested for the determination of such inability, among which may be mentioned the plan to have a medical board appointed by the Supreme Court at the instance of the National Legislature. This seems a feasible plan, though perhaps a better one may be discovered. In any case, a provision of similar effect would insure the Government against the danger of one "dead center" from which it has suffered injury in the past.

THE INCOME TAX AND LIBERTY BONDS

AN unpleasant, inconvenient, and in some cases disastrous fact of the present financial situation in this country is the depreciated value of Liberty Bonds. At this writing every issue of these bonds save the two Victory Loans is below ninety.

This means that every man who has a hundred-dollar Liberty Bond and is compelled to get cash for it will lose all the way from ten to fifteen dollars when he sells it, except in the case of the Victory Bonds. The Victories, since they are payable within a year, or two, are nearer par. A corporation which has a hundred thousand dollars' worth of any of the first four issues and has to sell them to get cash for its business or to pay its taxes may lose from ten to fifteen thousand dollars. The small holders who can put their bonds in safe-keeping and retain them until the day when they are payable by the Government will lose nothing. But there are comparatively few people who can do that.

Various plans have been suggested to remedy this situation—a situation which is unsound and unjust. Most of these proposals are based on a plan of refunding all Liberty Loans at a higher rate of interest. A New York financier has recently advocated that the entire issue of Liberty Bonds be refunded—that is to say, redeemed by a new issue of Government bonds to run for fifty years and to pay 5½ per cent for the first five years, 5 per cent for the second five years, 4½ per cent for the third five years, and for the remaining thirty-five years 4 per cent. He believes that such bonds will sell at par or over. This of course means that the Government would have to raise by taxation a much larger sum for interest than it is now paying on the present Liberty Bonds. The result would make it more difficult to reduce the war increases of the income tax. Thus the problem is how to