

power against the nomination of Smith. More important still is the fact that recognition of Governor Smith's ability in certain important lines has extended over a wider area.

Somebody and the Other Fellow

BUT all of these things together do not mean that opposing candidacies are not formidable. Even the significant statement of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon that he is inclined to favor the nomination of Mr. Hughes does not mean that the demand for Mr. Hoover as a candidate has been withdrawn. Nothing that has been said or done indicates that the Western opposition to a candidate of the type of either Hughes or Hoover has at all lessened. Already, as this is written, Northwestern opposition to Hughes is beginning to be audible in the East. The Republican fight is still in the future, the Hughes sentiment merely something substantial "to shoot at." And Mr. Hughes remains personally in the fortunate position of one who does not seek the nomination.

Along the Democratic sector the situation is similar. Mr. McAdoo's withdrawal is in no sense a conceding of the victory to Governor Smith. The reasons which Mr. McAdoo gave for his withdrawal were good reasons, even if they did not entirely explain his action. Mr. McAdoo's personal strength, had he chosen to be a candidate, would undoubtedly have been less in 1928 than it was in 1924. But the elements of the party naturally and inevitably opposed to Smith are not necessarily less. Those Democrats who call themselves "progressive" and those Democrats who are dry are no less opposed to Smith now than they have always been. Whether they can find a candidate upon whom they can all unite is, of course, a question. But they were never all united upon McAdoo. It is to be remembered that the balance of power in the 1924 Convention was held by groups opposed to both McAdoo and Smith. The argument, sometimes heard, that there is no candidate to oppose Smith is not valid. There are many possible Democratic candidates of some parts. And, at the worst, there is always the "amiable unknown."

The Treasury, Morgan, and a Million

THE failure of the Inter-State Commerce Commission to approve the agreement of the New York, New Ha-

ven, and Hartford Railroad to pay J. P. Morgan & Co. a fee of about a million dollars for underwriting a preferred stock issue of about forty-nine million dollars brings into the news a term commonly misunderstood. The banking house which underwrites a stock or bond issue guarantees nothing as to the in-



Photograph by Arnold Genthe, N. Y.

Isadora Duncan

tegrity of the issue, nothing whatever to buyers of the securities. It merely agrees with the corporation issuing the stock or bonds to sell the issue, and this sometimes entails an advance of money before all of the securities are disposed of.

In vetoing the underwriting agreement in the case of the New Haven road the Inter-State Commerce Commission neither approved nor disapproved of the practice. It acted alone on the ground of economy for the road, which is to use the proceeds of the issue mainly for discharging obligations to the Federal Treasury. The Commission held that, since holders of the road's common stock are to have the right of acquiring the preferred stock at the ratio of one share to four of common, the road should have no difficulty in disposing of the issue without underwriting. An extra million dollars will be made available thereby for repayment of obligations to the Government.

The New York, New Haven, and Hartford has accepted the ruling of the Commission, and will offer the issue of

preferred stock direct to the holders of its common stock.

Isadora Duncan's Art

By a strange accident in Nice on September 14 Isadora Duncan, American dancer, was instantly killed. A long scarf which she was wearing caught in a wheel of the motor car in which she was riding and threw her to the street. Her death resembles that of her two young children fourteen years ago, which was caused by the plunge of a driverless automobile into the Seine. In her dress she affected flowing drapery. Indeed, she did much to influence woman's dress. What was once eccentricity in her has now become familiar. There is irony in the fact that the very means by which she contributed to freedom from the stiff and formal in fashion was her undoing.

Like many another artist, especially of the lower ranks, she lived her life frankly and carelessly. She did not distinguish between arbitrary conventions which curtail freedom and those principles of conduct on which real freedom rests. Her weaknesses have ended with her tragic exit from a feverish world. So far as she will be remembered it will be not because of her frailties or her mad freaks, but because of her art—what many found to be an enchanting art.

If not quite Greek—for it was too modern for that—her art had some of the Greek qualities. It was not stilted or mechanical, like that of the traditional operatic dance, but emotional and natural. In her the dance was not acrobatic, but untrammelled, rhythmic, free, enhanced by the use of classic drapery.

The influence of this movement for the liberation of the dance from hampering traditions is seen not only on the professional stage, but also in the many schools of dancing throughout this country and even in our women's colleges.

For her attempt to employ the dance as a means of interpreting famous symphonies and other music Isadora Duncan drew on her head some derision. Her purpose in this attempt was perhaps not always understood. She did not pretend that she could "interpret" Beethoven or Brahms in the sense of explaining either. What she tried to do was to express by fitting movement her own emotional response to their tones and rhythm. Even so, to the great majority of those who appreciate and respect the art of music the emotional "reactions" of a dancer in the presence

of great musical master works are negligible.

It was not her "interpretation," but her success in rescuing the dance from the stiff and the trite that gave Isadora Duncan's art its distinction.

A French Champion of America

AFTER the Davis Cup contest the National singles tournament in tennis was something of an anti-climax. Whatever the outcome, the international tennis crown had passed from the United States. If Tilden had regained the National title, held for a year by a member of the French team, René Lacoste, it would have been hardly more than a consolation prize. But even that was not to be.

The once formidable Tilden went down in straight sets before Lacoste's imperturbable play. What beat Tilden was an almost perfect defense. Every shot that Tilden sent across the net into his opponent's court seemed to come back somehow. They may not have come back with the speed that other opponents of Tilden's have employed, but they came back. It was Verdun over again—"They shall not pass." At the end of the three sets—11-9, 6-3, 11-9—Tilden, in spite of his superb physique, was all in. That he was is not surprising. Tennis at high speed is as strenuous a sport as is played. Those three sets were equal in the number of points played to many a five-set match.

Incidentally, American tennis galleries still have something to learn. They cannot be substitutes for referees or even linesmen. If the balls could be seen as well from the stands as they can from the place where the linesman sits, the linesman would be in the stands.

True Courage

IN two recent air flights the fliers have shown wisdom and moral courage in abandoning their eagerly sought objects in the face of conditions that made continued effort dangerous and reckless. More and more the world is distinguishing between brave men who push their adventurous voyages with thorough preparation, good judgment, and trained skill, and those who rush forward unprepared, ill-advised, and unskilled.

Schlee and Brock made a notable and really splendid achievement in their attempt to girdle the world in less time than has ever been made. They flew over 12,000 miles, including a fine trans-

atlantic flight of 2,350 miles, and made the distance from Harbor Grace to Tokyo in nineteen days. On the fourteenth day they were at Rangoon. If Schlee and Brock had been able to carry out their plan of crossing the Pacific, stopping at Midway Islands and Honolulu, they could easily have bettered the record of twenty-eight days around the world made with railway, steamship, and plane by Evans and Wells. But to attempt this flight became recklessness when they found that no fuel was awaiting them at Midway Islands. With exceeding reluctance, they yielded to the many remonstrances cabled from this country. Schlee said, "We could not fight public opinion."

Was the A. E. F. Cheated?

WHEN the A. E. F. went overseas ten years ago, there were all sorts of conflicting ideals of what the war was to accomplish. It was to be "the war to end war," "to make the world safe for democracy," "to establish world unity," "to end the menace of German imperialism," and—according to the slogan most popular among the doughboys—"to can the Kaiser."

When the A. E. F. came home, people's minds were full of a strange mixture of relief, enthusiasm, and disillusionment. The war had ended in favor of the Allies. But there had been no surrender; instead, a severe Armistice. The Peace Conference failed to satisfy either the idealists who had forevisioned the globe democratized and unified or the realistic extremists who wanted to march to Berlin. Both of these groups declared that the war had been a failure and the professions of the statesmen a snare. But the soldiers—with few exceptions—voiced no such disappointment. At a mention of the Peace Conference they may have been inclined to crack a wry grin. Yet if they felt cheated, they did not say so. For one thing in which they were interested they had done. They had canned the Kaiser.

Now, with the second A. E. F. overseas ten years after, it is possible to estimate a little more soberly what was accomplished. The Kaiser has stayed canned, and no German monarchist has succeeded in finding a can-opener that seems likely to work, though several have been tried. And the doughboys' slang slogan summed up a fundamental purpose. For all the war of words about who started the war has not obscured the fact that the Teutonic system of economic organization and social culture

The result was that the American press and people have given Schlee and Brock unstinted praise for wisdom and moral courage as well as for their unquestioned great achievement.

The same thing was true of the ill fortune of the two members of the Irish Free State Air Force, Captain McIntosh and Commander Fitzmaurice, who on September 16, in the monoplane Princess Xenia, started on the westward trip from Ireland to America. Three hundred miles out they met a gale and heavy rain, and it was impossible to steer or make headway. For their common sense in returning to Ireland, without courting death, they have had and they deserve nothing but praise.

was seeking—consciously or unconsciously—to extend its sway beyond the borders it then commanded. That tendency the war stopped, as earlier wars in history have stopped the expansion of other empires that threatened other nations. No menace remains of German domination of any other country, much less of any "German domination of the world." Instead, in the gathering of the League of Nations Germany has promised to accept compulsory arbitration of all disputes by the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague—a result which it is impossible to imagine if the war had gone the other way.

The struggle was not a failure and the victory was not a farce. All the oratory about "democracy" and "world unity" meant comparatively little to most of the fighting men. But "the war to end war" did mean something—and smashing the German military system and canning the Kaiser were realities. To them it was evident that if this trouble-making force could be destroyed the world would be the better for it. They did not expect the world to become a perfect or even—necessarily—a finer place to live in; they did expect it to become an easier place to live in. And it has become both an easier and a better world for the ordinary citizen than it would have been if Germany had been allowed to win. That would have meant intensive military and naval preparation all around the globe, a world keyed and strained to the utmost pitch of nervous tension for the next inevitable struggle. Whatever the shortcomings of the peace settlement—and they were admittedly many—life is far pleasanter for the average person than it could have been otherwise.

In that sense, "the war to end war" was a realistic slogan. It did not and