

plague of 1929-30. Accepting the say-  
o of some one else in regard to specific  
ndustries and issues may have been the  
asiest way, but it was clearly not the  
afest. The investor decided to do a  
ttle studying of the balance sheet and  
he operating statement for himself.

As first aid to this study, Mr. Mere-  
ith's little book is admirable. It char-  
acterizes, briefly but adequately, the  
hief items in both the balance sheet and  
he income statement, and gives the lay-  
man all the information about financial

ratios he needs, whether his investments  
total \$1,000 or \$100,000.

A good touchstone for business books  
is the distance by which a reader is will-  
ing to be separated from them. Some  
may be stored in the attic without  
serious loss or inconvenience; others  
must not be farther away than the  
library shelf; and a chosen few must be  
kept on the desk or within easy reach.  
For us, *What the Figures Mean* secures  
immediate rating in Class III.

FRANK A. FALL.

## The Spotlight on Sports

### ➤ Knute Rockne

IT IS almost impossible for one who  
knew Knute Rockne intimately to  
accept the stark fact of his death.  
Somehow he seemed to symbolize life, to  
radiate animal spirits surcharged with  
inspirational fervor. Just to be near him  
made you feel young, and zippy, and  
‘erin’ to go.

Though Rockne scorned the jazz age,  
with all it implies in flabby softness, he  
was no blue-nosed killjoy or moss-  
backed standpatter. Though he talked  
about the Spartan virtues of an age that  
was simpler and closer to nature, he  
atomized the spirit of youth. With all  
his affection for the horse-and-buggy  
days, “Rock” was a modernist.

You will read a lot of words about the  
Rockne system. You will hear its funda-  
mentals described—savage blocking,  
rhythmic shifting, surprise concentra-  
tions at the dislocation point, etc. Such  
technical discussion overlooks the under-  
lying reason for the success of that  
system—Knute K. Rockne, the man.  
What price the mere mechanics of foot-  
ball when stacked against so vibrant a  
personality? Rockne could have taken  
any sound system of tactics and made it  
tick. Conversely, none of his disciples,  
though they sat at the feet of the master,  
have duplicated his coaching achieve-  
ments.

Notre Dame elevens will continue to  
see Rockne plays, but the mainspring is  
gone. Natural leaders, such as the  
magnetic Norwegian, cannot be re-  
placed. He was born to teach and to  
command—a combination seldom en-  
countered.

To answer the question, “What makes  
Notre Dame so consistently victorious?”  
you had only to hear Rockne deliver an  
after-dinner speech, address a sales-  
men’s convention, talk quietly to his  
team in the dressing room, or conduct  
football practice. Without employing  
rhetorical flourishes, without resorting

to the cheap theatricalism of the dema-  
gogue, Rockne held his audience spell-  
bound through the sheer force of a  
vibrant personality.

In the dressing room Rockne re-  
frained from heroics. He never har-  
angued his men in the manner dear  
to the stage manager’s heart, never gave  
what playwrights interpret as a “col-  
lege fight talk.”

“It is dangerous to play on the emo-  
tions of susceptible boys,” said Rockne.  
“I know, because I played under a  
coach who rumbled his hair, spit out  
curses and tore a passion to tatters.  
‘Are you going to lay down like a pack of  
yellow curs, or are you going to fight?’  
he would challenge us. We would sit  
there trembling and quivering, but this  
intensive keying up often had a disas-  
trous aftermath. We would tighten up  
like a drumhead on the field. The reac-  
tion left us limp.”

“P. E. P.” was Rockne’s favorite  
slogan. It stood for personality, en-  
thusiasm, and perseverance. His elevens  
did indeed possess that indefinable qual-  
ity we call personality. They mirrored  
the character of the coach of coaches.

### ➤➤ Richards on Tilden

NOW THAT William Tilden has con-  
clusively demonstrated his ascendancy  
over Karel Kozeluh on hard surfaces,  
the devotees of professional tennis are  
eagerly awaiting the resumption of the  
time-mellowed Tilden-Richards feud.  
Those former amateur rivals haven’t met  
for five years.

Unlike Kozeluh, Vincent Richards is  
at his best indoors. Hard-floor courts  
stress net-storming tactics, and Richards  
is the volleyer par excellence. Not as  
severe as McLaughlin, Patterson, or  
Borotra overhead, not quite as spec-  
tacular an exponent of the half-volley  
as Williams, Richards has no superior  
when it comes to point-blank consis-  
tency at the barrier. His wrist-flicked

volleys are noted for searching depth  
and craftily masked direction. Rela-  
tively weak ground strokes have pre-  
vented him from making even greater  
use of his volleying genius.

Over a stretch of years, no competitor  
save Cochet gave Tilden as much diffi-  
culty as Richards did. Vinnie knows how  
to play Big Bill. “Angled ground strokes  
are fatal against Tilden,” Richards once  
told the writer. “Bill thrives on angles  
since they open a wider sector of your  
own court to his counter thrusts. Angles,  
you see, beget angles. If you drive to  
Tilden’s extreme corner he has the whole  
width of the net for a cross-court reply.

“For that reason I stick to the ‘median  
line theory’ against Big Bill, feeding  
him slow chops down the middle of the  
court. This cramps his elbow room, pre-  
vents him from bringing off those acutely  
angled returns which shave the side  
lines. If you try for an angle return on  
a ball down the center of the court,  
you’re apt to drive it out.”

### ➤➤ The Rowing Season Opens

ROWING, the most picturesque of college  
sports, is with us again. Fragile cedar  
skiffs, sixty feet from oiled silk prow to  
rudder post, are ghosting along glassy  
lake or wind-ruffled river.

Watch the rudder of your Alma  
Mater’s crew carefully. If it glides  
smoothly ahead, without any noticeable  
jar or check between strokes, you can be  
reasonably sure that the crew will be a  
formidable factor at Poughkeepsie or  
New London.

If, on the contrary, it hitches along  
in a series of jerky jumps, you had bet-  
ter not risk your bankroll. That telltale  
hitch means that the boat is “checking”

(Please Turn to Page 532)



Underwood

KOZELUH

# ▶▶ Royal Intrigue in Roumania ◀◀

*First in a Series on the Scramble for the Throne*

By KONRAD BERCOVICI



Keystone

This installment, first in a series, recounts the historical beginnings of the family strife which recently resulted in the contest between Queen Marie and Carol for control of the throne. The next installment, "The Black Spider Spins a Web," tells of Prince Shtirbey's efforts to entangle Carol in affairs that would harm his prospects and advance the cause of Marie.

THE outside world, especially the American world, had heard little about Roumania until the beginning of the European war in 1914. Then, suddenly, the attention of the world was focussed on it; because of an all too active Queen—Marie, wife of King Ferdinand of Roumania and grandchild of Queen Victoria of England, and because of her too unruly and spectacular household of sons and daughters, as anxious as their mother to keep the center of the stage of the world; as anxious as prima donnas and moving picture actresses and acrobats and tenors to hold the attention of the public. Roumania became the laughingstock of the world,

areas, ore fields, amber fields; and its wines and fruit are the prizes of Central Europe. Its steers and flocks of sheep have fed and clothed millions of people.

The world forgot all this because the Queen insisted on attracting attention to herself; because the princes managed to create fresh scandals daily, and because the princesses insisted upon romping about, engaging themselves to be married to this and that prince and breaking off the engagements before the ink had dried on the paper on which the news was announced.

VERY little is known of the history of Roumania until the twelfth century. It is assumed that the Roumanians are the descendants of the legionnaires of Marcus Ulpus Trajanus, the Roman general who built the magnificent road that leads to the banks of the Danube. Having defeated the Dacs under Decebal, a warlike people living then in that part of the world, these legionnaires, riffraff of Europe, are supposed to have exterminated the Dac men and to have taken their women in marriage. As the legionnaires were engaged by the Romans for only a limited period of time, after that war the mercenaries whose time of service had expired chose

grants of land in lieu of pensions, and remained to live with their women in the country they had conquered; because it had better soil than the one they had left behind and they were tired of fighting.

In the twelfth century, the people organized themselves into two separate states—Moldavia and Walakia, each governed by a different prince. However, the princes fought amongst themselves when they were not in trouble with their neighbors, the Poles, the Hungarians, the Russians and the Turks. After more than a century of continual fighting they became vassal states to Turkey in 1392 and paid tribute to the Porte until 1716. In that year the Roumanian prince formed a secret alliance with Czar Peter the Great of Russia. Defeated by the Turks, separately and together with their ally, they lost their independence and were governed from then on by the Fanariots of Constantinople.

The Fanariots were wealthy Greeks of Constantinople who lived in a suburb called the Fanar. These Greeks bought from the Turkish government the concession to rule Roumania for a definite period of time. There was no limit set as to how the Roumanians should be exploited; what taxes they should pay or what justice should be meted out to them. Such unimportant items were left to the buyers of the concession. At the expiration of the term, the concession expired, and the Fanariot retired—multimillionaire—to live in Paris where even the long Turkish arm could not reach him for part of his loot.

During their reign, these Fanariots assumed the title of Prince. Europe now filled with Cantacuzenes, Shtirbey Mavrocordatos (Black Hearts) Sutso and a host of other princes of like name all of them descended from the suburb of Fanar in Constantinople. During this period in Roumanian history there were many popular uprisings against the oppressors. The cruelest slave owners America treated the blacks far more humanely than the Roumanian peasants were treated.

In 1829, by the Treaty of Adrianople the Roumanians gained a conditional independence from Turkey; the right to choose their own princes, who engaged themselves to pay yearly tribute to Constantinople. In 1859 Moldavia and Walakia united and elected one Jon Cuza as their prince. At that time J. Bratianu, a young man who had led