

**NOVELIST GIVES
A LOT OF ADVICE**

**Mrs. Nina Wilcox Putnam
Talks to Women at Miami
About Her Work, Her Pub-
lic, and Her Family.**

By ROBERT T. SMALL
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Delray, Florida, Feb. 7 — Mrs. Nina Wilcox Putnam, the novelist, has emerged at last from the seclusion which followed her unfortunate attempt to transform an exclamation digger and ex-house painter into a literary adviser.

Mrs. Putnam emerged in a simple lingerie gown and a small white hat with a bunch of camellias on one side. She came out to talk to the Miami branch of the league of American pen women and if she ever entertained any real misgivings as to the attitude of "her public" toward her as a result of her recent experiences, they were completely swept away by the cordiality of her reception and the attention the women showered upon her.

Mrs. Putnam gave her audience of amateurs an intimate "close up" of the life of a professional writer. She took something of a slap at the other side of her two marital misadventures by saying she had always been the bread winner in the family—had been so ever since she was fifteen. And as for inspiration, Mrs. Putnam indicated that was, in the language of Governor Al Smith, of New York, "all bunk." She says the real inspiration comes from these Shakespearean words, often employed by the craps shooter, "mah baby needs a pair of shoes."

Homely advice abounded in Mrs. Putnam's talk. She let it be known that she has no patience whatever with the woman who for indulgence of her vanity neglects her domestic duties, for the sake of an amateur career. "She deserves any sort of disaster which may befall her," said the authoress, "but it is different with the professional writer, the one who has to write to earn a living."

"After the birth of my son, John Francis Putnam, six and a half years ago, I found it necessary to remove myself arbitrarily from the family for a certain number of hours every day in order to accomplish anything worth while. At first I had my office in New York and commuted every every day from our suburban home, but later I found it was not necessary to go so far away from home and had a studio set up about a mile and a half from our dwelling.

"This plan worked splendidly but no woman can do professional work in the atmosphere of the home, where she cannot divorce herself from the multitude of household details which demand her attention. "The woman who is out doing professional work," said Mrs. Putnam, "has the same inspiration that sends a good husband out to do a good job at the office. Like him she has got to bring home the bacon. Trying to be a good wife and mother and at the same time being a bread winner is one of the great problems of our modern civilization."

Mrs. Putnam plainly told her audience of enthralled women that life is not all beer and skittles with a writer. There necessarily is a good deal of drudgery about the daily task. Mrs. Putnam usually writes uninterruptedly from 8:30 or nine o'clock in the morning until noon. Then she calls it a day. Plots are a matter of mechanics. First you must find out what you have done and what others have done and then you must string your thoughts together like clothes on a clothes line. There must be a chart of the emotional thought underlying the story. Then you must draw other lines above this main theme to represent the incidents amplifying and emphasizing the main theme.

Mrs. Putnam, in her spare moments on her citrus farm is writing what she terms a serious novel. She hopes, however, that it won't be too serious, because she thinks it is the greatest privilege in the world to make people laugh. Mrs. Putnam also is writing two children's books. One is a child's history of the United States. But what bothers Mrs. Putnam most at the moment is the amount of work to be done on the citrus farm. There are sheds to build and fences to paint. All the feminine folk in her household are lending a hand at the work. Even little John Francis is doing his bit. But there is a gap. Ellsworth Bassett certainly could wield a wicked paint brush. He also showed signs of literary appreciation. But all that is a thing of the past.

A. B. Houtz left Thursday afternoon for a business trip through the Atlantic coal fields of Pennsylvania.

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**Denby Is In Limelight
And On The Defensive**

**Attack in Oil Lease Scandal Centers on Secretary of Navy
Following His Declaration That in Signing Oil Lease
Was Acting for Best Interests of Country**

By DAVID LAWRENCE
Copyright, 1924, by The Advance
Washington, Feb. 7.—Secretary Denby's outspoken defense of his action in signing the Teapot Dome oil leases is the turning point of the controversy.

There always have been two schools of thought on the wisdom of the policy involved in leasing the naval oil reserves and but for the revelation of a loan to the former Secretary of the Interior, Albert B. Fall, by one of the parties to the contract, the discussion would have been carried along on exactly the lines announced by Mr. Denby in the last 24 hours.

It means that even if the Senate resolution demanding Mr. Denby's resignation should be adopted, the Secretary of the Navy will stand his ground; and, therefore, President Coolidge will be in the position of being compelled to suspend judgment while the question is being debated in Congress or tried in the courts. No resolution of the Senate can force the President to demand the resignation of a member of his cabinet who has once been confirmed. Impeachment proceedings may, of course, be started but the trial must result in a conviction before there is a removal from office.

The Democrats are beginning to talk of impeachment but at present writing it looks as if they will depend on the march of events in the next few days in the Senate investigating committee before making any such move. Some important testimony is forthcoming which is said to be even more sensational than that which has been produced. The exact relations between the men who sought the oil leases and the Navy Department will be thoroughly examined.

The action of Secretary Denby is in the nature of a challenge for it turns the fire in his direction once more. There are rumors that President Coolidge was about to adopt the same attitude toward the leases that has just been proclaimed by the Secretary of the Navy and that a statement to that effect was in preparation aboard the Mayflower just before Senator Lenroot went to the President and told him of the testimony about to be given with respect to the Doheny loan to former

Secretary Fall. In view of those circumstances, Mr. Coolidge is said to have abandoned the idea of standing by the leases as made until they were proved detrimental to the Government in the courts. Instead a statement was issued at midnight directing criminal proceedings.

From a political standpoint the declaration of the Secretary of the Navy is regarded as the only move he could have made. To have maintained that he knew nothing about the making of the leases would have stamped him as unaware of important transactions in his own department. To have resigned under fire would have been construed as a confession of guilt and of possible knowledge of some of the sensational things which have been disclosed by the Senate investigating committee. It is said Mr. Denby told friends he would resign if they thought he was embarrassing the President. On the other hand, there was a well defined opinion that it would be far more harmful if he resigned at this time without having given the country his side of the story.

Mr. Denby's decision to fight will

at least becloud the issue and divide opinion more or less along partisan lines. The whole controversy is getting more and more complicated every day with evident efforts on both the Democratic and Republican sides to expose the mistakes of the officials in opposite parties whose names have been mentioned in the case. Mr. Denby's statement starts the fight that has been lulled for a few days owing to the death of Woodrow Wilson. From now on the Secretary of the Navy will be in the limelight and on the defensive.

**BLACK "BILLY SUNDAY" TO
PREACH AT COURT HOUSE**

Evangelist Calvin P. Dixon of Virginia will preach twice at the court house Sunday, at 3 p. m. and at 7:30 p. m.

In the afternoon his subject will be "A Man Saved Without Prayer," and at night, "Come Down and See Jesus." He is known as the "Billy Sunday" of the colored race and comes here from Newport News, where he recently conducted a three weeks' meeting with 140 conversions. Seats will be reserved for white people and they are cordially invited.

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