

5. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1929.

REMARQUE TO FLEE SPOTLIGHT'S GLARE

German War Novel Author Would Like to Come Here, but Fears Invitations to Lecture.

CHAINED TO BOOK, HE SAYS

Writes to Free Him From Past, It Has Revived Old Horrors Too Vividly, Writer Asserts.

By WYTHE WILLIAMS.
Special Guide to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
BERLIN, Oct. 10.—Erich Maria Remarque, author of "All Quiet on the Western Front," as a result of too much notoriety, has announced his intention of following the example of Alain Gerbault and disappearing into the unknown.
Souvenir hunters have even taken the name-plate off of my front door," he asserted today. "So, my plan now—I have not yet talked about it to any one—is that in a few days I intend to leave Berlin. I cannot work here. I am not left alone for a single minute. I really want to disappear altogether—change

my name, let my beard grow, start a new life and possibly never write again.

"Why should one write books if he has no longing to do so? One cannot get such feeling on command, as a mere profession.

"I want once more the experience and happiness of curing a sick puppy that everybody has given up, or spend all my thoughts testing the possibilities of the automobile.

"I have been invited to lecture in Scandinavia, but I would not be a success, for I could only talk about dogs, automobiles and fish."

The author smiled wearily and pessimistically as he regarded a small aquarium between his library windows, containing an exotic brightly colored fish.

Another Book Planned.

His subsequent remarks, however, dispelled the idea that he might not continue writing, for he said:

"In my next book, which I am now writing, I describe the way back to life, how a young man like myself—and Paul Baumer—experienced war as a youth, who still carries its scars and who was then grabbed up by the chaos of the post-war period, finally finds his way into life's harmonies."

The author then told of his troubles in selling "All Quiet on the Western Front." He said:

"You must not think I made a fortune with that book. I made all my contracts as an unknown man. When writing the book I may have experienced something inspirational—a sort of demonical ecstasy—but that I tried to sell it was quite natural. The first publisher to whom I offered it kept it a long time. Then

I accepted an offer from the Vossische Zeitung, but they, too, hesitated. They found the manuscript had too little action and suspense for a newspaper. So they held another manuscript ready for use if their public failed to show interest.

Believes He Cannot Lecture.

"If I were to accept offers now for lectures I would get much more than from all the editions and translations. But I cannot lecture. Anyhow, I have enough for a few years. Meanwhile I hope to turn out something else.

"I have nothing to do with the filming of the book. Mr. Laemmle, who, by the way, is a quite agreeable person, wanted me to write the scenario, also to play Paul Baumer myself. But in spite of his splendid offer I refused. I want to occupy myself with new things.

"I will not even know who will be his leading actor. I would like to visit America when the production is made. I would like to see all of America, but then I might be called on to make speeches.

"I do not feel like a writer. At present I have only one thought, and that is to get away from everything. I write 'All Quiet' in order to free myself from something I felt as pressure, as letters. And now everything is coming up again like a giant phantom and faces me with every step to dig up the past again. I wrote a book which had the luck to become famous. Now I want to gather something new for a book which shall have a value in itself, unfavored by name and publicity. But it seems I never shall be allowed to be myself again.

"I have been appointed, it seems,

as administrator of my first book for life. At present I am a prisoner, but soon I shall find a way out. As for 'All Quiet,' I know perfectly well that any one of us could just as well have written it. I had no doctrine to teach. I only wanted to tell what we encountered, how our ideas of life were ruined by reality.

"Himmelsloh, the corporal in the book, is not a figure of fancy. He really existed and was far worse than described. He is still alive and performing his job of postman.

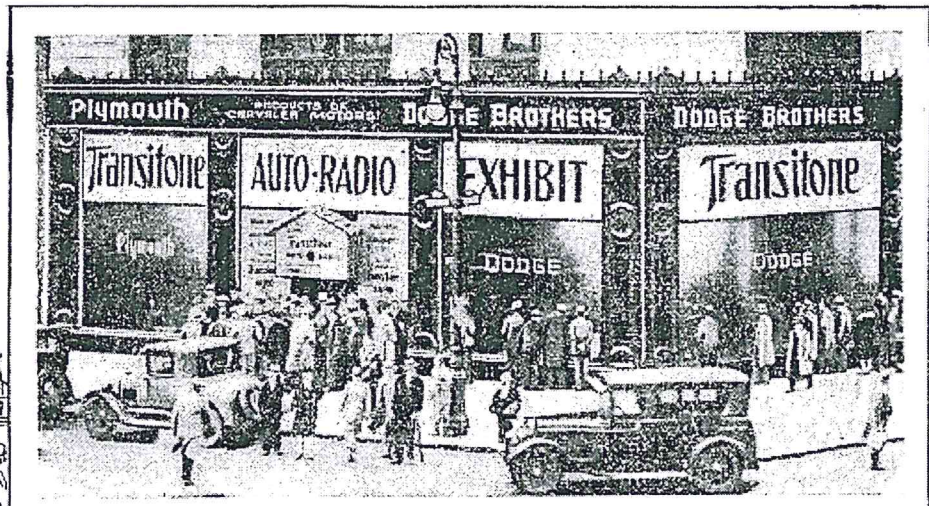
"I am reproached for showing a 'lack of soldierly spirit'—for being a 'civilian.' But that is just what we remained, even if we did have to wear uniforms.

"On this point I can refer to the public success the book has had and the letters I have received from thousands who felt like myself. One letter, which alone makes me calm against such attacks, is from a man who lost his sight and who tells me that only through my book was he freed from the persisting bitterness of his fate.

"I do not understand anything about politics. I dislike from the bottom of my heart the atmosphere of social hate now dominant in Germany. I hope the air elsewhere, where I expect soon to go, will be purer."

Company to Exploit Gold Fields.
SYDNEY, Oct. 10.—A company capitalized at \$5,000,000 has been formed here to exploit new gold fields in New Guinea. Among other measures, a railway is projected from the seaport of Salamua to the mountains and thousands of laborers are being recruited for the work.

CROWDS WELCOME "RADIO-IN-AUTOMOBILES" AT DODGE-TRANSITONE EXHIBIT



Typical comments at Auto-Radio Show:
"Just think of that! MUSIC right home NOW to hear the World in the car . . . sounds BETTER Series . . . not a WHISPER of it."

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Written to Free Him From Past, It Has Revived Old Horror's Too Vividly, Writer Asserts.

BY WYTHE WILLIAMS.

Special Guide to THE NEW YORK TIMES: BERTLIN, Oct. 10.—Fritz Mark's "Remarque, Author of 'All Quiet on the Western Front,'" as a result of his recent notoriety, has maintained his intention of following the example of Albin Gerbaud and disappearing into the unknown.

Seventy bankers have even taken to this the name-plate out of my front door," he asserted today. "So, my plan now—I have not yet talked about it to any one—is that in a few days I intend to leave Berlin. I go to connect with here. I am not left alone for a single minute. I really want to disappear altogether—change

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Another Book Planned.

His subsequent remarks, however, dispelled the idea that he might not continue writing, for he said: "The new novel, which I am now writing, I describe the way back to life, how a young man like myself—and Paul Eximier—escaped war as a youth, who still carries the scars and who was then forbidden by the ethics of the post-war period, finally finds his way into life's harmonies. "The author then said of his brother in Berlin, "All quiet on the Western Front." He said: "You must not think I made a fortune with that book. I made all my contacts as an unknown man. When writing the book I many have experienced something inspirational—a sort of demagogic ecstasy—but that I tried to sell it was quite natural. The first publisher to whom I offered it kept it a long time, then

I accepted an offer from the "Vorwarts Zeitung," but they, too, hesitated. They found the manuscript had too little action and suspense for a newspaper. So they held another manuscript ready for use if their public failed to show interest. *

Refuses to Accept Offers.

"If I were to accept offers now for lectures I would get much more than from all the stillness and loneliness. But I cannot lecture. Anyhow, I have enough for a few years. Meanwhile I hope to turn out something else. "I have nothing to do with the flapping of the book. Mr. Langman, who, by the way, is a quite agreeable person, wanted me to write the scenario, also to play Paul Eximier myself. But in spite of his splendid offer I refused. I want to occupy myself with new things. "I will not even know who will be his readers, except I would like to visit America when the publishers in America, but then I might be called on to make speeches. "I do not feel like a writer. At present I have only one thought, and that is to get away from everything, to free myself from something. "I wrote 'All Quiet' in order to get away from something. And now everything is coming up again like a giant phantom and faces me with every step I slip up the path again. I wrote a book when had the book to become famous. Now I want to gather something new for a book which shall have a value in itself, but I seem to have shall be allowed to be myself again. "I have been appointed, it seems,

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by
Sullivan