

## QUOTATION

### RING LARDNER AND THE DIFFERENTIAL REINFORCEMENT OF WRITING RATE

“. . . Lardner had written no short stories between ‘The Golden Honeymoon’ (1922) and ‘Haircut’ (1925), an interval occupied by much talking about writing, people and events, by the writing of his Syndicate articles, by a good deal of drinking and by much camaraderie with Fitzgerald and others. In 1925 and 1926, however, Lardner wrote 12 stories, nine of which were published in *The Love Nest and Other Stories* (1926), after having appeared individually in *Cosmopolitan* and *Liberty*. Perhaps the reason for Lardner’s renewed vigor in 1925, in the writing of fiction, was that Ray Long, editor of *Cosmopolitan*, had in 1924 made him this offer: ‘For your next six short stories, \$3,000 each, or, for your next 12 short stories, to be delivered at intervals of not more than 45 days, \$3,500 each . . .’ ”

Caruthers, Clifford M. (Ed.), *Ring Around Max. The Correspondence of Ring Lardner and Max Perkins*. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1973, pp. 58-59.