

PROHIBITION

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast
for The Literary Digest. Page
Wednesday, February 25, 1931.

Good Evening, Everybody!

1 All over the country today, lawyers
2 have been saying: ^{well,} that settles it.

3 They've been talking about
4 yesterday's ^{United States} Supreme Court decision which
5 upset the famous ruling of Judge Clark
6 in New Jersey. Judge Clark, ~~as you may~~
7 ~~recall~~, handed down a decision that the
8 18th Amendment was unconstitutional. The
9 case was taken to the Supreme Court,
10 and, as everybody expected, the learned
11 justices of the nation's highest
12 tribunal reversed Judge Clark's decision
13 and affirmed the fact that the 18th
14 Amendment was constitutional in every
15 respect.

16 So today even the anti-prohibitionists
17 are saying--well, that's that. ^{Apparently} There's
18 no use in trying to attack the 18th
19 Amendment through the courts.

1 There's a big, jovial fellow out
2 in Chicago who has been receiving
3 congratulations all day. He's Big Bill
4 Thompson. He won the battle of his life
5 yesterday when, after a bitter fight,
6 he ^{gained} ~~won~~ the Republican nomination for
7 Mayor once more.

8 The United Press states that Big
9 Bill is in defiant mood today and is
10 just waiting for the election in which
11 he will be opposed by the Democratic
12 nominee, Anton J. Cermak.

13 The Associated Press states that
14 Bill won the nomination by nearly 70,000,
15 but that he will be in a still harder
16 fight when ~~the~~ election day comes.

17 There are a lot of people who don't
18 like the way Chicago has been run, and
19 they say there's a rare chance for the
20 Democrats to put their candidate into the
21 city hall. *So Bill's joy today may have*
22 *just a shade of worry in it.*

1 A big scene was put on today
2 in a court room out in Chicago. Al
3 Capone, the big shot of big shots, was
4 taken under arrest before a Federal
5 judge to answer a charge of contempt
6 of court. This charge has been hanging
7 fire for a couple of years, and is the
8 result of a ~~mix-up~~ mix-up between
9 Capone and the income tax law.

10 Scarface Al was guarded by
11 three squads of picked Chicago
12 ^{a sort of royal escort -} detectives, and crowds gathered to get
13 a look at him. He was dressed like a
14 prosperous business man. ^{Except that} He wore a
15 watch chain of wide ~~platinum~~ platinum ~~stud~~
16 studded with diamonds which many a
17 prosperous business man could ~~not~~ hardly
18 afford. ~~to wear~~

19 The International News Service
20 states that after Capone had faced the
21 contempt of court ^{proceedings} charge he was arrested
22 for vagrancy, a charge which the City
23 of Chicago has had against him for some
24 time. He was released on a ten thousand
25 dollar bond and departed still under
the guard of those three squads of
picked detectives. And the crowds lined
the streets - for blocks.

1 There's another kidnapping story
2 in the news this evening. It took place
3 at Romeo, Michigan.

4 Merten B. Smith is the 60-year-old
5 publisher of the Romeo Weekly Observer.
6 Four bandits seized him and forced him
7 to get into their car. Then they drove
8 away. They beat the publisher and went
9 through his pockets for cash. Then the
10 bandits' car stopped. It had run out
11 of gas. While the thugs were trying to
12 see what they could do, the ^{60 year old} publisher
13 broke away and dashed down the road.
14 Several shots were fired at him but they
15 missed, and he got away.

16 According to the International
17 News Service, the publisher can imagine
18 no reason for the kidnapping, except
19 that the bandits wanted to rob him or
20 perhaps hold him for ransom.

1 This afternoon in a New York
2 court-room they debated the sale of one
3 of America's famous newspapers -- the
4 New York World.

5 A sensation was created in ~~the~~
6 newspaper ^{circles} ~~world~~ yesterday when the
7 Pulitzers asked that their father's will
8 be interpreted in such a way that they
9 could sell the Morning, Evening and Sunday
10 World to the Scripps-Howard interests.

11 Joseph Pulitzer's will ^{stipulated} ~~asked~~
12 that his children continue to publish
13 the newspapers ^{which} he had founded, but the
14 younger Pulitzers stated that The World
15 had been losing so much money that they
16 could not go on.

17 And now today, at the second
18 hearing before the court, a new sensation
19 was sprung. The City Editor of the
20 Morning World appeared with a petition.
21 According to the New York Telegram, it is
22 said that the petition asks that the
23 employees of The World be given a chance
24 to buy the paper. They say they can raise
25 the money and want to go on getting out

1 the paper as they have been doing for
2 years.

3 Well, it ^{would} ~~will~~ be a sad thing if
4 the famous old World ^{were} ~~is~~ merged with
5 another paper ^{to} ~~and~~ loses its independent
6 identity. It has had a great history.

7 The New York Herald-Tribune
8 reminds us that Joseph Pulitzer, a young
9 soldier just out of the Union Army at the
10 end of the Civil War, was kicked out of
11 a New York hotel because he had no money
12 and then years later, he bought that same
13 hotel, tore it down and built the present
14 World Building on its site.

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1 A big business offer was
2 received up in Canada today. The
3 Soviet Government of Russia has approached
4 the Canadian Government with a proposal
5 that Russia buy ten million dollars
6 worth of farm machinery from Canada.
7 The International News Service informs
8 us that in return Canada will be required
9 to take three and a half million dollars
10 worth of Russian coal in part payment.

11 This amounts to a definite
12 bid by the Soviets for trade relations
13 with Canada. The Canadian Premier has
14 the proposition before him and is studying
15 it before making a decision.

1 Well, the old days of the West
2 returned for me today when I saw the
3 cover of the new Literary Digest, the
4 February 28th number which will be out
5 tomorrow. It is a superb painting of
6 an Indian galloping madly along and
7 stampeding a herd of long horns. In the
8 background are rocky cliffs which rise
9 with a dim poetic grandeur ^{and one} seen in the
10 distance ~~and~~ through the haze of the
11 desert.

12 It's a ~~superb painting~~ by Jack
13 Van Ryder; and it certainly does take the
14 imagination back to the old days of the
15 open range and the roving Red Skin.

16 It makes a double appeal to me
17 because I once lived on an Indian
18 reservation out West just across the
19 valley from Buckskin Charlie and the Ute
20 Indians.

21 It's a picture with a gorgeous
22 splash of color -- full of action and
23 romance. In fact I think it's my favorite
24 of all the Literary Digest covers this
25 year.

1 Things were fairly quiet down in
2 Peru today, but that doesn't mean the
3 trouble is over. Everybody ^{is} ~~was~~ just
4 standing pat. According to the Associated
5 Press, the rebels in southern Peru
6 have set up a government of their own,
7 while the provisional president at
8 Lima is gathering forces to attack them.
9 He's also trying to pacify things by
10 making concessions--such as the promise
11 that he won't be a candidate in the next
12 presidential election.

13 Meanwhile, ^{the} trouble seems to ^{have finished} ~~be over~~
14 ^{down-} in Paraguay. The rebels marched over
15 into Brazil and surrendered to the
16 Brazilian authorities.

17 In Cuba, on the other hand, there
18 have been two attempts to assassinate
19 President Machado. First somebody
20 tried to blow up the President's house ^{by}
21 ^{dropping a bomb in the presidential bath room.} ~~with a bomb.~~ And after that a young
22 man drew a pistol at a ceremony where
23 the President was making an address. The
24 police say he intended to shoot the
25 President.

1 The New York Sun today prints a
2 ■■ statement by President Machado in
3 which he blames the recent troubles in
4 Cuba on a Communistic plot--and that
5 has an old, ^{old} familiar sound.

6 Minister, and A. V. Alexander, First
7 Lord of the Admiralty, are talking things
8 over with the heads of the Fascist
9 government. The idea is to have Italy
10 join in an agreement, which the French
11 and the British have already signed, to
12 regulate the respective sizes of the
13 French and Italian navies.

14 It has been supposed that the
15 agreement provides for France and Italy
16 to become parties to the London Naval
17 Treaty, but the London correspondent of
18 the New York Evening Post cables that
19 he understands this is not the case,
20 but that the agreement provides merely
21 for a naval holiday between France and
22 Italy. The main thing is to avoid a
23 naval ~~race~~ ^{race} between the two countries,
24 because if the Italians and the French
25 go on a spree of building warships, why

1 This evening an important
2 conference is on in the ancient city of
3 Rome.

4 According to the United Press,
5 Arthur Henderson, the British Foreign
6 Minister, and A. V. Alexander, First
7 Lord of the Admiralty, are talking things
8 over with the heads of the Fascist
9 government. The idea is to have Italy
10 join in an agreement, which the French
11 and the British have already signed, ^{an agreement to} ~~to~~
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13 French and Italian navies.

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17 Treaty, but the London correspondent of
18 the New York Evening Post cables that
19 he understands this is not the case,
20 but that the agreement provides merely
21 for a naval holiday between France and
22 Italy. [The main thing is to avoid a
23 naval ~~race~~ ^{race} ~~post~~ between the two countries,
24 because if the Italians and the French
25 go on a spree of building warships, why

1 England will have to build some more ^{too}.
2 And that means that everybody will
3 start building. If that happens, then
4 the London Naval Treaty won't amount
5 to ~~much~~ a hoot.

NEWS ITEM

I had a talk with a poet this afternoon, not a serious tragical fellow, but a writer of gay and sometimes nonsensical sonnets. He is Berton Braley, and in addition to his verse writing he is a veteran traveler - a traveler who has been pretty much all over this curious world of ours. He picked my news item of the day for me, a moody story which the International News Service flashes from the strange lands of the Far East that Berton Braley sometimes sings about.

In the remote provinces of Western China a wandering pilgrim passes from village to village. He is unbathed, unshaven, dressed in tattered clothes. He eats little and practices many austerities, and he talks with peasants and gathers a simple wisdom. In a bag he carried paint and brushes, ink and paper. His chief occupation is to sit by the wayside and paint plum blossoms. He is a famous man and not long ago was one of the most powerful figures in China. He is General Feng Yu-Hsiang who was renowned all over the world as the Christian General. Only a few months ago he was the absolute commander of an army of nearly two million men, and was engaged in a savage struggle against the Nanking

Government. Some of his chief supporters went back on him and abruptly he renounced his power and became a hermit, a wandering sage, after the way of the ancient Chinese philosophers.

By living a lowly life among the peasants he seeks to penetrate into the real soul of China. In his painting of plum blossoms he seeks merely the joy of creation. No sooner has he finished a painting then he destroys it. Although his masterpieces would bring a good price from his thousands of admirers and former followers throughout China.

And although he has become a mere wandering wise man, he still retains a good deal of his former power. His old army is still devoted to him. His enemies say that he has taken the role of a wandering philosopher merely to make himself a popular and awe-inspiring figure among the teeming millions of peasants. However that may be, General Feng Yu-Hsiang, long famous as the Christian General, goes his way seeking the wisdom of the soil and painting his pictures of plum blossoms and destroying them as soon as they are painted.

1 In China they're celebrating the
2 name of Li Hsiang-Ku. It appears that
3 Li is a sublime ^{benefactor} ~~beautiflier~~ for the
4 Chinese bee, the busy bee, the humming
5 little insect that makes honey.

6 In northern China there aren't
7 enough flowers from which the bees can
8 collect ^{nectar} ~~honey~~. And sugar is too
9 expensive a substance to provide ^{especially} for
10 the bees. Now, Li Hsiang-Ku is a local
11 chemist at Peiping, and he has discovered
12 a method of turning the lowly Chinese
13 sweet potato into a kind of sugar which
14 fills the busy bee with delight. ^{As} a
15 result of Li's invention, says the
16 International News Service, the bee-
17 keeping industry in northern China is
18 flourishing as ~~■~~ it never flourished
19 before, and hundreds of celestial bee-
20 keepers are calling blessings upon
21 Li Hsiang-Ku and his illustrious
22 ancestors.

1 I read some interesting things
2 today about a question which has been
3 puzzling me, just as it has been
4 puzzling a lot of other people. If the
5 price of wheat is so low, why does the
6 price of ~~xx~~ bread stay so high? That
7 puzzle is outlined briefly and
8 graphically in the Washington News.

9 The farmer, says the News, can
10 take a bushel of wheat to town and
11 sell it for just about enough money to
12 buy six ordinary ten cent loaves of
13 bread. His bushel will grind out
14 enough flour to produce just sixty-two
15 of those ten cent loaves. Who gets
16 the other fifty-six loaves of bread?

17 Well, the United States Senate
18 is wondering about that ~~too~~^{also}, and wants
19 to find out whether the price of bread
20 is artificially kept high - in other
21 words, whether there is a combination
22 to keep prices from going down.

23 You will find these facts
24 summarized in the new issue~~x~~ of the
25 Literary Digest, which will be on the

1 stands tomorrow. The Digest gives
2 both sides of the argument and goes on
3 to tell what the bakers have to say.

4 When you think of bread you
5 think of flour, but the Digest quotes
6 the Bakers' Review as saying "FLOUR IS
7 NOT THE ALL IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE
8 PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD."

9 The cost of a loaf of bread is
10 distributed as follows: 26-7/10 per
11 cent of the cost is for flour. ~~Q**~~
12 Other ingredients take up ~~****~~
13 14-1/2 per cent; manufacture costs
14 25-4/10 per cent; distribution and
15 administration takes the remaining
16 33-4/10 per cent. The Bakers' Review
17 sums things up this way:

18 While it is true, it says,
19 that the price of flour has dropped,
20 the decline has not been great enough
21 to justify a general lowering in the
22 price of bread.

23 On the other hand Senator
24 Capper of Kansas, one of the law makers,
25 who are interesting themselves in the

1 price of bread, tells us that since the
2 Senate has taken a hand in the matter,
3 the retail price of bread in some
4 cities has been reduced, indicating
5 that the price of ^{the staff of life} ~~bread~~ can be brought
6 down.

7 Joe Pagorard lives at San Mateo,
8 California, and the Associated Press

9 informs us that Joe is a game hunter --
10 in fact, a crack shot with the rifle.

11 He had a birthday recently and some
12 friends told him that he might be able to
13 bring down squirrels, and deer, and bear,
14 but there was one thing he wasn't expert
15 enough to do.

16 "Joe", said his friends, "you can't
17 hit the moon!"

18 Now, Joe is a good man. You've got
19 to admit that. He got his rifle, went
20 out in the back yard, and started shooting
21 at the moon. Just then the San Mateo cops
22 came in and hauled Joe away to jail. They
23 said that sort of monkey-shine in the
24 moonshine wouldn't do.

25 Well, Joe is a mighty hunter and I
think I'll just follow up that dispatch by
going outside now to see whether Joe did
any damage to the moon in the State.

I've told occasionally

~~We hear now and then~~, about scientists trying to build rockets that will shoot to the moon. But here's something still more ambitious -- a man who tried shooting at the moon -- with a rifle.

Joe Pagoraro lives at San Mateo, California, and the Associated Press informs us that Joe is a ^{mighty} ~~great~~ hunter -- in fact, a crack shot with the rifle.

He had a birthday recently and some friends told him that he might be able to bring down squirrels, and deer, and bear, but there was one thing he wasn't expert enough marksman to do.

"Joe", said his friends, ^{"why,} "you can't hit the moon!"

Now, Joe is a good man. You've got to admit that. He got his rifle, went out in the back yard, and started shooting at the moon. Just then the San Mateo cops came in and hauled Joe away to jail. They said that sort of monkey-shines in the moonshine wouldn't do. — *not in San Mateo.*

Well, Joe is a mighty hunter and I think I'll just follow up that dispatch by going outside now to see whether Joe did any damage to the man in the moon.

So, so long until tomorrow.