

BEER

Lowell Thomas broadcast
for the Literary Digest ^{Page} _____
Monday, May 23, 1932.

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Good Evening, Everybody:

Well, there'll be no beer for the thirsty this year. For the second time within a week Congress has said NO, ~~to~~ *we do not want beer.* ~~this proposal.~~ The House of Representatives turned down today by a majority of 228 to 169 the O'Connor-Hull bill to legalize and tax beer containing 2.75 per cent alcohol, ~~by weight.~~ It was the first record test in the House, although the Senate expressed itself on the question last week.

There was a big crowd in the galleries to watch our representatives go on record. But the boys themselves were not so keen to start the voting. There was a distinct reluctance on the part of Congressmen to express themselves publicly on this troublesome question. In fact, some of them stayed away so assiduously that the whips were chasing all over the place to bring them to the floor of the House. Finally a quorum call was necessary to get them in.

1 The political world is still
2 agog over the presence of the names of
3 both Alfred E. Smith and Dr. Nicholas
4 Murray Butler on the bi-partisan appeal
5 to Congress. Mr. Smith and Dr. Butler
6 and the nine other men prominent in
7 both parties, are saying to the
8 Senate and to the House: For Heaven's
9 sake, quit your politics and give us a
10 budget and a sound tax bill. ~~A tax~~
11 ~~bill, they add, which should be xxxxxx~~
12 ~~sound and fair to everybody. Everybody~~
13 ~~knows that with six Republicans and~~
14 ~~five Democrats signing the appeal, it~~
15 ~~is too important for even Congress to~~
16 ~~ignore it.~~

17 As a matter of fact, leaders
18 in Congress were much miffed by this
19 appeal. Senator Watson, the majority
20 leader, criticized the signers severely.

21 "I must say I'm astonished
22 at the contents of this letter", declared
23 Mr. Watson. "These gentlemen with their
24 knowledge of public affairs ought to
25 know better."

1 Senator Robinson, the minority
2 leader, wrote a letter to Dr. Butler
3 in rebuttal. "From the beginning of
4 the present session of Congress",
5 declared Mr. Robinson, "a sincere
6 effort has been made by both parties
7 to pursue exactly the course these
8 gentlemen have suggested."

9 Harold Brown wires the New
10 York Evening Post from Washington that
11 a truce is probable on the vexed
12 question of relief. President Hoover's
13 opposition to a bond issue, he reports,
14 may tangle up the situation for a while,
15 but it is not expected to produce any
16 serious deadlock. It is probable that
17 a compromise will be arranged. In
18 this case Washington believes the
19 President would ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ think
20 twice before vetoing a relief bill just
21 because it was not entirely satisfactory
22 to him.

23 Meanwhile President Hoover invited
24 a group of newspaper publishers to a
25 conference on the economic situation.
This conference will be held Wednesday
night at the White House.

1 Senator Borah this afternoon
2 threw a mild bomb-shell into Republican
3 circles. He gave out the information in
4 Washington that he will take no part in
5 the effort to re-elect Mr. Hoover this
6 year. The important thing about this bit
7 of news is that the Idaho senator's
8 vehement radio campaign in 1928 was
9 considered ^{by some people to be} largely responsible for
10 President Hoover's big majorities in the
11 Middle West.

12 Mr. Borah declared further that he
13 would not even attend the Republican
14 convention in Chicago next month.

15 All of which has not added to the
16 happiness of the Republican leaders.

1 Governor Moore of New Jersey added
2 a curious story to the complicated saga
3 of the Lindbergh baby today. Some weeks
4 ago, so we learn from a story in the New
5 York Sun, four men who claimed to be
6 members of the Al Capone gang approached
7 Governor Moore on the streets of Jersey
8 City. They told him that Capone could get
9 the Lindbergh baby back if he were
10 released from prison in Chicago.

11 It was late at night when these four
12 strangers accosted him, and the Governor
13 admits that he was a trifle nervous
14 about it. The men explained that they
15 were ready to help get the baby back if
16 Capone were given full credit. They
17 asked the Governor to use his influence
18 with Colonel Lindbergh to deal with
19 Capone. Apparently it was their idea
20 that Lindbergh should ask President
21 Hoover to order the release of the Chicago
22 gangster from prison long enough to find
23 the baby.

24 As a matter of fact, at the time
25 these self-confessed mobsters were making

1 this offer to the Governor of New Jersey
2 the baby was already dead. ~~and buried.~~

3 Meanwhile, Doctor Condon today left
4 his home in the Bronx on an automobile
5 trip to New England. The aged educator,
6 who has lead a blameless life for 72
7 years, now finds it impossible to go even
8 to the green grocer to buy a bowl of
9 cherries without reporters following him,
10 and making mysterious speculations about
11 the purpose of his movements.

12 In one quarter it was announced that
13 Doctor Condon was merely going fishing.
14 But the story in the New York Sun has it
15 that when he got to Great Barrington,
16 Massachusetts, he startled the natives by
17 announcing that he is going to organize
18 a search for the kidnappers in that
19 neighborhood. By the time he reached
20 Stockbridge, however, he told questioners
21 once more that he was just going fishing.

22 Meanwhile, John Hughes Curtis, the
23 faking boat-builder from Norfolk, Virginia,
24 is still in the coop in New Jersey. His
25 counsel is trying to raise 10,000 dollars
bail for him, but without much success.

1 The whole world is still excited
2 today over the feat of Amelia Earhart
3 Putnam. London newspapers are full of
4 editorials praising her to the skies; *so*
5 Raymond Swing cables to the New York
6 Evening Post ~~that~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ the front pages
7 everywhere are full of the most minute
8 details of her activities; Amelia gets
9 up -- Amelia has a light breakfast
10 -- Amelia goes ~~to~~ shopping -- Amelia
11 goes to luncheon -- Amelia is feated
12 along with Ambassador Mellon by the
13 Institute of Journalists.

14 In the morning Mrs. Putnam had gone
15 shopping with Mrs. David Bruce, daughter
16 of Ambassador Mellon. She admitted to
17 the reporters that she had borrowed a
18 dress ^{and other things} from Mrs. Bruce ^{and the other ladies of the embassy} ~~to go out in~~.

19 She told newspaper men she
20 confidently expected to see regular
21 trans-Atlantic air service established.

22 "It is hardly to be expected within
23 ten years," she declared, "but certainly
24 in our lifetime. It is a grave question
25 whether we'll be able to operate such

1 huge planes as would be necessary for
2 reducing the cost. And at present the
3 principal objection to this form of
4 transport is one of expense."

5 What makes this doubly interesting
6 is the arrival of the Donier DO-X at
7 Southampton, England, ^{this afternoon,} Chief Pilot
8 Merz of the DO-X declared that the big
9 12-motored ^{plane - American motors by the way -} ~~airship~~ cannot compete with
10 fast trans-Atlantic liners. This is due
11 to the necessity of refueling so often.
12 Also they are able only to carry such a
13 small load that it would not pay.

1 While London was feasting our
2 Amelia, England was experiencing the
3 worst floods that have been seen in the
4 British Isles for fifty years.

5 Nine counties were flooded.
6 Many towns and villages were marooned.
7 Livestock was destroyed, and hundreds
8 of thousands of dollars worth of other
9 property. The main streets of many
10 provincial towns were covered with
11 water several feet deep. Even ~~several~~
12 streets in London were flooded.

13 Power plants and communication systems
14 were out of commission. The waters
15 are still rising. Hydrographic
16 experts have estimated that three
17 hundred million tons of water have been
18 added to the ^{Thames} ~~river~~ and its tributaries
19 since Saturday. In the city of Derby
20 alone the damage was calculated at
21 over half a million dollars.

22 What will particularly interest
23 people in this country is that late
24 today it was reported that the River
25 Avon had risen 12½ feet. Water has

1 flooded the stage of the ^{new} Shakespeare
2 Memorial Theatre in Stratford. They
3 had to form a human chain between the
4 river and the stage, baling out the
5 water from the theatre in buckets.

6 It must have been almost as bad
7 as the Tempest in the Tempest.

(The Emperor of Japan today commissioned Viscount Saito to form a new government. Viscount Saito is an admiral, 71 years old, former naval minister and also at one time governor general of Korea.

According to a United Press dispatch in the St. Louis Star, this means a further swing toward the nationalistic policies of the militarists.)

William Simms, foreign editor of the Scripps Howard papers, interprets this news as a victory for the military Camarilla of Japan. It means, he declares, that the military jingos have acquired what amounts to dictatorial powers.

A peculiar characteristic of the Japanese militarists is that they demand farm relief and fewer favors for the moneyed class. In this respect they differ notably from ^{some European} ~~western~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ generals and admirals who are able to think of nothing but bigger and better armies and navies.

1 Another man ~~xxxx~~ who's been
2 in a position to study this question
3 closely, declares that war between
4 Japan and the Soviet government is
5 inevitable. This authority is the
6 former Grand Duke Alexander of Russia,
7 cousin and brother-in-law of the late
8 Czar. Since the Grand Duke business
9 went on the fritz, His Imperial Highness
10 turned journalist, and quite a good
11 one, so other newspapermen say.

12 The Grand Duke quotes ~~the~~ a
13 famous Russian playwright who once
14 uttered the following formula:

15 "If there's a gun hanging on
16 the wall in Act I, it ought to be fired
17 before the final curtain. Otherwise
18 why have a gun at all."

19 "There are millions of guns
20 hanging on the walls of Russia, Japan
21 and China," continues the Grand Duke in
22 a copyrighted article to the Chicago
23 Daily News, ~~and other United Press~~
24 ~~papers.~~ "It does not take a great
25 prophet to predict that the world

1 will hear a lot more shooting in the
2 Far East long before the final ~~xxxx~~
3 curtain falls. There is not the
4 remotest chance for a compromise between
5 Russia and Japan", declared the Grand
6 Duke. "The conflict may be postponed
7 for a year or two, but ultimately
8 the spick and span soldiers now parading
9 in Tokio and Moscow will come to a
10 bloody clash on the fields of Manchuria."

11 { At the same time there comes the
12 news from Shanghai that a mysterious
13 fire broke out on a Japanese transport.
14 For a while it was touch and go that
15 ~~xxxx~~ the huge stores of Japanese
16 munitions in Shanghai would be exploded.

17 Then news came to Washington from
18 Uncle Sam's Consul General at Harbin,
19 that hostilities had taken place in
20 that region. The wounding of a
21 Russian trainman on the Chinese Eastern
22 Railroad was ^{the only casualty} ~~all the casualties~~ reported.

23 And General Shirakawa, Commander
24 in Chief of the Japanese Army at
25 Shanghai, died today as the result of

1 the wounds from the bomb explosion
2 last month.

3 ^{With}~~When~~ all these things ~~were~~ going
4 on the Japanese delegates to the
5 World Disarmament Conference at Geneva
6 were opposing the representatives of
7 Uncle Sam. Japan ~~xxxx~~ wants us to
8 cut out building aircraft carriers
9 and so far we don't see why we should.

10 ^{During}~~While~~ the debate ~~was going on,~~ Dr.
11 Albert Einstein was in the gallery
12 smoking a pipe while he listened to
13 the discussion.

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1 For the special benefit of the
2 Literary Digest Junior salesmen and their
3 parents I'd like to tell you about an
4 interesting article in the current issue
5 of the Digest. It deals particularly with
6 this ~~very~~ subject, not the Digest's own
7 salesmen, but salesmen in general.
8 It seems that never was there a greater
9 demand for a good salesman.

10 According to information from
11 the Department of Commerce in Washington
12 a ~~xxx~~ call ^{has gone} ~~was given~~ out all over the
13 country to salesmen. It is not true
14 that salesmen are born, not made. The
15 Digest quotes J. C. Royale to the effect
16 that for years producers ceased to make
17 salesmen. Sales executives are going
18 into the byways and the hedges for
19 promising salesmen. ^{So if any of you boys are hiding in the hedges tonight,}
20 ~~They feel they can~~ ^{just}
21 ~~teach a fair prospect how to sell any~~ ^{come}
22 ~~line if he has an inclination toward~~ ^{on}
23 ~~selling.~~ ^{out.}

23 And that ought to encourage the
24 lads who are delivering the Digest, and
25 also their parents.

1 Traffic was on the blink between
2 Boston and New York yesterday for the
3 better part of half an hour. The cause
4 of the rumpus was Sligo. By Sligo I
5 don't mean the ~~town~~^{County} in Ireland. I mean
6 the well known gander at the Bronx Zoo.

7 Sligo got bored with the Zoo on
8 Sunday afternoon. He took off from his
9 pond accompanied by his mate, a goose
10 who goes by the attractive name of
11 Snow White. Sligo and Snow White found
12 an attractive green spot and landed
13 there. He didn't know that the green
14 spot was Woodlawn Cemetery. ~~But~~ evidently
15 he soon found out, because he made his
16 way from the cemetery to the high road.

17 There one of the first things
18 sligo saw was a huge black object such
19 as he had never seen before. What
20 annoyed him about this huge black object
21 was that it made a noise suspiciously
22 like a loud bad imitation of a gander's
23 honk. The black object ceased to move
24 when it saw Sligo. At the same time it
25 wouldn't get out of the way. And

1 Sligo evidently thought the black object
 2 which we might as well explain now
 3 was a motor car, had designs on Snow
 4 White. He hissed and threatened it,
 5 but still the black object didn't
 6 move, although it didn't strike back.

7 Sligo, whose full name is Sligo
 8 McGuire, charged the car and charged
 9 until he fell exhausted.

10 But though he couldn't move the
 11 car he could stop the car from moving,
 12 and it so happened that it was the
 13 leading car in a funeral procession.
 14 Sligo and Snow White held up the
 15 procession for nearly half an hour,
 16 until some of Mr. Crandall's men from the
 17 Bronx Zoo arrived on the scene.

18 The sad end to this story is
 19 that Sligo and Snow White had their
 20 wings clipped today.

21 And ^{all have} ~~if I don't want~~ my wings
 22 clipped, ^{right now if I don't hurry up and} ~~I have to~~ say so long
 23 until tomorrow.