

Readers walter
SALES TAX

Lowell Thomas broadcast for the Literary Digest, Thursday, March 24, 1932.

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Good Evening, Everybody:

1 The sales tax was beaten today.

2 There was an exciting time in Congress
3 when that much-disputed measure came to
4 a vote. The enemies of the ^{plan}~~measure~~ were
5 full of enthusiasm. The supporters of
6 that proposed bit of taxation which
7 had been agreed to by the ^{leaders}~~members~~ of
8 both the Democrats and the Republicans,
9 were glum and dejected. They realized
10 that the sales tax was going to be
11 defeated -- and it was.

12 Before the final vote came, a
13 number of exemptions were decided upon.
14 It was proposed that the sales tax
15 should not apply to various types of
16 merchandise. These concessions pacified
17 some of the opponents, but in the end
18 it didn't make any difference. There
19 were enough Congressmen who are out and
20 out opposed to the sales tax to make a
21 majority. And so that particular form
22 of taxation is out of the tax bill.
23 Some new way of raising revenue will
24 have to be found to provide the money
25 that the sales tax was expected to bring

1 ~~into~~ the government.

2 While the debate and the
 3 preliminary sparring was going on, there
 4 was a general hubbub in Congress.
 5 Sometimes half a dozen representatives
 6 were on their feet, shouting for a chance
 7 to be heard. The New York World-
 8 Telegram reports that at one stage of
 9 the proceedings there were some heated
 10 remarks between representatives Mapes
 11 of Michigan, and Blanton of Texas. The
 12 two law-makers got hot under the collar,
 13 and shouted defiance at each other. Both
 14 went stalking out into the lobby, and
 15 it looked as if there was going to be a
 16 battle. There were shouts of FIGHT!
 17 FIGHT! -- but the trouble quieted down
 18 when friends got hold of the two
 19 embattled statesmen and ^{and pacified} calmed them. ~~down~~

20 Anyway, that much-debated sales tax
 21 has been chucked into the waste basket,
 22 and now Congress will start working and
 23 wrangling in an attempt to devise some
 24 other kind of tax to raise the money
 25 that the government needs.

1 (Political experts had some more
2 food for thought today in the smashing
3 victory ~~es~~ which Governor Roosevelt of
4 New York scored in the Georgia
5 Presidential primaries yesterday.

6 The New York Governor was opposed
7 by Speaker Garner of the House of
8 Representatives. The Georgians gave
9 Roosevelt a ten to one majority over
10 Garner.)

11 The New York Sun declares today
12 that political leaders believe that
13 Governor Roosevelt's overwhelming victory
14 in Georgia indicate^s that the Solid South
15 is back in its old Democratic line-up
16 and if Governor Roosevelt should be
17 nominated, he will receive the usual
18 old-fashioned Democratic backing in the
19 Cotton Belt.

Business writer
EMPLOYMENT

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All over the country interesting ideas are under way to provide relief for unemployment. In New York a neighborhood campaign is in full swing under the name of Block Aid.

In Dallas, Texas, they have a scheme of which the slogan is "Drop a Penny to Make a Job." The campaign was started by the Kiwanis Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Fruit-jar containers are put in public places, and in these people drop odd pennies.

The United Press wire in the New York Sun reports tonight that since February this campaign of pennies has provided 690 one-day jobs in Dallas. One detail is that these pennies put two nurses to work for 150 days, caring for people in need who were suffering from influenza or pneumonia.

Revised by Walter

1 ~~ABLES AND GENTLEMEN~~

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Well, here we are at last. We have a full ^{100%} ~~xxx~~ representation. For the first time tonight we have every single one of the states of this union represented in the Literary Digest Poll. In the new Literary Digest, which came out today, you will find in the tabulated list of returns fifty sets of figures. No, that doesn't mean that there are 50 states in the Union. We have figures on all the 48 states and then two extra entries--one is the District of Columbia and the other is nobody in particular. It comes under the heading of "States Unknown" and includes a few thousand ballots on which the ~~xxxx~~ voters neglected to mark down the name of their states.

And the total has taken a big jump too--more than a half a million new ballots have been added to the returns we had last Thursday, and (the grand total has jumped over the three million mark-- in fact it's 3,040,036. Of these the

1 Drys have 763,175, while the Wets mustered
2 an impressive vote of 2,276,861.) The
3 outstanding fact is that the Drys have
4 scored another gain. Last week we
5 wondered how long the Wets would be able
6 to keep up that 3 to 1 majority in the
7 face of the slow but steady climb the
8 Dry percentage is making.

9 Well, tonight we have the answer.
10 The Wets have lost that 3 to 1 majority.
11 They dropped below it although only by
12 a shade. The Dry percentage is now 25.1%
13 and the Wet proportion is 74.9%--which
14 means that the Wets have dropped 1/10 of
15 1% below their 3 to 1 lead.

16 Kansas increased its Dry majority.
17 Last week Kansas was just 53% Dry. Now
18 the Dry percentage has risen to 53.34%.
19 Kansas still remains the only State that
20 shows a Dry majority in the Poll, but that
21 stalwart of Prohibition is likely to have
22 a companion at any time now. Last week
23 we noted that the mighty small Wet
24 majority in North Carolina was decreasing
25 all the time. And now we have another

1 decrease. North Carolina is trembling
2 in the balance. Its vote tonight is
3 25,589 for Prohibition --26,082 Against.
4 That gives the Wet majority only 493
5 votes.

6 ~~Last week North Carolina showed~~
7 ~~a Dry percentage of 48.32%. This week~~
8 ~~that Dry proportion has risen to 49.52%.~~
9 ~~Take your pencils and figure it out and~~
10 ~~you will find that in the percentages~~

11 The North Carolina Wets have an advantage
12 of less than 1/10 of 1% and that's a
13 mighty small lead.

14 Arkansas is the merest shade
15 damper than North Carolina. Its Wet
16 percentage is 51.37%. ~~The~~ The Literary
17 Digest Poll is rapidly crystallizing
18 one exceedingly dramatic and important
19 point. We all know that it takes a 2/3rds
20 majority of the States to change the
21 Constitution. 13 States all by themselves
22 can keep the 18th Amendment right where
23 it is no matter what the rest of the
24 country may think.

25 There is increasing talk of a

1 referendum and that makes it mighty
 2 interesting to try to figure out the 13
 3 states that are most likely to stand
 4 fast for Prohibition, and in which the
 5 Drys can muster their strength and block
 6 any attempt to put through a change.

7 Well, that's exactly where the
 8 tabulation in this week's Literary
 9 Digest gives us some mighty important
 10 material to work with. If you want a
 11 good line on that angle of the Prohibition
 12 situation ^{just} ~~why~~ take your pencil and start
 13 figuring percentages on the basis of the
 14 figures in the new Digest. They give what probably
 15 is the answer.

16 In our list of cities tonight
 17 we have something unusual. Heretofore
 18 we have found the Dry Strength centered
 19 in the small communities. The larger
 20 cities have shown the biggest majorities
 21 against Prohibition. But tonight we
 22 have a large and important city that is
 23 to be marked down as a victory for the
 24 Drys. ^{It's Bryan's old home town --} ~~Lincoln~~ Lincoln, Nebraska. We have
 25 already had a report on Lincoln, but
 here's the second, and tonight's returns

1 show 2,218 votes cast for the 18th
2 Amendment, with 2,002 against.

3 We also have a second report on
4 St. Paul, Minnesota, but St. Paul seems
5 to be somewhat different from the capital
6 of Nebraska. 1,976 votes are Dry, while
7 12,331 are Wet.

8 East Saint Louis, Illinois,
9 ~~votes show that~~ ^{gives} 374 ~~are~~ in favor of
10 Prohibition and 2,949 ~~are~~ against.

11 Anderson, Indiana, --for
12 continuance 1,066 ---for repeal 2,245.

13 Alexandria, Louisiana, ~~register~~
14 204 ~~votes~~ in favor of the ~~18th~~ Amendment,
15 ~~and~~ 729 against. ~~It~~

16 Malden, Massachusetts, 1,211
17 say Prohibition is okay and 2,081 say
18 it isn't.

19 Pontiac, Michigan, ^{another famous automobile city,} overwhelmingly
20 shows by its votes that ~~they~~ ^{it} wants a change:
21 1,575 for repeal, ~~and~~ ^{for} 419 [^] continuance.

22 Joplin, Missouri, ~~voters number~~
23 461 Dry, ~~and~~ 1,019 Wets.

24 East Orange, New Jersey --in favor
25 of the ~~18th~~ Amendment 645--against 2,750.

Protesters Walter

PROHIBITION POLL - #6

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In Mt. Vernon, New York; ~~xxx~~ ^{the} voters are
 2,204 ^{damp} ~~strong~~ ~~for repeat~~ and 375 ^{bone dry} ~~say the~~
~~18th Amendment is all right as it is.~~

~~We now return to our program.~~

1 A news bulletin issued today
2 at the Lindbergh home confirm^S~~ed~~ the
3 reports that two underworld characters
4 are being hunted far and wide by the
5 police. These are said to be known
6 kidnapers and are named^{as} Abie Wagner and
7 Harry Fleischer. The latter is said to
8 be a member of the Purple Gang, an
9 underworld organization ~~in~~ Detroit.

10 Both are said to have been in
11 New Jersey at the time of the kidnapping.

12 Meanwhile, the New Jersey State
13 Police has been forced to decrease its
14 activities in the hunt for the missing
15 baby. The reason is financial. The
16 head of the State Police asked for some
17 more money today. He declared that the
18 expense of the search had exhausted the
19 funds provided for State Police work.

20 The New York Evening Post
21 declares that the case thus far has cost
22 the State of New Jersey fifty thousand
23 dollars and that doesn't include what the
24 Lindbergh family may have spent.
25

1 The treasures of India are
2 cutting a figure in the international
3 financial situation. The subject of
4 hoarded wealth is a mighty important one
5 just now and if there is any land where
6 immense wealth is hoarded why that land
7 is India.

8 In the glittering palaces of
9 the Maharajahs are great treasure vaults
10 which are crammed with the accumulated
11 gold and jewels of centuries. Just how
12 much of this fabulous wealth is hidden
13 away in India has long been a matter of
14 conjecture. And now we have something
15 of an estimate from a body of experts
16 who should know what there is to be
17 known about the secrets of India.

18 It's the British Colonial
19 Office.

20 The New York Evening Sun tells
21 how in the House of Commons Sir Samuel
22 Hoare, Secretary for India, was asked
23 if he could throw any light on the subject
24 of hoarded treasure in the land of
25 Hindustan.

 The Secretary replied that

Professor Walter

INDIA - #2

1 according to the best information, the
2 amount of gold and jewels hidden away in
3 India is between two and half and
4 three and a half billion dollars.

5 He added that no accurate
6 statistics were available but that the
7 figures he gave were about as near to
8 the truth as anybody could ^{reach} ~~XXXXXX~~.

9 ~~XXXXXX~~

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Professor Walter

GUN

1 One of the most picturesque
 2 characters of the West breaks into the
 3 news this evening with some loud and
 4 uproarious gun play.

5 Zack Miller is known on the
 6 great plains as ~~an old-time~~ frontiersman
 7 and one of the founders of the 101 Ranch,
 8 a wild-west show that provided thrills
 9 for American youth and American grown-ups
 10 for years.

11 The 101 Ranch went on the
 12 financial rocks a while ago and now it's
 13 involved in a tangle of legal proceedings
 14 and old Zack Miller is badly tangled in
 15 those legal proceedings, too.

16 A United Press wire in the
 17 New York World Telegram tells how a ~~xxxxx~~
 18 couple of lawyers called upon Zack, who
 19 is confined to his bed at Marland,
 20 Oklahoma. The lawyers represented a man
 21 who is now acting as receiver for the
 22 101 Ranch properties. This receiver chap
 23 is an interesting person, too. He is
 24 Fred Clarke, the old-time baseball man,
 25 who made baseball history as manager of

1 the Championship Pittsburgh Pirates
2 some years ago.

3 The two lawyers told Zack Miller
4 that they had a legal order to seize his
5 property and sell it. The next thing you
6 know, the shooting began. It seemed a
7 good deal like homicide, outlawry and
8 general insurrection. When the lawyers
9 explained the legal situation to Zack
10 why he just reached over for his shotgun,
11 and began shooting at the floor, right
12 at the lawyers' feet. It was a case of
13 bang, bang--something like a battle.
14 When the shooting began the lawyers
15 started to travel as fast as they could.
16 That left Zack in possession of the
17 battlefield.

18 He declares that he is going to
19 defend his property, but ~~am afraid~~ ^{his friends fear that} his
20 trusty shotgun isn't going to do much
21 good in the face of the courts of law.

1 Here's another one of those odd
 2 stories about a robber. This time a
 3 ~~man~~ bandit made the mistake of holding
 4 up a beauty parlor. Gun in hand, the
 5 Desperado walked into a Chicago
 6 beautifying establishment, which was
 7 crowded with customers.

8 "Stick 'em up," he commanded
 9 grimly.

10 And that was when Mrs. Katherine
 11 Summerfield stepped forward.

12 "You're a coward," ^{she snapped - and then} she gave him a
 13 piece of her mind. "You wouldn't dare to
 14 shoot," ^{pooh pooh to you} and with that she slapped him in
 15 the face. The robber was a ferocious
 16 thug who had no respect for ladies, and
 17 so he slapped her back -- with his gun
 18 clenched in one hand, he slapped her
 19 with the other.

20 "And ^{just} that shows you're a ~~coward~~
 21 coward," retorted Mrs. Summerfield, with
 22 an acid expression -- ^{whereupon} ~~and~~ she slapped him
 23 again.

24 ^{And then} The other ladies ^{perked up and chanted the same refrain} joined in the
 25 slapping match. The unfortunate burglar

ROBBER - 2

1 slapped back as best he could, but he
2 was handicapped by the fact that he could
3 only use one hand -- he had his gun in
4 the other.

5 As the United Press tells the story
6 in the New York Sun, ^{while} the slapping went
7 on ~~until~~ the burglar was able to snatch
8 35 dollars, ^{from a couple of handbags. And then, slapped helplessly} ~~and then~~ he dashed away.

9 ~~I don't suppose the next time he~~
10 ~~is out looking for a place to rob and~~
11 ~~happens to see a beauty parlor, he'll~~
12 ~~say --~~ As he staggered down the street he

Sang out: - SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW