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3 GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

4        Things were all wet over in  
5 London today. I mean the weather was  
6 wet. A drizzling rain fell and everything  
7 was damp and muggy. But then a little  
8 thing like rain doesn't mean so much  
9 over in dear old London. The citizens  
10 are used to it and they can go right  
11 ahead and hold a solemn affair just about  
12 as well in the rain as on a bright  
13 sunshiny day.

14        And so, although the weather  
15 was wet, the opening of parliament took  
16 place with all suitable pomp and  
17 circumstance. No, the ceremonies were  
18 not all wet. I suppose you might say  
19 they were all dry, although that might  
20 not be the right word for England.

21        Anyway, there was a grand air  
22 of stately ritual when His Majesty, the  
23 King, opened parliament with a speech  
24 from the throne.

25        In the section reserved for

1 royalty the members of the reigning  
2 family were seated. The King arose.

3 "My Lords, members of the House  
4 of Commons", His Majesty began. And *then*  
5 the British parliament was in session.  
6 The King, as quoted by the United  
7 Press, spoke in terms of old fashioned  
8 autocratic royalty. "My relations  
9 with foreign powers", he said, "continue  
10 friendly. My government intends to  
11 pursue a policy of promoting peace and  
12 good will."

13 Yes, those are words suitable  
14 for a king, but just the same England  
15 happens to be an exceedingly  
16 constitutional monarchy, and I suppose  
17 that a good deal more importance is  
18 to be attached to what the Prime  
19 Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, had to say.  
20 As the Associated Press tells the  
21 story, <sup>the Prime Minister</sup> ~~he~~ proceeded to plunge into  
22 some exceedingly controversial matters.  
23 For example, he tackled the problem  
24 of war debts and reparations.

25 "As long", declared Prime

1 Minister MacDonald, "as the will of  
2 man forces an unnatural economic  
3 adjustment upon the world, the world  
4 will never succeed or prosper." And <sup>by</sup>  
5 that <sup>he</sup> meant war debts and reparations.

6 The International News Service  
7 quotes the Prime Minister as saying  
8 that the ~~international~~ financial tangle  
9 which was left over by the World War,  
10 and which the nations still have on  
11 their hands, is crazy economy.

12 ~~And~~ <sup>in</sup> the House of Lords, the  
13 peers of the ~~roy~~ realm, assembled in  
14 magnificent finery. Their proceedings  
15 were a great deal more spectacular  
16 than those in the House of Commons, —  
17 but <sup>as usual,</sup> ~~also~~ somewhat less important.

## CORN

Now here's a large figure -- 2 billion and 674 million. That means bushels. Bushels of what? Why bushels of corn, this time.

Today the United States Crop Reporting Board turned in figures for the corn crop this year. The farmers throughout the country certainly have plenty of corn fields. Five-and-a-half million acres of land were cultivated in corn this year. And the total crop was over 2 billion and 674 million bushels. Just think of husking all that!

Anyway, it's a bigger corn crop than we had last year, nearly 600 million bushels bigger, remarks the International News Service.

1                   There has been a lot of back and  
2 ~~forth~~ controversy on the subject of Russian ~~wh~~  
3 wheat. It has been claimed that Russia  
4 has been suffering from a severe drought  
5 this year and that in consequence the  
6 Soviets will not be able to export  
7 wheat.

8                   On the other hand this has been  
9 denied, with statements that the Russian  
10 wheat crop is as big this year as it was  
11 last year, and that the Soviets will be  
12 in the export market the same as ever.

13                   Now comes ~~an~~ a United Press  
14 dispatch from Moscow in which Soviet  
15 officials are quoted as saying that Russia  
16 will make "substantial wheat exports" this  
17 year. They ridicule the idea that the  
18 Bolshevists are out of the wheat market.

19                   But they admitted ~~ted~~ that the  
20 Soviets ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> facing what they called ~~led~~  
21 "certain difficulties". And they add  
22 that Russian exports of wheat will be  
23 less this year than last. There is  
24 confirmation of the fact that in Eastern  
25 Siberia and in the region of the Ural *mts*

1 the Soviet wheat growers have had to  
2 contend with ~~the~~ drought. Furthermore  
3 the Bolshevik~~s~~ authorities have eased  
4 up on their restrictions concerning the  
5 amount of food allotted to the Russians  
6 themselves, which means that more wheat  
7 than last year will be consumed inside of  
8 Russia.

9 That question of Russian wheat  
10 has been of acute importance to both  
11 farmers and business men, and according  
12 to last reports the situation can be  
13 summed up like this:

14 "The Soviets will export  
15 wheat this coming year. But their exports  
16 ~~w~~ won't be as much as they were last." ~~year~~

17 *This is vital news to a*  
18 *host of people in this country, Canada,*  
19 *Argentina, and nearly everywhere*  
20 *excepting in Eskimo-land.*  
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1 A new government was set up in  
2 Manchuria today. At the city of Mukden  
3 General Yuan Chin-Kai was installed  
4 as provincial governor, in place of  
5 General Chang Hsueh-Liang, who is  
6 fighting against the Japanese. This  
7 move was instigated by the Japanese.  
8 The United Press declares that the  
9 ceremony was directed and stage-  
10 managed by Japanese officials.

11 On the battle front in Manchuria  
12 things are quiet tonight. The Japanese  
13 are holding their lines along the  
14 Nonni River. But things also seem to  
15 be threatening. The Chinese were  
16 reported to be massing large numbers of  
17 soldiers to attack the troops of the  
18 Mikado. The Associated Press reports  
19 sporadic disturbances here and there in  
20 Manchuria.

21 There was <sup>another</sup> ~~an~~ outbreak of trouble in  
22 the large Chinese city of Tientsin.  
23 This comes on the heels of some ugly  
24 fighting, when Chinese ~~v~~ jobs opened  
25 fire on the Japanese concession, and

1 the soldiers of Nippon replied with  
2 cannon, ~~fire~~

3 The new outbreak today took place  
4 when a mob in civilian clothes attacked  
5 the 17th Company of Chinese gendarmes.  
6 The gendarmes drove off the mob, which  
7 took to its heels and ran ~~in~~ in the  
8 direction of the Japanese concession.

9 The International News Service  
10 quotes the Chinese authorities as  
11 declaring that the Japanese provided the  
12 mob with weapons, and incited the  
13 disorder.



1 Well, behind all that trouble in the  
2 Far East stands one large, sweeping fact.  
3 The Orient is taking up the ways of the  
4 West, the industrial civilization, the  
5 Machine Age. And that has been causing  
6 painful dislocations. It's the cause of  
7 much of the unrest that has fastened its  
8 grip upon Asia.

9 In this week's Literary Digest is a  
10 vivid picture of what happens when East  
11 meets West, and when the East begins to  
12 try some of the tricks of the West. We  
13 are told how factories have arisen on the  
14 China coast, how stock companies, Western  
15 banking and credit, mass production, and  
16 all the rest, were unloaded on the  
17 unsuspecting yellow man.

18 The Literary Digest quotes an  
19 article by Feng-Shui, a Chinese writer,  
20 in the Bulletin of Sidney, Australia,  
21 which relates how the village industries  
22 collapsed. For ages those village  
23 industries had been the livelihood of  
24 millions. But they couldn't compete with  
25 Western mass production, and millions

1 were without work.

2 Then there were the Chinese secret  
3 societies, although that's a misleading  
4 name for them. They're really trade  
5 unions. They were well adapted to the  
6 village industries, but in a world of  
7 Western factories they were utterly out  
8 of place. They became merely sources of  
9 discontent.

10 And then there was the family system,  
11 so sacred to the Chinese. For thousands  
12 of years it had outlasted the shock of  
13 civil war, the fall of dynasties, the  
14 disasters of flood and famine. But when  
15 sons and daughters of a household went out  
16 to work in factories, why they earned only  
17 miserably small pay -- but just the same  
18 it meant discord and a breaking up of the  
19 old family system of the flowery kingdom.

20 The Literary Digest goes on to add  
21 that horrible industrial suburbs grew up  
22 around the factories -- the oriental  
23 equivalent of Western tenement-house  
24 slums. And a thing like that, although  
25 bad in the West, becomes infinitely worse

1 in the East.

2 No, the white man's civilization  
3 and his industries have not been an  
4 unmixed blessing to the age-old peoples  
5 of the Orient.

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1 Well, tomorrow is Armistice  
 2 Day and we are going to have a special  
 3 feature. ~~We are going to have a~~ <sup>It is to be a</sup>  
 4 short-wave hook-up for this regular  
 5 Literary Digest broadcast of the news.

6 The idea of this hook-up is  
 7 to make tomorrow's broadcast a world-wide  
 8 thing. It is hoped that people in any  
 9 part of this globe of ours may be able  
 10 to listen in. <sup>That is the plan that has been</sup>  
 11 <sup>worked out by the N. B. C.</sup>  
 12 And what is the reason for

13 this world-wide broadcast? Well, it's  
 14 to be a special Armistice Day feature,  
 15 which the Literary Digest has arranged,  
 16 something special to commemorate that  
 17 unforgettable day thirteen years ago  
 18 when the magical word "Peace" set the  
 19 world rejoicing.  
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1           And along comes another one of  
2 those freak championship events. We now  
3 have a needle-threading champion. No,  
4 this isn't a case of a needle-threader  
5 who has established a speed record.  
6 The idea, as explained by the International  
7 News Service, is to see how many threads  
8 you can put through a needle's eye.

9           Well, you'd think that one thread  
10 would be enough -- or even too much.  
11 But in Chicago a tailor put 23 strands of  
12 thread through a needle's eye. And ~~today~~  
13 at Beverly, Massachusetts, D. H. Manprey,  
14 a local tailor, smashed that record to  
15 smithereens. He succeeded in getting 30  
16 strands of thread through the eye of  
17 what was presumably an ordinary small-  
18 sized needle.

19           Now girls, how about it? Are  
20 you going to let a ~~were~~ man hold  
21 that record?  
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Ogden Nash.

Comic verse.

Nov. 10, 1931-

p. 14

1 I have a murderer here in the studio  
2 with me this evening -- a man who murders  
3 the King's English. And they say the  
4 King's English likes it, and comes back  
5 for more. How does he do it? Well, he  
6 does it with hard lines.

7 He is Ogden Nash, whose comic verse  
8 has brought a new kind of humor into  
9 American literature. The fun consists of  
10 weird and ludicrous rhymes. Yes siree,  
11 those lines that Ogden Nash concocts are  
12 enough to make your ears wiggle. He has  
13 just got out a new book of twisters, with  
14 the speedy title of "Free Wheeling," and  
15 the way it murders the King's English is  
16 something wonderful and fearful to behold.

17 Ogden Nash claims that some of those  
18 cockeyed poems of his have a timely  
19 interest right now, at this very moment,  
20 in fact. Isn't that so, Ogden?  
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1 Well, at this very moment, ~~in fact,~~  
2 I was rather expecting to hear Lowell  
3 Thomas tell a tall story. But since he  
4 seems to prefer poems to whoppers just  
5 now, suppose we have a small lyric  
6 appropriate to that book, "Tall Stories."

7 In it is a picture illustrating a  
8 whopper about a cobra, so here's a rhyme  
9 about the cobra:-

10 This creature fills its mouth with venom  
11 And walks upon its duodenum.  
12 He who attempts to tease the cobra  
13 Is soon a sadder he, and sobra.

14 And then, of course, in the broadcast  
15 of the news a bit of human interest and  
16 tender sentiment is always desired. And  
17 what could be more sentimental than a  
18 baby, ~~dear little thing.~~ <sup>A dear little baby.</sup> So here's a  
19 couplet about your baby, and our baby, and  
20 all the rest of the babies:-

21 A bit of talcum  
22 Is always walcum.

23 The Literary Digest, I know, is  
24 doing great things to help along the  
25 celebration of the George Washington  
bi-centennial next year. I have a small



1 complaint to make:-

2 Everybody can tell you the date of  
3 George Washington's birth,  
4 But who knows the date on which Mrs. George  
5 Washington first appeared on earth?  
6 Isn't there any justice  
7 For the former Mrs. Custis?  
8 It's a disgrace to every United State  
9 That we don't know more about our first  
10 president's only mate.

11 That isn't all the poem, but I'll  
12 refrain from giving the rest of it,  
13 because it may be --

14 A little bit too shadio  
15 For the radio.

16 In literature these days the  
17 autobiographical note is seldom absent  
18 and so I'll end with a confession:

19 I was a student  
20 Who cudent  
21 See any more difference between  
22 studying and sleeping *wailing and weeping.*  
23 Than there is between ~~A.S.M.~~  
24 Hutchinson and Warwick Deeping.  
25 As a result  
26 I was always getting expult.

27 And after that I'd better get  
28 off the air or I'm liable to be expult *again.*

1 Well, Ogden, since you seem to  
2 expect a tall story, I'm sorry I  
3 didn't bring one along out of the  
4 extensive archives of the Tall Story  
5 Club. But here's a yarn which at the  
6 first blush certainly sounds like a  
7 whopper. It tells ~~x~~ how a man was  
8 bitten by his own false teeth. Yes,  
9 and those teeth left a powerful  
10 imprint.

11 As it happens, however, the  
12 story is quite true. John Rogers, a  
13 high school teacher at Evansville,  
14 Indiana, was riding along in an  
15 automobile from Evansville to Boonville.  
16 His false teeth began to annoy him, so  
17 he took them out and put them in his  
18 hip pocket. A moment later the car  
19 skidded off the road. John was thrown  
20 out and hit the ground. He landed in  
21 a sitting posture on his right hip  
22 pocket, where the false teeth were.

23 And that, comments, the  
24 Associated Press, is how a man was  
25 bitten by his own false teeth. John

1 sustained a certain amount of injury,  
2 and he'll have to get a new set of  
3 false teeth.

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## ROUMANIA

The royal note from Roumania today is a royal note of fury. The Associated Press relates that King Carol is in high dudgeon, which is a royal way of saying he's good and sore, on account of the marriage of his brother Prince Nicholas.

Prince Nicholas has just eloped in dramatic fashion with a lady who is by no means of royal birth. She's a commoner. The prince fell in love with her and asked permission of his brother the King to marry her.

Kind Carol, the old Puritan, sternly refused. And now the sentimental couple have eloped. The Prince took the beauty into his racing car and dashed away, stepping on the gas, burning up the roads, at 125 Roumanian miles per hour. At a small town they were married by the Mayor.

The report is that the Prince compelled the Mayor to perform the ceremony.

King Carol is furious. Of course he himself has had a few gaudy romances in his time and you'd think that might make

him a little more broad-minded, but I suppose King Carol would reply "maybe so," but at least he didn't marry them. Anyway it's another romantic royal rumpus in Roumania.

And there will be a most unromantic and unroyal rumpus right here if I don't say -

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.