

# RACKET

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast  
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Page

Good Evening, Everybody!

<sup>lets start the week with</sup>  
1 ~~Now comes~~ a real scandal--racketeering  
2 at the White House. ~~The~~ Racketeers  
3 have been busy collecting graft, ~~and~~  
4 working a shakedown game <sup>right at</sup> ~~in~~ the home of  
5 the President of the United States.

6 Yesterday there was a grand Easter  
7 egg-rolling festival on the White House  
8 grounds. The children of Washington  
9 were all invited, that is all under the  
10 age of 10. The grownups were allowed to  
11 attend the Presidential egg-rolling  
12 reception only as escorts and  
13 companions of children.

14 According to the United Press,  
15 hundreds of grownups wanted to go, but  
16 were not entitled to ~~be admitted~~ <sup>admission</sup> --because  
17 they had no children ~~along with them.~~ <sup>to take.</sup>

18 And that's where the racketeering came  
19 in. Small Washington urchins hired  
20 themselves out to take grownups to the  
21 egg-rolling. <sup>There was where</sup> The shakedown <sup>took place.</sup> ~~was ten cents~~  
22 ~~apiece.~~

23 The small racketeers stationed  
24 themselves outside the White House gates  
25 and announced their proposition.

1 "Fork over ten cents and I'll take  
2 you into the President's party!" *They sang out.*

3 And a lot of dimes changed hands  
4 that way. And it all ~~comes~~ comes under  
5 the flagrant headline of racketeering  
6 at the White House.

7 But anyway, a good time was had by  
8 all. There were heaps and heaps of  
9 Easter eggs and the kids worked their  
10 jaws overtime. ~~Across~~ Across the  
11 spacious grounds of the White House  
12 rang endless peals of laughter and  
13 merry shouts.



1 The District of Columbia  
2 Court of Appeals today handed down a  
3 ~~xxxxxxx~~ verdict, and that verdict  
4 states that Albert B. Fall, former ~~xxxxx~~  
5 Secretary of the Interior, must pay a  
6 fine of \$100,000. and serve one year  
7 in jail.

8 ~~former Secretary~~ <sup>Mr.</sup> Fall, as you  
9 will recall, was Secretary of ~~the~~  
10 Interior in the Harding cabinet and  
11 was a principal figure in the great  
12 oil scandals. He was convicted by the  
13 lower courts of accepting a bribe.  
14 He took the case to the higher courts  
15 and now the Court of Appeals has  
16 upheld the sentence.

17 There is only one higher  
18 tribunal to which former Secretary  
19 Fall can take his case, and that is  
20 the United States Supreme Court. It  
21 is not stated whether he will do this.

22 ~~xx~~ At the same time the  
23 Associated Press informs us that the  
24 Court of Appeals also sustained ~~x~~ the  
25 conviction of Harry M. Blackmer, a

1 Denver oil man, who was fined \$60,000,  
2 for contempt of court when he refused  
3 to return to the United States from  
4 France and testify in the legal  
5 proceedings that grew out of the  
6 oil scandals.



1 Yes, it takes the cake--I mean it  
2 takes the Collier trophy awarded each  
3 year by the National Aeronautical  
4 Association. Harold F. Pitcairn, of  
5 Philadelphia, is the lucky winner,  
6 together with a group of associates  
7 who've been helping him.

8 They've been working to develop the  
9 autogyro, that strange windmill-like  
10 plane which has been performing such  
11 marvelous<sup>5</sup> of late.

12 The autogyro was invented by the  
13 Spanish engineer de la Cierva.  
14 Mr. Pitcairn obtained American patent  
15 rights from the inventor, and ever  
16 since has been experimenting with the  
17 windmill plane. And now his work has  
18 won the Collier trophy which, as the  
19 New York Sun reminds us, is granted<sup>each year</sup> for  
20 the greatest achievement in aviation  
21 in America.

1 "Wow!" yelled Walter Harralson,  
2 age five. And "wow!" he yelled again.  
3 In fact, little Walter howled so <sup>lustily</sup> ~~loud~~  
4 that the Harralson family-automobile  
5 is back in the garage again today.

6 According to the Associated Press,  
7 an automobile thief in Mendota, California,  
8 stole the car of Mr. and Mrs. A. L.  
9 Harralson. What the thief didn't know  
10 was that Walter was asleep in the back  
11 seat.

12 When the five-year-old boy woke up  
13 and saw a strange man driving away with  
14 him, he started to yell. That kid  
15 bawled so loud <sup>ly</sup> ~~that~~ the perplexed and  
16 dismayed robber stopped the car at a  
17 side street, <sup>jumped</sup> ~~abandoned it~~, and fled.  
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DIGEST - EVIDENCE

Now, hang on to your seats, folks, and don't think I've suddenly gone a bit looney as I read you this next dispatch.

It tells how things were quiet in the classroom. The professor was asking questions and the students were trying to answer them, when the door suddenly burst open and two young men and two young women dashed in. One man flourished a large, vividly yellow banana which he held like a pistol. The professor jumped to his feet and threw down a small 4th of July torpedo, which hit the floor and went off with a noble bang. Yes, the professor threw the torpedo. And then the professor sank back in his chair crying:- "I'm shot!"

Yes, that's exactly what happened, according to Edgar James Swift, Professor of Psychology and Education at Washington University, St. Louis.

Who's looney now? ask you. Well, I asked that same question myself -- until I read on. It happened that experiments have been conducted which

1 which the Marines had established.  
2 Learning of the shooting, he rushed to  
3 the house of President Moncado. He was  
4 stopped at the door by two Nicaraguan  
5 officials, but he pushed his way in.  
6 President Moncado remonstrated with the  
7 wildly excited officer, and told him who  
8 was President of Nicaragua. The  
9 Lieutenant-Commander is said to have  
10 uttered some very undiplomatic remarks.

11 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ The American authorities  
12 have sent Lieutenant-Commander Hetfield  
13 away from Managua and have placed  
14 another officer in command of the  
15 hospital.

16 Meanwhile, there's plenty of talk  
17 and an inquiry is under way to  
18 investigate the affair.  
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1           You might call this next  
2 incident a tempest in ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> teapot. The  
3 teapot is the Madeira Islands, those  
4 romantic bits of land off the west  
5 coast of Africa. The tempest is a  
6 military revolt.

7           According to the International  
8 News Service, the Portuguese garrison  
9 at Funchal, the capital of the Madeiras,  
10 has mutined. They had been sent to  
11 the Islands several weeks ago to put  
12 down a strike among the people there.  
13 The soldiers, incited by their officers,  
14 have seized the town of Funchal and set  
15 up a Junta to govern the Islands. They  
16 refuse to recognize the present  
17 Portuguese Government of President  
18 Carmona which is practically a  
19 dictatorship. The rebellious troops  
20 say they will deal only with a government  
21 that is legally constituted.

22           At Lisbon two warships and an  
23 army transport with six hundred soldiers  
24 have been ordered to the Madeiras to put  
25 down the trouble.

A tempest in a teapot is all right, nothing to worry about; but a mutiny in an army like the Portuguese is always liable to have serious results. And a late dispatch states that fighting has begun in the Madeiras between rebels and loyalists.



1 These are supposed to be <sup>times</sup> ~~days~~ of  
2 disarmament, but a new army makes its  
3 appearance in the world today.

4 There's one nation at least that  
5 has never had a military establishment,  
6 but now it has one. It's the tiny  
7 republic of Andora, in the Pyrennes  
8 Mountains between France and Spain.  
9 The council of Andora has <sup>just</sup> ~~passed~~ a bill  
10 creating an army.

11 According to the United Press, the  
12 army will consist of ten privates and  
13 one captain. ~~And I don't suppose that~~  
14 <sup>Hardly enough to</sup> ~~will~~ worry the League of Nations'  
15 disarmament commission or cause either  
16 France or Spain to lose any sleep,  
17 for that matter.

5 Over in Egypt between 60 and 70 men  
are sitting. They're planted in chairs,  
quite comfortable. It's a sort of  
endurance test. No, nothing like the  
performances of our flag pole sitters.

6 60 leaders of the Wafd and Liberal  
7 parties are holding a chair sitting  
8 competition with the police. The  
9 statesmen arrived <sup>up the Nile</sup> at Beni Suef. <sup>They came</sup> from  
10 Cairo. According to the Associated  
11 Press, they ~~were going~~ <sup>intended</sup> to conduct a  
12 political campaign in <sup>the city of</sup> Beni Suef against  
13 the present premier of Egypt. When  
14 they arrived in the railroad station  
15 the police surrounded the building and  
16 informed the politicians they wouldn't  
17 be allowed in the town.

18 The Wafd and Liberal leaders  
19 replied that in that case they would  
20 remain in the station. The police  
21 said O.K. and politely provided them  
22 with chairs. They could sit there,  
23 added the police, until they got tired,  
24 and then they could take a train back  
25 to Cairo. So the Wafd and Liberal



1 leaders sat down.

2 The police politely got chairs  
3 for themselves and sat down along with  
4 them. Trains came and left, but the  
5 Wafd and Liberal leaders didn't move.  
6 At last reports they were still  
7 sitting there and the police were  
8 sitting with them.

9 Well, it's a sitting competition,  
10 all right. And I suppose the winners  
11 will be entitled to <sup>rank</sup>~~reign~~ along with  
12 ~~the~~ that famous <sup>old time American Indian</sup> statesman--Sitting Bull.

Another airplane record is in the news this evening.

Commander Glenn Kidston, British sportsman and aviator, arrived at Capetown today after a flight from England. He made it <sup>across Europe and across Africa from north to south</sup> in six and a half days, and that <sup>smashes</sup> ~~breaks~~ the record, ~~of flights from England to South Africa.~~

The United Press tells us that Commander Kidston is one ~~xxxxxx~~ supreme daredevil. He began a career of adventure when he was a cadet aboard a British ship which was torpedoed during the world war. Then he had a narrow escape from death when a motor-boat that he was driving at high speed cracked in two.

Two years ago he was aboard a German ~~passenger~~ plane which crashed and burned near London. Of nine persons aboard the doomed plane he was the only one that escaped with his life.

Immediately after the crash he went up in another airplane for ten minutes - just to steady his nerves, he said.



1 And another hair raising  
2 adventure comes in a dispatch to the  
3 International News Service.

4 Sir Malcolm Campbell, holder  
5 of the speed record for automobiles,  
6 was driving in an automobile race over  
7 in England. He was going at one  
8 hundred miles an hour when a bearing  
9 broke. The car went out of control.  
10 Spectators gasped as the speeding  
11 machine lurched and careened. But  
12 the daredevil managed to hold it  
13 close to the banked sides of the track,  
14 while the other cars shot roaring by  
15 him. He said afterwards that it was  
16 a ~~gx~~ ghastly experience but that  
17 apparently his luck was still holding.

18 We'll say it was.  
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1 Well, the news about royalty  
2 tonight is that King George is better.  
3 His Majesty had <sup>another</sup> ~~an~~ attack of laryngitis  
4 and that <sup>information</sup> ~~has~~ been printed under large  
5 headlines by most of the newspapers <sup>of America today.</sup>

6 The United Press reports the  
7 king is able to transact state business  
8 and is in excellent spirits. Meanwhile  
9 Princess Beatrice, aunt of King  
10 George and mother of the ~~xx~~ Queen of  
11 Spain, had a mishap. Her car ran  
12 into a ditch. The Princess was a  
13 bit shaken up - nothing serious.



I think I'll utter a few words now that are all wrong - familiar words that go something like this:

DEAR SIR:

YOUR FAVOR OF RECENT DATE TO HAND. CONTENTS NOTED. REFERRING TO YOURS OF THE TWELFTH INSTANT. AND TRUSTING TO HEAR FROM YOU WE <sup>beg</sup> REMAIN. *et cetera, et cetera.*

You know how it goes? - when a business man writes a letter? <sup>Well,</sup> It's all wrong! - at least according to <sup>His Excellency</sup> the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The International News Service informs us that a reform in letter writing was put into effect today on Capitol Hill at Harrisburg. Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania says that letters written from the offices of his administration must be less stilted and not crammed with obsolete phrases. He gives a list of those phrases to be avoided and adds a bit of spicy comment. Here are a few:

Your letter of even date - <sup>in the name of *beases*,</sup> "What, asks the Governor, "is even date?"  
Away with it!"

The twelfth or maybe the 27th instant - that bromide has been in use, observes the governor, since the tenth century. It ~~xx~~ deserves a well-earned rest. Let it have it.

Your favor at hand - let this die a natural death. A letter has never been a favor, says the Governor.

Contents noted - if you read the letter, the contents were of course noted says His Excellency, Mr. Pinchot.

As stated above, why even Charles Lamb, the great English novelist, poked fun at that phrase a hundred years ago. He called the writers of it - the "above boys" and the "below boys."

Trusting to hear from you - don't be so trusting, you may get fooled says Mr. Pinchot.

Well, I suppose the Governor is right and a lot of us have gritted our teeth many a time at those stale old phrases. But just the same, they have a familiar ring, and we might miss them.

Of course, they do sound stilted - as if I were to say now something like this:-

The above dispatches are all the news of even date. Contents noted. Will be back tomorrow evening with dispatches



LETTER JARGON - 3

under date of seventh instant. Trusting to find you as before.

Until then I beg to remain, as ever yours - and --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.