

WALLACE

Lowell Thomas
Broadcast for the Literary
Digest, ~~Tuesday~~ Wednesday,
February 2 10, 1932.

Page _____

1 The most prolific writer in the
2 world has died. Edgar Wallace, the
3 ~~British~~ author and playwright, so famous
4 for his detective stories passed away
5 today at Beverly Hills, California. He
6 was on the Coast to write for the
7 movies.

8 ^{Edgar Wallace}
9 He [^] was the author of an almost
10 incredible number of books, magazines,
11 stories and plays. They say he could
12 turn ~~stuff~~ ^{yarns} out faster, and turned out
13 more, ~~to date~~, than any writer since
14 Alexander Dumas, ~~the~~ author of the
15 Three Musketeers and the Count of Monte Christo.

16 Well, Edgar Wallace had a life
17 as amazing in its way as any weird
18 thriller that he ever wrote. He described
19 himself as "an atom that climbed out of
20 the thick mud which clogs the feet of
21 the battling millions". He was born in
22 the depths of Cockney London. And
23 while a child, he was snatched from the
24 very gates of the poor-house. A fish-
25 peddler adopted him. At the age of ten
the boy hung out with a gang of juvenile

1 burglars lead by a desperado of twelve.

2 The United Press continues the
3 story in the New York Sun by telling how
4 Edgar Wallace ran away to sea as a cabin
5 boy. Afterward he served as a soldier
6 in ^{one of the King's} ~~the Kentish~~ Regiment^s. It was as a *simple*
7 ~~Tommy~~ ~~soldier~~ that he began to study and write.

8 The Boer War made him a war
9 correspondent. As late as seven years
10 ago Edgar Wallace was a hack writer
11 getting a few dollars for writing
12 magazine stories. Then suddenly immense
13 success came to him. There was a huge
14 demand for his work, and he could turn it
15 out ~~work~~ at a ^{terrific clip.} ~~great rate of speed~~. One
16 after another in endless succession he
17 wrote books and plays until he became
18 known as the most prolific writer ~~in the~~
19 ~~worlds~~ of modern times.
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1 Now comes a story that made me open
2 my eyes. ~~I'll tell you why.~~

3 Recently I have had a hand in
4 assembling a motion-picture ^{brought back} ~~which was~~
5 ~~made~~ by a scientific expedition ~~from~~
6 ~~Harvard~~ from the wilds of Northern
7 Australia, ~~the shores of~~ A party of scientists went
8 among the primitive aborigines in those
9 parts and made their studies and pictures
10 of the almost incredibly uncivilized
11 people. An incident of weird drama came ^{when}
12 they discovered a blonde white woman
13 living as the wife of one of the ^{Australian}
14 ~~aborigines.~~ ^{bushmen.}

15 She ~~was~~ had been lost from a
16 wrecked ship and been captured by the
17 tribesmen, and ^{for long years had been living} ~~was now living their life~~
18 as one of them.

19 Well, today the United Press cables
20 a story that an expedition is being
21 organized at Sydney, ~~Australia,~~ ^{Australia's wild} to
22 penetrate the wilderness of ~~the~~ Northern
23 Coast. The adventurers will go in search
24 of a white girl who is rumored to be
25 living among the natives ^{along the shore of Timor Sea.} A rumor has

1 come from those remote parts--a rumor that
2 tells how in 1923 a yacht sank off the
3 Northern coast. And the only survivors
4 were a woman and her nine year old
5 daughter. The two castaways made their
6 way to a village of primitive aborigines.
7 The natives are said to have killed the
8 mother and kept the girl a captive. She
9 is now eighteen years old, and is ~~xxxx~~
10 said to have been adopted into the tribe--
11 a lovely white blonde girl amid those
12 strange and grotesque savages.

1 LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:-

2 (A surprise was registered today
3 in the Literary Digest 20-million-ballot
4 Prohibition Poll. The surprise comes
5 in the form of a huge figure. I mean
6 the quantity of votes that came tumbling
7 in and nearly buried the staff. Of
8 course, as the ballots go out in their
9 increasing millions, why the returns
10 keep mounting. A jump was expected
11 today in the number of votes returned,
12 but when 165,000 poured in, well, it was
13 like the Mississippi River bursting
14 through a levee.) And it was a clear
15 indication that public interest in this
16 record test is even more intense than
17 the Digest editors had dreamed it would
18 be.

19 Well, every day the prohibition
20 question seems to be mounting in importance.
21 Every day it's becoming an increasingly
22 vital problem. So it's only natural
23 that the voters want to rush in their
24 votes. Those who are for prohibition
25 are eager to register their conviction

1 in the only nationwide test that is
2 now possible. And those who are
3 opposed are just as eager to support
4 their side.

5 Both the envelop and the ballot
6 are reproduced as an illustration in the
7 leading article of the new Literary
8 Digest, which comes out tomorrow. That
9 article gives a full explanation of the
10 method and meanings of this, the
11 greatest poll in all history. You just
12 mark your ballot YES or NO -- FOR or
13 AGAINST, and then mail it back, at the
14 expense of the Literary Digest.

15 There is one thing about this
16 poll which leaves the imagination
17 bewildered. I mean its sheer magnitude.

18 What do you imagine 20 million
19 ballots represent in the way of paper
20 alone? Just the voting cards alone
21 represent 65 tons of paper! The
22 envelopes total 88 tons. And 118 tons of
23 paper were required for the letters.
24 271 tons! More than half-a-million
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1 pounds of paper used up in giving the
2 American people a chance to tell
3 how the country stands on prohibition,
4 not last month, but this month, not
5 yesterday, but today.

6 And here's one fact that stuck
7 me, - a sticky fact. An envelop takes
8 glue, just a light smear, not much,
9 but the amount of glue used up in
10 preparing the envelopes for this 20
11 million ballot roll call comes to
12 44-hundred pounds - two and a half tons
13 of glue. Yes, that item will stick
14 in my mind for some time.

15 And now for an inside tip
16 into what's going on. Votes have been
17 coming in from one state after another,
18 but naturally there are some states
19 that seem to be taking a special
20 interest in the poll.

21 Some states have been shooting
22 back their ballots with particular
23 promptness and large numbers. The honors
24 this evening to the the Middle West.
25 Three states tonight are represented by

1 unusually large figures---Indiana,
2 Illinois and Ohio.

3 Here's one significant town that has
4 appeared in the balloting, where the
5 folks seem to have decided ideas on the
6 subject of prohibition. That town is
7 Westerville, Ohio, the home of the Anti-
8 Saloon League. Yes, we would expect
9 the folks ~~to be~~ there to have strong
10 convictions.

11 And today's barrage ~~of~~ of
12 outgoing Literary Digest ballots
13 were aimed straight at the states in the
14 Mississippi Valley - and farther west. -
15 Iowa, Nebraska, ^{Utah,} ~~Missouri,~~ Montana, Idaho,
16 Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona.
17 A whole legion of people in these states
18 are about to receive a visit from the
19 mailman with the news that they have
20 been selected to speak up on the greatest
21 issue of the day.

22 But that isn't any reason why the
23 folks in other states should be
24 downcast. They'll get their votes too.
25 Millions already have received them.

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1 And there are millions more to go out
 2 to those same states. Another wave
 3 will soon engulf the eastern and
 4 southern states.

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^{Darker}
1 ~~More and more~~ clouds of war
2 are gathering over Shanghai. The New
3 York Sun states today that the Japanese
4 are massing troops, ~~xx~~ gathering forces
5 for a major offensive designed to blast
6 the Chinese out of ~~Shanghai~~ the city.

7 On the other hand there is word
8 that the Chinese are increasing their
9 forces. A dispatch from Floyd Gibbons
10 to the International News Service was
11 printed in the New York Evening Journal
12 today and declares that twenty-six
13 fighting airplanes are on their way from
14 Canton to Nanking. With Nanking as their
15 base the planes will wing through the
16 sky and bomb the Japanese at Shanghai.

17 A story ^{also} comes through of a unit
18 of Chinese Amazons that fought a brave
19 fight against the soldiers of ~~the~~
20 Mikado. Twenty-four Chinese women
21 soldiers defended a village. The Japanese
22 made a fierce attack. The women made a
23 brave defense, but were wiped out by the
24 efficient military forces of Japan.

1 At the Disarmament Conference
2 in Geneva today a dramatic move was made.
3 Dino Grandi representing Mussolini's
4 Fascist Government of Italy, presented
5 a drastic Disarmament proposal, which
6 was received with cheers. He declared
7 that Italy was ready to abolish
8 battle-ships, submarines, aircraft
9 carriers, bombing airplanes, heavy
10 artillery, tanks, and all kinds of
11 chemical warfare — *everything but boxing gloves.*

12 A United Press Dispatch in the
13 New York World-Telegram, calls it a
14 "sweeping Disarmament proposal", and *that's pretty*
15 ~~it mildly~~ ~~it certainly does seem that~~ *Yes, certainly* ~~It~~ would
16 sweep away a very considerable part of
17 the deadly instruments of modern
18 warfare, *at one fell swoop.*

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President Hoover started out today to do ~~some~~ more to help the small banks. His ~~idea~~ idea is to liberalize the Federal Reserve Bank rules so that ^{Reserve Banks} they can re-discount paper now held ~~by banks~~ in the form of frozen assets.

The idea ~~would be~~ ^{is} to fix it so that smaller banks can turn good securities into cash.

1 The coming week brings some
2 mighty interesting reading for householders,
3 ~~of~~ those ^{of us} who have homes, or are building
4 homes.

5 The new Literary Digest, which
6 comes out tomorrow, features a section
7 devoted to building materials. It tells
8 ~~us~~ about the qualities of ~~the various~~
9 ~~kinds of stuff~~ we use in building, also
10 about methods of construction. We
11 householders are all interested in our
12 homes, and that's why we can find so
13 much interest in such subjects as this
14 kind of wood, varieties of cement
15 products, bricks, terra cotta, ~~building~~
16 stone, steel, insulation, roofing,
17 flooring, plumbing, interior decoration,
18 heating, ventilating, lighting,
19 refrigerators, ~~etc~~ *everything but the family cat.*

20 This is all most timely and
21 important. Home building is one of the
22 most significant subjects of the day.
23 The ~~Communists~~ ^{economists} say that now is the time
24 to build and repair our houses, because
25 not only are materials cheap just now,

1 but also home building is ^{one} way to
 2 ~~break~~ the depression and boom business.

3 We all know that President Hoover
 4 is behind a nation-wide campaign for
 5 home building. The President knows
 6 how important it is for us to build
 7 homes and repair homes. That makes it
 8 ~~perfectly~~ clear that the building
 9 section in the new Literary Digest is
 10 both important and exceedingly timely.

11 As I looked through that section
 12 ~~of the Literary Digest~~ on building
 13 materials, my attention was attracted
 14 by the article which tells about
 15 limestone, marble and granite. In one
 16 paragraph I read how in the beautiful
 17 hills ~~around Barre,~~ ^{of} Vermont, are huge
 18 quarries from which comes the perfect
 19 stone that has given to ~~this city the~~ ^{Vermont, the world-}
 20 ~~widely-known~~ ^{famous} title ~~-- Granite Center of~~ ^{of the} ~~the world.~~ ^{State.}

22 Well, the reason I was so much
 23 interested in granite was the fact that
 24 I recently received a letter from the
 25 Granite Manufacturers Association. ~~at~~

~~Barro~~ In that letter E. L. White,
Chairman of the Advertising Committee,
refers to something I said in a recent
broadcast. He refers specifically to
one particular word.

"Do you know the term~~s~~ you used?"
he asks. "Because I believe you said
it in all innocence, I repeat it,
although I blush even to write it. The
word ^{my dear L. T.} was "tombstone". ^{why,} Children up here
in the granite country have their
mouths washed with soap if they even
whisper that word. Please, Lowell
Thomas, remove from your vocabulary
that odious term -- tombstone."

Well, it appears from the letter
that they don't say tombstone any more. ^{To utter it is}
~~It is~~ a social error. ~~to speak the word.~~
You're supposed to say memorial. That, ^{declares}
the Granite Manufacturers Association
~~declares~~ ^{is} euphonious and more appropriate.

Well, I stand corrected. ~~What-~~
~~euphonious is false with me.~~ ^{ever is}
~~Isn't tombstone, it's memorial.~~

It reminds me of a storm that
descended on the head of Doctor Vizetelly.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

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1 The learned lexicographer who is editor
2 of the Funk & Wagnalls Standard
3 Dictionary. ~~Doctor Vizetelly~~ made the
4 terrible mistake of using the word
5 "coffin". And that's when he heard
6 from the gentlemen who manufacture that
7 particular line of merchandise. They
8 said it isn't a coffin -- it's a casket.
9 *Silver handles and everything.*
10 I believe that Doctor Vizetelly, in the
11 pride of learning, responded tartly
12 that they could call it what they liked,
13 that it was still a coffin as far as he
14 was concerned.

15 But I'm a humble sort of chap,
16 and I'm perfectly willing to admit that
17 it isn't a tombstone ~~at all~~ - it's a
18 memorial.
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LOVE

But let's drop all of that. ^① Page 17

Let's ^{have} ~~here's~~ a love story. It's about love and it's about a man named Love. It's a plan to encourage happy marriages. And they can ^{do with} ~~use~~ a bit of ~~encouragement~~ encouraging.

At Albany, New York, a bill was introduced to the State Legislature by Senator William Lathrop Love, a bill that provides bonuses for happy marriages.

Dr. Love wants the State to pay a bonus of \$100. to every couple that celebrates a golden wedding anniversary. He also wants the State to pay a bonus of \$250. to every couple that celebrates a diamond anniversary. In other words, you get a hundred dollars if you stay married for fifty years, and \$250. if you ^{can last out} ~~stay married~~ for 75. ^{Let's see, that comes to about} ~~years.~~ ^{1.75 a year.} ~~And the money~~ ~~doesn't seem any too much.~~

But anyway, the Senator with the appropriate name, says it's a ^{lovely} ~~great~~ idea. He declares that he should be known to fame as "Senator Love who works for love." ^{To which the romantic echo resounds —} ~~And I say~~ for the love of Mike, and so long until tomorrow.