## WICKERSHAM

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Lowell Thomas' Broadcast for The Literary Digest. Page Tuesday, January 20, 1931

good evening, everybody.

Here's the gist of the longexpected, much debated report of the Wickersham Commister, that, is the part about prohibition: -- The Wicksensham Committee also has a general report to make on Frime but this has not been made public. The members of the Commission believe that the 18th Amendment should be retained without any change. They 8 find that prohibition is not being satisfactorily enforced and has never been satisfactorily enforced. But they think that every attempt should be made to put prohibition across. If, after a fair trial, it is found that the dry law cannot be enforced, then the 18th Amendment, they think, should be repealed and the whole liquor question thrown into Congress.

The International News Services informs us that the various members of the Commission made individual statements which indicated that they were badly divided on most questions.

President Hoover received the report yesterday, and presented it to Congress today. Mr. Hoover gave his own opinion in a letter which accompanied the report. He said that he agreed with the findings of the Committee in general, especially their opinion that the 18th Amendment should be kept in force. He added that he didn't agree with their recommendation that if the could not be menforced the whole liquor question ought to be thrown into Congress; Well, it's up to Congress now to have its say about the m famous report, and you can bet there'll be plenty of debate to make the Congressional record a bigger if not a better book.

The next item has an atmosphere of unreality about it. But that doesn't mean it's a ghost story.

It merely states that the House of Commons started a, new session today in London, and that proceedings got under way with an atmosphere of unreality.

This, according to the International News Service, is because nobody is taking things very seriously. There's a general belief that the present House of Commons won't last long and that new elections will be called soon.

Hence nothing that goes on seems important or real.

That big Round Table Conference in London is over, and about all that remains is to listen a little to what they've got to say out in India about the results at the conference. The chief result of course, was John Bull's offer to India, of a modified form of self government and dominion status.

The Associated Press tells us that there is a great deal of grousing out in India about this offer. The Bombay Chronicle which represents Ghandi's nationalist movement, sneeringly says it is only a camouflaged form of self government which England offers.

One of Ghandi's right hand men comes out and brands it a feeble empty offer. He declares the people of India are disappointed. Other Hindu leaders believe the result of the conference will only add to unrest in India.

Well, that thorny problem of India still seems to have plenty of thorns left.

Here comes an invitation, not to a wedding or a party. Ivan the bad Bolshevik, and Abdul the terrible Turk are invited, well, not exactly to join the United States of Europe but to attend the present to see what can be done about forming some sort of federation of European nations. Turkey and Russia are not among those present, but the International News Service informs us that today they were both invited to send representatives, not for full participation apparently, but just to discuss economic questions. That we suggested that

on become full-fledged guests at the party — always of course, if they

want to.

41-30-5M

Apparently there is an element of doubt in this next item.

Over in Budapest the Capital city of Hungary is said to be a secret state of siege. That is, the city is being held by force, but very much under cover. How? Well, the police have occupied all public buildings, bridges, and railroad stations in Budapest. Great preparations are being made to meet an enemy.

But who is the enemy? That's where the doubt comes in.

The International News Service informs us that some say the

government is preparing for possible Communist riots. Others

claim it is afraid the Austrian Fascists are about to make an

attempt to put Archduke Otto on the throne.

At any rate, the Austrian authorities seem to be prepared. Who will they fight - the Communists? or the Fascists? We wonder.

They're having a bomb scare today down in Argentina.

Early this morning three bombs exploded simultaneously in the three principal railroad stations of Buenos Aires. In each when of the stations the bombs were left in leather handbags, and they exploded with terrific detonations. The International News Service informs us that three persons were killed and twelve injured. And a lot of damage was done to buildingstoo.

and nobody knows why the railroad stations were picked for the bombing.

121-30-5M

Today has been a bombing day in Latin-America.

An infernal machine was exploded in Havana, and it blew up a big water main. The police suspect that an anarchist placed the bomb.

Nobody was hurt but it may be that the bomber merely wanted the citizens of Havana to go thirsty. If so he had his wish. The New York Sun if informs us that Havana today is without water.

Now, would you call that serious -- or would you call that funny?

I was talking to a man the other day and he had a few things to say about the trouble the Marines are having down in Nicaragua. In fact said he:-

WHY ARE WE KEEPING THE MARINES THERE, ANYWAY?

A little while later I was talking to another chap and that same Nicaragua situation came up. And his remark was:

WELL, WHY SHOULDN'T WE KEEP THE MARINES DOWN THERE?

In this week's Literary Digest there is an article
which answers both questions.

The Digest quotes the Camden Courier Post as saying that there is nothing but nonsense in the supposition that our Marines are in Nicaragua to chase bandits. The real reason is that they are down there to protect American interests in a proposed Canal to be cut through Nicaragua, and it is high time that this simple fact were admitted. But on the other hand, the Digest informs us that the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin takes the opposite side, and goes on to say that the Marines were sent to Nicaragua to give the people there a chance to have an honest

election, and to rid themselves of the endless civil wars which have long been the curse of that country.

This Nicaraguan situation, by the way, is one of the most important questions of the present day. The Digest has gathered opinions far and wide and gives all of us who are a bit puzzled about Nicaragua the arguments on both sides of the controversy.

Great Scott! and likewise Jumping Jehosephat! I almost feel like calling for Federal relief as I look at this next dispatch.

Stumpy is now an object of charity. Stumpy is a pigeon hen with one leg, and for five years she has been supported, together with allof her 200 children, in regal style.

That bird earned the right to unlimited supplies of corn. It was back in 1926 when they had the great hurricane in Florida. Stumpy had her nest in the Miami Central School building and was busy rearing a brood of squabs when the hurricane came bowling along. Soon it was blowing the next away and blowing the squabs away. Stumpy protected her ramily with all the courage of which a white pigeon is capable. She planted herself sternly in the teeth of the blast and kept her children sheltered.

Rubbish crashed down on her. But she still her ground. Yes, and she came out of that storm with one leg missing. Good old Stumpy!

Thereafter the one-legged pigeon was an object of admiration, and a Miami citizen named Roddy Long undertook to

provide her and her squabs with grain for the rest of their natural lives. Well, Stumpy hatched out a lot of squabs during five years and kept them with her. Her family grew until there were 200 of them. 200 pigeons can eat a lot of grain. But for Roddy Long kept shelling out those daily meals/Stumpy's brood.

The Associated Press informs us that Miami's Good
Samaritan is having his own troubles, and is no longer able to
shell out all that grain. And the Central School house, where
Stumpy and her numerous family have their nests, is being torn
down. And so the one legged white pigeon, the heroine of the
hurricane and her numerous family are now objects of public
charity.

Well, what do you say let's make this the News Item of the Day? Yes, surely the government ought to do something about it. There ought to be a Federal appropriation to help poor old one-legged Stumpy.

121-30-54

Here's a quaint item from Uncle
Sam's northern empire:

The Juneau Empire,

The Juneau Paper,

Says the position
of postmaster is open at a place in
Alaska called Fanshaw. If you have \$300
you can buy a three-room furnished house
with a large Alaskan garden all planted
in strawberries, and along with it goes
the mob of postmaster. There are two
other houses in Fanshaw, and a fish trap.

Now is the time for you ladies to give friend Hubby a meaningful glance - in other words, a dirty look.

If there's anything at which men think they're better than women it's at driving automobiles.

But here comes the Notor Vehicle Commissioner at Trenton, New Jersey, with some figures to prove that men have 4½ times as many accidents while driving as women do. There are a little over 700,000 men driving cars in New Jersey, and a little over 300,000 women. According to the Commissioner's report as given by the Associated Press, 4½ per cent of the men drivers were in accidents during 1930. Only one per cent of the women were in accidents.

Of course the men point out that they do more driving than the women and therefore are more likely to have accidents.

But those figures are certainly striking enough to take the edge off the old, manly boast about how well we drive the family bus, and what a mess the wife makes of it when she takes the wheel.

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Well, well, well, sust

is too bad. Mr. Holme didn't do right by that burglar.

tells us that a burglar broke into the offices of A. J. Holme in East Orange, New Jersey, and that burglar didn't like the way he found things. People just don't cooperate with burglars nowadays. Pacearding to the N.Y. Times

The robber left a note tacked on to the wall and the note said:

"Why don't you put your money where I can find it?"

In another note he wrote:

"If you didn't keep things nailed up so tight I would have to make such a mess." things."

Over the wreckage of a desk, which was reduced to almost kindling wood, he inscribed a single line:

"Why the deuce didn't you leave this desk unlocked?"

He was getting more and more disgruntled, and on a sweater he pinned

121-30-52

this message:

"Holy Smoke, even this sweater doesn't fit me."

Well, it sure is too bad and it's for cruel world for burglars—as well as for honest men.

I've a letter here from W. C. Yelverton, a student at North Carolina State College, telling me an odd story about a robbery.

A friend of his, another student named J.M.Hunter, was going to call on his sweetheart and was carrying a big box of candy. The young man was thinking thoughts of love and moon-light and didn't notice anything out of the way until he felt something ominous shoved into his side and the command, "Hands up". Up went his hands and down dropped the box of candy. The robber took \$2 from the young Romeo which was all the money he had, and also picked up the box of candy.

The student was beside himself with rage at the idea of losing the candy he had bought for his sweetheart. When the robber stooped down for the candy he saw his chance, pulled his pipe out of his pocket, and holding it like a pistol he showed the stem into the robber's stomach.

Up went the robber's hands, and down went the box of candy once more.

wasn't a pistol at all. It was just another pipe!

Well, I've come across pipes that might be classed as deadly weapons, because of the fumes they gave out. But I never heard of two pipes because deadly weapons in the same adventure.

And the two one-dollar bills changed

to take the robber's pistol.

places again. The student felt around

21.30 -5M

Hot tamales - No, I'm not using that as an exclamation.

This next item is actually about hot tamales.

I might also say "Shucks!" because it's about shucks too.

It's about Sam Allen of Hatch, New Mexico. Sam is a merchant who deals in cornshucks that are used as hot talame covers, and he does a whopping big business. In the last two months, according to the United Press, he has bought, assorted and baled three and a half tons of cornshuck covers to wrap around the well known and succulent hot tamale.

Now don't think that any kind of cornshuck will do for hot tamales. Sam says that June corn produces the best kind of tamale wrapper. The best cover of all comes from soft white corn, which brings twice as much money as common varities.

Well, this item about those bales and bales of wrappers all waiting to be stuffed with gooey red hot peppery, filling seems to bring me to the bottom of my stack of dispatches tonight. So hot tomales. And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.