ENGLAND

Lowe 11 Thomas broadcast for the Literary Digest,
Thursday, Sept. 10 . 1931.

Good Evening, Everybody:-

The wires have been buzzing all day with news from England. The news services are turning out a stream of copy telling about British budget.

The new government of Great Britain headed by Ramsay MacDonald was put in power to do something drastic to balance John Bull's accounts -- and that new government seems to be living up to the DRASTIC part of it.

They say the British public is a bit staggered by the burdens it is called upon to face.

A pale, ascetic-faced man, half an invalid, stood before the House of Commons today and spoke his piece. He is Philip Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer. For years he has been famous as the uncompromising socialistic economist of Great Britain. But now he has split with his old friends of the Labor party. He and Ramsay MacDonald, in a desperate effort to save England from the financial rocks, have broken with their old comrades-in-arms.

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Well, Snowden, as the Associated Press tells us, read off his budget, and it was one of the most drastic pieces of legislation in British history.

He told the M. P.'s that the British government would have to raise over $833 \mathrm{million} \mathrm{dollars}$. meant taxes -- more taxes. The United Press reminds us that Englishmen now are overburdened with taxes. It looks as if they are going to be still more overburdened. The new budget proposes to increase the rate of income tax to 25 per cent. The Associated Press makes it specific that out of every pound an Englishman makes hell have to back 5 shillings to the government. And in the case of large incomes that tax rate rises until the rich people in England will be taxed as much as 54 per cent of their income.

In addition there is to be a drastic taxation of many kinds of commodities. On gasoline, for example, there will be a tax of 16 cents a gallon,

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and that's about what a gallon of gasoline costs in this country.

Along with the increase of taxation goes a cut in government expenses. Salaries of all government employes are to be slashed, from the cabinet ministers down to the office boys.

And there's going to be still another reduction. I have left it until the last because in a way it's the most important. It was proposed reduction that caused the downfall of the Labor government and the formation of this new emergency cabinet. The International News Service cables the word that the DOLE is to be cut 10 per cent. In other words, the income which is paid to men and women out of work will be reduced by 10 cents on every dollar.

There is certain to be a bitter
fight over this severe budget bill, but it was prepared with the collaboration of the leaders of both the Conservative and Liberal parties. For that reason the jill is expected to pass.

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1 of wars. And those millions of lakhs of rupees were collected from the people of India in the form of taxes -- or at least a considerable part was collected in that way. So, many Hindu leaders now think that in the course of a settlement of the Indian question, England should pay back that money to India, or at least some of it.

The Digest tells us that British opinion on the matter is sharp and decisive. The people of Britain have lent money to various enterprises in India, and they believe that Gandhi's financial ideas mean just one thing -that India wants to repudiate the debt, either all of it or part of it. The Digest quotes the London Statesman in a sarcastic editorial which reminds the Indians that much of the money that England spent for wars out there in Southern Asia was for the purpose of protecting the Hindus themselves from their foreign enemies. For example, England spent money fighting the Afghans,
who are warlike Mohammedans, and the Afghans, are the ancient enemies of the Hindus.

Well, I don't know how seriously Gandhi hopes to do any collecting when he presents that bill to John Bull. I suppose a reasonable guess is that the Mahatma intends to use the financial angle chiefly as a means for doing a bit of bargaining and forcing a few more political concessions.

And then there's another financial problem up before Gandhi. He has a chance to make a lot of money. Yes, he can go on a lecture tour or he can become a radio star, if he wants. Or he can make phonograph records or become a movie star.

The International News Service gives an entertaining account of how Gandhi, while bound for England aboard the steamship Rajputana, has been flooded with wireless messages. All sorts of promoters are offering him propositions. They are offering him all $k$ ind of money to give lectures, to make phonograph

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records, to go on the air, and to be featured in the movies. Wouldn't that be a knockout, the little brown man in the loincloth appearing as the star in an 8-reel screen romance called "The Mahatma and the Maiden"?

But we are told that Gandhi doesn't like the idea so much. He has turned down all theathrical offers -all the way from vaudeville to making salt.

TAXES

Well, we haven't anything as drastic as that over in this country, but just the same word comes from Wash ington of a proposal to slip on a few extra taxes here.

Senator Reed of Pennsylvania came out today for a national sale tax. The International News Service relates that the Senator is going to place before President Hoover and Secretary of the Treasury Mel Ion, a proposal to levy a tax of one half one per cent on all goods sold.

Senator reed claims that this is the only real way to make up the deficit which the United States Treasury is facing.

He adds that a sales tax would be eminently fair, while as things stand the $r$ ich put the ir money into nontaxable bonds and thus escape the burden of taxation.

From spain comes word of an agreement between the Spanish government and the vatican.

Ever since the Revolution which overthrew King Alfonso, the religious question in spain has been a cause of bitter dispute. There have been antireligious riots, but Spain remains predomininantly catholic and one of the most important questions with which the Republican Government was faced was that of forming a satisfactory relation with the vatican. Well, it seems that an accord has been reached. The International News Services gives us the terms.

There is to be a complete separation of church and state. The Vatican is to appoint a new primate to govern the church of Spain. The Spanish government insisted on this because it claims the present church leaders are anti-Republican.

One important point concerns the Jesuits. The Republicans propose ${ }^{d}$ to expel the Jesuits. A sort of compromise

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mas been reached. The Jesuits are to be a allowed to have only two establishments 3 in Spain. One is at Loyola, thqnative town of the mystic saint who founded the Jesuit order, and the other is the astronomical observatory which the Jesuits maintain at Tortosa.

AVIATORS

Three nations are combining in a search --yes, a search for those two American aviators, Cecil Allen and Don Moyle. The United Press reports tonight that there is still no word from them -- only a few rumors. One is that a large monoplane $I$ anded on an island along the coast of British Columbia.

Of course it is possible that the two daring aviators who tried to span the Pacific in a non-stop flight may have landed at one of the many islands along their route. There are plenty of remote bits of land in the Kurile group or the Aleutians, or along the Canadian coast where the aviators might have landed and not be heard from for several days. And so the United States, Great Britain and Japan are sending boats to make a thorough search and to investigate the rumors.

SMITH
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The report we had last $n$ ight that ex-Governor Smith of New York had decided not to be a candidate for the Democratic nomination next year has brought a prompt comeback.

The report was given on the authority of close friends of Al Smith who were quoted as saying that he would not try for the Presidency again.

The United Press today gives us ex-Governor Smith's retort. He declares that nobody has the right to act as spokesman for him.
"I have nothing to say at this time about events that are still a year away."

In other words, Al Smith refuses to say anything about whether or not he
19 intends to try for the Democratic nomination.

It is pointed out that this is the ${ }_{22}$ natural strategy. Even if the former Governor had given up any idea of trying for the Presidency again, why the strategic time for a statement to that effect would be next year when the election begins to get hot.

Sept. 10,1931.
P. 13.

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near Red Sea) near Red Sea)
(Petra)

MARVELS
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This afternoon 1 looked over a book that is being published. It's called The Book of Marvels. It's one grand collection of fascinating information. It tells us the marvels that lie behind the simplest things about $u s$, and it gives us beguiling accounts of marvels. in far off strange places. The Literary Digest I myself have always been particularly interested in the odd and

In the Near East I had encountered that glamorous figure, Lawrence of Arabia. And while following up his campaign, that desert war between the Bedouins and the Turks, I made a trip across the Arabia an desert to a "Lost City" sometimes referred

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1 are really a part.
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No one knows the original name of 3 the rose red city of Arabia, but xu 4 the Greeks called it Petra, the ir wo rd 5 for "rock\&."

As you stand in that valley you are bewildered by the beauty of the 8 rockhewn tombs and temples on all sides. All is of gorgeous red sandstone. In 10 the morning sunlight the se ancient 11 structures are like great rain nbows of stone flashing vermidoion, saffron, orange, pink and crimson.

Mother Nature was indeed a magician when she gouged out this oval valley. And the men of a bygone age who lived there were still greater magicians when they carved that Rose Red City out of the steep sandstone cliffs. Centuries have passed si noe the city of Petra lost its glory and was is a city of ghosts, a place where laurels and oleanders grow and where millions of brilliant wild flowers

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flour is in the cracks that seam the temples and palaces. POne race that built part of this city was known as the Nabataean.

Old legends said that Esau and his followers came to this country after he had lost his birthright. And other old Biblical lore tells us that when the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness they came upon that city of rock and asked for permission to enter and rest. but the people of Petra refused and so the prophets of Israel prophesied the desolation of the extract and foreliest city in the world - the city carved out of the Mountains of Edom.

And today, amid the sandstone and limestone ranges that $r i m$ the desert Petra stands xxto with its rainbows of rockhewn architecture, absolutely deserted. Its only inhabitants are millions of wild flowers.
Arabia, is Yes, Petra, the Lost City of of all the Marvels I have ever seen.

## ATLANTIS

## And now for some more glamour -

A romantic quest is scheduled to get under way pretty soon - yes, romantic is the word. No, it's not a hunt for El Dorado, but for something still more ${ }_{5}$ fantastic. They are going to try to They seem to think there may be something in the story that the Greeks told of
${ }_{24}{ }^{4}$ the kingdom sunk beneath the sea. They believe the likeliest place to hunt is
about 250 miles north of the Azores.
H. M. S. Challenger, one of the fighting
ships of the King's navy, has been ordered to determine whether or not a sunken island exists at that point. The supposition is that such a sunken island will exist as a raised plateau above the deeper levels of the ocean. The Challenger will carry elaborate deepala numbing devices and will cruise to and fro over a wide area charting the depths of the sea, searching for the lost Atlantis.
ant And that is a marvel too, a marvel night ont of the days newa. lind, lo and behold, its' my last mawel this evening - because it is time for me 18 to say soloing until tomorrow.

