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5 Good Evening, Everybody:-

6 . (Well, I'm loaded with news tonight -- big news.
7
8 It concerns a great nation-wide poll, the largest in all
9 history. Twenty million men and women will take part in the
10 poll. And the subject of that poll is to be --- the most
11 vital subject of the day --- Prohibition.
12

13 Are you for Prohibition. Are you against Prohibition?
14 These are the only two questions asked.)
15

16 Here is how the ballot card reads:

17 DO YOU FAVOR THE CONTINUANCE OF THE EIGHTEENTH
18 (PROHIBITION) AMENDMENT? DO YOU FAVOR A REPEAL OF THE EIGHTEENTH
19 (PROHIBITION) AMENDMENT?
20

21 That is all the ballot card says. Are you for,
22 or are you against?
23

24 Millions of these cards will be mailed to men and
25 women of every class, every political faith, and every creed, in

1 every state, city and hamlet in America.

2 Well, this will be my first Literary Digest poll.
3
4 And I'm all set for one of the most exciting adventures of
5 my life -- reeling off the returns as they come in.

6 One million, four hundred thousand letters a day!

7 That's the number that are being stamped, addressed, and
8 mailed every day. And that's the number of letters Uncle Sam
9 will handle for the Literary Digest Poll every day for several
10 weeks!
11

12 Four thousand extra workers have been taken on by
13 the Literary Digest for this job, and are getting welcome
14 employment at the enormous task of sending out those twenty
15 million ballots.
16

17 Millions of postcard ballots have already been mailed.
18 Watch for your ballot; vote it; and mail it at once. It
19 doesn't even require a postage stamp. The Literary Digest takes
20 care of that.
21

22 There is only one way to get a ballot, and that
23 is through the mails. Don't write for a ballot. The postman
24
25

1 will bring you one. Just watch for your ballot-card. On
2 the envelope is printed in black and white the following:-
3
4 "YOUR SECRET BALLOT IN THE LITERARY DIGEST STATE-BY-STATE
5 NATION-WIDE POLL OF TWENTY MILLION VOTERS ON PROHIBITION."

6 (Remember the ^{Sitting} Digest Presidential poll in 1924?
7

8 Well, it was more than ninety-nine per cent accurate in fore-
9 casting the election of Mr. Coolidge. And, we all remember the
10 way The Digest Presidential Poll in 1928 foretold Hoover's
11 overwhelming victory.) Why, it predicted that he would capture
12 such states in the old solid South as Virginia, North Carolina,
13 Florida and Texas!
14

15
16 Whether you are a Prohibitionist or an anti-Prohibition-
17 ist, you can't help being thrilled by this enormous counting of
18 noses.) A roll call is nearly always impressive and stimulating.
19
20 Every red-blooded man and woman welcomes a chance to declare
21 what side he or she is on, and that is why the National Broad-
22 casting Company and Affiliated Stations bring you this
23 announcement.
24

25 Whichever way this Poll goes, mighty exciting times

1 are ahead. And just a few days ahead.

2 Tomorrow night we will have another announcement and
3 will be able to tell you some more about this, the largest poll
4 in all history.
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1 ~~Tonight we hear~~ ^{Here's} the roar and
2 clamor of war. ~~once more -- In fact, we~~
3 ~~hear~~ ^{It's} the roar of Japanese big guns
4 firing on the Chinese capital at
5 Nanking. (This evening, cables the
6 United Press, two Japanese cruisers and a
7 destroyer lying off Nanking opened fire
8 on forts defending the city, ~~and~~ This
9 extends the sphere of conflict from
10 Shanghai to the very center of power of
11 the Chinese Nationalist government. ~~For~~
12 ~~that sphere of conflict has been~~
13 ~~spreading --~~ Manchuria, ~~then~~ Shanghai, --
14 and now Nanking.)

15 The Chinese ^{Government has in fact} ~~have~~ abandoned Nanking.
16 ^{It has} ~~and re~~ moved ~~to a city~~ farther inland.

17 Nanking is 120 miles up the Yangtze
18 River from Shanghai, and Japanese
19 warships lying in the broad stream turned
20 their guns on the Chinese forts. The
21 shooting began at 10 o'clock tonight.
22 Nanking is 13 hours ahead of New York
23 time. The firing lasted until 12:40 ~~am~~
24 tomorrow morning -- that is, tomorrow
25 morning at Nanking. The Chinese guns

1 replied, belching forth flame and smoke.

2 With the first roar of the 8-inch
3 guns of the Japanese cruisers, the
4 crowded population of Nanking fell into
5 a panic of terror. In the city is a
6 drum tower which in the days of the old
7 Ming dynasty ~~of China~~ used to give
8 warning to the people in times of danger,
9 with a beating of drums. It still gives
10 warning, but nowadays ~~with a~~^{by} shrieking
11 ~~of a~~ siren. When the shots boomed out,
12 the siren began ~~a~~^{its} loud, ~~wild shrieking.~~^{wail}
13 The people fled to their cellars,
14 terrified, milling around in a mad rush
15 for shelter.

16 One report has it that the Japanese
17 warships used blanks in firing on the
18 city, and that's the only report tonight
19 that may tend to ~~light~~ lighten the dismal
20 darkness of war.

21 In Battle-torn Shanghai a sort of
22 peace still prevails, an armistice that
23 is tense and uneasy. There is still
24 sniping, and skirmishing, *and bursts of gun fire.*

25 The United Press reports today that

1 300 Japanese marines landed at Kaichow
2 Creek, across the river from Shanghai,
3 where they took up a position.

4 From Tokio comes word that the
5 Japanese cabinet today has decided to
6 send regular Japanese troops to Shanghai.
7 The city was taken by marines of the
8 Mikado's fleet. The Powers asked Japan
9 not to send her regular Army in, but the
10 latest word is that the authorities at
11 Tokio have decided to land a unit of the
12 regular Japanese Army at Shanghai *anyhow*.

13 And this is only part of the warlike
14 picture on the China coast. From every
15 quarter come a tales of fighting, and
16 threats of more fighting, signs of new
17 aggressive actions by the Japanese,
18 ominous warnings that desperate
19 movements may be made by the Chinese,
20 perhaps a mass attack by China's millions
21 against all foreigners.

22 And then, on the wide spaces of the
23 Pacific, ^{tonght,} we have a picture of warships
24 steaming, fighting vessels converging
25 upon ~~the~~ focus of ~~the~~ trouble at

1 Shanghai. A wire from Washington to the
 2 New York World-Telegram declares that 8
 3 American warships and 1600 American
 4 troops have been ordered from Manila to
 5 Shanghai. These are designated to
 6 protect the lives and property of
 7 Americans in the threatened district.
 8 And British warships are sailing for
 9 Shanghai too. ~~France~~ France and Italy today
 10 announced that they would co-operate fully
 11 with the United States and Great Britain
 12 in the Far Eastern trouble. A French
 13 cruiser has been ordered to Shanghai.

14 A correspondent of the New York
 15 Evening Post describes the international
 16 action by saying that today the four great
 17 neutral powers rattled the irons of war.

18 At San Pedro, California, this
 19 afternoon the American battle-fleet
 20 sailed out of the harbor with the New
 21 York, the Oklahoma and the Nevada leading
 22 a long line of fighting ships. The
 23 armed ^{is} might of Uncle Sam ^{High} on the Seas ~~is~~
 24 ~~steaming~~ ^{tonight} across the Pacific ^{tonight} for
 25 maneuvers. These are the maneuvers

(6)

1 scheduled some time ago to take place off
2 Hawaii. The American fleet will deploy
3 its might in battle practice in ~~the~~
4 mid-Pacific.

5 In Washington the various branches
6 of the government are busy debating the
7 stand this country should take in the
8 mix-up between Japan and China. The
9 New York Sun declares that in Congress
10 there is a good deal of talk about the
11 United States Navy today. The naval
12 economy policy of President Hoover was
13 sharply criticized. Voices were raised
14 declaring that ~~this~~ this was no time to cut
15 down Uncle Sam's naval strength. Some of
16 the lawmakers made the claim that as
17 things stood we were no stronger on the
18 seas than Japan, ~~and~~ ^{they} called for a naval
19 policy which ~~would~~ ^{will} build the American
20 fleet right up to the limit allowed by
21 the treaties.

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~~Set~~
Bertam
Thomas.

British
air servant
at ^{the} explain,
~~middle East~~
Middle East
+ Africa.

Feb. 17, 1932-

P. 12.

1 Well, let's get away from all this turmoil and take
2 a jaunt to a distant secluded country. In fact let's talk
3 about the Queen of Sheba. Several months ago I had occasion
4 to tell how Bertram Thomas, British political officer on the
5 Persian Gulf, made a trip all the way across the Rub el Khali
6 desert. This is in the depths of Forbidden Arabia and
7 Forbidden Arabia means just what it says --- Forbidden. His
8 feat in crossing Arabia's Land of Emptiness is one of the great
9 events of modern history in exploration. It ranks with
10 Peary's journey to the North Pole and Amundsen's discovery of
11 the South Pole. He is in America on a speaking tour.

12 But let me have the explorer himself tell us something
13 about it, especially about those strange inscriptions he discovered
14 deep in the heart of that burning desert. That country is sup-
15 posed to have been part of the realm of the Queen of Sheba.

16 And now let's hear the Prime Minister from Muscat
17 tell about it? I mean Mr. Bertram Thomas.
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12 There are two traditions -- the
13 Abyssinians say that the Queen of Sheba
14 ruled over Abyssinia, while the Arabs
15 declare that her kingdom~~e~~ was in Southern
16 Arabia. It may be that both traditions
17 are correct.

18 That seems to be a likely meaning
19 of the inscriptions I found.

20
21 It was in the frankincense region
22 beyond the Moon Mountains. There I found
23 a curious monument. It consisted of three
24 stones set up on end with piles of pebbles,
25 where

1 ancient sacrifices may have been made. X
2 These three stones are very likely a
3 symbol of the Trinity in the religion
4 of the ancient peoples of those parts.
5 They were star-worshippers and their
6 trinity consisted of the Sun God, the
7 Moon God and the Planet Venus.

8 On this monument was a series of
9 inscriptions, old writings in characters
10 much like the ancient writing of Ethiopia
11 or Abyssinia, as it is now called.
12 Abyssinia and Southern Arabia are just
13 across the narrow Red Sea from each other
14 and finding in Southern Arabia inscriptions
15 that seem to be Ethiopian, would indicate
16 that Ethiopia and Southern Arabia in
17 those ancient times were parts of one
18 kingdom. And that might harmonize the
19 traditions of the Abyssinians and the
20 Arabs, ~~xxxxxx~~ and point to the possible
21 fact that the Queen of Sheba ruled over
22 both Southern Arabia and Abyssinia.

23 Those inscriptions have not yet been
24 deciphered. When they are, they may tell
25 us something fascinating about those
Biblical days of King Solomon and the
Queen of Sheba.

RAILROADS

And from the Queen of Sheba, back to the news.

1 Today that long expected cut in
2 pay for railroad workers went into
3 effect. It is a ten per cent reduction
4 which will save for the railroads 215
5 million dollars in the course of one
6 year.

7 The railroad officials today are
8 warmly praising the unselfish spirit of
9 the railroad ^{employees,} ~~workers,~~ all the way from
10 section-hands to engineers who run crack
11 trains. They hope that by taking the
12 cut they will help to put some of the
13 6 or 700,000 jobless back to work.

14 The United Press reports that,
15 while railroad executives turned down
16 several proposals made by the Union
17 leaders, they agreed to appoint a
18 committee to study various measures in
19 the interest of the workers, such as
20 retirement insurance, workmen's
21 compensation, the establishment of
22 employment bureaus, and so on.

1 The long-threatened Congressional
2 battle on the subject of Unemployment
3 Relief seems to be at hand. Today,
4 relates the United Press, Senator
5 LaFollette of Wisconsin laid before the
6 Senate a 300,000 word report, telling
7 of Unemployment conditions in various
8 ~~American~~ cities.

9 ~~The Senator wants to prove that the~~
10 ~~Government should appropriate money to be~~
11 ~~spent for the direct relief of~~
12 ~~Unemployment. The~~ Legislative bills
13 are now before both the House of
14 Representatives and the Senate. One is
15 the LaFollette-Costigan bill, which wants
16 to provide \$285,000,000 for Unemployment
17 Relief. Another is sponsored by
18 Representative Huddleston of Alabama and
19 its purpose is to spend \$100,000,000
20 to help the unemployed.

1 It looks as though the cotton crop
2 in Texas might be as big as usual ~~this~~
3 ~~year~~ that is if a legal decision handed
4 down today is upheld.

5 The Texas legislature recently passed
6 a law which commanded Texas farmers to cut
7 down the amount of cotton to be planted
8 this year. The law specified that * no
9 farmer must plant in 1932 more than 30%
10 as much cotton as he did in 1931. The
11 idea was to try to cure the over-production
12 of cotton by cutting down the amount to
13 be planted.

14 In spite of the law a farmer at
15 Calvert, Texas, went ahead and planted
16 his land 100% in cotton. The local
17 district attorney went to court and opened
18 proceedings against the farmer, but
19 today, wires the United Press, the Judge
20 of the District Court declared that the
21 law passed by the Legislature was
22 illegal. He declared it was contrary to
23 the principles of free government and told
24 the farmer to go ahead and plant as much
25 cotton as he liked. The District Attorney
said he is going to make an appeal and
call upon the higher courts to uphold the
law. *And that in brief is tonight's news & s-l-u-to-m.*