## MEMBERN ALABAMA

Lowell Thomas broadcast for the Literary Digest Thurs., December 3, 1931. Page

Good Evening, Everybody: -

Official action was taken in Washington today concerning the election of Senator Bankhead, of Alabama. Senator Hastings, of the Senate Election Sub-Committee, formally questioned the validity of the voting which sent the Washington. The matter has been under investigation for some time.

During the Congressional election
last year, a lively battle was waged in
Alabama for the Senatorial toga. The
scrap was between Mr. Bankhead and
Alabama's old-time fire-eater, Senator Tom
Heflin, and apparently the fight was so
bitter that some of the boys forgot to
adhere strictly to the Alabama election
law.— at least so says the Senate sub-committee.

The Associated Press quotes a report today as stating that there was a universal disregard of election laws, and circumstances indicating "some fraud." Those are the words.

Among the violations of the election law are mentioned the failure to number the ballots in ink, the breaking of seals on ballot boxes, votes cast for people who had been out of the state for as long as ten years, and voting by people who did not pay their poll taxes.

The investigators counted up the illegal votes which they had discovered and declared that after these had been thrown out, the result of the election was not changed. In other words, even if you don't count the improper votes, why Mr. Bankhead beat Senator Heflin just the same.

It is remarked, however, that if the matter were investigated still further, many more illegal ballots might be discovered -- enough votes, in fact, to change the result of the election.

Furthermore, Senator Bankhead is accused of having spent from 1500 to 20 2500 dollars more than the amount Alabama permits candidates to hand out for 22 election expenses. The Alabama law, we are toll, 23 disqualifies any candidate who spends 24 more than 10,000 dollars.

The indications tonight are that

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The American home was the subject of extensive deliberations in Washington today. President Hoover's conference on home building and home ownership is in session.

The committee today called for the abolition of slums, and advocated a program of single family houses for cities, houses grouped around schools, churches and recreational centers. That, they say, is the solution of the housing problem in American cities.

The United Press tells how President Hoover addressed the conference last night and talked about his idea of encourgaging home building by the formation of a system of home loan discount banks - that is, banks that would be specially formed to finance home building.

A loud call was sounded at today

Chleago in favor of a waterway from the

Greak Lakes through the St. Lawrence

River to the ocean.

The Great Lakes, St. Lawrence
Tidewater Association held a meeting of a
council of states. Eight governors
were there and also, delegates representing
twenty-three states.

The International News Service quotes the meeting as calling upon Congress to make a reasonable treaty with Canada as soon as possible, a treaty which will provide a twenty-seven foot channel by which ships may navigate from the Great Lakes to the ocean. It was declared that the farmers of the Middle West will save ten cents a bushel on the transportation of grain, and that this would come to a total of one hundred and fifty million dollars a year.

And so, they says that the the United States and Canada should get together as soon as possible and lay plans for the waterway.

Tonight the Mooney case out in California is tangled in a bit of perplexing confusion. It concerns Charles M. Fickert, who, as prosecuting attorney in San Francisco, convicted Mooney of the Preparedness Day bomb explosion.

A good deal has been made during the a past couple of days of the fact that in all the agitation that has gone on in Mooney's behalf, Prosecuting Attorney Fickert stuck by his guns and did not say anything in behalf of the prisoner that is, until Mayor Walker of New York arrived in California several days ago to plead Mooney's case. Mayor Walker telegraphed to Mr. Fickert, asking for his opinion, and in reply he received a letter in which the former prosecutor 19 made a statement in favor of Mooney's release. This has been be hailed as a big success for Jimmy Walker.

Today, however, Fickert comes out with something quite different. He declares that he believes Mooney is guilty, and should serve his sentence. The

Associated Press quotes him as saying that the wording of his letter to Jimmy 3 Walker was unfortunate. He explains that he wrote it hastily, and that it doesn't 5 quite say what he meant to say. He e admits that he did maigh write the 7 following words to Mayor Walker: - "In my 8 opinion, you are probably right in 9 maintaining that it would be to the best 10 interest of the State that executive 11 clemency should be granted to Mooney."

He now explains that he made that declaration conditional upon the opinion 14 of former-Governor Young of California. 15 What he meant to say was that if former-Governor Young believed Mooney innocent, why then it might be right to ma release the prisoner.

The former-prosecutor's statement today seems to indicate that he believes that Oxman, the chief witness against Mooney, told the truth at the trial. His former letter to Jimmy Walker, however, contains this statement: - "I believe that Oxman was nothing more or less than

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a publicity-seeking romancer."

There seems to be a contradiction, there, but, on the other hand, the wording throughout is such that various there is statements might mean almost anything.

It does seem to be clear, however, that former-Prosecutor Fickert is reversing his statement in favor of Mooney, and that still further confuses that already confused case in California.

Reports are coming in this evening - new ones are flashing across the wires right now - about a revolt in the Republic of San Salvador.

A heavy censorship has been clamped down and direct news is lacking. The Reports are coming in xkkxxxxxx by round-about ways.

The Associated Press wires that messages received in Mexico City indicate that San Salvador is in a state of rebellion tonight. The State Department in Washington has received a cable from the American Minister declaring that a revolutionary movement began last night.

Reports have leaked out of San
Salvador into Honduras, declaring that
government troops fired on mobs in the
city of San Salvador today, and that
twenty people were killed. The explanation
that the troops in two forts near
the capital of the country began the
revolt, and that civilian forces have
joined them.

Just how serious the situation is cannot quite be determined. All that we have are fragmentary reports breaking through the heavy veil of Salvadorian censorship.

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If you want something to look at for a minute or two, and derive at a glance more illumination than I could give you by talking for half-an-hour, why just turn to page 5 of the new Literary Digest, which came out today.

We've been hearing about Tsitsihar, and we've been hearing about Chinchow. They're a couple of colorful, bizarre names. But what do they mean? Of course we know that they're a pair of towns in Manchuria which have figured importantly in the trouble between China and Japan.

Well, on page 5 of the Literary
Digest is a big map of Manchuria. It's a railroad map, and that's what makes it so instructive. The quarrel in Manchuria chiefly concerns itself with railroads. The Literary Digest map shows us vividly what a puzzle it all is. There are Chinese railroads, Japanese railroads, and Russian railroads. Then there are lines which are controlled by China but were built by Japan. In these the

Japanese have an interest. There are railroads which are owned jointly by 3 Soviet Russia and China.

Now these lines cross each other in a tangled network of steel rails and 6 wooden ties. They also make a tangled network of political interest.

And now for Tsitsihar and Chinchow, The Digest map shows clearly their relation to the whole scheme of things. 11 Each city is on a Chinese railroad, but neither is far from a line in which the Japanese have an interest. One is in northern Manchuria, the other in southern Manchuria, but they're both alike in having the same relation to the complicated railroad layout of the disputed province.

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Another bit of illumination on the subject of Manchuria comes in an International News Service cable from Tokyo. It tells us how much the 5 occupation of the disputed sections is 6 costing Japan. The Tokyo government 7 has made plans for a bond issue to cover 8 the expenses of the Manchurian campaign, and that bond issue comes to 17 million dollars.

That's not such a tremendous lot as war budgets go, but the Mikado and his people will have to make a whole lot of 14 Manchurian point profits to balance off that 17 million dollars, which ye comes to mas 35,000,000 yen. a lot of yen.

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Twenty years ago Colonel Clarence

Seymour of West Hartford, Connecticut,
was out in Oregon, and there he lost a
small trinket which he rather cherished.
It was a key, a Phi Beta Kappa key -- the
emblem of membership in the learned
fraternity which is restricted to
college students who have achieved high
scholastic marks. Yes, Colonel Seymour
lost his Phi Beta Kappa key in Oregon
and hasn't seen it since.

Recently he received a letter from Shanghai, in which Doctor Frances W. King of the Margaret Williamson Hospital tells of a curious thing. The Doctor observed a coolie employed by the hospital at Shanghai wearing a curious ornament. It was a key, a Phi Beta Kappa key.

Well how the deuce did this humble coolie come to rate this emblem of Scholastic honor in an American university? The Doctor investigated and found Colonel Seymour's name on the key.

"Does Colonel Seymour want it back?"

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"Does Colonel Seymour want it back?"

asks the Doctor in Shanghai.

You bet the Colonel does. The Associated Press adds that the key is on its way from Shanghai to Hartford.

The interesting question is, how did that emblem of the Phi Beta Kappa honorary fraternity get shanghaied all the way from Oregon across the Pacific to China, and come into the possession of a Shanghai coolie? There's probably an odd story tucked away somewhere.

There's one for the classes in short story writing to done out.

From a number of members of the Tall Story Club I have received clippings of a tale which seems to have been printed far and wide in Pennsylvania.

It is sent in by Mrs. B. E. Decker, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania; by Nicholas &. Allard, of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania; and by John &, Armstrong, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Sam & McCoy, the editor and publisher of the Moorefield Examiner shoots along a clipping out of his own West Virginia paper.

Well, the incident happened in Maryland. The United Press nominates Roy Perviance of Hagerstown, for the Presidency of the Tall Story Club. Roy lost his hunting license, and here's the way he explained it. It's a trifle humiliating for Roy, but it certainly is a proud thing for the squirrel.

Roy was out hunting. He was a bit tired and lay down to sleep under a tree.

"When I awoke," he relates, "my attention was attracted by a noise in the franches above, and upon looking up, I saw a

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squirrel trying to pull something with entrance to a hole. In the three It was my own hunting license. The squirrel had stolen it out of my coat pocket. It looked as if he were trying to fasten it over the hole, presumably as a house number."

Pretty soon the squirrel became frightened and disappeared in the hole. with Roy's hunting license and all.

Well, as Exalted Giraffe of the Tall Story Club, hereby elevate Roy to the

rank of Exalted Anantas.

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Now where's my hat. Of course,
it's about time for me to be waxe going,
but this next bit of news also inspires
me to look over in the general direction
of my hat.

It is an Associated Press wire from Washington which tells how Congressman Vincent Carter of XX Wyoming went to a rummage sale. He dropped in merely out of curiosity and watched a large crowd of women by odds and ends of this and that. It was for the benefit of a hospital at Ketchaikan, Alaska.

You know how people donate articles for which they have no further use, to a charitable cause, a rummage sale held. Well, Congressman Carter is a courteous statesman and when he found himself in the gathering of ladies he took off his hat and kept it off. In fact, he placed it on a counter, and then walked around to see what was happening. When he came back he asked: "Where's my hat?" But the hat had

disappeared.

In less than no time the Congressional headpiece had been snatched by an enthusiastic auctioneer and auctioned off among the other odds and ends. It was a good hat. I suppose it was a new hat, and it fetched a few sheckles for the benefit of the hospital in Alaska.

The Congressman, after he had discovered the melancholy fact, was somewhat distressed. But what could he do? The hat and its purchaser had disappeared.

He looked around \*\*\* in the assorted rummage hoping he might be able to purchase a substitute headpiece. All \*\* that they had for sale was a high silk topper of ancient vintage. It was offered cheap, but the Congressman felt he would look altogether too much like Daniel Webster if he walked down the street in that exalted plug hat. So he went home bare-headed, And the next time to rummage sales he's going

to keep his hat on, ladies or no ladies.

After which I'll echo the Congressmen's plaintive question - where's my hat - and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.