

WASHINGTON

Lowell Thomas broadcast  
for the Literary Digest  
Thursday, March 31, 1932.

Page \_\_\_\_\_

Good Evening, Everybody:

1       The House of Representatives today  
2 decided to put a tax on stock  
3 transactions. This means that whenever  
4 stock is bought and sold, the government  
5 will collect a tax of one-fourth <sup>of one per cent</sup> of the  
6 price, with a minimum tax of four cents  
7 a share. If the one-fourth of one per  
8 cent doesn't come to as much as four  
9 cents, well, you'll have to pay that  
10 much anyway.

11       The Trenton Times <sup>tonight</sup> gives the vote  
12 in the House as 207 to 39, and that  
13 seems to be a <sup>fairly decisive</sup> ~~pretty precise~~ majority.  
14 This is the heaviest tax of this sort  
15 ever imposed, <sup>i.e., in Uncle Sam's domain,</sup> And the New York Evening  
16 Post relates that the congressmen who  
17 opposed it were nearly all from New  
18 York.

19       After that item was disposed of  
20 the House just kept the ball rolling  
21 by putting a tax on sales of futures in  
22 wheat, cotton and other commodities.  
23 That is, when anybody buys, not actual  
24 produce, but what they call futures --  
25 that is, stuff that doesn't exist but

1 is expected -- why then there will be a  
2 tax of five cents on every hundred  
3 dollars.

4 It is estimated that the tax of  
5 stock market transactions will bring  
6 the government seventy-five million  
7 dollars, and that the tax on futures in  
8 wheat and cotton will yield six million.

9 And as a matter of mathematics, that's  
10 a lot of money. Isn't it, Professor?

11 At last reports the total amount of  
12 taxes voted, together with the cut in government  
13 expenditures, gives us a grand total of  
14 more than one billion one hundred million  
15 dollars.  
16

17 →  
18 At any rate it should just  
19 about balance Uncle Sam's budget.  
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21  
22  
23  
24  
25



## POLL

Page 3

~~Ladies and Gentlemen:~~

There's quite some exciting news tonight in connection with the Literary Digest Prohibition Poll. What is it? Well, it concerns Kansas.

Is the Kansas vote going dryer and drier? No. That's what ~~makes~~ puts the ~~this information that I have so~~ kick in it. ~~unusual.~~

(So far, in the Digest poll Kansas has been the lone Sahara, the only state in the dry column. ~~Well,~~ the Literary Digest now brings out a revised list of figures ~~for~~ all the states, and the tide seems to have turned in Kansas.

But tonight Kansas ~~xx~~ appears to be in danger of going over to the wet column. ~~and joining the other states.~~ The drys in Kansas maintain their lead by a margin of less than one hundred votes. The latest figures are 31,993 dry, and 31,895 wet.)

So it will be mighty interesting to see what the Kansas returns are one week from tonight.

Professor Waeter

Each night when I give the returns from towns and cities throughout the country, the figures do not include that vast portion of our population which resides in the <sup>rural sections</sup> ~~country~~. But once a week ~~you~~<sup>we</sup> get the state by state figures which include both town and country.

For instance, here's Seattle, Washington, for a second time, with 3,339 votes for the amendment, and 14,879 for repeal. How does that compare with the whole state of Washington? Well, the new Literary Digest that came out today gives us the latest figures for the states. These show that while Seattle is more than four to one wet, the figures for the whole state are about three to one.

Tonight's figures from Providence, Rhode Island, are 1532 dry, and 8,323 wet. That's more than five to one wet. And in this case city and state seem to vote alike, because the Rhode Island vote is also more than five to one wet.

1 But, of course, the state of Rhode  
2 Island is ~~also~~ like one vast city.

3 Let's try one that is made up  
4 mostly of farms. The vote from  
5 Green Bay, Wisconsin, is 173 dry, and  
6 2054 wet. That's wringing wet - more  
7 than ten to one. But the entire state  
8 of Wisconsin is much drier, about  
9 fifty per cent dry<sup>er</sup>. The entire <sup>Wisconsin</sup> ~~state~~  
10 poll is about five to one for repeal.

11 And here's another great farming  
12 state - Texas. The Galveston vote  
13 stands 239 dry, 1690 wet, and that's  
14 more than seven to one, while the entire  
15 Texas vote ~~has~~<sup>is</sup> no such anti-prohibition  
16 ~~XXXX~~ tidal wave, by any means. In fact,  
17 it's less than two to one wet.

18 Ogden, Utah, 407 for  
19 continuance, 1277 for repeal - three to  
20 one. The whole state of Utah is about  
21 twenty-five per cent drier than that.

22 And how is the vote going  
23 down in the grand old state of Virginia?  
24 In Roanoke 1337 say they are for the  
25 amendment, and 2346 are against - less



1 than two to one wet. And the figures  
2 for the entire state of Virginia  
3 average about the same.

4 The vote in Washington, Pennsylvania,  
5 stands 842 dry and 1797 wet - about two  
6 to one, while the vote from Pennsylvania  
7 as a whole now stands approximately  
8 three to one for repeal. How does it  
9 happen that the state is wetter than the  
10 town? Well, the explanation probably  
11 is that Washington, Pennsylvania, is  
12 more of an educational than an industrial  
13 center. It's the home of that famous  
14 college, Washington & Jefferson.

15 In my list of towns tonight I have  
16 two named Greenville. One is the famous  
17 southern manufacturing town, *and* cotton  
18 center, Greenville, South Carolina. The  
19 other is the county seat of one of the  
20 most fertile farming communities in all  
21 North America. It is Greenville, Ohio,  
22 ~~the town where Zachary Lansdowne,~~  
23 ~~famous commander of the ill-fated~~  
24 ~~airship Shenandoah, came from, and~~ ~~xxx~~  
25 ~~the town is also famous as the home of~~

1 Major Frank Clear, the renowned <sup>Bicuspidal</sup> ~~Molar~~  
 2 Thaumaturgist. <sup>How's that one Professor?</sup> The Greenville, South  
 3 Carolina, vote is <sup>653</sup> ~~842~~ dry, <sup>1093</sup> ~~1093~~ wet.  
 4 Greenville, Ohio, is a shade <sup>drier:-</sup> ~~better:-~~  
 5 690 for the 18th Amendment, 969 for  
 6 repeal.

7 Well, we've heard from a number  
 8 of localities tonight, but how is the  
 9 vote going in Kokomo? Yes, here's  
 10 Kokomo, Indiana, 874 dry, 1433 wet.

11 According to the new Literary  
 12 Digest <sup>which comes</sup> out today, with the vote for all  
 13 the states, the grand total now <sup>is</sup> ~~comes~~  
 14 ~~is~~ three million seven hundred <sup>and</sup> fifteen  
 15 thousand, six hundred <sup>and</sup> thirty <sup>votes:-</sup> 956,863  
 16 favor the 18th amendment, 2,758,767  
 17 favor repeal. 25.75 per cent dry,  
 18 74.25 are wet. Another slight gain for  
 19 the dries. ~~We now return to our program.~~

LINDBERGHPage 8

1 (Once more ~~in the Lindbergh~~  
2 ~~case~~ we hear of a search of the country  
3 in the neighborhood of the Lindbergh  
4 home.

5 Agents of the Federal government  
6 have been going over every inch of the  
7 ground among the hills.) ~~that lie back~~  
8 ~~of the Lindbergh home.~~ Officially they  
9 are said to be hunting for undesirable  
10 aliens for the purpose of deporting  
11 them. But the New York Sun today  
12 declares it has a report that in reality  
13 they are more interested in seeking for  
14 clues of the missing baby. This is  
15 based on the theory that ~~xx~~ has been  
16 worked on time and again, that the  
17 kidnapping of the child was done by  
18 somebody from ~~that general~~ neighborhood.  
19 ~~of the Lindbergh home.~~

20 Meanwhile nothing new has  
21 developed at Norfolk, Virginia. The  
22 three prominent citizens who have been  
23 widely reported to be in communication  
24 with the kidnappers seem to be waiting.  
25 ~~They're not saying anything much.~~



Professor Walter  
B. Pitkin at  
Columbia  
University.

Author, A  
Short Introduction  
to Human  
Stupidity.

March 31, 1932.

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INTRO TO PITKIN

The Professor to whom I have been addressing an occasional side remark is

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Well, I'd better be careful and not get anything tangled up tonight or make any foolish mistakes, for in the studio with me is Professor Walter B. Pitkin, of Columbia University, who has just finished writing a large and hilarious volume called "A Short Introduction to a History of Human Stupidity." The Professor explains that it's a short introduction, because if anybody were to write the complete history of human stupidity it would take 40,386 volumes. Anyway, Professor Pitkin has made a profound study of the foolish, stupid, and dumb-bell ways of the human race. In fact, the Professor has a suggestion to make, a timely suggestion, considering that tomorrow is April Fools Day.

Now tell us about that plan of yours, Professor. ~~Pitkin~~

Well, Mr. Thomas:

1 I'm an expert on stupidity.  
2 I've tried out several hundred kinds since  
3 I was five years old.

4 Some people ask me why I don't  
5 get depressed watching the stupidities  
6 of the human race. I don't, of course.  
7 It's a little like living on \$500 a year.  
8 If everybody else is doing it too,  
9 you don't mind. Well, that's the way  
10 with stupidity. If half the world were  
11 always clever, and the other half always  
12 stupid, that would be tough. But - as  
13 Dr. Einstein remarked a while ago - in  
14 the sight of God we are all equally  
15 stupid. So that gives us all a good  
16 social standing.

17 Now, I have an idea. Let's ~~MAKE~~  
18 MAKE AMERICA FOOL-CONSCIOUS.

19 Let's have a grand new national  
20 holiday. Washington's Birthday just  
21 celebrates G. W. Lincoln's birthday  
22 celebrates Old Abe. Thanksgiving is  
23 Pilgrim Fathers' Day. Labor Day belongs  
24 to the workingmen. Mother's Day belongs  
25 to Ma. Christmas belongs to Santa Claus.



1 But where, Mr. Thomas, is there a holiday  
2 that belongs to everybody?

3 There's just one right time for  
4 such a wonderful holiday, and that's  
5 tomorrow, April 1st.

6 So we ought to celebrate April  
7 Fool's Day in a serious way.

8 What'll we do? When we get up  
9 in the morning, let's all stand in front  
10 of our mirrors for one hour, in silent  
11 meditation.

12 Then tomorrow let's have a big  
13 parade. Everybody who has made a  
14 specially grand fool of himself during  
15 the past year will march in the parade,  
16 exhibiting some token of his stupidity.  
17 A couple of shares of stock, or a South  
18 American bond, or a tax receipt, or a  
19 book on astrology, or a miniature golf  
20 course, or something like that, you know.  
21 No expensive uniforms for the parade!  
22 Let's just wear dunce caps and restore  
23 prosperity to the Danbury hat business.

24 After the parade tomorrow, the  
25 whole town gathers in the square down by

city hall and listens to the mayor read off the year's greatest achievements in stupidity. You know - how we Americans hand over 22 cents out of every dollar we make to the Government for running it - how women spend more money on fancy clothes and rouge and lipsticks than on educating their children; and how our farmers throw away wheat while millions of fellows out of work starve on park benches. And so on. It'd be nice if we could have a Nobel Prize for the most distinguished stupidity of the year. But we couldn't; we'll have to offer some Ignoble Prize, I guess.

And that will be the end of a perfect April fool's day.

RUSSIA

Well Professor, I'm all for it and I'll be at the head of that parade wearing the tallest dunce cap. But, <sup>Page 13</sup> not changing the subject lets go on to diplomacy & statecraft. Reports continue to come in

concerning military movements in Siberia along the Manchurian border.

A United Press despatch in the New York World-Telegram declares that reports have reached Washington to the effect that the Red Army is continuously strengthening its position, and that during the past ten days more than four thousand tons of wheat have been shipped into Vladivo'stok.

On the other hand from Moscow comes word that relations between Soviet Russia and Japan have improved. A United Press despatch in the Chicago Daily News points out that Japan has promised Soviet Russia to put a stop to the political and military activities of the white Russians along the border of Siberia, and this is interpreted as greatly decreasing the possibilities of war between the Soviets and Japan.

~~Well, one despatch has a hint of war-like possibilities while the other~~  
~~echoes like the dove of peace. And now~~



1 Well, here's something for the  
2 history of human intelligence, and I  
3 ~~don't mean maybe. Here's a boy who~~  
4 ~~gave me a laugh today. That youngster~~  
5 ~~is a corker.~~

6 The mail every day brings along a  
7 stream of letters from the junior  
8 salesmen for the Literary Digest --  
9 those bright ~~little~~ chaps who go out  
10 selling the magazines. And those letters  
11 make a man feel a bit better, ~~— they're~~  
12 ~~so full of courage and helpfulness,~~ with  
13 a boy whose father is out of work  
14 pitching in and doing his share, or  
15 another chap who is making some extra  
16 money to buy something he particularly  
17 wants.

18 ~~Well,~~ Here's one of <sup>a</sup> ~~those~~ letters  
19 ~~that ought to give us all a broad smile.~~  
20 ~~It's~~ from Robert P. Commanday, a junior  
21 salesman ~~for the Literary Digest~~ at  
22 Yonkers, ~~New York.~~ Bob writes in to  
23 increase his <sup>weekly</sup> order for ~~weekly~~ copies, ~~of~~  
24 ~~the Literary Digest.~~ He's very business-  
25 ~~like and explains why he needs them.~~

1 He says he has been in bed sick for the  
2 last couple of weeks. ~~nothing serious,~~  
3 ~~just a touch of illness.~~ But that  
4 hasn't interferred with Bob's sales. ~~of~~  
5 ~~the Literary Digest.~~ In fact, his  
6 business has boomed. ~~a bit.~~

7 "I've had my assistant out on the  
8 job," writes Bob. And then he explains,  
9 in parenthesis -- "my assistant is my  
10 Dad."

11 ~~Yes sir, the~~ <sup>That</sup> bright young fellow  
12 put Father on the job selling ~~his copies~~  
13 ~~of~~ the Digest.

14 Bob also incloses a card which he  
15 mails around to various folks. The  
16 card reads this way: "I'm a junior  
17 salesman for the Literary Digest. Would  
18 you like to buy it every week and be my  
19 regular customer?"

20 Bob explains that those cards have  
21 been bringing ~~in~~ results. ~~Of course, his~~  
22 ~~illness has handicapped him in sending~~  
23 ~~them around, but~~ He explains in the  
24 last line of his letter, "my mother is  
25 my secretary, ~~at least~~ while I'm in bed."

1  
2           So there's a lad who has put both Mother and Dad to  
3 work for him, and that would seem to be a first-rate example,  
4 not of stupidity, Professor, but of human intelligence.  
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1                   And now, professor, listen to this one. It's a  
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3   United Press dispatch printed in the Boston Traveler, which tells  
4   of some mighty greasy, or you might say gooey, proceedings among  
5   the cops at Lynn, Massachusetts. Something very smeary happened  
6   to the police force at Lynn. The manly faces of the stalwart  
7   officers of the law were all plastered over with something more  
8   or less resembling glue. It was suspected that some practical  
9   joker had been at work and had made the Lynn police force a  
10   victim of a cruel jest.

11                   Then the janitor confessed. He had made a mistake.  
12  
13   He was filling the liquid soap containers in the washroom at  
14   police headquarters, but he made an error. Instead of soap, he  
15   put liquid floor wax in the containers. And the next thing you  
16   know the cops were washing their faces with floor wax.

17                   Well, after that piece of human stupidity, the most  
18   intelligent thing I can think of is --

19                   SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.  
20  
21  
22  
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