

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast
for The Literary Digest.
Friday, January 30, 1931.

WASHINGTON

Good Evening, Everybody:

There is a distinguished visitor down in Washington tonight. He is Prime Minister Bennett of Canada.

According to the Associated Press, his visit is highly informal. For instance the Canadian Legation informed the State Department several days ago that Prime Minister Bennett would ~~xx~~ prefer not to have the nineteen gun salute to which he is entitled. And so there was no booming of big guns today. Mr. Bennett was received with the greatest cordiality by President Hoover and Secretary of State Stimson, and they talked a bit about the mutual problems of Canada and the United States.

Mr. Hoover is entertaining the Canadian Prime Minister at dinner tonight. And right now they're getting ready for the formalities of a state dinner at the White House.

1 The President made an important
2 announcement today. ~~It's that~~ The
3 Virgin Islands, which the United States
4 bought from Denmark some years ago,
5 have ^{been} transferred to civilian control.
6 The islands have been administered
7 heretofore by the Navy. But the President
8 said that the Navy had asked to be
9 relieved of the ^{job,} ~~government of the~~
10 ~~islands,~~ and ~~that~~ therefore civilian
11 administration was being instituted.

12 According to the International
13 News Service, Mr. Hoover added that the ^{first}
14 civilian governor of the Virgin Islands
15 ^{will} ~~would~~ be Professor Paul Martin Pearson,
16 of Swarthmore College. Mr. Pearson
17 is ^a well-known ~~as an~~ educator.
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CONGRESS

The principal event in Congress today was the turning down of that \$25,000,000 appropriation for good relief which the Senate wants. I mean that provision for appropriating the \$25,000,000 which the Senate tacked on as an amendment to a bill providing money for the Department of the Interior.

The House of Representatives said "no" and they said it by a large majority. Which means that the House came to the support of President Hoover, who has been against the \$25,000,000 appropriation. Then, according to the United Press, a second motion was carried in the House asking for a conference with the Senate concerning the 25,000,000.

1 Tonight there's one less student
2 on the college roll at Harvard. In
3 other words, there's one student who ~~was~~^{is}
4 sorry--or maybe he isn't sorry--that he
5 threw that grapefruit at Rudy Vallee.

6 You'll recall that Rudy was crooning
7 one of ~~his~~ his sweet, heart-throbbing songs
8 in a Boston theatre, and the place was
9 packed with students. Rudy's voice was
10 at its sweetest and heart-throbbiest
11 when "bang!"--a barrage of eggs and
12 grapefruit descended upon the sweet
13 singer. Rudy himself wasn't hit, I
14 understand, but several members of his
15 band didn't dodge fast enough.

16 The police arrested three students,
17 but they denied that they had ever thrown
18 either an egg or a grapefruit even at
19 a professor. The faculty held an
20 investigation and convicted one student.
21 According to the Associated Press, he
22 is James Angier, son of Professor
23 Angier of Yale. ^{And as a punishment} ~~And~~ he has been ousted
24 from Harvard.

1 A few minutes ago I read an
2 amusing account of the Grand Twentyninth
3 Annual Dinner of the Poetry Association
4 of ~~New York~~, which was held ^{in New York} ~~in New York~~
5 last night.

6 Louis Sherwin, the roving reporter
7 of the New York Evening Post was at that
8 poet's dinner. He says that four hundred
9 people were present and he offered to make
10 a bet with a canny Scot named Thompson.
11 Louis offered the Scot a dollar for every
12 guest he could point out, except those at
13 the Speaker's Table, who had ever actually
14 written any poetry. The cautious Scot turn-
15 ed down the proposition.

16 But they did run through the of-
17 ficial list of guests and the Caledonian
18 soul of Mr. Thompson was saddened when it
19 was discovered that they could pick out
20 three authors of poetry ^{in the crowd} -- which would have
21 meant three dollars in the Scotsman's pocket
22 if he had made the bet.

23 Well, that certainly sounds strange
24 I know that Louis is a wise as well as a
25 roving reporter, but maybe he somehow got

1 into the wrong dinner. Maybe he was at
2 the Annual Banquet of the United Ameri-
3 can Haberdasher's Association.
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1 While we're on the subject of
2 poetry, let's turn to the Senate--yes,
3 the United States Senate.

4 ~~You~~^{We} might not expect to find any
5 great amount of poetry among the lawmakers
6 down in Washington, but ~~think again~~^{we're all wrong.}
7 They talk so much that they exhaust all
8 the prose ~~that~~ there is, ~~and~~ so they just
9 naturally burst into verse.

10 Anyway, the Associated Press informs
11 us that a lot of poetry is heard in the
12 majestic halls of the Senate, ~~although~~^{some good}
13 ~~most of it isn't what you'd call good~~
14 ~~poetry.~~^{and some not so good.}

15 The late Senator John Sharp
16 Williams, of Mississippi, ~~used to~~^{once} held
17 the palm for poetry. He was always
18 quoting it, although sometimes the other
19 senators didn't like it. The mighty and
20 flaming Senator Borah once said: WHILE
21 I ENJOY THE SPEECHES MADE BY THE SENATOR
22 ~~FROM~~ MISSISSIPPI, I MUST SAY THAT HIS POETRY
23 AT TIMES IS ~~ROTTEN~~ SOUR.

24 Well, there's a lot of poetry being
25 spilled in the present session of Congress.

The subject of farm relief has brought forth quantities of verse. Here's a bit that the Associated Press tells us that Senator Heflin, of Alabama, poured into the enthralled ears of his colleagues the other day:

"The politician talks and talks,
The actor plays his part,
The soldier glitters on parade,
The goldsmith plies his art.
The scientist pursues the germ
O'er the terrestrial ball,
The sailor navigates his ship,
But the farmer feeds them all."

Well, that's a fact. We farmers do feed the country.

But I suppose Senator Borah would remark -- but why say it in verse?

TOPICS IN BRIEF

But let's go on to a few lines of prose now, a few lines I saw on the Topics in Brief page of the new Literary Digest.

The first is a crack at the talkies which the Digest quotes from Judge: EUROPEAN MOVIE FANS COMPLAIN THAT THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE ACTORS ARE SAYING IN AMERICAN-MADE TALKIES. Then adds Judge:- THEY DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY THEY ARE.

And the Digest quotes a snappy one from the Florence Herald: WHATEVER OTHER SORROWS EVE SUFFERED, SHE WAS NEVER TAUNTED BY ADAM'S REFERENCE TO HIS MOTHER'S COOKING.

Science comes in for a neat little dig which the new Digest tells us was printed in a column of the Boston Herald. It goes on to relate that science is acquainted with 400 different kinds of fleas. Well, old Rover is acquainted with just one kind of flea, and when we see how busy he's kept, we don't wonder that science is so active too.

ENGLAND

I suppose this next bit of news was to be expected.

The recent happenings concerning India have caused a loud repercussion in English politics. The offer of "something like" home government which Great Britain made to India at the recent Round Table Conference, and also the release of Ghandi and other political prisoners in India, is just the sort of thing to make trouble in home politics.

An Associated Press dispatch informs us that there has been a split in the Conservative party. As Prime Minister MacDonald's Labor Party has been handling the Indian situation, of course you would expect the Conservatives to protest and raise a hullabaloo. But the Conservative party officially was rather in agreement with the Labor government on the Indian question.

However, a number of prominent Conservatives have disagreed among themselves. The most important one is Winston Churchill. Churchill has created a sensation by withdrawing from the councils of the Conservative party.

1 And then there is Lord Lloyd,
2 former Egyptian High Commissioner, ^{and former governor of Bombay.} He's
3 starting out tomorrow on a barnstorming
4 tour through England, and he's going to
5 denounce the Round Table Conference and
6 all its works and plans.

7 In fact, so many Conservatives are
8 disgruntled about what they call their
9 leaders' surrender to Socialism on the
10 Indian question, that they're forming a
11 new ^{wing of the} ~~faction of a~~ Conservative party.
12 And it all goes to make that Indian
13 puzzle still more complicated and
14 perplexing, when the sad part of it is
15 that it's complicated and perplexing
16 enough already.

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Word comes of

~~There has been~~ a bad mine

1 explosion over in England. The Hague
2 Coal Mine in Cumberland is far beneath
3 the sea. It's one of those famous shafts
4 over there where they've been digging for
5 a century or more. They just keep going
6 deeper and deeper, and they even tunnel
7 far out under the floor of the ocean.
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9 Well, there was a frightful ex-
10 plosion of gasses deep down in that mine
11 and twentysix men were killed. According
12 to the International News Service, thirteen
13 others who were trapped in the disaster,
14 were rescued.
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1 ^{Now just a minute}
~~ardon me, but~~ I'm afraid ^{I'll have} ~~I've got~~
 2 to try a bit of Scotch dialect for ~~the~~ a
 3 moment. I've got to imitate a Scotchman
 4 saying: THEY HAHD BETTER STOPE KICKEN
 5 MA BAGPIPE AROOND.

6 You're right, Sandy, you're quite
 7 right. Everybody is kicking the Scottish
 8 bagpipe around, ^{ish} except the Scotsmen, of
 9 course. The English are at it this time.
 10 The Incorporated Society of Musicians
 11 held a conference at Oxford, and what
 12 the English think of bagpipes can easily
 13 be imagined. ^{Yes,} it's just what the rest of
 14 the world, outside of Scotland, thinks.

15 The question came up ^{as to} ~~of~~ why there's
 16 so much deafness in Scotland. And the
 17 answer was given thusly: That playing
 18 the bagpipe not only torments the
 19 listener but it also tends to make the
 20 bagpipe player deaf. The human ear, when
 21 submitted ~~to~~ to the sound of the bagpipe
 22 for any length of time, tends to turn
 23 into a kind of potato.

24 But that wasn't all. The New York
 25 Sun informs us that those English musicians

1 solemnly announced that the bagpipe
2 wasn't Scotch at all. It was really
3 Irish!

4 *So* No wonder **S**andy is wailing:
5 THEY HAHD BETTER STOPE KICKEN MA
6 BAGPIPE AROOND.
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POLAND

A plaintive story comes from Poland tonight. Srul Kaufman, 52 years married, decided to get a divorce. A family council gathered, and it was a large one. Among those present were Srul's thirteen grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren.

When the time came for Srul to appear before the judge and apply for a decree that gigantic family of his locked him in a room and wouldn't let him out.

So Srul stayed married.

1 I went in to see the editors of
2 the Literary Digest this afternoon, and
3 gave them a piece of my mind. I just
4 started in raising Cain with them and
5 showed them a letter. When they read it
6 they knew they were wrong and they
7 apologized plenty ^{too.} I think I'll read
8 that letter now just to show you that
9 there was plenty of cause for complaint.

10 It's ~~is~~ from Homer Green, Rural Free
11 Delivery No. 2, Middleton, New York.

12 Mr. Green informs me that he has a very
13 intelligent dog, and among other things
14 that dog is interested in the delivery
15 of the mail. You know how it is on the
16 farm. The mailman's visit is one of the
17 events of the day. Anyway, Mr. Green's
18 dog always receives the Rural Free
19 Delivery letter-carrier with enthusiasm.
20 He jumps and barks ^{for joy.}

21 His great day is Thursday, says
22 Mr. Green, because that's the day that
23 the letter carrier brings Mr. Green's
24 copy of the Literary Digest. Old ^{Bowser} ~~side~~
25 just dances and does a Highland fling

when the weekly copy of the Digest arrives.

But yesterday there was a slip-up in the mailing department, and Mr. Green's copy didn't arrive.

Well, old Bowser dashed to meet the letter carrier in his usual uproarious style. Then he saw as the mailman put the letters in the box on the fence post, that there was no Literary Digest in the mail. And that made Bowser so mad that he let out a growl, and tried to bite the mailman, and when he couldn't do that he bit a hole in one of the front tires of the mailman's car.

Mr. Green had to help the mailman put on the spare tire; and then he had to fork over several bucks to pay the damage his dog had done to Uncle Sam's property.

You can't blame Mr. Green for complaining. And, as I remarked before, when the Literary Digest editors read that tall story, they apologized profusely to Mr. Homer Green of Rural Free Delivery No. 2, Middleton, New York.

And now —

1 I don't know whether we ought to
2 enroll Captain Clarence Roberts as a
3 member of our Tall Story Club or not.
4 The Captain says ^{the story is} ~~it's~~ true, and the
5 United Press telegraphs ~~his story~~ ^{it} in all
6 seriousness.

7 Anyway, the Captain is in the
8 business of gathering turtles' eggs down
9 in Florida, and he says that he has
10 discovered a turtle that cackles when it
11 lays ^{its} eggs — *cackles like a hen.*

12 The Captain says it's an enormous
13 critter, a giant sea turtle. They come
14 up out of the Gulf of Mexico and crawl
15 up on the sand, and there they lay the ~~eggs~~
16 eggs--and cackle. And those turtles would
17 put any laying hen to shame. The Captain
18 ^{declares} ~~says~~ the turtles' cackle sounds like a
19 cross between the grunt of an alligator
20 and the ear-splitting cries of the
21 manatee, or sea cow.

22 Well, that's a good one. I'll just
23 ask the Captain to step up and shake
24 hands with the boys *who have been sending me*
25 ~~I think I'll close for the evening~~
so many tall stories.

END - 2.

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1 Yes, and just for a change I think I'll close
2 by extending a salutation to the members
3 of the Tall Story Club and congratulate
4 them for their whoppers, and my
5 salutations also ~~also~~ to the rest of you
6 who are more ^{and non-prevaricating} veracious ^{who} and stick to the
7 plain, matter-of-fact truth.

8 So long until tomorrow.
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