

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast
for The Literary Digest.
Monday, January 19, 1931.

WICKERSHAM

Good Evening, Everybody:

Yes sirree. It only goes to show that if you wait long enough! - what I mean to say is that this first dispatch is about the long awaited report of the Wickersham Commission on law enforcement, especially prohibition.

The International News Service informs us that the report was turned over to President Hoover today. The President will study it for twenty-four hours and turn it over to Congress tomorrow. And then Congress will juggle it around like a hot potato. At any rate, tomorrow we'll all know just what's in that famous report.

1 I don't know what round this is,
2 but it seems like about the forty-seventh--
3 I mean in the big bout between the
4 President and the Senate.

5 The Senate is said to be starting
6 another right swing, or left hook, or
7 whatever it is. Meaning ~~that~~, according
8 ~~to the United Press~~, the Senators are
9 going to try to tack \$25,000,000 for
10 human relief on to the ^{socalled} supply bills of
11 the Department of Interior.

12 Money is to be appropriated for
13 the expenses of the Department of
14 Interior, and the Senate ^{today voted to} ~~will try to~~ to
15 ~~hang~~ ^{attach to this} an extra \$25,000,000 ~~on to it~~ to be
16 spent to provide food for people in the
17 Middle West who were hit by the drought
18 last summer.

19 This is in response to the
20 President's latest blow at the Senate.
21 The President wants the money for direct
22 relief of the drought sufferers to be
23 provided by private contributions through
24 the Red Cross. ~~And the bit news there~~
25 ~~is that~~ ^{And} he has named a committee of 57

distinguished persons to sponsor a Red Cross drive for \$10,000,000, the ten million to be used for food and other necessities for the relief of people hit by drought.

Among the 57 distinguished persons listed by the United Press are former President Coolidge and ex-Governor Smith of New York. Well, Mr. Smith and Mr. Hoover were of course the big opponents for the presidency in the last election, but apparently all the political fire-works-animosity has vanished.

NIAGARA

And now here come the experts telling us all about what caused that big crash at Niagara Falls yesterday, when part of the Falls gave way. Dr. Reginald Pegrum, professor of Geology at the University of Buffalo, says that it was partly erosion - just the natural wear and tear, and partly the freezing weather and the ice that caused the breaking down of part of the giant cliff over which the waters rush on the American side.

Anyway, Niagara Falls looks a bit different today, as you honeymooners will discover. Tons and tons of rock gave way at the brink and went crashing down into the depths below. Enough rock broke off to create a U-shaped dent in the world's most famous Falls, which is estimated to be 150 feet across and from 150 to 200 feet deep.

The Associated Press informs us that apparently the Cave of the Winds has not been affected, although rock and stone may have blocked the pathway leading to it. The Associated Press adds that it is impossible to tell much about it, because everything is so badly choked up with ice and snow.

I guess you'd ^{better} ~~might as well~~
 Well, folks, [^] ~~I am afraid I've~~
~~gote to advise you right here to~~ put the
 old goose bone up in camphor balls and
 hang it ^{to a rafter} ~~somewhere~~ in the attic, because
 the goose bone system of ^{weather} forecasting
~~the weather~~ has received a ^{bodys} ~~serious~~ blow.

Out in Philadelphia, Sam
 Brunner is the goose bone prophet. He
 has a tibia or a tibula or just a
 common wishbone of a goose, and it
 gives omens about the weather.

The Associated Press tells us
 that Sam staged a competition in
 weather forecasting with George S. Bliss,
 a government expert, who used scientific
 methods. They started in on January 1st,
 each of them forecasting the weather
 for the days of January. ~~So far as the~~
~~contest stands~~ ^{And} modern science has ~~it~~ [^] walked
^{right away from the old} ~~all over the~~ [^] goose bone. The Government
 expert has been right twenty-five times
 out of twenty-nine, and Sam and his goose
 bone have been right fifteen out of
 thirty times. The batting averages are
 respectively - Science 862, and Goose

Bone 500.

So I'm afraid that so far as weather forecasting goes, we might as well leave the goose bone in the old goose.

1 Here's a peculiar coincidence:
2 The cover on this week's issue of the
3 Literary Digest is a painting representing
4 the signing of the marriage contract of
5 John Randolph, Jr., of Virginia, and
6 Martha Jefferson, the daughter of
7 Thomas Jefferson. Many of you have
8 seen it, and it is really charming. The
9 bride is about to sign away her freedom
10 and she looks around with a brilliant,
11 flashing smile. Well I have a letter here
12 ^{that} tells me ~~Well~~ just about the time that
13 Digest cover came out a document was put
14 on exhibition in the Anderson Art
15 Galleries in New York. It is the
16 original marriage contract, the signing
17 of which is shown in the picture. One
18 line, in the stately, old-fashioned
19 handwriting, reads: "Whereas, there is
20 a marriage suddenly intended to be
21 solemnized between the above bound,
22 Thomas Randolph, Jr. and Martha Jefferson,"
23 and then it goes on in old-fashioned
24 legal phraseology.

25 Well, that marriage contract, we

1 are told, was a happy turn in the life
2 of the great president. Thomas
3 Jefferson was worried about his daughter.
4 She wanted to enter a convent and become
5 a nun, which he didn't want her to do.
6 Then handsome young Thomas Randolph
7 came along and that ended Martha's
8 ~~Jefferson's~~ longing for the convent.
9 Her father, Thomas Jefferson, was greatly
10 pleased by the marriage. ^{And so a}
11 charming old romance is ^{brought to memory} ~~revised~~ by that
12 coincidence--the cover of ^{this week's} ~~the~~ Literary
13 Digest and the old document ^{now being} shown in
14 the New York art gallery.

INDIA

Tonight is a big night over in London. In official circles one of the great social events of the season is taking place. It's a farewell banquet for the delegates to the London Round Table Conference.

And there at a long table, dining in magnificent state, are the lords and ladies of the realm -- the swarthy maharajahs of Hindustan in their gorgeous robes and their bejeweled turbans; and his Britannic Majesty's generals and admirals and their ladies; mild Hindu followers of Mahatma Ghandi and sallow Parsee fire ~~xx~~ worshippers.

But there's one guest present who is not seen. She sits not with the other banqueters, but behind an ornate screen. There she dines, receiving her dishes from the hands of her own serving woman. According to the Associated Press, she is an Indian Princess - the Maharanee of Alwar. There, even at this magnificent banquet of state, she remains in strict seclusion, in purdah -- obeying strictly the old oriental custom

2.

1 whereby women remain isolated from the
2 company of strange men.

3 Well, that unseen guest at the
4 banquet reminds me of my own days in
5 India. One thing that impresses you
6 when you are among high class Hindus or
7 Mohammedans is the absence of women.
8 They are always hidden away, in purdah.
9 And if you are at the court of a
10 maharajah it's an all stag party. You
11 see only men. The women are hidden away
12 in the Zennana - in purdah as they call
13 it.

14 Curiously enough it was the
15 custom of purdah that gave the British
16 their first footing in India.

17 There was a certain princess
18 of the court of the Great Mogul at
19 Delhi. She was in the women's quarters
20 of the palace and she was without her
21 veil. Her clothes took fire. If she
22 had screamed, men would have come running
23 and smothered the flames. But they would
24 have seen her unveiled. She knew this
25 and she wouldn't scream. She simply rolled

V L

1 about on the floor bravely putting ~~ax~~
2 out the fire, as best she could, but she
3 was terribly burned. She was so badly
4 ^{hurt} ~~burned~~ that the native ^{wizards} ~~doctors~~ couldn't
5 help her and she lingered on. Then the
6 Great Mogul sent for one of those English
7 doctors he had heard about down on the
8 coast, on the shore of the Bay of Bengal.
9 The doctor came and cured the princess.
10 The Great Mogul asked how he could reward
11 the doctor, and the ^{latter} ~~doctor~~ begged that
12 the Great Mogul give those British
13 merchants on the coast the right to
14 trade anywhere in the land. That was the
15 beginning of British India.

16 And tonight in London at a
17 resplendent banquet celebrating Britain's
18 ^{offer} ~~gift~~ of home rule to India, another
19 Indian princess dines behind a screen -
20 in Purdah.
21
22
23
24
25

I thought there must be a mistake in this next dispatch. It says the River Shannon, and I thought the river must be the Nile or the Euphrates, because it's about excavations and the ancient tombs of kings.

Well, the Nile and the ~~Rup~~ Euphrates are the places to dig up ancient ruins, but apparently they are doing it on the River Shannon too.

At Carrick ^{on} Shannon ~~xxxxxx~~ archaeologists have unearthed a two thousand year old tomb of ancient Irish kings. The ~~site~~ ^{site} is a hill called Sheebeg, a Gaelic name which means the Hill of the Little Fairy. Ancient historians say that the Hill of the Little Fairy was the burial place of many of the kings and queens of Ireland. They found a huge cut rock of more than ten tons which ~~x~~ was ~~xxxxxx~~ the door of a subterranean gallery, a gallery leading to a vault. Two skeletons were found. One male and one female, and from other ~~objects~~ ^{objects} ~~bodies~~ around it was to be seen that they were people of high rank, probably a king and queen of ancient Ireland, ^{the ancestors of} Pat and Mike.

I think I ought to start ~~this~~ *this one*
~~next dispatch~~ with the musical syllables
do, re, me. It has something to do with
music, but it's chiefly about gold, money,
shekles, pesos, in other words, do, re,
me, do.

They are having a trial at Munich
over in Germany and it's a hummer.

Fränz Tausend is accused of
swindling. He's a plumber and also an
alchemist. He claims that he can
transmute such substances as copper, iron,
or brass into gold. The prosecuting
attorney claims that it was mostly a
matter of turning ^{or gall or cheeks} brass into gold.

According to the International
^{Plumber} News Service Franz claims that ~~the~~ *he makes*
~~performance is miraculous gold making~~
^{Gold} by harmonizing the elements in a way
similar to the musical scale. That's
where the music comes into it - do, re,
me, do.

Of course, they are not prosecuting
Franz merely for his scientific studies.
The fact is that he got people to

1 invest real money in his alchemy. A
2 million and a half marks in real money
3 to be exact, and the amazing thing is
4 that one of the investors was General
5 Ludendorff, ~~He was~~ one of Germany's former
6 great war lords. ~~during the World War, and~~
7 ~~he more recently has been taking a hand~~
8 ~~in fire eating politics.~~ ^{The plumber} Franz succeeded
9 in convincing the General ^{that} ~~and~~ his do,
10 re, me alchemy was O. K. and that he
11 could make enough gold to enable Germany
12 to pay her reparations debt. Ludendorff
13 tell for that, and saw in the plumber's
14 alchemy chances of immense power for
15 himself.

16 Well, it just goes to show what
17 magical music there is in the old tune
18 of do, re, me, *do.*
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TOPICS

This week's Literary Digest has something interesting to say about one of the curious ways in which we use words. The Digest quotes the Florence Alabama Herald as saying; ODDLY ENOUGH, WHEN WE SEND IT BY SHIP, IT IS A CARGO; AND WHEN IT GOES BY CAR, IT IS A SHIPMENT.

The political situation is discussed in a line which the Digest quotes from the New York Evening Post: MR. JOHN DEWEY WANTS A THIRD PARTY, says the New York Evening Post. BUT IS THERE ANY WAY OF GETTING RID OF THE OTHER TWO FIRST?

And the movie situation is commented on in another bit which the Digest takes from the New York Evening Post: ONE OF THE LESSER MOVIE OFFICIALS INSISTS THAT THE TEN-CENT MOTION PICTURE WILL SOON BE WITH US AGAIN. BUT THE TROUBLE IS, adds the New York Evening Post, THEY'LL CONTINUE TO CHARGE \$1 FOR IT.

1 Here's swift, stark tragedy.
2 Three years ago they had a revolution
3 in Mexico and one of the leaders was
4 General Luis Ceron. The rebellion was
5 squelched. Some of the leaders were
6 shot and some got away. General Ceron
7 got away. He lived in exile those
8 three years, and then homesickness
9 got the best of him. He simply had to
10 return to his native town of Texcoco.
11 He went disguised as a peon.

12 According to the Associated
13 Press he was recognized by a former
14 political opponent. Both men drew
15 their pistols. In the ensuing gun
16 fight both men fell. The General's
17 antagonist was badly wounded, but the
18 returned exile himself was killed.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MOTOR BOAT SHOW

I suppose I ought to say something nautical at this point. Shiver my timbers, or Avast there, or Sixteen men on a dead man's chest, or something like that, because the National Motor Boat Show is on in full swing in New York this week. Anybody who's got any of the Jack Tar in him will walk around there and think he's having a beautiful dream.

Of course, there are some things up at that motor boat show that might cause a real old salt to shivver not only in his own timbers but somebody else's timbers as well. I mean -

vanity cases and cigaret lighters and
~~chromium~~^{chromium} plated hardware, and boudoir
color schemes. In fact, the cabins
of some of those boats look more fit
for Gwendolyn Twinkle-toes' daybed and
week-end bag than for an old salt-
bitten sailor's bunk and ditty box.

~~Still, on~~ I'm not so ~~xxx~~ much of
a hardened veteran of the sea myself,
~~but that~~^{and} I have a considerable weakness
for ~~the~~ modern comforts in ~~the way of~~
navigation, and I certainly appreciated
what I saw at the motor boat show.

In fact, ^{something tells me} ~~I have an idea~~ that I'm going
to have motor boat dreams tonight.

~~My~~ ^{of} dreams ~~that I am~~ voyaging around the
world in a motor boat, around and
around, faster and faster, and I'll
reach for a marlin spike and it will
turn into a vanity case, and when I
walk up to the binnacle it will turn
into a gigantic powder puff.

Anyway, I'm weighing anchor
now and steering a course for home.
Heave ho, my hearties, and so long
until tomorrow.