

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1931

FRANCE

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Here's a follow up on that disarmament item I mentioned last night.

The British First Lord of the Admiralty, announced this afternoon that France and England have come to an agreement about naval matters. This means that France will become a party to the London Naval Treaty. The agreement was signed by First Lord of the Admiralty Alexander and by the British Foreign Minister, Arthur Henderson.

The announcement adds that everything now depends upon Italy. ~~The International News Service tells us that~~ immediately after the agreement was made public Foreign Minister Henderson and First Lord of the Admiralty Alexander took the train for Rome to talk matters over with the Italian government. It is expected that Mussolini will fall right in line and add his name to the other signatures.

If the plan goes through as expected, why then that thorny

problem of how many fighting ships each nation is to have will be solved at last - at least for a while.

ENGLAND

I've had occasion to refer several times to the fact that over in England there has been a split in the Conservative Party, a split that is tangling things up badly in British politics. But here comes a promised split in the Labor Party that will tangle things still more over there.

~~An Associated Press dispatch states that~~ ^T the radical section of the Labor group is liable to break away and form a new party of its own. The British Labor Party is socialistic right now, and the new offshoot will be still more socialistic. Its' leader will be Sir Oswald Moseley, the millionaire radical whose wife is the daughter of that aristocrat of aristocrats, the late Lord Curzon.

Sir Oswald has been at loggerheads with the leaders of the Labor government for some time. He recently proposed an exceedingly radical plan to help solve the employment situation, but the heads of the Labor government didn't think so much of it. And so he's expected to break with the Labor Party and lead a number of other malcontents out of the Labor ranks. This young man comes from such aristocratic surroundings, expects to make himself a fiery leader who will carry England into red socialism.

1 A strange criminal case is reported
2 from over in Ireland.

3 A man named Carroll was killed.
4 He was a prominent member of a
5 revolutionary organization, one of those
6 groups of extreme Republicans who are
7 fighting the present Irish government.
8 Nobody could suggest any reason why
9 Carroll had been ^{put away,} ~~killed~~ and the whole
10 thing was a puzzling mystery.

11 The funeral of this revolutionary
12 leader was attended by many members of
13 the Republican organization, who
14 mourned the death of their loyal brother.

15 But now, according to the New
16 York Evening Post, it is revealed that
17 Carroll was really a police spy who
18 was in the Republican movement merely
19 to keep the government informed of what
20 was going on. ^{And} that comes as a
21 dramatic surprise in ^{this} ~~the~~ mysterious
22 case.

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GANHI - NEWS ITEM

Here's my news item of the day. It was picked by Frazier Hunt, the well-known war correspondent.

Spike Hunt has been pretty nearly everywhere on this spinning planet of ours, and it meant something when he said - THIS IS THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY STORY I'VE RUN ACROSS IN A LONG TIME.

It's an Associated Press dispatch from India. And it tells of an English woman who is associated with Mahatma Gandhi. She worships Gandhi with almost ~~right~~ religious fervor and looks after him like a child. She prepares his meals for him, and helps to keep his house.

Who is she? Why, she is Miss Madeleine Slade, daughter of Sir Edmund Slade, who for many years was the commander in chief of the British naval forces in Indian waters. She was reared in the aloof atmosphere of the British official class in the East - which is last word in being aloof. But the magic and mystery of India took hold of her. She renounced her

1 aristocratic British family and
2 embraced the strange life of a Hindu
3 ascetic. She shaved her head in
4 monastic fashion and gave all her money
5 to the poor. She burned her European
6 clothes, and ^{now she} goes around bare-footed,
7 wearing only the cheapest home-spun
8 Hindu garments, ^{called Khaddar.} She has taken the
9 Hindu name of Mirabai and when any of
10 her old English friends meet her and
11 ask her if she is Miss Slade she replies:
12 NO, MISS SLADE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR TEN YEARS.
13 Her father has disinherited her and at
14 times the British officials talk of
15 deporting her from India. But still
16 she remains a devoted disciple of Gandhi
17 and an ardent supporter of his fight
18 against British rule. She has become
19 a Hindu of the Hindus and even more
20 devoted to the mysteries of India than
21 they.

22 This is indeed a weird tale that
23 Frazier Hunt has selected as our News
24 Item of the Day. A tale of a white woman
25 going native — something that happens very,
very rarely in romantic India.

1 Well, all I can say is "Ouch" -
2 500 lashes with a leather strap! Who
3 got that awful licking? Well, a few
4 trees, fruit trees, pear trees, peach
5 trees, plum trees, and I suppose
6 mesquite. They may have even spanked
7 a few cactus plants. ^{You see -} It happened down
8 in Mexico.

9 According to the Associated Press
10 it's been a bad year for fruit ~~down~~
11 in the vicinity of Texcoco. The
12 peons down there believe that if a
13 tree doesn't do it's duty, well, ~~they~~ ^{it's}
14 are just like a man who doesn't do his
15 duty. ~~they~~ ^{it} need a good licking. So a
16 series of festive tribal dances were
17 held and then twenty brawny young men
18 equipped themselves with leather straps
19 and went through the orchards whipping
20 the trees. Fifty trees got ten lashes
21 a piece.

22 I don't know whether any of those
23 trees said "Ouch", but the mere thought
24 of all those leather straps in action
25 makes me ~~say "ouch"~~ ^{squirm and feel like}
^{saying it.}

1 From Peru comes word of an olive
2 branch. Provisional President Cerro
3 has come out with a statement that he
4 will not be a candidate for president
5 in the coming elections. This is the
6 olive branch, and it's extended to the
7 revolutionists in southern Peru who
8 are fighting the government.

9 The Associated Press states that
10 the rebels are still in control of
11 Arequipa, the second largest city in
12 Peru. The government, however, has
13 clamped a strict censorship on the
14 news, and it's hard to tell what the
15 military situation really is.

16 Well, we'll have to wait and see
17 whether the withdrawal of the Provisional
18 President from the forthcoming elections
19 will smooth things over and put an end
20 to the trouble.

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1 Chicago seems to be having a
2 quieter ^{time} ~~day~~ today than had been expected.
3 Primary elections are on and there's
4 a bitter fight among the Republicans.
5 Big Bill Thompson has been waging the
6 battle of his life to get himself re-
7 nominated for the office of Mayor.

8 The International News Service
9 reports that this afternoon three
10 automobiles full of hoodlums drove up
11 to a polling place. The hoodlums piled
12 out and started to beat up people. There
13 was a general fight and then the hoodlums
14 were driven away. The Chicago police
15 state that the rowdies were interested
16 not in the Mayoralty candidates, but only
17 in the nominations for local ward offices.

18 At another polling place the
19 voters staged a free-for-all ~~rough~~ fist
20 fight.

21 Yes, that makes it a quiet day.
22 All sorts of trouble was expected, and
23 only two fights of major importance
24 occurred.
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1 By the way, while on the subject
2 of politics, here's a good one which
3 this week's Literary Digest quotes from
4 the Lynchburg News:

5 A LOT OF PEOPLE MAKE NOISES
6 BECAUSE RASKOB IS FINANCING THE DEMOCRATIC
7 PARTY, BUT NOT MANY OF THEM HAVE COME
8 FORWARD WITH OFFERS TO RELIEVE HIM OF THE
9 JOB.

1 I've a telegram here from Bob
2 Harris, City Editor of the Cincinnati
3 Times-Star. He tells me of a man out
4 in Cincinnati who seems to have
5 established something of a record for
6 voting illegally.

7 He's John Kratz, ^{and he} ~~who~~ is 81 years
8 old. ^{John} ~~He~~ can't remember in how many
9 elections he has voted. But he has
10 been voting for 51 years, and he has
11 always taken an enthusiastic interest
12 in politics. He has voted for hundreds
13 of candidates. And every vote he cast
14 was illegal, because until today John
15 Kratz was not a citizen of the United
16 States.

17 He didn't know it. He was born
18 in Germany and came to this country
19 when he was a child. He was never
20 aware that his father had failed to
21 take out his second papers in the process
22 of becoming a citizen. ^{Recently,} ~~He~~ however,
23 ^{John} ~~Kratz~~ had ~~an~~ occasion to look up some
24 old matters, and then he discovered
25 that his father hadn't been a full

(5)

1 citizen. And that made it evident
2 that John himself wasn't a citizen.

3 He remembered how long he had
4 been voting when he had no right to do
5 so, and he thought of the penalties
6 for illegal voting. So he made a bee-
7 line for the Naturalization Bureau and
8 filed his papers. And now he won't
9 vote illegally any more, but just the
10 same he seems to have established a
11 record.

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AIRPLANE

Yes sirree, this looks like another record.

According to the Associated Press, Tex Rankin, an aviator at Portland, Oregon, claims to have set a new record for outside airplane loops. He went up in his plane and looped-the-loop the wrong way round, seventy-eight consecutive times. It took him eighty-eight minutes to do it. It was just round and round and round again for Tex. And doing outside loops is quite a chore as flyer Jimmie Doolittle would say.

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Now comes a case where not only the robbers are in jail, but also the victims of the robbery.

Three Chinese tried to steal \$3,000 worth of opium. They were arrested. The New York Evening Post informs us that the men they tried to rob were drug peddlers. And they're in jail also.

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1 This next item gave^s me a shiver.
2 In Washington, James Carroll was
3 at home, ^{trying his best} ~~and tried~~ to take things easy.
4 There was a terrific racket in the
5 basement. His twelve year old son,
6 Jimmie, and another boy were down there
7 playing.

8 Well, James Carroll is a
9 patient father and he'll stand a lot
10 from Jimmie. But finally that terrible
11 pounding and clankadee clank, bang,
12 zing, boom, got on his nerves. He went
13 down into the basement to make them
14 stop. He saw ^{that} the two boys were hammering
15 on a big round metal ^{pear-shaped object.} ~~sphere~~ The father
16 had been a ^{ugh} ~~dog~~ boy in France during the
17 World War, and he recognized that ~~round~~
18 object as a big aerial bomb. He nearly
19 jumped out of his skin, and the yell
20 he let out made the boys stop their
21 hammering.

22 According to the Associated
23 Press, the two lads had found the bomb
24 in a pile of junk and the huge missile
25 was in perfect working order, full of
high explosives. It might have gone off
with the next hard knock. *Yes Sir, that gives
me the shivers.*

1 No ^{is not an} this _x item ~~is not~~ about one
2 horse towns. It's about one man towns.
3 There are two towns in this country with
4 only one inhabitant a piece. Bourne,
5 Oregon, has a population of just one.
6 So has Arundale-on-the-Bay, which is
7 in Maryland.

8 According to the Associated
9 Press there are also two towns with a
10 population of exactly two. Gunn, Wyoming,
11 is inhabited by two people. It's gone ~~■~~
12 down a bit because ten years ago it had
13 a population of 313.

14 Only two people live in
15 Nevadaville, Colorado. Fifty-one lived
16 there in 1920.

17 The figures given out by the
18 Census Bureau show that ~~Missouri~~ ^{Missouri} has more
19 towns of less than one hundred inhabitants
20 than any other state in the Union. It
21 has forty, to be exact.

22 I don't know how many horses
23 are in a one horse town. But a one man
24 town ought to be a great place to live in
25 if you ^{want elbow room.} ~~don't care for company.~~

1 This evening's beauty hint is
2 on the subject--no, not of rosy red
3 cheeks, but of green cheeks.

4 The Associated Press reports that
5 a great French authority on feminine
6 beauty has told the Philadelphia Hair
7 Dressers Association that the ladies
8 ought to start in using green face
9 powder.

10 He explains that the startling,
11 knock-your-eye-out type of scarlet,
12 crimson, and vermillioⁿ makeup is out of
13 date. Those cheeks that flame with a
14 blush bought at a drug store, those
15 lips that smeared lipstick on everything
16 they touched--they're just old-fashioned
17 now.

18 The ~~new~~ Parisian expert~~s~~ says the
19 whole ~~modern~~ type of feminine makeup
20 will have to be toned down. In fact,
21 it will go to the opposite extreme, and
22 a pale green face powder has been
23 compounded for the new style. That will
24 make beautiful ladies look pale and
25 fragile.

1 For use in the evening, however,
2 the ladies are taking to a lavender
3 face powder, and that makes them look
4 even more delicate and pale.

5 Well, if those styles of beauty
6 keep on changing, I suppose the ladies
7 will be using burnt cork next.

1 In this week's issue of the Literary
2 Digest there's a picture of a sturdy lad
3 in overalls. He's the Literary Digest
4 baby and Here's the story:--

5 A dozen years ago, while the World
6 War was raging, a batch of magazines
7 arrived at a training camp. You know how
8 people were sending reading matter to
9 the soldiers. Well, one doughboy grabbed
10 into the stack and fished out a copy of
11 the Literary Digest. On it was the name
12 and address of a young woman. He wrote
13 to her, thanking her for helping provide
14 the boys with something to read. She
15 wrote back, and a correspondence began.
16 Then they met. A romance grew up
17 between them—and they were married.

18 They are Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Van
19 Court, of Los Angeles, California. Now
20 they send the Literary Digest a picture
21 of their son and they also tell how
22 husky and bright he is, and they say he
23 is known as the Literary Digest baby.

24 And that is the story of one of the
25 happier romances that began in those
troubled times of war more than a dozen
years ago.

THIMBLE

The other night I said something on the subject of thimbles, -- that a flapper doesn't know what a thimble is, or something of the sort.

Well, I have a letter here from Miss Icida Ripps of Gardner, Massachusetts, and she tells me that she's one flapper who knows exactly what a thimble is. Says Icida Ripps "I make all my own clothes and I, therefore, am well acquainted with the diminutive, argenteous, truncated cone; convex on its summit, and semi-perforated with symmetrical indentations!

Which is Icida's Bostonian way of describing the lowly thimble.

To which I can only say -- is zat so? And,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.