

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1931

HOOVER

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

During the next couple of months a lot of people are going to have a chance to see and hear the President of the United States. It was announced at the White House today that a speaking program had been mapped out for President Hoover. Between April and June he will make eight public addresses, the first four in Washington.

Then on June 16th, according to the Associated Press, the President will review the annual encampment of the G. A. R. at Columbus, Ohio, in the morning -- then he will motor to Marion, Ohio, to dedicate the handsome marble memorial to President Harding.

On June 17th the Chief Executive will re-dedicate the tomb of Lincoln at Springfield, Ohio.

On May 30th Mr. Hoover will make a Memorial Day address at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. And on June 15th he will appear before the Republican State Editorial Association at Indianapolis.

After that he is expected to continue on a tour of the West, but this has not yet been planned out definitely.

According to the International News Service, friends of the President deny that this speaking program has any particular political significance. But it is admitted that in some of his speeches President Hoover will defend himself and his policies against the attacks that have been made by his opponents in Congress.

In this case, however, Admiral de Steiguer was performing the ceremony of officially starting work on a new United States cruiser, which will be called the New Orleans.

The New Orleans is the first of the 10,000 ton cruisers which the ^{United States} Government is going to build in accordance with the Naval Treaty of London.

And so the construction of what are called the Treaty Cruisers began today with a full-fledged Admiral operating the riveter.

1 Today, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard,
2 there was a loud clanging sound of
3 a riveter. Well, that sound is not
4 unusual at a Navy Yard, but this
5 particular ^{deafening} thrumming tune had an
6 unusual significance. For one thing
7 the riveter was operated by an Admiral
8 and as you may surmise, Admirals
9 as a general thing don't do much plain
10 practical dock-yard riveting.

11 In this case, however, Admiral
12 ^{deStygger} deStygger was performing the ceremony
13 of/officially starting work on a new
14 United States cruiser, which will be
15 called the New Orleans.

16 The New Orleans is the first of
17 the 10,000 ton cruisers which ^{uncle Sam} ~~the United~~
18 ~~States Government is going to~~ ^{is} build ^{ing} in
19 accordance with the Naval Treaty of
20 London.

21 And so the construction of what are
22 called the Treaty Cruisers began today
23 with a full-fledged Admiral operating
24 the riveter.
25

KIMBALL

And talking about the weather - which we were not - but we usually are. A luncheon was held in New York City today for a man whom most of you may not even know by name. But he probably has helped bring International fame to more persons than any man alive.

The luncheon was given by the International League of Aviators, an organization made up of the greatest flyers of all lands. And the purpose of the affair was to honor a certain modest, shy, gray-haired little man.

They presented him with a gold plaque. On one side was engraved the words making him a member of the International League of Aviators. On the other side were engraved the signatures of some of the world's foremost flyers -- Bleriot, the first man to fly the English Channel, Santos Dumont, Lindbergh, Sir Alan Cobham, the Marquis de Pinedo, and many others.

Who was the little gray haired

1 man they were thus honoring? Who was
2 the little man who has done so much
3 to bring fame to a legion of others?

Well, that's where the weather comes in.

4 He was Doctor James Kimball of the
5 United States Weather Bureau.

6 The plaque was presented by
7 Captain Lon Yancey, who made the trans-
8 Atlantic flight to Rome. And among the
9 many ^{other} speakers who paid tribute to Doctor
10 Kimball were Colonel Fitzmaurice from
11 Ireland, Captain Courtney from England,
12 Colonel Hartley, the American flyer of
13 World War fame, Colonel Kerwood of the
14 Lafayette Flying Corps *and others.*

15 So far as I know this is the first
16 time Doctor Kimball has been ~~thus~~
17 publicly honored. All aviators take
18 off their hats to him. All flying men
19 sing his praises.

20 In fact, when they attempt a
21 trans-Atlantic hop they pray to the
22 Almighty and then telephone to Doctor
23 Kimball. ^{*They phone the Doctor*} to find out whether or not he
24 thinks they ought to start.

25 When they reach the other side they

1 give thanks to the Almighty,---and to
2 Doctor Kimball, the modest gray-haired
3 scientist who charts the winds and the
4 clouds above the North Atlantic.

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1 This afternoon pandemonium
2 reigned in the big prison in Joliet,
3 Illinois. 1200 convicts rioted. 4
4 were shot, two of whom ^{perhaps} may be fatally
5 ~~wounded~~. The casualties among the
6 wardens consisted of one broken arm
7 which was suffered by the Captain of
8 the Guard.

9 The trouble started when the
10 second shift of convicts filed in for
11 the noon lunch hour. They began to
12 yell and raise ructions. ^{In fact they went berserk,}
13 up the dining hall ^{and kitchen} and milled out into
14 the courtyard and wrecked a couple of
15 workshops.

16 The guards fired a volley of
17 bullets and then used tear gas.

18 According to the International
19 News Service, trouble has been brewing
20 out there ever since three convicts
21 were killed in an ^{unsuccessful} attempt to escape.
22 ~~that miscarried~~. Recently ^a ~~another~~
23 convict died after three days in
24 solitary confinement and that added to
25 the ugly feeling. ~~in the prison.~~

Tonight 45 of the ring leaders are in double irons.

But let's pass on to something less sinister and ominous.

Literary Digest. Maybe it's the influence of spring on the Digest editors, but in any case they certainly have gone far and wide and plucked up some of the finest tales I've ever read about bears and lions and elephants and penguins--and one piffy little thriller about a Georgia wildcat.

That wildcat put on a rip-snorting, snarling, tooth-and-tail fight with a railroad locomotive.

"Toot-toot, chug-chug!" is the way the Digest begins, and quotes the Louisville Herald-Post as saying that the train was the early morning fast train of the Savannah and Statesboro Railroad rearing along through Georgia. Ahead somewhere in the brush was a particularly onery specimen of Georgia wildcat. And that mean little critter didn't like the noise of the train and the glare of the headlight.

Old Mr. Cat jumped into the middle

1 I've been having a good time this
2 week reading the animal stories in the
3 Literary Digest. Maybe it's the
4 influence of spring on the Digest
5 editors, but in any case they certainly
6 have gone far and wide and picked up
7 some of the finest tales I've ever read
8 about bears and lions and elephants and
9 penguins--and one nifty little thriller
10 about a Georgia wildcat.

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12 snarling, tooth-and-toenail fight with
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16 Louisville Herald-Post as saying that
17 the train was the early morning fast
18 train of the Savannah and Statesboro
19 Railroad roaring along through Georgia.
20 Ahead somewhere in the brush was a
21 particularly onery specimen of Georgia
22 wildcat. And that mean little critter
23 didn't like the noise of the train and
24 the glare of the headlight.

25 Old Mr. Cat jumped into the middle

1 of the track and crouched. The engineer
2 saw it in the glare of the headlight.

3 The locomotive bore down on the wildcat.

4 *H* Did the cat turn tail and run? Not a
5 bit! He gave a wild snarl, leaped on

6 the cowcatcher, and climbed up ~~into~~
7 the searchlight, biting and clawing.

8 He scrambled over the light and got on
9 to the scorching plates of the boiler.

10 It was hot, plenty hot, and Mr. Cat

11 wriggled and squirmed. Then he climbed

12 on to the cool surface of the bell and

13 stayed there, glaring at the men in the

14 lighted cab. *H* The fireman was a negro.

15 He got a red hot poker and made his

16 way ^{*down the cat walks along the*} ~~along~~ side of the locomotive ~~to~~ to

17 do battle with the enraged ^{*animal,*} ~~wildcat.~~

18 And right there the old terror of the

19 Georgia brush made his last leap. He

20 sprang at the fireman who caught him on

21 the end of the red hot poker. For an

22 instant the wildcat clawed at the ~~flaming~~

23 flaming iron, and then tumbled down the

24 side of the boiler over the piston rods

25 and on down to the ground.

1 ■■ He had fought his last fight.
2 That red hot poker had finished him
3 off. And the great state of Georgia
4 was minus one large and mean-tempered
5 wildcat.

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PRINCE OF WALES

This afternoon a big show was opened down in Buenos Aires. That British Trade Exposition. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was the center of attraction and formally opened the affair.

It was a much ballyhooed event although there was a small fly in the ointment. ~~According to the Associated Press,~~ Many of the British exhibits were not ready, and that caused much dismay. Only the Canadian section is complete. H.R.H. is said to be somewhat peeved. But, just the same, the Prince of salesmen did his part with his usual grace and finesse, which, as we all know, is about the last word in finesse.

1 I can't tell you much about this
2 next item and I suppose ^{that's} ~~it's~~ a good
3 thing. There's a ■ secret in it which
4 might as well be kept ^{mun.} ~~a secret~~

5 The world's deadliest poison has
6 been discovered. A single drop would
7 be enough to kill 10,000 people! And
8 one whiff would prove fatal, a deadly
9 perfume that no one would want to smell.

10 According to the International
11 ^SNew Service, this most lethal of all
12 drugs has been discovered in South
13 Africa. It's made by chemical process
14 from a tropical bulb which grows amid
15 the dank vegetation of Africa. They
16 say it leaves no trace in the victim's
17 body and might be turned into a terrific
18 menace.

19 And so it's being kept a profound
20 secret. The South African government
21 has ordered that all facts concerning
22 how to make it shall be kept a dark and
23 impenetrable mystery. — *and I hope they*
24 *even forget what it is.*

25

1 Out on the strange and far
2 away island of Madagascar three men
3 are in a hospital, slowly regaining
4 their strength after a long, bitter
5 ordeal. They are survivors of a party
6 of fisherfolk from the old French
7 Province of Brittany, who were left and
8 almost forgotten for a year on a sun-
9 baked speck of land, ~~in the Indian~~

10 ~~Ocean.~~

*Further details regarding their
story have just come winging across the world.*

11 ~~The~~ A French Company established
12 a lobster canning factory on the
13 tiny island of St. Paul in the New
14 Amsterdam Archipelago, ^{in the South Pacific} The workers in
15 the factory were sturdy fisher folk
16 from the stormy coast of Brittany. There
17 was a fire in the canning plant, and the
18 company took away the workers, all
19 except eight, who volunteered to remain
20 on the sun blistered island until new
21 machinery could be installed. One of
22 the eight was a woman.

23 *Far away* And so they were left there on
24 that [^] island of St. Paul. There were no
25 fresh vegetables. Their food supplies

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1 ran low. ^{And} They had only canned lobster
2 to eat. ^H Now canned lobster may be a
3 luxury for some, but it isn't after you've
4 eaten it day in and day out. There was
5 no water. The apparatus they used for
6 distilling fresh water from the sea
7 broke down. They repaired it, but it
8 never worked quite right. Three of
9 them died of scurvy, including the
10 woman.

11 A negro servant dragged himself
12 away to die alone.

13 In October, Pierre, the powerful,
14 hardy Breton fisherman, arose one
15 day and quietly put on his old Breton
16 costume of handsome velvet. He dressed
17 himself with the greatest care and at
18 night embarked alone in a boat. He
19 wanted to die at sea. He disappeared
20 in the darkness and was ^{never} ~~not~~ seen again.

21 Then, after a year, according to
22 the International News Service, a ship put
23 in at St. Paul Island, and took off the
24 survivors who were more dead than alive,
25 and landed them at Madagascar. ^{But the}
^{news comes now that they are all on the}
^{road to recovery.}

LANDSLIDE

4
1 Over in the Alps ^{that} a big slice of a
2 mountain is still moving.

3 Last evening I told how it had
4 already engulfed ~~a couple of~~ ^{several} villages,
5 and this evening the news is that the
6 enormous avalanche, which was caused by
7 recent rains, is still on its way down
8 the mountain slope and is threatening to
9 blot out town after town. On and on
10 it comes ^{rumbling and} thundering. ~~as it climbs its way~~
11 It looks like a mud wall 50 feet high.
12 ~~that is creeping along.~~

13 The fairly large town of Grángés
14 is right in the path of those millions
15 of tons of stone and earth that are
16 advancing like some ^{Gargantuan} ~~giant~~ Juggernaut
17 of nature. The people have fled from
18 the town, which seems certain to be
19 destroyed.

20 According to the International News
21 Service, military engineers are trying
22 to stop that moving chunk of mountain.
23 They're attempting to do it by splitting
24 it up, by opening channels which will
25 divert part of it one way and part

another.

The Associated Press states that the dry weather has slowed down the landslide somewhat. Yesterday it was ambling along at the rate of 300 feet an hour, but now it has slowed up a little. It doesn't slide so easily over dry ground as it did over a wet slimy surface.

It's a terrific and unearthly phenomenon, as you might expect when a slice of mountain gets under way and goes marching.

1 Now comes a big, ruthless hand
2 sweeping away some more of the relics
3 and customs of the past.

4 Mussolini has ordered that all
5 municipal import duties shall be
6 abolished in Italy. ^{according to the A.P.} These were duties
7 that had to be paid on goods passed from
8 one town to another. They were old
9 relics left over from the Middle Ages
10 when Italy was split up into many little
11 city states, which half of the time were
12 at war with each other.

13 Well, American tourists will
14 rejoice, because those municipal import
15 duties were a prime source of annoyance.
16 A tourist motoring along would be stopped
17 at the boundary of a municipality, have
18 his baggage examined and have to pay
19 duties on one thing or another.

20 ~~According to the Associated Press,~~
21 ~~Greece is the only country left in Europe~~
22 ~~where cities still levy a tariff at their~~
23 ~~boundary lines.~~

24 So, let's chant the old refrain
25 about how the old order passeth, giving
way to the new, *and see what we have next.*

ATHOS

Huh! This next is another case of how the old order passeth.

In Greece is the famous mountain of Athos, renowned in song and story. In the classical times of Ancient Greece, Mount Athos, which stands on a promontory that juts out in the sea, represented a dreaded danger point for mariners.

Later on it became the site of a monastery, one of the most historic in the world.

Of recent times, the monastery of Mount Athos has been one of those places where time stands still. It was like a bit of the Middle Ages, lingering on into modern life.

But now the monks of Mount Athos have appealed to the Greek Government and have won the right to keep hens in the monastery - that is, chickens that lay eggs, and that's a decided break with the past. The monastery has always been one of the strictest and severest in the world. No woman was ever admitted within its precincts -- not even a female animal or bird. That was sternly forbidden by the ancient laws of the monks of Athos.

Well, the old ways disappear, and, according to the Associated Press, the austere brothers of the holy mountain have acquired a desire to have eggs for breakfast. In order to have eggs you must have hens. So they had to appeal to the Greek Government to get permission to establish a barn-yard and now for the first time in 1500 years, hens are cackling and clucking within the precincts of the monastery on the holy mount of Athos.

Well, I suppose we might as well repeat that refrain about how the old order passeth, giving way to the new, and see if we can get along to something else.

Ah yes, yes indeed, I know what comes next. Just one look at the clock tells me that. It reminds me that not only does the old order pass, but so do the minutes, and so do I. And the time has come when I must say,

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.