

VOLIVA

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast
for The Literary Digest
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Good Evening, Everybody!

1 It won't do to begin ~~this story~~ ^{the proceedings this}
2 ^{evening} with the old refrain "FOR HE KNEW THE
3 WORLD WAS ROUND, YOHO!" Columbo was
4 wrong. ~~And~~ So we'll have to sing "FOR HE
5 ~~MM~~ KNOWS THE WORLD IS FLAT, YOHO!"

6 I mean Wilbur Glen Voliva, the
7 overseer of Zion, and leader of that
8 ~~curious~~ ^{interesting} religious sect out in the Middle
9 West. Voliva has just returned from an
10 extended trip. The steamship company
11 advertised it ~~was~~ a trip around the
12 world, but Voliva says that the world is
13 flat and you can't go around it except
14 as you might go around a saucer.

15 According to an interview in the
16 New York World-Telegram, he maintains
17 that in his travels he has found ~~proof~~
18 that the world is flat. He adds that
19 when the famous explorer, Roald Amundsen
20 was lost while flying in the Far North--
21 that proved the world was flat. Because
22 what happened to Amundsen was simple--
23 he fell right off the edge of the earth.
24 And that proves that the world is flat--
25 yoho! *And that's that.*

1 The Democratic National Committee
2 met today for a spirited session at
3 the Mayflower Hotel, in Washington. The
4 crowd of delegates was so large that
5 the grand ball-room was used for the
6 meeting.

7 Everything began with a display
8 of friendly harmony but it wasn't long
9 before the fight, which everybody expected,
10 was under way.

11 Well you know the cause of the
12 trouble down there, Prohibition.
13 According to the International News
14 Service Chairman Raskob addressed the
15 delegates and suggested a plan for
16 amending the Constitution and throwing
17 the liquor question back to the States.
18 He said he didn't want the delegates
19 to adopt the plan but just to consider
20 it. He wanted them to consider it and
21 then recommend it to the next
22 Democratic Convention, which gathers in
23 1932.

24 There was an immediate protest
25 from among the large delegation of

1 Southern Prohibitionists and there is
2 certain to be a large and rousing
3 fight over the question.

4 The Raskob suggestion will not
5 be voted upon by the present Committee.
6 He merely proposed it to them to bring
7 it to the notice of the Democratic
8 party.

9 Right after Chairman Raskob's
10 speech two former candidates for the
11 Presidency entered: Ex-Governors Cox
12 and Smith. They received a rousing
13 demonstration. Another former
14 candidate John W. Davis telegraphed
15 that he could ^{not} attend. ~~the meeting~~
16 ~~of the Committee.~~

1 Now comes the matter of pin
2 money for the First Lady of the Land.
3 The case is in the courts at Philadelphia.

4 Henry G. Freeman, Jr. left a
5 will which provided that \$12,000. a year
6 should be paid to the First Lady of the
7 Land, that is, the wife of the President.
8 It ~~was~~^{is} to be called The Pin Money Fund,
9 and it is to remain in force, says the
10 will - as long as this glorious
11 government lasts.

12 According to that Mrs. Herbert
13 Hoover is entitled to receive \$12,000^{Freeman} a
14 year out of the estate. But there
15 is some question about it. Lawyers
16 say that a perpetual donation like that
17 cannot be legally provided for in a will,
18 and so it is up to the courts to decide
19 whether the First Lady of the Land will
20 get that pin money of \$12,000, a year or
21 not.
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1 Of course, we have all heard
2 about the Washingtons, and ^{we all} know they
3 had something to do with the
4 government of the United States -
5 especially ~~that~~ ^{one} member of the Washington
6 family ~~who was~~ named George. Most of
7 us, however, don't realize that there
8 are still Washingtons in the service
9 of the United States Government,
10 descendants of George Washington. *I mean,*

11 Dr. Richard Washington who
12 descends from the same family as the
13 first president, recently retired from
14 the Treasury Department, but, according
15 to the Associated Press, Miss Anne
16 Maddison Washington is still in the
17 service of the government, and she is a
18 ~~lineal~~ descendant of John August ⁱⁿ ~~is~~
19 Washington, brother of the celebrated
20 George.

1 It isn't news to say that Al
2 Capone is in the news again today,
3 but there are several items pertaining
4 to the king of the Big Shots which
5 are a trifle curious.

6 They brought a man from a ~~dude~~
7 dude ranch to Chicago to question him
8 about Capone's doings. His name is
9 Altrie and he used to be ^{so they say,} a member of
10 one of the gangs that opposed Capone.

11 I read a story about this Altrie.
12 It was somewhat amusing. He was described
13 as having been a two gun man from the
14 Wild West who came to Chicago and took
15 a hand in the wild and woolie doings
16 there. One night a couple of Capone
17 gangsters got hold of him and took his
18 guns away from him and told him he'd
19 better go back west - GO WEST YOUNG MAN,
20 GO WEST. And he did. The two gun
21 man returned to the sagebrush and
22 roaring gulches of Colorado.

23 And now, according to the
24 Associated Press, he has been brought
25 back from the West to Chicago, and the

1 ~~xxxxx~~ police are asking him questions.
2 The report is that he isn't talking.

3 Simultaneously in Chicago
4 Capone's attorneys appeared before
5 the court and objected to the fact that
6 the papers call him Scarface. They
7 said he wasn't baptized Scarface and
8 he shouldn't be called that. The
9 District Attorney agreed to this and
10 Scarface was taken out of the papers.

11 In New York there seems to
12 be a woman Capone. The New York Telegram
13 tells about her in a story concerning
14 the ^{tragic end} ~~murder~~ of Vivian Gordon. That
15 crime was one of the most vicious in
16 the long and ugly annals of gangdom.

17 The woman Capone is said
18 to be a beautiful lady of the underworld,
19 who has so many secrets at the expense
20 of important people that she has
21 considerable control over crime and
22 politics. That's why they call her the
23 female Capone.

1 Let's see! I think I remember
2 a song that used to go: BROWN EYES
3 WHY ARE YOU BLUE? Well, this next
4 item is just the opposite. It's -
5 BLUE EYES WHY ARE YOU BROWN?

6 There's a ~~xxx~~ law suit on in
7 Chicago and the question before the
8 Judge and jury consists of the brown
9 eyes of a little boy. It's an
10 inheritance case, and one side says
11 the boy cannot be the son of the couple
12 who left the money, because the
13 supposed parents had blue eyes and the
14 boy has brown eyes. They call upon
15 the name of Mendel, a famous old
16 abbot of a German monastery, who grew
17 a garden full of sweetpeas and studied
18 them and formed what is called the
19 Mendēlian law. The claim is that
20 according to the ~~xxxxx~~ Mendēlian law
21 two blue-eyed parents cannot have a
22 brown-eyed child.

23 Well, that seems to be all
24 wrong because in that Chicago court
25 expert evidence has been produced to

1 the contrary. They brought forth
2 several cases of blue-eyed parents
3 who have brown-eyed children. A
4 professor of biology testified that
5 the human eyes follow the Mendēlian
6 law of inheritance less than any other
7 feature of the human body, and then a
8 doctor who is a child specialist said
9 that there was no definite relationship
10 in the claim of the eyes of parents
11 and ~~xxx~~ their children, and that the
12 Mendēlian law doesn't work in that
13 respect.

14 And so the question of BROWN
15 EYES WHY ARE YOU BLUE seems to be
16 answered: - WELL, JUST BECAUSE.

OBSOLETE LAWS

1 This next item isn't a case of--
2 THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW. It says THERE
3 OUGHT NOI TO BE A LAW. Meaning that
4 there are a lot of laws on the statute
5 books that ought to be taken off.

6 The New York World-Telegram informs
7 us that in New York State, Assemblyman
8 Carl Pack is trying to get 62 laws
9 annulled, because they're obsolete.
10 There's the anti-duelling law, for example.
11 It forbids men to meet on the field of
12 honor with swords and pistols and seconds.
13 I don't suppose there has been a duel in
14 New York State in a hundred years.

15 Then there's the fugitive slave
16 law. That was enacted 70 or 80 years
17 ago and was one of the events that
18 brought on the Civil War. New Yorkers
19 are still commanded by law to return
20 slaves that have escaped from the South,
21 in spite of the fact that slavery has
22 been abolished in the South ever since
23 the war in which all those southern
24 Colonels fought.

25 There's a law forbidding anybody

1 to leave the state with the intent to
2 elude the state law against prize
3 fighting. The trouble is that the law
4 against prize fighting was repealed
5 ^{some} ~~many~~ years ago and prize fighting is
6 quite legal in New York State. In other
7 words, there's a law against evading
8 a law which doesn't exist any more.

9 Yes, there are many cases in which
10 the old cry THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW
11 should be ~~■~~ changed to-- THERE OUGHT
12 NOT TO BE A LAW.

1 Storms are still raging along
2 the Atlantic. According to the ~~Inter~~
3 International News Service, both the
4 gale and the tides are the highest
5 in many years. One and a half million
6 dollars ^{in the way} of damage has been done.
7 Ships are in distress--the Liner
8 Rosalind bound from St. Johns to New
9 York has sent in ^{call for help.} ~~an SOS.~~ She has
10 lost her propellor and is riding
11 helplessly in the storm. Ships have
12 put out to find the Rosalind but ~~it is~~
13 ~~expected that~~ they ^{may} ~~will~~ have trouble
14 in helping her ^{on account} ~~because~~ of the violence
15 of the storm.

1 ~~And~~ ^{And} it's a wild night out
2 in the Indian Ocean, ^{which is} ~~and that is~~ a long
3 distance away. A cyclone of terrific
4 forces has been sweeping over the
5 island of Mauritius. Houses have ^{been} blown
6 down. In others people are keeping
7 strictly indoors for fear of being hit
8 by flying debris.

9 According to the International
10 News Service two British steamers have
11 gone ashore.

12 Mauritius has ^{a population of some} 400,000 people,
13 mostly Hindus, working on sugar
14 plantations. It is a tropical island, some
15 1500 miles south of the Equator and
16 600 miles east of Madagascar. Cyclones
17 and typhoons are fairly common out that
18 way.

RUSSIA

Here's an Associated Press dispatch which states that a number of officers in the Red Army have been arrested by order of the Soviets. Among them are two generals, one of whom is General Bluecher, regarded as a great soldier of Soviet Russia. They are said to be involved in a conspiracy to start an anti-Soviet movement in the Ukraine. And that sounds like the same old story, with a slightly different cast.

1 Distressing word comes from
2 London tonight. It's about the
3 British Empire Trade Exhibition which
4 is to open at Buenos Aires on March
5 14th. The Prince of Wales, ~~the~~ *premier*
6 salesman of the British Empire, is to
7 open the exhibition. *He arrived at Buenos*
8 *Aires this afternoon.*

9 But an article in the London
10 Daily Express states that the exhibition
11 is going to be something of a flop.
12 Most of the buildings are only half
13 finished ~~now~~ and ~~won't~~ be ready when the
14 Prince of Wales does his opening act.
15 About the only parts that are ready
16 are the German side shows and the
17 American motion picture shows.

18 According to the New York
19 Evening Post it looks as if the Prince
20 in opening that British Empire Trade
21 Exhibition, is going to preside
22 principally over German and American
23 enterprises. *But even so I'll*
24 *wager he does it gracefully and that*
25 *he wins more friends for old John Bull.*
He always does.

Now comes

1 ~~Well, this is~~ an ironical
2 turn. One of the world's famous
3 radicals has become a peer of the realm.
4 He is Bertrand Russell, well known as
5 a mathematician, philosopher, a skeptic
6 and a radical. His brother, Earl
7 Russell, has died, and Bertrand Russell
8 is his heir. That makes him the new
9 Earl Russell.

10 Well, the Earl Russell who
11 has died was a curious fellow. According
12 to the Associated Press, he was tried
13 by the House of Lords for ~~bigamy~~
14 bigamy and sentenced to three months in
15 prison. He had ~~obtained~~ ^{obtained a} divorce at Reno
16 and ^{then} re-married, but the House of Lords
17 did not recognize the Reno divorce.

18 He was a Socialist. He was
19 also a Buddhist for a while, but afterward
20 decided that the religion of the lamas
21 of Tibet wasn't so perfect after all.

22 He was an odd peer of the
23 realm, but Bertrand Russell who succeeds
24 him will also make a singular figure in the
25 House of Lords. He is against all kinds
of old fashioned, conservative fripperies
and vanities. But an Earl he is and I
suppose an Earl he will remain.

1 I guess I must be a sentimental
 2 fellow. I like to laugh and make fun ^{of}
 3 ~~of~~ things once in a while, but I never
 4 can resist the old heart-throb when it
 5 comes along.

6 Last night I read a poem. It's
 7 in a book of gay, mocking, satirical
 8 verse. The poet is Wilfred Funk, who
 9 is making a large reputation as a
 10 merry fellow of quips and satires.
 11 But I guess I'm not the only one who
 12 feels that familiar old heart-throb.
 13 Wilfred Funk does too. Anyway, ⁱⁿ that
 14 collection of biting, ironical verses,
 15 I found this tender, simple little bit.
 16 It's called "Childless", and it goes
 17 this way:

18 "....Then grant to me,
 19 O God, the dear untidy hints
 20 Of children, tiny finger prints
 21 Along the walls: laughter to meet
 22 My ears in sudden gales: the Sweet
 23 Disorder of a nursery floor:
 24 The hushed closing of a door
 25 At twilight, then, O Lord, the ^{charms} ~~charm~~
 Of little, soft encircling arms.
 And sleepy eyes...."

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Yes, folks, even the mocking and satirical poet can't help from getting a bit sentimental once in a while.

Captain Campbell says there is no excitement in going four miles a minute. They say stopping at that speed is the real thrill.

The Digest quotes that from the Detroit News, and gives us one from the Louisville Times:

"Style arbiters tell us that the spring mode will be brighter clothes for men. But what is needed here is brighter men, not brighter clothes."

And then here's one which the Digest gives us from the Virginia-Pilot:

"I hope the ship they christen Coolidge will choose to run."

1 Here is a line I saw on the
2 Topics in Brief page in this week's
3 Literary Digest: *it reads:*—

4 "Captain Campbell says there is
5 no excitement in going four miles a
6 minute. They say stopping at that
7 speed is the real thrill."

8 The Digest quotes that from
9 the Detroit News, and gives us one
10 from the Louisville Times:

11 "Style arbiters tell us that
12 the spring mode will be brighter
13 clothes for men. But what is needed
14 more is brighter men." ~~for clothes."~~

15 And then here's one which the
16 Digest gives us from the Virginian-
17 Pilot:

18 "We hope the ship they christen
19 Coolidge 'will choose to run?'"

1 Here comes a sound of loud cheering
2 amid ^{lots of} biff! ^{and} bang! It's the sound of a
3 football game. And the cheer leaders
4 on one side are yelling ALLAH U AKBAR,
5 meaning ALLAH IS GREAT--while the cheer
6 leaders on the other side are shrieking
7 with no less enthusiasm, HOORAY FOR THE
8 FISH-EYED GODDESS. *Jai Jai Minakshi ka jai!*

9 Meaning that in Bangalore, in
10 Southern India, two Indian football
11 teams met in a hot battle. One team was
12 Mohammedan and the other ~~was~~ Hindu.

13 You know how athletic sports are
14 supposed to promote international
15 friendship; and ^{how they} ~~that~~ usually produce
16 international fighting? Well, that
17 football game didn't do anything at
18 all to promote the spirit of brotherly
19 love between the Mohammedans and the
20 Hindus.

21 The game ended in a grand fight
22 in which 65 assorted Moslem and Hindu
23 fans were ~~injured~~ injured, and 45 equally
24 assorted were put in jail. Those boys
25 out there just got a little too

1 enthusiastic in their shouts of ALLAH
2 IS GREAT, and HOORAY FOR THE FISH-EYED
3 GODDESS! According to the Associated
4 Press, the Hindus won and the score
5 was 3 to 0.

6 ~~That's our last item~~ So I'll
7 give a ringing cheer of Jai Jai HOORAY
8 FOR THE FISH-EYED GODDESS!

9 And, so long until tomorrow.

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