

INIRO

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST
FOR THE LITERARY DI- Page _____
GEST, TUESDAY EVENING,
APRIL 28, 1931

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3 GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY-- I suppose
4 I could name a thousand ways in which
5 I am not at all like President Hoover.
6 But let's just take one way.

7 The President today called off his
8 usual conference with the newspaper men
9 in Washington. Ordinarily the boys
10 get together and the Chief Executive
11 talks over with them the latest affairs
12 of state. That didn't happen today.
13 The President said there wouldn't be any
14 conference. The reason ^{as} ~~being~~ given by
15 one of his secretaries ^{was} that the President
16 didn't have any news to tell.

17 And that's one way in which I differ
18 from ^{President Hoover - for} ~~the head of the United States~~
19 ~~Government.~~ [^] Tonight I have an array
20 of assorted news from all over the world--
21 news that's serious and news that's not
22 so serious---For instance
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NEW YORK

The New York evening papers are all carrying screaming 8-column heads telling us that Governor Roosevelt has dismissed the charges against Mayor Walker.

Those charges were made by the Affairs Committee of New York City and they were to the effect that the Mayor was incompetent and should be removed from office.

In throwing the charges out the window Governor Roosevelt issued a statement in which he assured the public he had given the complaint earnest consideration but found no sufficient justification for removing the Mayor from office. According to the International News Service the Governor added that the charges were so general in character that for a time he wondered whether they deserved any consideration at all, whether any even deserved a public statement on his part.

I guess we can sum up this particular news item by saying that things turned out as most people expected them to turn out.

SIAM

In Washington, government dignitaries are brushing up on the subject of royal etiquette. The King and Queen of Siam are guests in the national capital tonight. Among the officials who received them at the Union Station were Vice-President Curtis, Secretary of State Stimson, General MacArthur, Commander in Chief of the Army and many others.

Tomorrow morning Their Majesties from Siam will pay a formal visit to President and Mrs. Hoover. This will take place at a quarter past ten. The call will be brief. An hour later the President and the First Lady of the Land will return the call. That's the way it's done according to royal etiquette.

Meanwhile, some of the socially important folks in Washington are looking up the books which tell about the quaint Kingdom of Siam. They are reading plenty about the sacred greyish - White Elephant, which apparently isn't what she used to be. King Prajatipok says the Siamese no longer bow down to the White Elephant.

UNCLE SAM

Yes sir, there should be a memorial. "What memorial?"
Why a memorial to Uncle Sam. The citizens of Troy, New York,
are saying that a memorial ought to be erected to the old boy in
the tall star spangled hat.

"And where should such a memorial be erected?"

"Why, in Troy, New York," respond the folks of that city.

They want the federal government officially the fact
that the original Uncle Sam was Samuel Wilson, who lived in Troy.

He was a contractor who furnished supplies to the Army
in the War of 1812. He was widely known as Uncle Sam and marked
boxes and barrels which he shipped with the initials -- U.S.

This, according to the Associated Press, was such a
regular thing that whenever the name of the United States was
abbreviated the people said it stood for "Uncle Sam."

And that was how this country got its nickname -- at
least so say in Troy.

KIDNAPPING

1 The St. Louis Post-Dispatch today
2 states in a copyrighted story that
3 Doctor Isaac Kelly, the wealthy
4 physician who has been missing for more
5 than a week has been found ^{and found by} ~~by the Post~~
6 a Post-Dispatch reporter.

7 The disappearance of Doctor Kelly
8 was a mysterious affair. He dropped out
9 of sight suddenly.

10 The United Press tells us that the
11 Doctor admitted to the reporter of the
12 St. Louis newspaper that he had been
13 kidnapped but that no ransom had been
14 paid. ~~The mystery of the whole affair~~

15 ~~is not explained.~~ There is still
16 some mystery in the affair.
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STRIKE

A pitched battle took place in Kentucky today. It was between Deputy Sheriffs and men who are said to be miners on strike.

According to the United Press the scrap took place at Black Mountain. The strikers attacked the Deputies and more than 2000 shots were fired. The sheriffs used machine guns, and finally the strikers were driven off.

DIGEST - TOPICS

During the last week or so I've discovered a new and amusing game. And here's how it goes: -- Just take your Literary Digest and turn to the Topics in Brief page. Read through the collection of lines and pick out the wise cracks that happen to fit some particular experience you've had during the week.

For example, on Sunday I was up at the farm looking at the garden. Well, on the Topics in Brief page I read the following line which the Digest editors quote from the Humorist:-

"It's extremely difficult to distinguish between weeds and young plants," says a correspondent. But our neighbor's hens seem to manage it easily.

Then I was at a party the other night and a chap came up and nearly bowled me over. He should have read the Topics in Brief page which quotes as follows from the Virginia Pilot --

A person who knows his onions is one who doesn't eat them before going to a party.

1 Now comes a case in which "the
2 milk of human kindness" seems to have
3 gone a bit sour. The new republic of
4 Spain began its career with what looked
5 like a bit of kindness and clemency.
6 One of its principal enemies was General
7 Berenguer, who had been the Spanish
8 ■ dictator for a while and had
9 suppressed the republican movement with
10 a heavy hand. He was tried and found
11 guilty and merely sentenced to dismissal
12 from the Army. And that looked something
13 like the forgiving spirit.

14 But here's an Associated Press
15 dispatch that states that General
16 Berenguer will be tried again. He will
17 be called to account for the execution
18 of two military officers who took part
19 in the ~~disturbances~~ disturbances that preceded
20 the overthrow of King Alphonso.

21 The quality of mercy may be given
22 a vacation in this issue between the
23 Spanish Republic and the former dictator.

24 A late flash from the I. N. S. states
25 that the rebel leaders in Catalonia - at
Barcelona - are demanding their own separate
republic. They want complete freedom.

AMBASSADOR

It looks as though there won't be even the faintest controversy about the new Spanish Ambassador. You may recall that it was announced a little while ago that the new Republican Government of Spain would name Professor Madariaga as envoy to Washington.

Well, the Professor has been known to utter some stinging remarks about the policy of the United States Government -- criticism, disapproval. Some people thought that Washington wouldn't welcome the Doctor.

I gave out a summary of a dispatch the other night which stated that Washington evidently wouldn't make any formal objections. But now the New York Sun has a cable from Madrid which states that changes have been made in the list of ambassadors and Professor Madariaga will not be sent to Washington after all. Senor Alvarez del Vayo is coming in his stead.

GERMANY

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1 Word comes from Berlin of a big
2 racket. It was a racket in more ways
3 than one. There was a lot of noise, a
4 gay party, the sort of a blow-out or
5 jamboree that used to be called a racket.
6 And they say it also was a racket in the
7 ultra-modern sense of being a graft or
8 a shake-down.

9 Yes, Germany is said to have a
10 racket, although it hasn't reached the
11 stage where there are kings of gandom,
12 big shots, pineapples and Under World
13 Wars.

14 What happened was this:- there was
15 a big party in Berlin staged by a society
16 known as Immertru^{trov}, which means "always
17 faithful." Three thousand guests were
18 present. Suddenly in walked the police.
19 They searched everybody--the whole 3000--
20 and took some of them away in the Black
21 Maria.

22 That Immertru organization is what is
23 called a "benefit society," and there are
24 a number of benefit societies throughout
25 Germany. And the police insist that
some of them are racketeering outfits.

1 They shake down the restaurants and
2 dance halls. They don't resort to
3 shooting or bombing. It's purely a
4 case of rough house. If the restaurant
5 or dance hall proprietor doesn't kick
6 in, why, they ^{start a general} rough-house ~~his place~~ and
7 wreck ^{the place.} ~~everything~~

8 And, according to the Associated
9 Press, the police claim that the "Ever
10 Faithful" Society is one of ^{that sort.} ~~these~~. Well,
11 maybe it is a racket. In any case, the
12 "Ever Faithful" boys, ^{3000 of them,} were having a jolly
13 racket, with laughter and song, ~~and~~
14 ~~there was one awful racket~~ when the
15 police ~~walked in.~~ strode in and put on the lid.

PRINCE OF WALES

The world's greatest traveling salesman is home today. He swooped down through the foggy skies of London this afternoon.

A traveling salesman is supposed to bring home orders, and they say that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has done just that. In fact he has brought back from South America orders to the tune of about fifty million dollars. At any rate, that's what the British newspapers think. ~~The London Daily Herald estimates that as a result of the tour British trade with South America will take a big jump. An increase of a cool fifty million dollars is expected as the immediate result of the royal jaunt.~~

It was noted that when H.R.H. opened the British Trade Exposition at Buenos Aires there was an immediate sell-out of British goods.

The New York Evening Post observes that the London newspapers may be a little bit enthusiastic about the selling ~~kit~~ trip of the royal drummer. But it goes on to quote the quite unenthusiastic comments of the French newspapers. For instance:-

The Parisien Le Journal, expresses the melancholy wish that France might have a royal traveling salesman like the Prince of Wales.

AUSTRALIA

Around the world in Australia they are having a bomb scare. In the city of Sydney, according to the Associated Press, small clumsily-made bombs were delivered through the mail to a chief justice, a newspaper editor and other prominent persons. No damage was done because nobody opened the packages which held the bombs. They had been tipped off by the police, who somehow learned that the bombs were coming.

... 175 miles southeast of
Hankow. The Communist forces were given a terrific beating and
1800 prisoners were captured and executed. The defeated army
consisted of thousands of communists and bandits who for a long
time had been terrorizing most of the provinces.

CHINA

It appears that the Chinese Nationalist Government is starting to make headway against the hordes of bandits and communists that have been conducting a reign of terror in certain sections.

A United Press dispatch from Shanghai says that Government forces have won an important victory against a big Communist army in the Province of Hupeh, 175 miles southwest of Hangkow. The Communist forces were given a terrific lacing and 1800 prisoners were captured and executed. The defeated army consisted of thousands of communists and bandits who for a long time had been terrorizing some of the provinces.

1 We now come to the sad and moving
2 spectacle of a nation in grief--a whole
3 nation plunged into profound mourning.
4 Why is the nation so full of sorrow?
5 Well, it's because somebody has shot
6 the royal and sacred hippopotamus.

7 This singular occurrence is my
8 News Item of the Day. It was picked for
9 me by the traveller and explorer Carveth
10 Wells, who telegraphs me that the ~~most~~
11 melancholy tidings ^{appear} ~~come~~ in a Chicago
12 Daily News dispatch printed in the
13 Milwaukee Journal.

14 The royal and sacred hippopotamus
15 was a famous character in South Africa.
16 He was a kind of totem pole animal for
17 the Zulu nation. The Zulus believed
18 that the old hippopotamus was a
19 reincarnation of Chaka, the famous Zulu
20 warrior king. Old hippo might be a
21 huge, waddling, fat old fellow, but
22 within him was the heroic spirit of the
23 mighty Qssegai-hurling-Chaka, ~~at least~~
24 ~~so the Zulus thought.~~ And so the black
25 tribesmen held the animal in the highest

1 veneration.

2 The hippo became quite well known
3 among the white population too. The
4 white men familiarly called him Hubert.
5 They fed him and pampered him.

6 Not long ago Hubert got the
7 wanderlust, the old itching foot, and
8 ~~■■■■~~ went on a tour down the ^{African} coast.
9 Everywhere he was received with honor
10 and high regard. He waddled around in
11 the town of Port Alfred, seeing the
12 sights. The town council was in session
13 and the door was open. Hubert saw the
14 door and just ^{ambled} ~~walked~~ in. That
15 herbivorous amphibian mammalian made a
16 majestic entrance just as the town
17 council was taking a vote on some
18 important measure.

19 Well, Hubert was worshipped by the
20 Zulus, and the whites were fond of him
21 too. The authorities passed a law that
22 nobody should shoot him. The grownups
23 fed him and the children petted him. And
24 what ^{more} ~~■■■■~~ could a chummy old hippopotamus
25 want?

1 But now, as I said before, the Zulu
2 nation is plunged into grief. Because
3 Hubert, their sacred hippopotamus and
4 reincarnation of their warrior chief
5 Chaka, has just been found as dead as a
6 hippopotamus can be. Somebody ~~had~~ shot
7 him--some bold, brave hunter who
8 couldn't resist the temptation of
9 taking a shot at the tamest hippopotamus
10 in Africa. The white population is
11 indignant too. And if they catch the
12 man who shot the sacred hippopotamus,
13 he's liable to see the ~~■~~ inside of a South
African jail, ~~and for~~

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END

"Say, wait a minute, boy. What's the big idea?"

Here's a news item about a chap who all turned around."

His name is Plennie Wingo. And Plennie it appears is walking backward along the roads of Oklahoma, and he is going to keep on walking backward. Plennie insists that he is on his way to circumnavigate the globe, walking backward.

How does he see where he's going? Well, Plennie looks through a periscope. He has a kind of periscopic device hooked on to him which enables him to see what's behind him.

He backed out of his home in Abilene, Texas, several days ago. And he has been walking backward ever since. Today, according to the Associated Press, he backed into McAlester, Oklahoma. Well, that's my last news dispatch and I think I'll toddle along home now. But not any of that walking backward stuff for me.

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.