

WEATHER

Lowell Thomas broadcast
for the Literary Digest
Monday, December 21, 1931.

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1 GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

2 They are having bitter weather in
3 Europe. There have been blizzards,
4 tempests and floods all the way from
5 Scandinavia to North Africa. Tonight the
6 toll of lives has mounted to fifty.

7 The United Press cables that the
8 heaviest loss was in North Africa, in
9 Tunis. Tunis has been suffering from
10 floods and ice -- sharp, biting cold,
11 most unusual for that southern
12 Mediterranean shore.

13 Snow has also fallen on the balmy
14 Riviera, in France, and the Associated
15 Press reports a bitter cold wave in Paris.

16 Farther north, in Scandinavia, severe
17 weather is to be expected along about now,
18 but things are far worse than usual.
19 Sweden reports terrific snow storms,
20 accompanied by winds with hurricane
21 force. Houses have been blown into the
22 sea, and ships are in trouble in the
23 howling gale.

On this side of the Atlantic,

1 The United States Senate is still
2 ^{rocks and reefs of the} pounding away on the moratorium. Otto
3 Kahn, ~~the~~ New York Financier, appeared
4 before the Senate Finance Committee today
5 and gave them his financial view on the
6 foreign debt situation.

7 He is quoted by the International News
8 Service as declaring that "somebody ought
9 to tie a millstone around those foreign
10 debts and drop them in the deepest part
11 of the Atlantic Ocean."

12 Mr. Kahn added that he believed ~~that~~
13 the nations who owe money should pay
14 their private debts before they are asked
15 to meet those international obligations.

16 Meanwhile, the Senate is busy debating
17 on the subject of the moratorium, with
18 the lawmakers saying plenty about what
19 they think.
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MORATORIUM

1 In the Swiss city of Basle, the
2 Committee of the Bank for International
3 Settlements, came out today and
4 recommended a new moratorium, *still another one.*

5 The Committee, relates the
6 International News Service, is studying
7 the subject of German reparations. The
8 delegates came to an agreement today and
9 decided that Germany could not pay the
10 reparations in full. And that's why the
11 suggestion of a new moratorium was made, *their*
12 *outhere is for* a suspension of payments for two years. ~~OF~~
13 ~~less.~~

I wonder if you can guess who made
 1 ~~Now let's take a few striking~~
 2 ~~the following striking statements?~~
 3 ~~statements, and then let's try to guess~~
 4 ~~who spoke them. Here they are:-~~

5 "Within two years there have been
 6 revolutions or acute social disorders in
 7 nineteen countries, embracing more than
 8 half the population of the world. ~~Then~~
 9 Ten countries have been unable to meet
 10 their external obligations. In fourteen
 11 countries, embracing a quarter of the
 12 world's population, former monetary
 13 standards have been temporarily
 14 abandoned. In a number of countries there
 15 have been acute financial panics or
 16 compulsory restraints upon banking. These
 17 disturbances have many roots in the
 18 dislocations from the World War."

19 ~~Well, who did speak these exceedingly~~
 20 ~~informative words? Why, President~~
 21 Hoover. They were contained in his recent
 22 message to Congress. There are many of
 23 us who ~~didn't~~ ^{failed to} read that message through.
 24 ~~In a way, we didn't have to, because~~ ^{And for those who didn't} the
 25 Literary Digest takes the President's
 message and gives us quotations of the
 most striking parts, and then tells us the country's response.

1 Tonight at Newport News,
2 Virginia, there's a blackened hull, x the
3 fire blasted remains of an ocean liner.

4 The ship is the Sergovia, which
5 cost three and a half million dollars
6 to build. She was christened by Mrs.
7 Herbert Hoover last August. She was
8 nearly completed, and was supposed to
9 go into service on January 30th.

10 She was lying at dock when the
11 fire broke out. Huge clouds of black
12 smoke billowed out of the magnificent
13 ship. Hundreds of tons of water were
14 pumped into her by the firemen.

15 The International News Service
16 reports that the cause of the blaze is
17 a mystery. The Sergovia was virtually
18 destroyed, and tonight lies nothing
19 more than a charred desolate hull.

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SING SING

Well Santa Claus sure does find some unusual places to rest for a while and replenish his stock of good things. The good Saint has been receiving a bit of hospitality "up the river"- I mean, at Sing Sing.

The boys at the New York State Prison seem to think there are a lot of folks outside the walls who need help worse than those inside. And they are out to do their bit to make Christmas a Merry one.

They are giving Santa Claus a hand. Today the Mutual Welfare League at Sing Sing added \$300 to the fund which the prisoners have made up for the benefit of needy folks outside.

The International News Service observes that another 200 had already been collected among the inmates.

The money is to be given to organizations interested in providing Christmas cheer and help for the unemployed.

Margaret
Bourke-White.
photographer.

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1931 - p. 8

INTRO TO MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE

The other evening I was talking to a lady, who proceeded to remark the fact that I occasionally asked various interesting persons to come to the microphone for a minute or two during my nightly broadcasts.

"But," she objected, "they're nearly always men. Why don't you allow a woman to have her say more often?"

Well, I have brought along Margaret Bourke-White, an American young woman who recently traveled for thousands of miles in Russia on her own photographing expedition. And now she has come back with quantities of remarkable pictures, and many a tale concerning the oddities of the Red regime.

When I spoke to Margaret Bourke-White, author of "Eyes on Russia," she said:-

"Yes, but you must remember that this will be my radio debut."

Well, I'm holding her to her word, and right now she's going to make that radio debut.

Yes, this is quite a new experience. I am much more used to cameras than I am a microphone. I rather feel like a Russian peasant from the steppes probably feels who is suddenly put into a giant factory and told to run a complicated bill press. He would look at it with a puzzled air, and say it was hard to know where to take hold of the weird contraption.

Lowell Thomas spoke of an article in the Literary Digest. Suppose I mention one also. It's about an amazing chemical plant which the Soviets have built in the frozen North, along the Arctic Circle, where the hilltops are covered with perpetual snow, and the steppes stretch away for hundreds of miles around. I had a very exciting time in Russia, and it was very interesting to watch the Russians building their great factories.

To an American, it's an almost incredible picture of immense energy and a good deal of awkward blundering, of course. I recall hurrying to the railroad station in a Russian town. As we drove along through the streets I saw an old peasant with the most beautiful beard in Russia.

"I must photograph that beard," I called to the Russian girl who was my interpreter.

"We haven't any time," she cried. "We'll miss our train."

But I had an unshaken faith in the lateness of Russian trains. I could never believe that any Russian train

was ever on time. And besides, I couldn't leave that beard behind.

We stopped. I unpacked the cameras. A squad of soldiers of the Red Army came up. They examined my official papers which were all stamped and sealed and signed with red ink signatures. It was a very dignified process. Finally I posed the old man. At last the picture of the marvelous beard was taken. The soldiers, very impressed by this time, helped me pack my cameras, and then, in the midst of much ceremony, we continued our way to the station.

No, we didn't miss it. In fact, it was a whole day late by the time it dropped us at our destination, the station at Novorossisk.

People are always asking me for a brief opinion on Russia -- what I think of the Soviets in a few words. Well, I've answered that question so often that I have boiled the reply down to ten words. Here they are:-

Little food, no shoes, terrible inefficiency, steady progress, great hope.

And now my radio debut is over.

And very successful and charming it was, Miss Bourke-White. And quite appropriately, here's something about Siberia. No, I made a mistake, it's Syria, and that's in a different part of the world.

In the old land of Syria, to the north of Palestine, soldiers are on guard in cities and towns. They had an election in Syria yesterday, and that caused plenty of disturbance.

The country is still under a French mandate, and French troops were called out to fight the mobs. In the city of Beirut, home of the world famous American University of Beirut, there was a lively battle, and the Associated Press reports several casualties. Armored tanks were put on parole duty, and today they are rumbling around and around in the streets of Beirut ready to quell any renewal of the disturbance.

1 In Italy Mussolini's brother has died.
2 He was a ~~man~~ fairly important person in
3 his own right. He was editor of the
4 influential Fascist newspaper, Popolo
5 d'Italia.

6 The Associated Press comments that
7 Arnaldo Mussolini was in many respects
8 the reverse of his famous brother. He
9 disliked sports, while the Duce is an
10 enthusiast. He was a careful ~~motorist~~
11 motorist. His brother loves to speed;
12 and he was a good deal more shy and
13 retiring than the Black Shirt dictator.
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5 Fighting is on in Manchuria
6 again. The Japanese are engaged in
7 what they call an anti-bandit campaign.

8 The troops of the Mikado are
9 driving toward that city of Chinchow,
10 which ^{has} figured in the news so often ^{of late,}
11 A large part of the Japanese operations
12 take place in the sky. The airplanes
13 of the Mikado are swooping down and
14 dropping bombs.

15 The United Press cables that
16 a battle is expected any time between
17 Japanese detachments and ~~xxxxxxx~~ a force
18 of 7,000 Chinese irregulars.
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1 All the New York papers today are
2 telling of a friendship that has sprung
3 up as the result of the accident to
4 Winston Churchill, the famous British
5 statesman and author.

6 (Churchill came to the United
7 States a week or so ago to deliver a
8 series of lectures, and right off the
9 bat he was hit by an ~~xxx~~ automobile.
10 He was crossing the street in New York,
11 when a car ~~xxxxxxxxkxxx~~ coming along
12 clipped him.

13 Churchill took all the blame
14 for the accident, ~~on himself~~. He says
15 he was confused by the fact that in this
16 country cars drive on the right side
17 of the road, while in England they keep
18 to the left.) Anyway, he went to a
19 hospital where he had to remain until
20 today.

21 While he was in the hospital
22 he learned that a young man ^{mysteriously} ~~had~~ called
23 every day to inquire how he was. He
24 learned that the young man was the same
25 chap who was driving the automobile that

1 hit him. The hospital authorities
2 reported that the man seemed greatly
3 concerned. He was worried. He seemed
4 to be greatly delighted to learn that
5 the patient was coming around in good
6 style.

7 Churchill got the name and
8 address of this persistent visitor, and
9 told his wife and daughter about him.
10 And they invited the young fellow to
11 call on them. He did.

12 The International News Service
13 relates that his name is ~~Mario~~ Contasino.
14 He is an Italian American. By trade
15 he is a ~~xxx~~ truckman. At present he
16 is out of work. He said he knew it
17 wasn't his fault that the car he was
18 driving had hit Winston Churchill, and
19 he was delighted that the British
20 statesman understood that it wasn't his
21 fault. But just the same, he considers
22 it a heavy tragedy that he happened
23 to be the unwitting cause of anything
24 serious happening to the man so long one
25 of the leading spirits of the British

1 Empire - of the world, for that matter.
2 All he wanted to know was that Winston
3 Churchill was not badly hurt, and was
4 soon going to recover.

5 Churchill's wife and daughter
6 took the young unemployed truck driver
7 to the hospital to see the man who
8 had figured so greatly in the recent
9 history of the world. Churchill
10 remarked that a truckman out of a job
11 for sometime must be in straits for
12 money, and he offered Contasino a check.
13 The young fellow shook his head. He
14 admitted that he and his family were
15 none too well fixed, but he wouldn't
16 take a penny. He did take one gift,
17 however, an autographed copy of
18 Churchill's latest book, The Unknown
19 Warrior ~~Xxxx~~

20 Well, the two men are fast friends
21 now. They have promised to keep up
22 their acquaintance. Winston Churchill
23 left the hospital today. He is starting
24 out to deliver those lectures which
25 were scheduled for him. Some supposed

1 that when he was hurt he would cancel
2 his American lecture tour. But this
3 isn't so. He is going right ahead,
4 in fact he has even agreed to deliver
5 more lectures than had been planned at
6 first.

7 ~~xxxxxx~~ Whenever he happens
8 to be in New York he is going to have a
9 visit with Maria Contasino, and even
10 after he ~~had~~ returned ~~so~~ to England I'll
11 bet there'll be an exchange of letters
12 which will continue the friendship
13 of the New York truck driver and the
14 man who rates as ^{perhaps} the greatest personality
15 of the British Empire [^] today.
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COW

Let's see, I have a mention here of the sister of the cow that jumped over the moon. At any rate, this old cow did quite a bit of jumping. The story is told by the International News Service.

Near Middletown, New York, an automobile was driving along. In the road ahead was a cow. Somehow or other, Old Mrs. Bossie seemed to take a dislike to that automobile, because she proceeded to charge it, head on. She tried to use her horns on the radiator of that on-coming machine.

There was a lively bang, the cow was thrown into the air, and when she hit the ground she went into the air again -- that is, she took a mighty jump. She seemed to realize that the automobile was more than she could handle, so she jumped a high stone fence, and when last seen was going across a field, still under her own power.

And now, like the sister of the cow that jumped over the moon, I'm going along under my own power. And,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.