

STOCK EXCHANGE

Lowell Thomas
New Year's Eve, 1930

Dec. 31, 1930

Page 1.

1 Here's a piece of good news to
2 give out this New Year's Eve. Prices
3 on the New York Stock Exchange went up
4 today. They showed gains of from 1 to
5 8 points. The market took a turn for
6 the good yesterday when that big
7 railroad merger was announced by President
8 Hoover, and the rise in prices continued
9 this morning. During the afternoon the
10 activity died down. It was the usual
11 quiet that comes on the eve of a big
12 holiday.

13 Meanwhile, the New York Evening
14 Post tells us that the railroad merger
15 which ~~was~~ ^{announced} President Hoover ~~told us~~
16 ~~about~~ yesterday has been attacked by
17 some of the big political leaders. You'll
18 recall that the proposal is to merge
19 the railroads east of the Mississippi
20 River into four big, powerful systems.
21 P Well, Senator Cousins, of ^{Michigan} ~~Wisconsin~~, says
22 that Mr. Hoover's action in taking the
23 lead in that merger was unethical. The
24 Senator's point is that that big
25 combination of railroads has got to be

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1 approved by the Interstate Commerce
2 Commission, and that Mr. Hoover, by
3 taking a hand in the affair, is
4 influencing the Interstate Commerce
5 Commission in an unjustifiable way.

6 However the Stock Market doesn't
7 seem to feel that way about it,
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QUESTION

1 In the weekly questionnaire of
2 the new Literary Digest I saw ^{one} a question
3 that ~~made me~~ start ^{ed} ~~right~~ ^{me scouting} in hunting for
4 the answer. The question ^{was:-} asks: HOW MANY
5 BUSINESS DEPRESSIONS HAVE WE HAD IN THE
6 LAST FIFTY YEARS? It said see page 40,
7 and to page 40 I turned.

8 ^{There I found} ~~I saw~~ an interesting chart of how
9 business has behaved the past half
10 century, the good times and the bad times
11 all graphically charted out.

12 The Digest quotes Colonel Ayres,
13 a financial expert of the Cleveland Trust
14 Company, on the subject of the number
15 of business slumps in the last 50 years.
16 We have had 15 periods of business
17 depression. Eight of them, including
18 the present, ~~one~~, have been ~~major~~ ^{big ones}.
19 ~~depressions~~. The peculiar part about
20 the present business situation is that,
21 in spite of the Wall Street crash, it
22 began as a minor depression, ~~and then~~
23 ~~got worse~~. In this it resembles the
24 bad time of 1884.

25 Well, we ought to be able to learn

something about the present state of things from those similar periods in the past. The Digest says that there's not much use in trying to judge the probably length of one by the length of the others. Nevertheless, one thing is clear, and that chart in the New Literary Digest shows it graphically. It is, that once a depression hits bottom it doesn't drag along. There is a swift recovery, followed by a boom.

You may find that article a particularly interesting and encouraging one to read on New Year's day. It may make you feel a lot more optimistic.

1 Well, the New Year of 1931
2 will miss one colorful figure - that
3 is, the tennis fans will. Big Bill
4 Tilden has gone professional. He's
5 following Bobby Jones into the movies.

6 The New York Evening Post says that ~~Big~~ *Big Bill*
7 ~~he~~ will make a series of motion pictures
8 based on tennis, and that deprives him
9 of his amateur standing. It won't seem
10 like the same ~~xxxx~~ old game of tennis
11 with Tilden no longer in there making
12 his miraculous shots, and getting into
13 one controversy after another. *With the*
14 *passing of Tilden into professional ranks*
15 *amateur tennis loses a vivid splash*
16 *of color and the sports writers will*
17 *have a lot harder time writing their*
18 *pieces.*

1 And here's golf - a romantic
2 note about the ancient royal pastime.
3 A lot of odd marriages are being
4 performed ^{in airplanes, in bathing suits, and so on,} these days, but here's a
5 wedding ceremony celebrated between
6 rounds, ~~out there on the~~ ^{between rounds on a golf} links. Miss
7 Florence Beebe, former state golf
8 champion of Illinois, married C. N.
9 Anderson several months ago. The
10 wedding was kept secret but now the news
11 is out with the additional information
12 that the couple were married right in
13 the middle of a golf match. According
14 to the Associated Press they went
15 playing around the course ~~at~~ ^{at} the
16 Olympic Falls Country Club, and ~~then~~
17 ~~between rounds~~ they stopped play ^{just} long
18 enough to have the wedding performed,
19 and then they teed off again. Life to them
20 will probably be just one game of
21 golf after another — and without
22 too many bunkers we hope.

1 Next comes a man who is going
2 to have a hard-working year. He'll
3 have a tree planting year. He comes
4 from Albany, New York, and he cut down
5 several trees on the state's forest
6 preserve. He has been sentenced, says
7 the United Press, to pay a fine or to
8 plant 1,000 new trees on the forest
9 preserve next spring. He has decided
10 to plant the trees, and planting a
11 thousand trees is certainly going to
12 keep him busy, *especially if they are*
13 *fairly big ones.*
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1 News from Russia tonight tells us
2 that the widow of Lenin, the founder of
3 Bolshevism in Russia, has withdrawn from
4 all political activity. She's retiring
5 as a protest against the methods of
6 Stalin, the present Red dictator. Lenin's
7 widow doesn't like the way Stalin threw
8 out the moderate Communist leader Rykof,
9 who was the premier of the union of
10 Soviet republics.

11 She's a person of great influence
12 in Russia. The worship of Lenin is
13 almost a religion with the Communists,
14 and a good deal of his authority has
15 descended to his widow. According to
16 the International News Service, the
17 widow of Lenin declares that she will
18 take no further part in the Communist
19 government until Stalin ~~takes back what~~
20 ~~he did, and~~ calls Rykof back to his old
21 job.
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1 Now comes a rather plaintive item
2 about kings in exile. It's ~~is~~ the
3 announcement of the engagement of the
4 Comte de Paris, the son of the pretender
5 to the French throne. He is to marry
6 the Princess Isabella Orleans-Braganza.
7 She is a princess of the Brazilian
8 royal ~~the~~ family. Her grandfather was
9 Don Pedro, Emperor of Brazil. According
10 to the International News Service, the
11 wedding of the young couple will take
12 place in February at Palermo, ~~is~~ Sicily.

13 Well, France is a republic and
14 Brazil is a republic, and those old
15 royal families that claimed the crowns
16 of the two countries are just kings in
17 exile, nursing along what seem to be
18 vain and foolish hopes, *dreams that they*
19 *are not likely to see come true during*
20 *the New Year at any rate.*
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1 Word has just come of a happening
 2 that took place a week ago. It was an
 3 enormous tidal wave that swept down on one of
 4 ~~on~~ the island^s of Australasia. ^{In fact the wave} ~~those~~
 5 ~~islands are~~ ^{have at a place} so far ~~away from~~ the beaten
 6 ~~xxx~~ track that it has taken a week for
 7 the ~~word to arrive~~ ^{news to reach the rest of the world.}

8 The giant wave swept down on the
 9 island of Awin. It was 8 feet high
 10 and it came with tremendous force. It
 11 engulfed the land, and as it receded it
 12 swept houses and cattle out to sea.
 13 According to the Associated Press, the
 14 natives escaped by climbing up into the
 15 palm trees, and the European manager of
 16 the island just swarmed up into those
 17 palm trees too. The tidal wave is
 18 believed to have been caused by some
 19 terrific volcanic disturbance in the
 20 Pacific Ocean.

BEGGAR

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1 From Shanghai comes a new idea
2 in the ancient art of begging. They
3 have thousands of beggars in the East,
4 and they are up to all sorts of dodges.
5 But this Chinaman is really clever.

6 He is called the "Walking-Kitchen-
7 Upsetter". He is an old man with a
8 woebegone expression, and, according to
9 the International News Service, he ^{comes} ~~carries~~
10 ^{along in typical Chinese fashion, balancing two} ~~large~~ trays of food in pots and dishes.
11 He pretends to sell the food, but that's
12 only the ballyhoo. His real act comes
13 when there are American tourists
14 around. Then he upsets his tray^s ~~of~~
15 ~~dishes~~, and the food goes spilling all
16 over the pavement. Then the "Walking-
17 Kitchen-Upsetter" sits down and weeps
18 bitterly. It is said that this little
19 act never fails to catch the ^{kind-hearted} American
20 tourists, ^{who always} ~~They~~ chip in with coins to
21 soften the grief of the sad old, ^{wise old Chinese} "Walking-
22 Kitchen-Upsetter".
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LETTERS

Here's a letter from John Hayden, of Newark, New Jersey. He tells about some friends of his, Mr. and Mrs. John Kuehner who moved from Rushville, Missouri to Newark. They left their cat, Scotty, out in Missouri. But that cat came back. Scotty traveled 1000 miles, from Missouri to New Jersey, in a little less than four months, and walked right into the Kuehner household. How did that cat do it? asks Mr. Hayden. Well, I ask you!

Mrs. Zimmelin of Lyons, New York, sends me a clipping from the Newark Commercial which authenticates that same almost incredible story of the cat that found its way over a thousand miles.

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And here's another radio listener who tells about John Harr, of Jones Mill, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The news about John is that he made a sausage 77 feet long! Then adds the writer of the letter, "all we need is the hot cakes and syrup." "Yes sir, and we'll need ~~nixxx~~ plenty of them in fact a stack of hot cakes about 77 feet ~~ix~~ high.

PERSONAL

~~Dowell Thomas' Broadcast~~
~~for The Literary Digest~~
Wednesday, December 31, 1930.

1 I suppose you are all getting
2 ready for a big time tonight. When it
3 comes to having a jolly time our
4 celebration of New Years seems to be
5 just about the jolliest occasion of all.

6 Well, I remember one New Year's
7 Eve celebration the like of which I
8 will never see again.

9 In company with another war
10 correspondent I succeeded in getting
11 into Germany immediately after the
12 Armistice. We were watching the progress
13 of the German revolution and New Year's
14 Eve of 1919 found us celebrating the
15 occasion in the Kaiser's Imperial palace
16 in Berlin. But not as the guest of the
17 Kaiser. Oh no. Herr Wilhelm Hohenzollern
18 had fled to Holland, and the occupants
19 of his famous palace on the banks of the
20 River Spree were a group of noisy U-boat
21 sailors who had taken possession of it
22 by force.

23 One of these chaps happened to
24 be an American, and he was our host.

25 Well, the way we happened to

1 be invited there was curious. The old
2 Imperial Government had collapsed. The
3 German revolution was in full swing.

4 No one was allowed to go out on
5 the streets in Berlin after eight o'clock
6 at night. There was too much danger of
7 being picked off by a sniper.

8 Well, my companion, Webb Waldron,
9 and I disregarded the ~~xxxx~~ eight o'clock
10 curfew and one night we were on our
11 way back to our hotel about eleven
12 o'clock. Just as we came to the main
13 intersection of the two principal
14 streets of Berlin, the Friederickstrasse
15 and the Unter den Linden, a man jumped
16 out of the dark and shoved his revolver
17 into our faces. We were a bit startled,
18 in fact so startled that instead of
19 saying something in our broken college
20 German we blurted out something in
21 English.

22 Whereupon the chap with the
23 gun laughed and said to his companions:
24 "They're a couple of Yanks.
25 What do you know about that?"

1 Then putting down his gun he said
2 to us:

3 "I'm an American too. I used to
4 live in Galveston, Texas."

5 We stood there talking to him
6 in the dark for several minutes, and
7 he told us that shortly before the World
8 War broke out he came over from Texas to
9 visit some of his relations in Germany.

10 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Then with the declaration of
11 war in August, 1914, they wouldn't let
12 him return to America. They simply
13 grabbed him and put him in the navy and
14 he wound up as a sailor on a submarine.

15 Then a machine gun on one of
16 the buildings across the street opened
17 fire and started raking the street. We
18 all made a dive for the nearest doorway
19 and fell in a heap inside. It was an
20 empty shop, a place that had been closed
21 during the revolution. Rushing to the
22 rear we found that it was being used as
23 a government first aid station. Sitting
24 beside ~~the~~^a candle was a Red Cross nurse.
25 She took just one look at my uniform and
said:

1 "Why, you must be an American.
2 So am I. My home is in Hoboken, New
3 Jersey."

4 Well, we found that the U-boat
5 sailor from Galveston was living with a
6 lot of his pals in the Kaiser's palace.
7 How ~~x~~ they got there is a long story.
8 They had been brought to Berlin to help
9 uphold the power of the Majority Socialist
10 government. They hadn't received their
11 ~~xxx~~ pay for some time. So they simply
12 seized the Kaiser's palace and barricaded
13 themselves there. In fact, they didn't
14 leave it until a battle was fought and
15 they were driven out ^{by artillery fire.} ~~after cannon were~~
16 ~~brought out and the place was bombarded.~~

17 Our friend from Galveston
18 invited us to stay at the palace as his
19 guests, and we did. New Year's Eve
20 came along just then. The sailors all
21 went down into the Kaiser's wonderful
22 wine cellar and what a time we had. They
23 got into the Imperial cold storage rooms
24 ~~too~~ and feasted on turkeys and chickens,
25 bratwurst, weiswurst, rollmopst and



1 heis-heis.

2 As a grand climax to this New
3 Year's celebration some of the U-boat
4 sailors presented us with a part of the
5 Kaiser's Imperial wardrobe which I
6 afterwards brought home to America and
7 exhibited in New York.

8 Well that was about the most
9 curious New Years celebration of
10 my life.
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END

A letter came in today from a poetic soul named Dale Carnegie, the well known bard of Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn. He sends in an effusion with which I think I'll close this New Year's Eve's broadcast. Mr. Carnegie writes the following in limpid lyric verse.

So long old year, you made us mad
You were lacking in a lot of ways
But just the same I'll say you had
The same old number of months and days.

Well, I think I'll add a few inspired lines of my own to that lovely sonnet:-

So long old year, so long for good
I say it without sorrow
To all you listening in I'll say
SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.