

Lowell Thomas Broadcast for Literary Digest  
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Introduction.

Well, it's cold. And that's not news. At least it isn't to the millions of us who are not lucky enough to be in Florida or Southern California. This is the coldest October 20th, since 1876, so the papers all say. I wasn't around on that particular day, but some of you old timers may remember it. There's four feet of snow in upper New York State. Hundreds of motorists are stranded along snow choked roads, and squads of shovelers are trying to dig them out. Out West there's heavy snow and bitter cold in sections where a month ago they were suffering from the worst drought and heat wave in a century.

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### Earthquake

And about that earthquake down in Louisiana yesterday, scientists now say it was caused by a disturbance far out in the Gulf of Mexico. They also report that the deep moist earth in the Mississippi delta country deadened the effect of the vibrations and saved New Orleans and Baton Rouge from greater damage. This was the first quake that ever to shook Louisiana. But according to the Associated Press no really serious damage resulted, and the only injured were worshippers in a church, who saw the walls start to sway. The congregation bolted and some were injured in the crush.

Now, an earthquake in Louisiana is a lot more uncommon than an eclipse of the sun. But there will be an eclipse tomorrow that has the scientists all keyed up.

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### Eclipse

There's an island out in the South Seas that's shaped like a doughnut. It's made of coral, and a crowd of learned American and Australian professors are sitting out there on that coral doughnut tonight waiting for a big event that's scheduled for tomorrow. They're waiting for a complete solar eclipse. The name of the place, by the way, is even more curious than its shape. Tin Can Island is its geographical name.

The scientists selected Tin Can Island, says the International News Service, because it's to be the only spot of land on the planet from which you are sure to see a complete solar eclipse tomorrow.

A score of Australian and American scientists are all excited tonight, because tomorrow they are going to have their third real chance for testing out the Einstein theory of relativity, away out there in the dreamy, romantic South Seas, on Tin Can Island. But I'm not going to interrupt

the evening's news to explain the Einstein theory. As a matter of fact, I couldn't explain it if I wanted to. But Commander Keppler, of the U. S. Navy, reports that a sixty-five foot camera tower has been erected on Tin Can Island, and a twenty-five hundred pound Einstein camera has been mounted on concrete pillars. So you can see what a big time they are going to have out there tomorrow on Tin Can Island, that speck of coral in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean tomorrow.

This week's Literary Digest informs us that this winter we are going to get some of our heat from stars so many millions of miles away that we can't even see 'em. This is only one of a group of fascinating articles on the "Science and Invention" page of this week's Literary Digest.

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#### Washington

Historians too are discovering some new things. After fourteen years of secrecy some rather startling and important wartime papers have just been turned up in Washington. The State Department

has at last made public one thousand pages of documents that concern the negotiations between this country and England and Germany during the World War. Among other things they show, according to a United Press Dispatch, that Germany was ready to make peace in 1916. An interesting point in connection with these documents is that the State Department planned to make them public early this year. But according to the Press dispatch from Washington they were held back for fear they might in some way influence the London Naval conference.

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### Politics

Half the headlines in today's papers concern politics. That's natural, for election day is only two weeks off.

In Washington, both the Republicans and the Democrats insist they will control the House next session.



President Hoover's special Cabinet committee on unemployment holds its first meeting today.

Down in Tennessee a senate committee is investigating charges that negroes were herded to the polls in the primaries.

In Pennsylvania, says the New York Evening World, the dry issue is cutting through both parties.

William Butler, Massachusetts candidate for senator, says the big issue of this campaign is the rebuilding of business and the creation of more jobs.

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#### Good News

Well, the stock market bucked up quite a bit today and everybody on Wall Street seemed to be wearing a smile.

Yes, and this turned out to be one of the record days in the history of Literary Digest. 80,000 new subscriptions came pouring in to the Digest office today. So, if the Literary Digest

experience is any barometer, better times may have arrived along with the cold weather wave.

That cold snap has hit Michigan, but there's one city out there where they are determined to wipe out hard times.

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#### Muskegan

The city of Muskegan, Michigan, has determined to put an end to the so-called business depression. According to the United Press they have started a movement in Muskegan to be called: "Spend a million a week." The idea is to put a lot of Muskegan's idle dollars into circulation at once.

However there is a Nebraska city where the flags are not flying quite so high.

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#### Crimeless City

The crimeless city of America is crimes no more. Lincoln, Nebraska, is - or I should say was - America's city without crime. Lincoln has

some 75,000 inhabitants, and among a host of other things is famous as the former home of General Pershing, former Vice-president Dawes, and the late Wm. Jennings Bryan. These 75,000 citizens have been proud of the fact that Lincoln has had the smallest police force of any city of its size on the continent. For five years there was not a murder in Lincoln - nor was there even a bank robbery. Its black maria became full of cobwebs and at last they transformed its patrol wagon into a repair shop for traffic lights. The police had only one rifle, and that rifle was the personal property of the chief of police, used by him for hunting Nebraska jack rabbits.

The only trouble they ever had in Lincoln was from people who ran past traffic lights, or college students of the University of Nebraska celebrating a football victory.

But all of a sudden, bang goes Lincoln's record as the crimeless city. According to the United Press, six bandits dropped into the Lincoln National Bank and at one fell swoop went off with



\$20,000 in cash and three quarters of a million more in securities. The dispatch adds that there has been a violent police shake-up in Lincoln, and the mayor has demanded the resignation of the chief.

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#### Late News

You know Bernt Balchen, the famous flyer whom everyone admires. Well, girls, that handsome airman is a bachelor no more.

Coytesville, N. J. Oct. 20 (United Press)- - Bernt Balchen, famous pilot and former aide to Admiral Byrd in the latter's Arctic and Antarctic expeditions was married here Saturday, it became known today. The flier's bride was Miss Emmy Soerlie of Brooklyn. They had known each other since their childhood in Norway.

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#### Finland

Here is some fantastic news from Finland. Three hundred men have confessed to

kidnappings. Like Italy and Germany, Finland has its Fascist party. They've been raising quite a hullabaloo lately, and among other things have been kidnapping people. The Finnish government decided to punish the people guilty of kidnappings, so the Fascist organization ordered all its members who had anything to do with the kidnappings to surrender at once. Their hope was that this would embarrass the government, and it certainly has. Hundreds of people are flocking into the Finnish capital city, Helsingfors, shouting their confessions at the top of their voices. The Associated Press wires that they are going to arrest and try them all no matter if they come by the tens of thousands.

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#### Palestine

The McDonald Labor government over in London issued a statement today that it was England's definite intention to preserve Palestine as a national home for Jews. However, says a

dispatch to the International News Service, it is essential that the interests of the non-Jewish population be fully safeguarded. Immigration into Palestine by the Jews must be restricted to a number which the country is able to absorb, and under present conditions the country is able to absorb practically no more.

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Flash

Here's another flash from the International News:

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the president of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish News Agency, has resigned his post. His resignation is said to hinge upon the refusal of the Jews to cooperate with the British government's new policy. A congress of Zionists may be called to consider the situation.

Now let's see, this next dispatch.

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Tagore

It's about Rabindranath Tagore; the famous poet and philosopher of India, has been suddenly stricken ill. Tagore arrived in this country a few days ago to make a speaking tour of America. According to the Associated Press he has had a sudden attack of heart trouble up at New Haven, Connecticut, and will leave this country for India as soon as he is well enough to travel.

Miss Virginia Tufts of Beverly, Massachusetts, has just written asking me to tell over the radio, some evening, what I think about the present turmoil in India. I talked over this whole question with Tagore on one occasion and as he is undoubtedly one of the wisest men of our time I am sure it would be much more interesting to give you his viewpoint.

I visited Rabindranath Tagore at his home on the banks of the sacred Ganges River, the river where even the murderer can bathe and have his sins washed away. Tagore's home is called

Shantiniketan, which means the "Abode of Peace." He has a school there which he hopes one day will be an important world university where the youth both of the East and the West will mingle on terms of equality and learn the finer things of our Western and their Eastern civilizations.

Tagore's remarks to me on that occasion will be far more enlightening to Miss Tufts up in Beverly, Massachusetts than anything I might say. Tagore said, "My criticism of the British rule in India is that it is too perfect. The government is so mechanically perfect that it isn't human. It is so mechanically complete that it stifles Indian ambitions. Under it there hasn't been half the human happiness of incentive for individual effort that there was two centuries ago under the autocratic and tyrannical rule of the old Mohgol emperors. We Indians, nowadays, have been made to feel that we are inferior beings."

Well, no matter what our views may be regarding the superiority of one race or the other,



we cannot help but agree that Rabindranath Tagore, the poet and philosopher of Bengal, is one of the greatest men of our times, and all Americans who have read his gorgeous Oriental poetry will hear with deep regret that the Hindu patriarch has been obliged to cut short his visit to these shores.

Tagore is a man of peace. But this next is about a man of war, grim and battled scarred.

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Weyler

I wonder how many of you remember General Weyler, of Spanish-American War fame? We haven't heard much of him in recent years, but an Associated Press dispatch from Madrid brings us the news that he has just passed on at the age of 92. A fall from a horse was responsible for it, and not old age.

General Weyler's name was constantly on the front pages of the world's newspapers

in Spanish-American War days. He was the commander of the Spanish forces who were trying to put down the Cuban Revolution with an iron hand before Uncle Sam stepped in.

He went home to Spain before America intervened. Since then, he has had a stormy career. He was at loggerheads with the Spanish government during the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, and he was arrested and tried for sedition. But he died full of dignities and honors, as General Valeriano Weyler, Marquis of Teneriffe, Duke of Rubi, Knight of the Golden Fleece, and Grandee of Spain.

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News Item of the Day

I was talking today to a friend of mine, and he said, "I'll pick your news item of the day for you."

Well, he's an interesting fellow-- General Rafael de Nogales, Venezuelan soldier of fortune who has fought in a dozen Latin-American revolutions and who commanded a Turkish

army during the World War. I knew he'd pick something strange and bizarre. He did. And here it is:

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Arabic in Mex.

Some hitherto unknown descendants of the builders of the famous Tower of Babel have just been found. Another weird language is now added to the medley of tongues that confuses the traveller when he starts out to see the world. Wandering Turkish merchants recently encountered a strange tribe in Mexico, a tribe with Oriental customs; a tribe that speaks neither Spanish nor Indian. Nor do the members of the tribe show any trace of the Mayan civilization. They speak a language that is similar to Arabic. According to an Associated Press dispatch from Mexico, the tribe is called Absolutan. It dwells in a remote corner of Southern Mexico, and according to the traditions of the people, their ancestors have lived there for many centuries entirely cut off from the rest of the world.

And now for a few freak flashes.

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Shorts.

The other day a scientist predicted that automobiles will soon be able to fly. Evidently he was right, because over on Long Island an automobile took to the air today. But according to the New York Evening Post the explosion of a gas main was responsible for its flight. The car was a taxi and according to the account it did a complete outside loop and then came down to a successful landing without passengers or driver being scratched.

Dorothy Wilhelm of Cornersville, Indiana, has just been elected champion milk maid of America, which proves that there are milk maids outside of musical comedies. According to the Associated Press Dorothy milked 203 pounds of milk in fifty-one minutes. Cheers for Dorothy.

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Fox

Well, well! Her name is Ada Weinham. And she lives in Teignmouth, England, and the New York Evening World tells the tale. The

hounds and the hunters were off after a fox. Gaily they went cantering along, after the fashion of jolly old England. Then, the scared fox dashed into Mrs. Weinham's garden. She has a trim cottage, and her garden is her pride. Hounds and hunters galloped in for the kill. And they galloped right in among Mrs. Weinham's cabbages. And that lady grabbed her broom. She lit into hounds and hunters. She swung that broom. And she chased the whole bally lot of them out of her cabbages, while the fox escaped. And as we end our evening's gallop with the news we blow a merry British bugle blast in honor of Mrs. Weinham of Teignmouth. Goodnight.