Lowell Thomas Broadcast for the Literary Digest, Tuesday, March

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

One curious angle has come to 7 light in that astounding case which still 8 has the country gasping. It comes in the form of a threatening letter which was sent to Mrs. Lindbergh. This letter is just one of hundreds that have been received by the stricken family. there is an amazing thing about it. It is ** almost a duplicate of a threatening letter which was received three years ago by Miss Constance Morrow, sister of Mrs. Lindbergh.

The letter now received by Mrs. Lindbergh begins like this:

"YOU READ THIS AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH CLOSED. DON'T OPEN YOUR TRAP TO A LIVING SOUL, OR IT WILL BE YOUR LAST TALK. "

The letter written three we ars ago to Mrs. Lindbergh's sister began this way:

"YOU READ THIS LETTER AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH CLOSED. DON'T OPEN YOUR TRAP
TO A LIVING SOUL. IF YOU DO, IT WILL BE YOUR LAST TALE."

And then both letters continue almost word for word the same, except that the one written three years ago made threats against Mrs. Lindbergh's sister, while the one just received might apply to the Lindbergh baby.

In each case a \$50,000. ransom is demanded.

New York Sun explains that the police investigated that threatening letter three years ago and the suspicion was that it had been sent by a Boston Customs Guard, *** who was slightly out of his mind. It may be that both letters are just the work of a crank, but the similarity of the two is certainly a weird angle.

The kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby is just about the same as it was

last night, except that more clues seem to have petered out.

The New York Evening Post begins its story today with this statement.

"ONE WEEK AFTER THE KIDNAPPING OF THE INFANT SON OF COLONEL CHARLES

A. LINDBERGH, THE AUTHORITIES ENGAGED IN THE NATION-WIDE SEARCH FOR THE CRIMINALS WERE WITHOUT A SINGLE, DEFINITE CLUE.")

The family is basing some hope on the fact that the police have stopped examining the Lindbergh mail. They believe, adds the New York World—Telegram that this fact will come to the notice of the kidnappers who in consequence will have less hesitation in communicating with the parents of the stolen child.

Governor Moore of New Jersey,

formally announced today that the police were inspecting the Lindbergh mail.

It would appear that there has been some friction between the famous aviator and the New Jersey police.

1 Colonel Lindbergh is said to be annoyed 2 by the fact that the police have been 3 listening in on his telephone calls.

Let me read a paragraph that I 5 ran across today, which tells how: after the kidnapping the police guarded every outgoing road, searched trains and boats. 8 spread a dragnet for criminals and began 9 a house to house search. The newspapers 10 grew more inflammatory with each fresh edition. At once the mad pack of anonymous letter writers took up the 13 cry, writing to the police and to the * unfortunate parents. Any child was likely to be seized and dragged to the me arest police-station. Little boys were apprehended with the suspicion that they might be the missing boy with his blond curls dyed and even little girls were brought to the police."

Doesn't that sound as if it might the description of the Lindbergh case? isn't, though. I found the paragraph It in a book called MYSIERIES OF THE MISSING By Edward H. Smith, and the paragraph

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occurs in the story of the famous
kidnapping of Charley Ross, nearly sixty
years ago. It is amazing how these
stories repeat themselves, -- how grief
and terror occur all over again, with
repetitions of the same

3-1-32-5M

From the China coast comes the same old news of confused fighting along the battle front near Shanghai; and each side blames the other for starting the trouble.

The Chinese government at 6 Nanking today flatly turned down plans which neutral powers had arranged for a peace conference. It had been expected 10 that the representatives of China and Japan and the neutral powers interested in 12 the Far East, would get together for a 13 general discussion of the Far Eastern 14 situation, but that seems to be out. 15 United Press dispatch in the New 16 York World Telegram quotes leaders of 17 the government at Nanking as declaring 18 that they will take no part in any peace 19 XX conference until the Japanese troops 20 are withdrawn from the Shanghai area.

And right along with that, the 22 Ministers at Nanking have called upon 23 China's greatest military leaders, 24 General Chiang Kai Shek to take command 25 of the forces opposing Japan. Chiang

Kai Shek has been retirement ever sincex he stepped out of office as the head of the Nanking Government, but now he seems to be **x** called upon to take command of the Chinese Army.

(In Manchuria today a man whom they call Henry Pu-yi was received with honors and greeted as the ruler of the mothem province. Well, Henry Pu-yi is the former boy emperor of China who was deposed by the revolution which started the Chinese Republic on its way. He's been living in retirement since, although his name has been mentioned various times in relation to Japanese schemes in Manchuria. But now he is to be inaugurated as the head of the government which is being set up in the northern province under the protection of Japan.)

Among the dignitaries who greeted the former boy emperor, was General Ma Chan Shan. This is that same General Ma who sometime ago was fighting against the Japanese and was supposed to be the saviour of China.

But he's changed sides now and is helping the Japanese, and this right about face is just another of those things which makes the Orient so incomprehensible to people of the West.

3-1-32 - 5M

Carl Byoir.

director of

"Campaign

against

the

Depression".

Mar. 2,1932
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report. It's a m dispatch straight from the battle-front. What martial campaign is this? Well, it's the war against the depression. Let's hear from the General,the chief-of-staff. He is Carl Byoir, director of organization of the war against depression. He and Marke T. Mc Kee and That's a mighty mommo important movement. The campaign against the 10 depression is sponsored by the American 11 Legion, the American Legion Auxiliery, 12 the American Federation of Labor, and 13 the Association of National Advertisers. These powerful groups have lined up in a 15 concerted movement to ameliorate municipality 16 conditions that ha ve been brought about 17 by the present world economic crisis. 18 And one big thing they're doing is 19 putting men and women to work -- providing 20 jobs for the jobless. Carl Byoir, who is 21 directing the campaign, is a man of 22 many accomplishments. He is publisher 23 of the Havana Post, and during the World 24 War was chairman of the United States 25

And now let's have another war

So let's call upon the chief-of-staff to give us a report, to give us the latest news from the battle-front in the war against depression.

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Well, we have a big army. It numbers 23 million. And it's a brave and devoted army. I want to thank the American Legion, the American Legion 5 Auxiliary, the American Federation of 6 Labor, mad the Association of National Advertisers, and every one of the 23 million members that are lined up in the war against depression.

And I want to report progress all along the line. During the past three weeks 177,000 American citizens have been put to work. They were members of that great army of the unemployed. But now they have jobs and are drawing wages. the in most cases they are assured of steady work for at least 6 months.

In the Literary Digest this week there's an article on the war against depression. It's headed "War Declared! First Battle Won!" and describes a day at the general headquarters in terms of reporting a battle. Let me give you a 24 few lines from that article:

General headquarters waited



breathlessly for word. How are things going? Presently telegrams began trickling in. Job after job was being taken by direct assault on factory, mill and office. From Fbrida came word that a manufacturer of garden and lawn furniture was putting 60 men to work. From Lancaster, Pennsylvania, word was received that tobacco warehouses were opening with jobs for from 500 to 1,000. Troy, a small town in Kansas, reported 11 ten jobs. Cambridge, Maryland, 66. 12 Cutbank, Montana, 45. Amarillo, Texas, 13 19. Richland Center, Wisconsin, 60. 14 And before the smoke had cleared 10,000 16 jobs had been found.

Well, that gives a good picture of the eagerness and jubilation with which general headquarters for the war against depression receives the news of victories at the front -- the batches of jobs for the munemployed.

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Well, Carl Byoir, congratulations on the stout job you have done, and may your army always be victorious. And now for some news from Washington.

President Hoover today repeated what he said before -that the Government will have to put into effect a lot of drastic
economies in order to make ends meet.

The President says he is fighting hard to put through .

Congress his plan for cutting down expenses, so as to balance the budget.

Here's some good financial news -- good news for the British people, and good news for all of us. The Pound Sterling is soaring. It went up twenty points today. It's now up to \$3.75.

Well, that looks like a sign of better times for the world. Here's hoping!

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: -

Here are a few more returns from the 20-Million-Ballot Poll. And the first city on the list happens to be right over the hill from my farm. When we think of hats, we think of Danbury. Connecticut. The Danbury vote is 184 dry. 862 wet.

Next comes Peoria, Illinois. 800 dry, 5.459 wet.

Hot Springs, Arkansas, the famous health resort, 170 dry, 492 wet.

Cumberland, Maryland, 331 for the 18th Amendment, 1,484 against.

Lansing, the capital of the grand old state of Michigan, 748 dry, 2,354 wet.

And here 's how they vote in the city famous for farm machinery, automobiles, and football. I mean South Bend, Indiana. The votes have been rambling in from the home of the Notre Dame ramblers to the following total: 402 dry, 1143 wet.

Maine is on the list again tonight.

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The following are the votes from Lewiston: 138 for continuance, 893 for repeal.

And here is another town in Kansas that is running true to form. It's dry. The vote from Independence, Kansas, is 381 for the Amendment, and 379 against.

out where the cactus grows. But the vote from Tucson is not dry like the desert. It's 149 dry and 419 wet.

Here we are clear across on the opposite side of the continent, taking a look at one of the world's most beautiful harbors, the Golden Gate. And the vote from San Francisco seems to be fully as damp as the Pacific Ocean. It reads: 1,921 for the 18th Amendment, 16,361 for repeal.

Well, that's the news today from the Literary Digest 20-Million-Ballot Prohibition Poll. But the flow of ballots is not all in the direction of the Digest offices. Tens of thousands are still going out to all parts of the

country. But the votes going out now are in connection with the Supplementary Polls, for Digest subscribers, lawyers, doctors, clergymen and bankers. The Supplementary Polls are not a part of the great 20-Million-Ballot vote. They are being taken to find out what difference there is in the proportions between the vast general vote and the vote of smaller select groups.

I have a suggestion here for the
Carnegie Medal for heroism. It comes
from Scott P. Parham and Doctor S. W.
Thompson, of Morehead City, North
Carolina. These gentlemen tell me how
two children were in a sailboat on Bogue
Sound, near Morehead City. One was
Kenneth Willis, ten years old; the other,
his sister, who is 5. Their father was
on the bank searching for driftwood.

The little girl fell overboard into band made water 50 feet deep, and drifted out of the reach of the boy. Neither could swim.

He grabbed a life preserver, and jumped in after her and held her with one hand while he clung to the life preserver with the other. The father was too far away to hear his shouts. So the boy, stayed there in the water, hold up his sister, until finally the current drifted him to a shallow part, where he could get a footing and carry her to shore. He get panicky or they would both have

And so they are saying down at Morehead City that Kenneth Willis is as

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brave a 10-year-old as they ever saw, and deserves just about any medal for heroism that anybody has to give.

11-23-31 - 5M

not on himself. Uncle Sam is raising fleas. The United Press wires to the New York Sun that the government of the United States has gone into the business of breeding more and better fleas.

That does sound funny, but it's explained that they are water fleas, and are needed as food for the thousands of young black bass that are spawned in the government hatcheries.

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The fish story department of the Tall Story Club should take notice of this one. It's a shark fish story brought back to New York by a French liner that has been on a West Indian cruise.

Lewis Mutel, one of the cooks on the ship, decided to do a little shark fishing. He baited a big hook and tossed the line out of a porthole. That sea cook didn't have to wait long. A shark grabbed the bait and started off That shark pulled so hard that the poor sea cook got tangled up in the line, and was being hauled through the porthole. The shark was gradually succeeding in pulling him through when somebody cut the line. Then, says the World-Telegram, they couldn't get the sea cook out of the porthole. He was jammed so tightly. They had to give him a liberal application of grease before they could bring him out a pane and now it's time to lase mysely e-l-u-t-m

3-1-32-5M