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Lowell Thomas broadcast for the Literary Digest, Tuesday, August 25, 1931.

Page_

Good Evening, Everybody:-

A tremendous forest fire is raging amony the mountains and valleys of Idahom. It is described by the United Press as one of the most disastrous forest fires in the history of the state. Two mining towns have already been destroyed by the flames, and three others are the threatened by the immense fire that is roaring down upon them. The town of Grimes Pass, just north of Boise, has been abandoned. The blaze has swept up along the small ridge near the town and is still advancing.

The Governor of the State has mobilized the National Guard, and a big battle is going on to check the progress of the flames.

21 The Lindbergho are on the last ap of their aerial Gaunt to Tolsio tonight. They took off from Nemuro and are in the 22 23 They took of the Tuesday where we are the 24 now. eady Wednesday in Japan. In fact they took from nemuro at 8:20 Wed. maring Japan 25 ypect to arrive in Toleyo at 1:00 P.M. 61631-5M Tolero time.

ECUADOR

The Republic of Ecuador has a 1 new president tonight. The former 2 president stepped out - although step 3 seems to be a rather mild word, the out, jumped out, took a dive out, would be more ike it. The former president sought refuge today in 6 the American legation at Quito. They 7 say it was "a peaceful revolt" that took 8 place. There was discontent among the 9 army officers. They didn't, like the 10 way President Ayora was running Ecuador, 11 and so they just sent word to the His Excellen was time to be on his way. president that it wouldn't be good for 12 13 his beatth to remein prosident any 14 tonger: That was the kind of peaceful 15 revolt it was. 16

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President Ayora saw the handwriting on the wall as plain as day and so he appointed Colonel Luis Larrea Alba as vice-president. Then President Ayora resigned and that made Colonel Alba president. He is the president of Ecuador tonight.

Well, that was that, but just the same some more peaceful revolt seems to be going on against the new president. The Associated Press cables that some army officers don't seem to like him and a delegation called on Congress and said that Colonel Alba shouldn't be president either. A crowd invaded the majestic halls of the Ecuadorean congress and raised a turnoil. "Down with the government of Colonel Luis Larrea Alba !" they shouted - and that sounds like quite a mouthful to shout. In Spanish it must have a fine rolling ring.

This evening the new president is trying to pacify the discontented ones. In fact he claims that he has pacified the disgruntled element and has received plenty of promises of support.

There was a wild riot in the Chamber of Deputies in Mexico City tonight. 60 shots were fired. One deputy was killed, 2 deputies wounded, and a spectator in the visitors gallery was wounded. The riot grew out of a debate concerning the governorship of the State of Jalisco. Finally ordered was restored over the dead body of Deputy Manuel Ruiz of Jalisco who was shot eleven times.

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Mad, Here's the line-up of the Inew government, et Great Britain. They call it a National Cabinet of Co-operation. The Prime Minister, of course, is Ramsey MacDonald. Phillip Snowden, the financial genius of the Labor party, remains Chancellor of the Exchequer, and there we two atter labor members of the Labor party, is Lord Chancellor. The Labor leader, J.H. Thomas, is Secretary for the Dominions.

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de la

Stanely Baldwin, the Conservative
 Ieader, Scord Privy Seal. There are
 three other Conservative cabinet
 members. Sir Herbert Samuel of the
 but Liberal party, who used to be
 Governor-General of Palestine, is the
 Home Secretary. And Lord Reading, is the
 Foreign Secretary.

It's a small cabinet, as the United Press reminds us, but it represents all parties. There are ten members -- four Laborites, four Conservatives, and two Liberals.

The London Daily Herald today

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charges that the downfall of the Labor government and the formation of a cooperative cabinet was caused by financial pressure from New York, The claim is made that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York took a hand in the British financial situation and demanded a change.

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The Associated Press guotes 9 important London financiers as saying 10 that this is a perversion of the facts. It's admitted that American financial 12 circles were worried by the money crisis 13 in Great Britain. But the point is made 14 that it was a good thing to take their 15 advice. 16

Meanwhile, members of the Labor 17 party are continuing to attack Prime 18 Minister MacDonald, But he defends 19 himself. says the International News 20 Service, saying that he has credentials 21 for his recent course of conduct --22 credentials from a source higher than the 23 Labor Party. He is acting in accordance 24 with national duty. 25

INDIA

In India a debate is going on about the question which has vividly interested the whole world. That question is child marriage.

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In India there is in force 5 e what they call a child marriage restraint 7 act. It forbids the marriage of 8 children under fourteen. The Indian 9 legislature is in session at Simla, the summer capital of the vast sub-10 continent of Hindustan, and three bills 11 have been introduced and are being 12 13 strongly argued. These bills provide 14 for the abolition of the law forbidding child marriage. In other words, they 15 want to make child marriage legal again. 16

They point out that the 17 child marriage law is an invasion of 18 the sacred religious customs of the 19 Hindu which go back thousands of years. 20 The claim is that the Hindus have a right 21 to practise their old custom of 22 betrothing or marrying their children 23 even in infancy. 24

Well, many enlightened Hindus

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are against child marriage, but there 1 are plenty of others who are strongly 2 for the ancient institution. # The 3 Associated Press gives an account of 4 some other bills that are up before 5 the legislators in India. One of them 6 wants to forbid the dedication of women 7 in temples. In some parts of southern 8 India there are castes among whom the 9 custom is to dedicate all girl children 10 to service in the temples. They are 11 known as Devadasi, and they are the 12 temple dancers, so familiar in romantic 13 pictures of India. These girls take a 14 vow never to marry, but devote their 15 whole lives to dancing in the temple. 16 They are bound from infancy. They are 17 born to be temple dancers, and temple 18 dancers they are. 19

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Then there is another bill ## which tackles that old subject of the widows in Hindustan. It seems to the outside world a particularly bitter injustice that Hindu widows are not allowed to remarry. They may have been INDIA - 3

married in infancy. They may be mere
children when they become widows. But
still they are never permitted to
marry again. They say there are forty
million widows on the land of Hindustan
and a large portion of them are under
e ighteen years of age.

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8 Well, India is a strange land. 9 It has what xam seem to us fantastic 10 and sometimes harsh customs, but 11 millions of Hindus cling tenaciously 12 to the ways of their ancient tents forefathere.

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Here's a mystery that's been solved. The other night I told about that curious and incomprehensible bit of news -- how when one of the photographs taken by the Graf Zeppelin in her cruise over the Arctic was developed, why it showed the form of an airplane on the ground below. That plate was snapped over the bleak island of Nova Zembla, and there on the barren earth was seen a plane. Some thought it might have been the machine in which the great explorer Amundsen was lost. Others suspected that some trans-Atlantic flier had drifted that far north.

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But now the thing is simply and clearly explained. The International News Service says it was just a case of accidental double exposure. The plane in the is a Russian machine first fir PICTURE - 2

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when the plate was developed the dim form of the plane was seen amid the barren surroundings of the Arctic land.

DIGEST

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No, this next item isn't anything about industrialization, or counterrevolution, or 5-year plans, or economic mobilization, or any of those bits of jargon and funny lingo that we associate with Soviet Russia. It's about sports -- sports in Soviet Russia.

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One interesting thing that strikes me is that golf is taboo. This week's Literary Digest tells us a that a few American engineers in Russia may get their clubs out and play the game as well as they can on whatever kind of course they can rig up. But for the Red Russians themselves, golf is out. It's capitalistic. But so far as other kinds of sports are concerned, the Bolsheviks are strong for them. They're going in for Western games, encouraging the working men to play them -- tennis, basketball, volley ball, track and field events, and especially soccer, but mix of golf The Literary Digest gives us a colorful article about the way these games are flourishing along with

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socialistic doctrines in Soviet Russia.

The Digest tells us that the oldfashioned Russian games which used to be played are giving way to the more modern Western types of sport. There's one exception. The age-old Russian game of Gorodski still retains its fascination. No matter how modern and communistic the Russians get, they still like Gorodski.

The Literary Digest tells us that 11 it's something like bowling, but it's 12 also something like horse-shoe pitching. 13 That seems like a somewhat paradoxical 14 description. But the Digest goes 15 explain. It tells us that in the game 16 of Gorodski the players throw 4-foot 17 wooden rods, as you might throw a 18 bowling ball or again as you might 19 pitch a horse-shoe. The object is to 20 knock a series of small sticks of wood 21 out of a ring. That's Gorodski. 22

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EOOTBALL

No, that echoing sound that we 1 hear isn't any loud cheer of Rah, Rah, 2 Raw from the football enthusiasts of 3 Oklahoma. It's a different sound 4 altogether. It's a loud growl and a 5 resounding series of thumps as Alfalfa 6 Bill Murray tells what he thinks of the 7 great intercollegiate sport, and 8 proceeds to kick the Oklahoma football 9 right out of the back door of the 10 governor 's mansion at Oklahoma City. 11

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Alfalfa Bill is described by 12 the Associated Press as an enthusiast 13 for economy. He believes that in these 14 distressful times the expenses of the 15 state must be cut down - especially 16 football expenses. The state treasury 17 puts up money for Oklahoma's two state 18 colleges, and when the time came for 19 putting in the bill this year, Alfalfa 20 Bill took a couple of ferocious pulls 21 at his long yellow mustaches and told 22 the college presidents that if the money 23 to be spent on athletics wasn't cut 24 down and cut down plenty, why he'd 25

EOOTBALL - 2

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veto the appropriations outright, and there wouldn't be any money, and when Alfalfa Bill has athletic appropriations in mind, why he especially means football.

Well, the football season is approaching and the Oklahoma fans are thinking about the big games that are to come. Somebody has just mentioned this to Alfalfa Bill and now he comes forward with this blast :

¹² "There is not much difference
¹³ between a football game and a common
¹⁴ fight. I won't go to any games. If a
¹⁵ man is not busy and wants to be fored he
¹⁶ should attend a football meeting."
¹⁷ Meanwhile the football
¹⁸ authorities of the two Oklahoma colleges
¹⁹ have had to cut their funds in half. And
²⁰ they only hope that the shortgge of

²¹ money isn't going to prevent them from ²² developing a couple of good teams with ²³ a powerful tine and a few fast backs. ²⁴ Powerful running Backfields.

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TALL STORY

And now let's have a story from Uncle Bob. Lots of children know Uncle Bob, who tells grand circus stories on the radio. In fact Uncle Bob is the oldest living circus clown. Also Uncle Bob Sherwood is about the oldest living member of the Tall Story Club. Yes, sir, he tells them tall. The fact is that just recently Uncle Bob delighted the Tall Story Club with a combination fish and baby story about an old friend of his.

Uncle Bob's friend is a mighty fisherman. He always catches unusually big fish and can tell you the weight of each one -- because he always carries a pocket scale with him on his fishing expeditions. He weighs the trout and the bass with that scale and then comes back and tells about the 20-pound lake trout and the 15-pound small-mouth bass.

One day Uncle Bob was fishing with this friend of his along a trout stream in Maine. On the brow of the hill above the brook stood a small white house.

Suddenly the door burst open and an excited man came running. Did anybody have a scale? Uncle Bob's friend replied, Yes Sir, he had one. The excited man explained that he had just

TALL STORY - 2

been blessed with a fine baby boy but that he didn't have a scale with which to weigh the new arrival. Would the kind fisherman oblige and come up to the house and **maight** weigh the new born baby.

Yes sir, the kind fisherman would oblige gladly. So Uncle Bob and his friend went up to the house. And they weighed the baby on that scale.

The proud father took one look, grabbed his hair with both hands, and yelled:-

"Holy smoke, my baby weighs 40 pounds!"

The word of the astonishing circumstance spread with great rapidity, and all the doctors and horse-doctors in the country gathered to discuss the strange phenomenon. They tried to figure out now a new-born baby could weigh 40 pounds. And imp they were still debating two days later when a member of the Tall Story Club came along and told them a few wise words about the kind of scales that fishermen carry with which to weigh the fish they catch.

And that's Uncle Bob Sherwood's contribution to the literature of the Great American Whopper.

HOOVER

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Let me ask a question at this point:- Who is Herbert Hoover? Yes, that's right -- he's the President of the United States. But is that his full title?

We know that King George, for example, has a long handle to his name. It's really a most noble and highsounding handle -- George, Fifth, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British **Emg** Dominions Beyond the Seas; Defender of the Faith, and Emperor of India. Yes, that sounds big and imposing.

But President Hoover too has a long handle which he could attach to his name if he wanted to, although maybe it isn't so romantic sounding as the royal British handle. The President when he signs his name just writes down Herbert Hoover. But he could go ahead and add the following string of titles, which are given to us by the Associated Press. He could sign himself:- Herbert Hoover, President of the United States; HOOVER - 2

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Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army; Commander-in-Chief of the United States Navy; Head of the Establishment,-Smithsonian Institution; President of the American Red Cross; President Ex-officio of the Washington National Monument Society; Patron for the Columbia Institution for the Deaf; Chairman of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission; and Chairman of the George Washington Bi-centennial Commission.

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Well, somebody ought to have played "The Star-Spangled Banner" while I rattled those off. But anyway, they are official titles of President Hoover.

And you can't blame him for not using that whole string.

And also, since I have had the job of **ceading** them off, you can't blame me for saying --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.