

Lowell Thomas Broadcast
for the Literary Digest
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GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

THE WEATHER IS ABOUT AVERAGE AROUND THESE PARTS, SNAPPY AND COLD. BUT IN A FEW OTHER CORNERS OF THE WORLD THERE HAVE BEEN STORMS OF TREMENDOUS VIOLENCE. THESE OCCURRED TODAY IN PLACES AS WIDELY SEPARATED AS EASTERN EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA.

A MAD TEMPEST IS RAGING IN THE BLACK SEA, AND THE RUSSIAN PASSENGER STEAMER, JAVARIA IS REPORTED TO HAVE GONE DOWN WITH ALL HANDS, FIFTY PEOPLE -- PASSENGERS AND CREW, AND FORTY OTHER VESSELS HAVE BEEN DISABLED AND ARE IN DISTRESS ON THE WILD, STORMY BLACK SEA TONIGHT.

THE STORM IN SOUTH AMERICA DID MOST OF ITS DAMAGE AT BUENOS AIRES. ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE HOUSES WERE BLOWN DOWN AND ROOFS WERE TORN OFF. THE DRIVING WIND PLAYED HAVOC WITH THE PARTLY FINISHED BUILDINGS THAT ARE BEING ERECTED FOR THE BRITISH TRADE EXPOSITION IN BUENOS AIRES. THE PRINCE OF WALES, AS YOU KNOW, IS ON HIS WAY TO SOUTH AMERICA TO OPEN THE EXPOSITION, AND THE BUILDERS WILL HAVE TO HURRY NOW TO GET THINGS READY FOR HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS.

LET'S SEE NOW WHAT POLITICAL NEWS THERE IS.

LAST NIGHT AT THIS TIME THE LABOR GOVERNMENT LOOKED MIGHTY SHAKY. IT HAD BEEN BEATEN IN PARLIAMENT ON A SCHOOL BILL. AND THAT USUALLY MEANS RESIGN. BUT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT IS STILL HANGING ON -- STILL SHAKY.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS INFORMS US THAT PRIME MINISTER MCDONALD'S MINISTRY HAS ANOTHER EVEN BIGGER HURDLE TO JUMP. A BILL WHICH HAS TO DO WITH REGULATING STRIKES. AND IF THE LABOR PARTY IS BEATEN ON THIS ISSUE IT PROBABLY WILL BE FORCED TO RESIGN.

IT LOOKS LIKE AN EPIDEMIC OF DEFEAT FOR GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE. THE BRITISH MINISTRY WAS BEATEN YESTERDAY, AND THE FRENCH MINISTRY TOOK A LICKING TODAY, AND THEN RESIGNED.

THE FRENCH CABINET, HEADED BY PREMIER STEEG, HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIX THE PRICE OF WHEAT. TODAY A RADICAL DEPUTY CHARGED THAT THE MINISTERS COULDN'T MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS AND WERE FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT THAT QUESTION OF THE PRICE OF WHEAT. HE SAID THIS HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A WAVE OF SPECULATION IN WHEAT WHICH WAS HURTING BOTH FARMERS AND CONSUMERS.

THE DEPUTIES TOOK A VOTE AND, ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE THE GOVERNMENT WAS BEATEN BY 293 TO 283, AND IMMEDIATELY RESIGNED. SO FRANCE, TONIGHT, IS AGAIN WITHOUT A MINISTRY.

1 Now for an item that
2 ~~Great Scott!~~ But this next
3 ~~item does~~ brings back memories of that
4 old textbook of Roman history we
5 studied in high school. Remember
6 Regulus, the Roman General who
7 sacrificed himself so nobly for his
8 country?

9 ~~And now~~ a United Press dispatch
10 states that in ^{the} harbor of Licata in
11 Sicily an ancient anchor was dragged
12 up in the course of dredging operations.
13 That anchor belonged to a Roman galley.
14 In all probability the galley was one
15 of those that were sunk in a sea battle
16 between the Romans and the Carthaginians,
17 ~~right there in the harbor that they~~
18 ~~have been dredging,~~ and the Commander
19 of the Roman fleet, on that occasion,
20 was that same Regulus so familiar
21 for ~~many~~ centuries to millions of
22 school children.
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1 It is reported out in India
2 that the British Government will soon
3 declare a general amnesty for
4 political prisoners. According to the
5 United Press fifty thousand ~~xxx~~ people
6 are in jail in India as the result of
7 the non-violent rebellion which Gandhi
8 started. The most important ~~person~~ ^{prisoner}
9 ~~xx~~ of all, ^{of course,} is Mahatma Gandhi himself,
10 and if this amnesty is declared, why
11 he will be ^{among those} set free — and that will be one
12 ~~so~~ exciting day in India.

1 I ~~think~~ ^{wonder if} we had better send out
 2 a call for a second Abraham Lincoln? ^{nt} At any
 3 ~~because~~ ^{rate} there seem to be a lot of slaves
 4 who need freeing; and nobody seems to
 5 know how to do the liberation act.

6 Over in Geneva, the representative
 7 of the black republic of Liberia told
 8 the League of Nations that Liberia was
 9 willing to free the slaves within her
 10 boundaries, only there was one difficulty.

11 And that difficulty is the old and
 12 familiar bugaboo--lack of money. It
 13 would take a considerable quantity of
 14 cash, said the delegate, to free the
 15 Liberian slaves, ~~and all that Liberia~~
 16 ~~needs is a little financial assistance.~~
 17 If somebody would put up some money, ^{said he,}
 18 the black republic would proceed to
 19 abolish slavery.

20 ~~On the other hand,~~ ^{is} the Associated
 21 Press informs us ^{that} the Liberian delegate
 22 to the League made a frank admission
 23 that slavery ~~did~~ exist^s in his country.
 24 And that's a peculiar thing. ~~It's a case~~
 25 ~~of slaves who were set free and then~~
~~became tyrannical slave holders.~~

As we all know,

1 ~~We~~ the African Republic of
2 Liberia was colonized by freed slaves
3 from America. But what did those same
4 liberated slaves do when they got control
5 of a country of their own in Africa?
6 Why, they proceeded to enslave the native
7 blacks. That's what they did. In other
8 words, Uncle Tom turned ~~into~~ Simon Legree.

9 And today, when slavery everywhere
10 is almost as extinct as the Dodo, we
11 have Liberia ~~which is still~~ ^{as} one country
12 that maintains the institution of human
13 bondage. Indeed a strange spectacle,
14 that.

15 One of the worst phases of the
16 Liberian situation grows out of their
17 system of slavery for debt. Can you
18 imagine a woman pawned for a four dollar
19 debt? Well, it happened over there, ~~and~~
20 ~~the woman was held as a slave until the~~
21 ~~debt was paid.~~ Yes, and then she was
22 repawned by the slave owner who held her.
23 And now the whole business is all so
24 complicated that the woman pawn has no
25 possible hope of ever being free.

1 Then there's the case of the man
2 of forty, a slave, who was pawned as a
3 child. The one who pawned him died, and
4 that meant that he must remain a slave
5 for life.

6 It sounds incredible doesn't it?
7 Well, those are only a few sensational
8 facts about that amazing slavery
9 situation in Liberia. They are all
10 given in an article in the new Literary
11 Digest that came out today. It's an
12 amazing article, and I wish I had time
13 to give you a few more excerpts from
14 it.

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All of you who are)

1 ~~Now you~~ dog lovers ^{Just} listen to
2 this: ~~ones~~.

3 Out in Australia/^a native cattle
4 driver, one of those peculiar dwarfish
5 Aborigines, drove his herd down to
6 the river to get water. With him was
7 his dog. Now these Australian
8 Aborigines are famous for the way they
9 are devoted to their dogs. Man and
10 animal are inseparable. ~~companions~~.

11 Well, according to the United
12 Press, that stunted Aborigine was
13 looking after his cattle. His dog
14 was having a drink out of the river.
15 ^{Suddenly} ~~Then~~ a huge form flashed out of the
16 water. A great crocodile seized the
17 dog by one of its front paws and
18 dragged it down.

19 That little runt of a brown
20 man didn't hesitate a moment. He
21 just took one swift dive into the
22 water to rescue his dog and fight the
23 crocodile. A white man on the bank was
24 watching. The water was still for a
25 while, but a thin patch of blood

1 appeared on the surface. Then there
2 was a splashing and a heaving of the
3 water as the brown man, crocodile and
4 ~~the~~ dog reappeared. The ~~crocodile~~ still
5 had hold of the dog, the man was astride
6 the ~~crocodile's~~ ^{monster's} neck as though he were
7 riding ~~the savage reptile,~~ ^{him} and his
8 hands were clamped in a vice-like grip.
9 And his thumbs were sunk deeply into
10 the crocodile's eyes. They thrashed
11 about in the water for a violent
12 moment. Then the crocodile took another
13 dive, and man and dog disappeared below
14 the surface of the water again.

15 Seconds later the dog popped
16 up and started to swim ~~xx~~ for shore.
17 Then came the frizzly head of the
18 Aborigine. He too swam ashore. On
19 the bank the dog and his master lay
20 down to rest. And there this strange
21 tale ends.

22 Yes, we'll surely have to
23 call that the news item of the day.
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TRAIN ROBBERY

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1 There was a spectacular train
2 robbery today out in Ohio. A Big Four
3 passenger train, running from Detroit
4 to Cincinnati, was boarded by six bandits.

5 It is supposed that they got on
6 when the train stopped for coal. They
7 held up one Pullman car and took about
8 \$6,000 worth of cash and jewelry from
9 the passengers. One passenger who
10 shouted for help was shot and badly
11 injured. The robbers worked efficiently
12 and quietly, and people in the other
13 cars didn't ^{even} know ^{anything unusual} what was going on.

14 The Associated Press states that
15 when the train slowed down before
16 entering the station of Bellefontaine
17 the bandits jumped off and got away.

1 Out in Detroit ^{the} police ^{have just} swooped
2 down on a hiding place where a large
3 store of weapons was concealed.
4 According to the International News
5 Service the Detroit cop^s seized two
6 hundred rifles, twenty machine guns,
7 fifty automatic pistols, and a number
8 of steel vests. Just whom all this
9 armament belongs to is not known.

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AND NOW FOR A SOB STORY, A STORY WITH A HEART THROB IN IT -- FOR WHAT? FOR THE POOR, PITIFUL, PUNY, PATHETIC POTATO.

MY FEELINGS WERE INDEED TOUCHED WHEN I READ IN THE DAY'S NEWS THAT MY OLD FRIEND THE POTATO WAS IN POOR HEALTH.

A DISPATCH FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER ALLIANCE TELLS US THAT THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS SENT TWO POTATO HUNTERS DOWN TO MEXICO. THEY ARE HUNTING FOR WILD POTATOES.

AND WHY ARE THEY OUT CHASING THE WILD POTATO? WELL IT'S BECAUSE OUR COMMON GARDEN VARIETY BECAME OVER-CIVILIZED.

THE POTATO, THE EXPERTS SAY, WAS ORIGINALLY A WILD TUBER IN SOUTH AMERICA. THEN IT WAS CULTIVATED BY THE INDIANS, AND LATER THE PALE FACE CAME ALONG AND GAVE IT HIS ENTHUSIASTIC FAVOR. AND THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF ITS DOWNFALL. AS THE CENTURIES ROLLED BY IT BECAME DELICATE. NEW POTATO DISEASES APPEARED AND FARMERS HAVE BEEN HAVING AN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TIME FIGHTING THESE DISEASES.

THE POTATO, THEY SAY, HAS LOST ITS POWER TO THROW
OFF ILLNESS.

SO THEY WANT TO CROSS IT WITH A WILD VARIETY AND
PUT SOME OF THE OLD PEP BACK INTO OUR PRESENT OVER-SOPHISTICATED
SPUD.

SO THE POTATO IS SICK IN BED, AND THE DOCTORS ARE
TRYING TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR THE INVALID.

1 Martha and Judy and Betty are
2 three little girls who go to school up
3 in Dutchess County, New York, at Locust
4 Farm near the village of Poughquag.
5 The three have written me fascinating
6 letters about an Eskimo village which
7 they and their playmates have made out
8 of snow.

9 Well, I like nothing better than
10 to get letters from children. Of
11 course I would enjoy it even more if I
12 could join Martha and Betty and Judy
13 in their igloos.

14 Here's a story that came to my
15 desk today, and it may interest them,
16 and perhaps all of you:--
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1 When the temperature drops down
2 to zero in your locality and you get out
3 your red flannels and your ear muffs,
4 what do you imagine the temperature is
5 a thousand miles farther north, up in
6 Alaska? Well, the United States Weather
7 Bureau tells us that throughout the
8 past month of December, at Juneau, the
9 capital of Alaska, the temperature
10 averaged 40 degrees above zero, and it
11 often stood at 60. And the total
12 snowfall for the month was less than
13 one inch. Grass was growing and
14 flowers bloomed out of doors during the
15 month. *How's that for an extraordinary*
16 *news item?*
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NOW WAIT A MINUTE FOLKS. IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE AN OLD FELLOW ALONG ABOUT NOW TAKING A DIVE THROUGH A WINDOW -- THAT'S METHUSELAH. HE LIVED A LONG TIME, AS ALL OF YOU KNOW , BUT HERE ARE A FEW CHAPS WHO WILL MAKE METHUSELAH SEEM JUST AN INFANT IN ARMS. INSTEAD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS OLD THEY ARE SEVERAL MILLION YEARS OLD. BUT IN SPITE OF THEIR AGE THEY HAVEN'T ANY LONG WHITE WHISKERS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY ARE GERMS, MINUTE BITS OF LIVING MATTER THAT CAN ONLY BE SEEN THROUGH A MICROSCOPE.

THE NEW LITERARY DIGEST, WHICH CAME OUT TODAY, INFORMS US THAT SCIENTISTS IN EXAMINING ROCKS DEEP DOWN IN THE EARTH, HAVE FOUND LIVING GERMS IN THEM, AND THOSE GERMS ARE BELIEVED TO BE MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD.

THE DIGEST HAS AN ARTICLE TELLING ABOUT THESE OLD BOYS.

ALL YOU HUSBANDS HAD BETTER COCK AN ATTENTIVE
EAR AND LISTEN TO THIS. THE LITTLE WIFE MAY SOON BE WANTING
A PAIR OF GOLD-FISH SHOES. NO, NOT SHOES FOR THE GOLD FISH.
I MEAN SLIPPERS MADE OF SKINS FROM GOLD FISH. THE INTERNATIONAL
NEWS SERVICE TELLS US THAT SMART EVENING SLIPPERS ARE BEING
MADE FROM THE SHINY SCALEY EPIDERMUS OF THE GOLDEN WIGGLERS
THAT FLASH AROUND IN THE BOWL.

THOSE SHOES AT PRESENT COST EIGHTY DOLLARS A PAIR.
BUT BETTER TIMES ARE AHEAD, SO DON'T FAINT. We are PROMISED
THAT THESE GOLD FISH SHOES WILL BE REDUCED IN PRICE. IN ANOTHER
MONTH THEY SAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET A PAIR FOR THE WIFE FOR
SEVENTY BUCKS. ANYWAY THEY SAY THESE SHOES ARE WORTH THEIR
WEIGHT IN GOLD FISH.

END

I suppose a few husbands are coming out from under the table now, but I think I'll send them right back.

An expert over in London tells us it takes 60 things to make a woman beautiful, not including clothes. These 60 things are various kinds of beautifiers. The list, as given by the International News Service, includes 6 kinds of lipstick, 5 kinds of rouge, 4 kinds of powder, 5 kinds of cream, 5 eye cosmetics, 2 skin lotions, 2 kinds of nail enamel, eyelash comb, and enough other stuff to make up an even 60 items.

At the same time, the Associated Press informs us that a beautician out in Los Angeles says that the new fashion for the ladies will be golden earlobes, silver-tipped eyelashes, and green eyebrows! I had to raise my not exactly green eyebrows at that. This new fashion for our wives and daughters will be strange indeed, and it ~~is~~ also sounds much too expensive to get my O.K.

1 Golden earlobes, silver-tipped eyelashes
2 and green eyebrows. By the Great
3 Horned Spoon what will they do next?

4 That green eyebrow item ends my
5 list of dispatches, and that's lucky
6 because after that ^{one} I've just ~~got~~
7 enough breath left to say: - So long
8 until tomorrow.

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