

WEATHER

Lowell Thomas Broadcast
for Literary Digest
Tuesday, October 27, 1931.

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Good Evening, Everybody:

1 It looks as if old man Winter
2 might be on the doorstep.

3 The Associated Press reports
4 cold weather in the mountain area of
5 the West. In Montana the peaks are
6 covered with snow, and the roads leading
7 to the southern and eastern entrances to
8 Yellow Stone Park have been clogged by
9 an eighteen inch fall of snow.

10 A heavy blizzard has tied things
11 up a bit in Wyoming.

12 In the Middle West rain and
13 cold are the order of the day. At
14 Quincy, Illinois, there was a cloudburst
15 and it lasted for twenty~~o~~five minutes.
16 It flooded basements and swept
17 automobiles off the roads.

18 In the East they've been having
19 bright snappy fall weather, although a
20 few folks in some sections of New York *city*
21 had a thrill, *the last couple of days.* ~~today when~~ a young snow
22 storm blew up. At least they thought
23 it was snow. Fine white flakes fell
24 drifting with the west wind. It wasn't
25 snow, but what could it be? It caused

a bit of puzzlement until, as the International News Service relates, an explanation came along that what seemed to be snow was really cat-tails, just the familiar old-fashioned cat-tails.

The Palisades across the Hudson are a favorite habitat for the genus cat-tail. These fuzzy stalks grow over there in profusion and a brisk west wind blew quantities of the cotton like fleece high and wide -- all the way across the river. And that accounts for the fall of feathery white particles that looked like snow.

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(The returns on that British election which all the world has been watching, indicate a tremendous victory for the present government. Prime Minister Ramsay McDonald and his cooperative cabinet of Conservatives and Liberals look like triumphant victors. The Labor party seems to have slumped heavily in the voting today. The Associated Press reports that even Arthur Henderson, leader of the Labor party, was defeated for the House of Commons.) The Evening News of London states that the present National Government will emerge with a total majority of two hundred and twenty-five out of the six hundred and fifteen Parliamentary seats contested. The Universal Service adds that the voters went to the polls in what is believed to be the greatest turnout in all British history.

ELECTION SONG.

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1 The British voters went to the
2 poles today with a lilting song ringing
3 in their ears - that is, it rang in their
4 ears whenever there were any conservative
5 campaigners around. The conservative
6 elements in favor of a tariff to keep
7 out foreign goods and promote British
8 manufactures, why, they pressed home
9 their point with a snappy song. Here's
10 how it goes:

11 This hat, it appears, was made in
12 Algiers,

13 These shirts are a product of Greece.
14 And these elegant shoes were made in
15 Toulouse,

16 This jersey was knitted in Nice.
17 I've NO British tape; I've NO British
18 crepe.

19 I've hardly one British-made gown.
20 Yes, the things we let in from the
21 Lett and the Finn

22 Will finish by letting us down.

23 The International News Service
24 explains that the ditty was written for
25 Stanley Baldwin, the Conservative leader,
by a London banker who seems to have a
talent for song writing. *At any rate it was
a song of victory.*

1 President Hoover today made a
2 statement on a subject that's been up
3 for Presidential attention on and off
4 for more than 30 years, and that subject
5 is the Philippine Islands.

6 The Associated Press reminds us
7 that the independence of the Far Eastern
8 archipelago, at some time or other, either
9 directly or indirectly has been
10 promised by every President from the time
11 the United States acquired the Philippines
12 until the present day.

13 Well, the matter was discussed at
14 the ~~the~~ meeting of the cabinet in
15 Washington today. And following that
16 the President made the announcement that
17 if the Islands were given their
18 independence at once it would only mean
19 disaster to the people out there. The U.P.
20 *tes the President as saying that the*
21 Philippines will have to wait until the
22 present world crisis is over and until
23 economic stability can be established for
24 them. If they were cut loose from the
25 United States right now, why it would
only mean that they would be involved in
hard times, business troubles, and
general economic chaos.

PROSPERITY

1 The Bountiful Lady called
2 Prosperity seems to be favoring the city
3 of Pittsburgh with a pleasant smile.

4 The Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph
5 ~~reports~~ reports that today six steel plate mills
6 of the Homestead Steel Works opened up
7 after having been shut down for some
8 time. Hundreds of workmen have been
9 called back on the job. Some have been
10 idle as long as eighteen months.

11 The steel business has
12 increased recently from three to ten
13 per cent. We all know that Pittsburgh
14 is the city of steel and when the big
15 ~~steel~~ mills show better business, why,
16 that means, that ^{bewitching wench} ~~handsome~~ Miss Prosperity
17 is smiling on the smoky city.

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Today before the LaFollette Senate Committee the Reverend Doctor John A. Ryan, a well-known economist, proposed a giant plan for unemployment relief. He thought that the United States government should raise 5 billion dollars by selling bonds and by taxation. That 5 billion dollars, thinks the Reverend Doctor Ryan, should be spent in an enormous program of public works -- road building, the elimination of dangerous grade-crossings, flood control, and other needed public improvements.

But the most important point, as the International News Service comments, is that this huge plan which is proposed would do a tremendous lot to relieve the unemployment situation. It would provide jobs for thousands and thousands of men.

Well, the next session of Congress is approaching, and ^{with it will come open season} ~~that will be open session~~ for all kinds of projects for ^{curing} ~~curtailing~~ the industrial malady of the country.

1 It looks as if one of the commonest
2 expressions of our daily life may be on
3 its way ^{out} ~~to the junk heap~~. It's one of
4 those terms of speech that have become
5 a part of our daily existence. I mean
6 the familiar old expression TWO-CENT STAMP.
7 Yes, I guess we've all heard those rumors
8 that the price of postage may be raised,
9 but let's look at some of the cold facts
10 of the postal situation - I mean let's
11 look at an article in this week's Literary
12 Digest headed: "IS THE TWO-CENT STAMP
13 DOOMED?"

14 The Literary Digest reminds us that
15 the biggest business organization in the
16 world is in the red. That gigantic busi-
17 ness organization is the United States
18 Postoffice.

19 Well, there's nothing new about that,
20 declares the Literary Digest, quoting an
21 article in the New York Times. The United
22 States Postoffice Department has not paid
23 its own way since about 1851, and its
24 annual deficit in the last five years has
25 been increasing so fast that now it is

1 almost \$100,000,000 a year. That's how
2 much Uncle Sam's mail-carrying department
3 loses annually.

4 So naturally the suggestion is made
5 that postal rates ought to be increased.
6 Congress, when it meets in December, will
7 be called upon to consider a recommendation
8 made by ^{the} Postmaster General. ~~Walter Felger~~
9 ~~Brown~~ Postmaster General Brown wants
10 the two-cent stamp to disappear from our
11 lives. He thinks its place should be
12 taken by a 2½¢ stamp or a 3¢ stamp.

13 If the cost of sending a letter
14 first-class were increased to 2½¢, why
15 that extra half a penny would bring in
16 an additional \$65,000,000 a year to the
17 Postoffice department. That would help
18 to kill off quite a bit of that \$100,000,000
19 deficit. And an increase of 1¢ would wipe
20 out the deficit altogether.

21 Well, already there have been in-
22 creases in the postal rates to foreign
23 countries. The cost of sending a letter
24 to Canada went up from 2¢ to 3¢ on Septem-
25 ber first. And there have been increases

1 on other kinds of foreign mail.

2 These increases do not seem to be
3 enough. So the attack is now directed
4 against the 2¢ stamp.

5 The Literary Digest points out that
6 there is some opposition to the proposal.
7 There is, of course, a sentimental objec-
8 tion to eliminating the good old 2¢ stamp
9 from our lives. Another argument points
10 out that the rates on first-class mail
11 shouldn't be changed, because it isn't
12 first-class mail that loses the money.
13 The letter sent with a 2¢ stamp pays its
14 way. It's on second-class and other
15 categories of mail that the big mail-man
16 in Washington piles up his huge deficit.

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1 It was ^{definitely} announced today that West
2 Point is not going to call off its
3 football schedule for the rest of the
4 year. Right after the unfortunate
5 accident which resulted in the death of
6 Richard B. Sheridan, the report was that
7 ~~as a result of the tragedy~~, the Army
8 might not play out its football schedule.

9 This, however, ^{reports} ~~says~~ the United Press, ^{was}
10 ~~International News Service~~, was
11 officially contradicted today. The Army
12 will play the remainder of its ~~football~~
13 games.

14 I received a telephone call ^{this noon} ~~today~~
15 from a man who tells me I was wrong in
16 one detail in the account I gave last
17 night of the accident at the Yale-Army
18 game. He is Arnold M. Lehman, ~~who has~~
19 ~~been~~ ^{former} a football player and a ^{referee} and
20 coach. ~~of football~~. ^{TP} He declares that
21 nobody fell on top of Cadet Sheridan.

22 He explains that he was sitting in
23 the second row of seats at the 15-yard
24 line, and ~~he~~ was watching the play
25 closely. He saw Cadet Sheridan try to

1 tackle the Yale ball-carrier. The Army
2 player went into the Yale man head first
3 and struck him not with his shoulder but
4 with his head. The Yale man was checked
5 for an instant, but then went on and was
6 tackled and brought down immediately
7 afterward.

8 Mr. Lehman said he noticed Cadet
9 Sheridan particularly because it seemed
10 that he had been badly hurt. He is quite
11 sure that nobody was near the cadet as he
12 fell to the ground. It was a wide-open
13 field play, and there was no chance for
14 any piling up.

15 *Sports writers seem to be a*
16 *bit confused about this. They had their*
17 *eyes on the man with the ball.*
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1 ~~Well,~~ Somebody ^{got} ~~got~~ a writ of
2 supercedeas, and that somebody is
3 Scarface Al Capone.

4 Yes, he got a writ of supercedeas.
5 And what may that be? Well, it is
6 explained by the International News
7 Service as meaning that the courts have
8 decided that he won't have to go to the
9 Federal penitentiary at ^{Fort} Leavenworth
10 until his appeal has been decided. But
11 He is still denied bail. He will have
12 to remain in the Cook County jail. So
13 instead of the Federal penitentiary
14 it's the county jail for the Big Shot
15 until his appeal has been passed upon
16 by the higher courts.

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The Tall Story Club this evening takes the opportunity to salute our great sister commonwealth, the Dominion of Canada. The truth-telling brothers desire to present to a waiting world an example of the Great Canadian Whopper.

It comes from Talbot Holland of Rhode Island, who heard it from an uncle of his who was a timber estimator for a large Canadian paper company.

"One day," writes Mr. Holland, "my uncle put in at a logging camp on the Touladi River, in Canada. While there he overheard a boast by a French-Canadian wood-chopper named Joe. Joe bragged that he could chop down six hundred trees between sunrise and sunset. My uncle felt that such an extravagant boast should not go unchallenged. So a bet was posted.

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"Early the next morning the entire camp assembled, and as the first rosy

1 flush spread over the forest and
2 steeped the distant hills in crimson,
3 Joe, the mighty French-Canadian wood-
4 chopper, grasped his axe and stood at
5 attention.

6 "Crack!" sounded the starting gun
7 as the sun peeped over the hill, and away
8 went Joe in a shower of chips. Pausing
9 only long enough to bolt down a few sides
10 of bacon and gulp down a few gallons of
11 coffee, Joe kept at his killing pace,
12 accompanied by the crashing and booming
13 of mighty monarchs as they yielded to the
14 force of his ~~manly~~^{powerful} muscles. Nor did Joe
15 pause for an instant until the gun
16 announced that Old Sol had dipped below
17 the western horizon.

18 "A committee was then appointed to
19 make the official count. After a time
20 a report was made. 'How Many?' queried
21 Joe.

22 "'Five hundred and ninety-five,' was
23 the report.

24 "'Sacre bleu,' exclaimed Joe. 'My
25 reputation, she is gone. You have made

1 mistake.'

2 "No,' said the committee chairman,
3 'count them yourself.'

4 "Come,' said my Uncle to Joe,
5 'we will check and double-check.'

6 "So Uncle and Joe went back to the
7 starting point, and started to count.

8 "Number one,' said Uncle. 'But
9 what is this in the stump?'

10 "Sacre bleu,' cried Joe, 'it is the
11 head of my axe! No wonder I have chop
12 only 595 trees. I have lose ze head of
13 ze axe in ze first tree. I have chop
14 wiz ze axe-handle. Zat is why I lose ze
15 bet. Sacre bleu!'" *So, ^{Joe} he chopped down*
16 *594 trees with an axe-handle! :-)*
17 ~~So~~ (that's an example of the Great
18 Canadian Whopper. -- ~~well, well!~~)

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18 Canadian Whopper. -- ~~well, well!~~

TALL-STORY

And by the way

1 ^ The suggestion ~~has been~~^{was} made to me
2 that I ought to explain how the book
3 "Tall Stories" may be had. Well, that
4 hilarious volume, dedicated to the
5 glorification of the Great American
6 Whopper is ^{now} on sale at ~~the~~ bookstores ^{everywhere}.
7 All you have to do is to walk in and ask
8 the bookseller for it.

9 The tall-story book may also be
10 had from the publishers -- that is, from
11 the publishers of the Literary Digest,
12 Funk & Wagnalls. Just write in and give
13 your order.
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Under —

1 Down in the southern continent
2 of Australia, in the city of Sydney,
3 court was in session. ^{The N.Y. World-Telegram reports that} The judge was
4 on the bench in all his dignity. A
5 learned array of lawyers was there.
6 The court room was crowded, because it
7 was a sensational case. A man was suing
8 his uncle for alienation of affections.
9 He claimed that his uncle stole his
10 wife's love.

11 Yes, that kind of law suit
12 attracts a lot of attention anywhere
13 in the world. And it was one of the
14 local sensations in Australia.

15 The testimony was about to begin
16 when the defendant, the love pirate
17 uncle, arose and pointed at the jury.

18 "Look", he shouted. "Look."

19 And that was when the judge's
20 eyes grew wide. He gasped and his
21 dignified British judicial wig nearly
22 fell off his head. Consternation
23 reigned in the courtroom - because there
24 among the jurymen, ready to try the case,
25 was the plaintiff. Yes, he was sitting

on the jury that was to give a decision in his own lawsuit.

There had been a slight mix-up when the jury had been selected. The name of the plaintiff had accidentally been included among those of the jurors called to serve. And that chap didn't seem to mind it at all. He went right through the proceedings, ready to render a decision -- presumably in favor of himself. And the slip wasn't noticed until the jury filed in and the love pirate uncle saw his nephew, big and bold, among the twelve men good and true. Whereupon the nephew did the Australian crawl out of the jury box -- just as I am doing an American crawl away from this mike --

And so long until tomorrow.