

Lowell Thomas
March 17, 1931

1 Something like a pitched battle
2 was fought near East St. Louis today. A
3 squad of deputy sheriffs were trapped in
4 ambush by a hundred or so metal workers
5 who are out on strike.

6 The deputy sheriffs were on
7 their way to a Mississippi ferry landing
8 to protect non-union laborers. They were
9 in a car, and drove right into a trap. Men
10 jumped out of a ditch and opened fire with
11 shotguns. At the same time, the strikers
12 had a semi-circle of their own automobiles
13 drawn up in a hollow through which the
14 road ran. Men were posted behind the
15 cars and they, too, opened fire. The
16 sheriffs fired back, and the battle
17 continued until a squad of men armed with
18 shotguns came to the rescue of the sheriffs

19 According to the United Press,
20 four of the sheriffs were wounded, and
21 when the strikers were driven off, they
22 carried several injured men ^{away} ~~along~~ with
23 them.
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1 Gang warfare has invaded the ^{fair} city
2 of Denver. It stalked into the ^{mile-high} Colorado
3 metropolis in the form of a violent
4 explosion. A house in the most fashion-
5 able section of Denver was blown up and
6 completely demolished. According to the
7 United Press it was the home of a boss
8 racketeer, who has been seeking to
9 extend his operations throughout Colorado.
10 Nobody was in the house when it was blown
11 to pieces, but just the same the wreckage
12 is being searched. Neighbors state that
13 they saw lights in the building just
14 before the blast occurred.

1 A new, weird, mysterious
2 element has been injected into the
3 Virginia Brooks case, which has been
4 creating much excitement out in California.
5 The atrocious murder of the ten year old
6 girl was committed a couple of weeks ago
7 and ever since there has been an intensive
8 hunt for the killer.

9 Today, according to the Inter-
10 national News Service, a note was found
11 thrust under the door of a filling
12 station at San Diego. It was written in
13 a scrawly kind of handwriting, and was
14 signed THE DOCTOR. It stated that the
15 writer defied all the police power of
16 California to find him and that he had
17 committed the ^{crime} ~~murder~~. He boasted that he
18 had left no clues and that the case could
19 never be solved. "I have achieved the
20 perfect crime", he wrote.

21 And this evening police out in
22 California are hunting high and low for
23 the mysterious DOCTOR. He may be merely
24 a crank and again he may be the killer of
25 Virginia Brooks.

211-SM

1 The note found under the door
2 of the filling station is being
3 scrutinized for finger prints and the
4 handwriting is being analyzed. The ~~xxxx~~
5 police declare that they ^{fully} intend to find
6 the man who signed himself THE DOCTOR.
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1 They have had another riot in the
2 Illinois State Prison; this time it was
3 a case of the convicts fighting among
4 themselves.

5 This latest trouble at Joliet
6 started to the sweet sounds of music.
7 The prison band was practicing, and a
8 number of convicts were in the room
9 listening. One convict shouted, "LET'S
10 GO". He and some of his pals made a
11 rush toward the door. An older convict
12 tried to stop them. He tried to make
13 them see that they were doing both a
14 wrong and dangerous thing. But he was
15 knocked down; and then the prisoners
16 started to battle with each other.

17 Then the players in the band
18 jumped into the fight; in fact, it
19 turned out to be largely a musical
20 scrap because the convicts swung at
21 each other with music stands, trombones,
22 cornets, piccolos, and, according to the
23 International News Service, one band was
24 swinging right and left with a base viol.

25 The guards came on the run, and

1 after considerable trouble peace was
2 restored. According to the United
3 Press, five convicts were seriously
4 wounded by knives, and a number of
5 others were bruised and battered.

1 An attack on the whole prison
2 system was made today by Governor Franklin
3 D. Roosevelt, of New York. He said in
4 an address that the whole ^{American} prison system
5 is miserably inadequate and ineffective.
6 He added that statistics show that from
7 fifty to sixty percent of men once sent
8 to jail become habitual criminals and
9 eventually return to jail again. He
10 called prisons "colleges of crime", ~~and~~ ^{He further}
11 declared ^{that} to no other institutions of
12 learning in the world do postgraduates
13 return for advanced instruction. And
14 that is indeed a scathing indictment.

1 Late reports about that movie
2 ship which blew up ^{off Newfoundland} yesterday indicate that
3 118 men were saved and from twenty to
4 twenty five are believed to have been
5 lost.

6 The cause of the explosion
7 does not seem to be positively known. Late
8 Dispatches from the Associated Press
9 indicate that it was probably a case of ^{bursting} of
10 boilers. The blast took place in or near
11 the engine room and it is believed that
12 the boilers blew up.

13 The ship was plowing its way
14 through the ice and when she sank the
15 survivors made their way across the
16 treacherous frozen surface to the bleak
17 Newfoundland shore.

18 The moment word of the disaster
19 was flashed to the outside world, ships
20 hurried to carry aid to the men who were
21 said to have been exhausted by the
22 terrifying ordeal.

1 I suppose the next thing to do
2 is to start to count. One, two, three,
3 four, five, and so on. Because this ~~next~~
4 story is about numbers -- about a big
5 gambling game, lottery, policy game,
6 called Numbers. It has been the rage
7 in many cities, and millions of dollars
8 have been sunk into it.

9 It started in Harlem, the negro
10 section of New York, in 1920. A Cuban
11 negro got the bright idea. He started a
12 lottery based on the figures issued daily
13 by the New York Clearing House, ~~which~~
14 ~~gave two numbers, one for the bank~~
15 ~~clearings and the other for the bank~~
16 totals. Thousands of people made their
17 guesses, bought tickets, and paid their
18 money.

19 Naturally, in a game like that,
20 the suckers on the whole were sure to
21 lose and the bright black boy from Cuba
22 made a fortune.

23 And right away other games were
24 started. The lottery business was
25 booming.

1 The Clearing House didn't like
2 the idea of being made a bit of
3 machinery for an illegal gambling game,
4 and stopped printing the daily numbers.

5 That didn't bother the lottery boys
6 at all. They just switched to the
7 totals, issued by the New York Exchange
8 and printed in all the newspapers daily.

9 Well, the Stock Exchange didn't
10 want to be made a tool for an outlaw
11 lottery either. But the Exchange had to
12 go on printing the daily total of shares
13 sold. What was to be done about it?

14 The story is told in this week's
15 Literary Digest. The Stock Exchange
16 authorities finally found a way to
17 prevent its daily figures from being used
18 in the lottery. Just turn to page 48 of
19 this week's Digest and you will find
20 the interesting story, telling just how
21 it was done.
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2411-5M

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The Chicago Tribune carried a
1 ^{rather startling} special story today, ~~which tells of a~~
2 ~~rather startling development.~~ It concerns
3 that disturbed and tremendously important
4 bit of land, Palestine, which is Holyland
5 to three great religions -- the Jewish,
6 Christian, and Mohammedan.

8 A movement is afoot among the
9 Moslems which may be of the greatest
10 importance. The purpose is to make
11 Jerusalem the principal holy city of
12 Islam. Jerusalem is already the third
13 holiest city of the Mohammedan world.
14 Ranking above it are Mecca, ^{where the Prophet Mohammed was born,} and Medina ^{where Mohammed is buried.}
15 If the new agitation has its way,
16 Jerusalem will supplant Mecca as the
17 holiest place.

18 It all goes back to a powerful
19 leader of the Moslems of India. He was
20 Mohammed Ali, and he started a revival of
21 the Mohammedan religion in India. He was
22 the leader of the Indian Moslems and he
23 represented them at the ^{recent} London Round Table
24 Conference. He died while attending the
25 Conference, and was accorded the almost
unheard of honor of being buried in the



great Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem.

At the solemn funeral, a younger brother of Mohammed Ali made a fiery address. His name is Moulana Saukat Ali, and he quickly stepped into his brother's shoes as ^{a great} leader of Islam. In an impassioned address, he demanded that the Mohammedans get together and assert their power. And right there he started the movement to have Jerusalem take the place of Mecca as the holiest city of Islam.

The meaning of all this is dramatically clear. The Zionists are trying to build anew the Kingdom of David. To them Jerusalem is peculiarly their own sacret site. The Mohammedans are opposing them, claiming that Jerusalem is a holy city of their own, and if they ordain that Jerusalem is the holiest of their cities, why then the struggle in Palestine becomes that much more intense.

It looks as if the old land of the Jordan is destined forever to see a continuation of the strife that began in those dim days when the Children of Israel entered the promised land.

The City of Belgrade, the capital of the kingdom of Jugo-Slavia, was shaken today when four bombs, in four different places, exploded simultaneously. According to a cable received by the Chicago Daily News, one bomb was hidden in the unfinished building of the Ministry of Communications; one went off in front of the Military Academy. The War Ministry and the Barracks of the Cavalry were the scenes of the other two explosions.

One man was killed, and considerable damage was done--not, however, as much as might have been expected. The bombs are said to have been large, but defective. If they had gone off with ^{charge of} their full explosive, ~~hang-up power~~ it is said that half the military establishment in Belgrade would have been knocked flat, and the Minister of War wouldn't ^{even} have had a place to hang his hat.

Croatian terrorists are getting the blame for the explosions. The Croatians are one of the peoples under the control

of the Jugo-Slav government, and they have been making a bit of trouble during the last few years. They say they are not getting their rights.

Anyway, somebody touched off those four bombs and nearly rang the bell in Belgrade, and the Croats seem to be getting the blame for it.

As we all know, St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland, and I suppose St. Patrick's Day ~~is a snake story~~ ^{would not be caught} is a snake story. In fact, the Tall Story Club dedicates its large collection of remarkable snake stories to the memory of the good Saint.

This afternoon I dug into the archives of the Tall Story Club and fished out an account of a truly remarkable incident which will give a hint of the wonderful things St. Patrick did when he drove the snakes out of Ireland.

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1 Of course, I don't have to
2 remind you folks about the day we
3 celebrate -- St. Patrick's Day in the
4 Morning -- or rather, in the evening.

5 Being partly of Irish ancestry
6 myself, I naturally hold St. Patrick's
7 Day to be one of the great days of the
8 year, although every race and nation,
9 even the Afghans, ^{the} Polynesians, ^{the Zulus} ~~and the~~
10 ^{the} and Cambodians, are familiar with the
11 glory of St. Patrick -- or at least they
12 ought to be.

13 As we all know, St. Patrick
14 drove the snakes out of Ireland, and I
15 suppose St. Patrick's Day ^{would not be complete} ~~is a proper~~
16 ^{without} ~~time to tell~~ a snake story. In fact,
17 the Tall Story Club dedicates its large
18 collection of remarkable snake stories
19 to the memory of the good Saint.

20 This afternoon I dug into the
21 archives ~~of the Tall Story Club~~ and
22 fished out an account of a truly
23 remarkable incident which will give a
24 hint of the wonderful things St. Patrick
25 did when he drove the snakes out of
Ireland.

1 The story comes from Jane
2 Shimp, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and
3 she explains that it was told to her by
4 an old and pious church member.

5 This old and pious church mem-
6 ber went out into the woods one day when
7 he saw a snake crawling across the path.
8 ~~He noticed how long it took the snake to~~
9 ~~get across the path and that made him~~
10 ~~realize the extreme length of the snake.~~

11 The enormous reptile was slithering into
12 a clump of brush wood. The church member
13 thought he'd rout out the snake. He set
14 fire to the brush wood, but no ^{Mr.} Snake
15 emerged.

16 After the fire had burned itself
17 down, he saw the giant reptile. It was
18 lying there among the glowing red embers.
19 ^{the snake} ~~It~~ was red hot, too, like a piece of iron
20 that a blacksmith is hammering. That
21 seemed peculiar to the church member and
22 he stirred that snake with his stick,
23 thinking it would fall apart. But that
24 red hot snake merely tried to bite the
25 church member, who states that the bite

1 of a reptile which was at least fifteen
2 feet long and also red hot might have
3 been attended by serious consequences.
4 ~~After that~~ the incandescent reptile
5 seemed as if it might be suffering from
6 the heat. It went slithering along and
7 set the dry grass afire. That caused a
8 forest fire.

9 The church member saw the red
10 hot snake head for a nearby stream. The
11 glowing reptile plunged into the water
12 and there was a tremendous boiling and
13 sizzling. Then the snake cooled to a
14 normal temperature, slid over to the
15 opposite bank and went on its way.

16 Yes, indeed, when we think of
17 snakes like that, we can only rise and
18 give praise to St. Patrick who drove the
19 snakes out of Ireland.
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END

I have a letter here from John O'Loughlin, of Philadelphia, who suggests that on St. Patrick's day I ought to say SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW in Gaellic, the ancient language of Ireland; and the same request comes from B. A. McKenzie a Scot up in Nova Scotia.

Well, here in Chicago, I started out to ~~xxx~~ find out how to say SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW in the old Gaellic tongue, and what a time I had.

First of all I applied to my friend and oldtime boss, Dick Finnigan, the editor of the Chicago Daily Times. Dick is an eminent editor, and from his name you'd think he's know something about Gaellic. Yes, surely a Finnigan ought to know - but he didn't. He told me to call Father McNamee, at St. Patrick's Church -- but Father McNamee didn't know Gaelic either.

Then I was referred to Thomas O'Shaghnessy, an artist who has lived and studied in Ireland. But he didn't know Gaellic, either. Mr. O'Shaghnessy referred me to Michael O'Gallagher. Now Mr. O'Gallagher is said to be the greatest Gaellic scholar in America. But Mr. O'Gallagher is in the employ of the Chicago

City Government, and has his office at the City Hall. I tried to telephone him, but the City Hall was of course closed in honor of St. Patrick's Day. I then telephoned to the O'Gallagher home and talked to Miss O'Gallagher who believe me has one of the most delightful brogues that iver I listened to, at all, at all.

No, Mr. O'Gallagher wasn't home, but Miss O'Gallagher said she knew Gaellic and she told me how to say SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW in Gaellic. Here it is:

BANACHT LIVE!

Just then I got a telephone call from Brother Mulkeam, of St. Ignatius College. He had heard of my Gaellic quest, and he told me a second way ~~in~~ of saying SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW in Gaellic. It's like this: SLAWN LIVE!

Then Mr. O'Gallagher phoned me, and he confirmed everything. Well it was a long, hard chase, but that only makes the victory more delightful. And so -- BANACHT LIVE. SLAWN LIVE and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW!