

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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INTRO

A strange story comes from Europe tonight. In Eastern Belgium where the German seige guns once boomed and crashed, a heavy fog came drifting down a valley - and Death was in that fog. Cattle fell and died when they breathed it. And men and women and children died too -- 48 of them. According to the Associated Press, there was some sort of poisoned gas in that fog. Just what, nobody knows. Where it came from nobody can tell. It just drifted along unseen - undreamed of - and struck down animals and men. A strange ~~xx~~ story indeed.

MYSTERY

Here is an Associated Press story from Pennsylvania, and it has a touch of weird mystery, too. Wellington de Groet of Matamoras, New York, went hunting out near Milford, Penna. They found ~~ix~~ him dead. His gun was at his side, his hunting knife clutched in his right hand. A few feet away lay a big buck, shot through the body.

Well, they naturally thought that the buck had killed the hunter. It seemed as if de Groet had wounded the animal and gone at it with his hunting knife and that the buck had fallen on him and crushed him to death. That seemed to explain the case well enough until the doctors examined de Groet. They found that he had been shot through the chest.

EXPLOSION

Up in Beloit, Wisconsin, there was a lot of excitement today. A gas main blew up and lifted a dry goods store right off its foundation. It also blew out windows all over the town. Fire followed ~~xx~~ the explosion and in no time at all four stores had been burned to the ground, and a million dollars' worth of buildings and merchandise had gone up in smoke.

A policeman was standing across the street when that gas main popped. The United Press reports that the explosion was so terrific that the cop was blown right through a plate glass window. Another man was knocked galley west and then got up and started running and hasn't been seen since.

1 This next item gives me a shock.
2 I'm a football fan and I wonder whether
3 it can be an indication of ^{things that are going} ~~what is about~~
4 to happen. A college prominent in foot-
5 ball, has dropped the game. Loyola Univ-
6 ersity, here in Chicago, announces that
7 there will be no more inter-collegiate
8 football at Loyola.

9 The President of ~~Loyola~~, according
10 to the United Press, declares that foot-
11 ball has become nothing ~~else~~ but a popular
12 entertainment, does the student no good,
13 and merely provides a big show for the
14 public. He adds that ~~the way football is~~
15 ~~now~~, it does not help the ~~sound~~ health and
16 physical development of the student body,
17 and the enthusiasm for football is spoil-
18 ing the true ideals and right purposes of
19 education. I wonder if any other colleges
20 are going to follow suit.

21 Walter Dill Scott, President of
22 Northwestern University, says, "It is a
23 debatable question. Northwestern abolished
24 football about 25 years ago and then brought
25 it back."

1 In Washington, President Hoover is
2 pushing his plans for unemployment relief.
3 He has told Congress how he intends to
4 spend the \$150,000,000 he wants and now
5 the Appropriations Committee of Congress
6 is considering the matter. Meanwhile, the
7 Agriculture Committee is taking up the plan
8 for an appropriation of \$25,000,000 for
9 agricultural relief. The President wants
10 that sum for the farmers who are hit hard
11 by the drought so they can buy seed and
12 fertilizer and feed.

13 The Washington correspondent of the
14 United Press reports that both the Demo-
15 crats and the Republicans are having
16 ~~plenty of~~ trouble with ~~the~~ insurgents.
17 ~~Just the old story of cantankerous congress-~~
18 ~~men and senators who won't "follow the~~
19 ~~leader".~~

20 And just how much insurgency you are
21 liable to find in one insurgent is shown
22 in a little poem. It is by Senator Norris
23 the insurgent Republican who takes a whack
24 at the President. Here is Senator Norris'
25 poem:--

1 "Once to every man and nation
 2 Comes the moment to decide,
 3 In the strife of truth with falsehood,
 4 For the good or evil side.

5 But the case presents no problem
 6 To the White House engineer;
 7 He appoints a big commission
 8 To report some time next year."
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10 That is ~~rather~~ caustic, and the
 11 Washington correspondent of the Chicago
 12 Daily News wires that we may soon have a
 13 ^{transformed} ~~new~~ President, meaning that Mr. Hoover has
 14 reached the stage where he may ^{reveal} ~~come out and~~
 15 ~~show~~ himself as "a"second Teddy Roosevelt,"
 16 ~~While he hasn't the pugnacity of "T.R.",~~
 17 ~~the Chicago Daily News assures us "There~~
 18 ~~is plenty of fight in Mr. Hoover".~~
 19 and start fighting back.
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HOOVER

You no doubt have read about the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection -- a gathering of 3000 men and women, who assembled at the national capitol to fight for a square deal for children.

Press dispatches are warm in their praise of President Hoover's work in connection with this. As David Lawrence pointed out: "Here is another striking example of the moral power of our Chief Executive."

There is an interesting full page article on this White House Conference in this week's Literary Digest you will enjoy it.

1 From the jungles of Guatemala comes
2 a romantic tale of hidden treasure. Stories
3 of hidden treasure are always floating
4 around, but this one has more color than
5 most of them. In fact, it's a story of a
6 discovery that may concern the treasure of
7 Montezuma, the famous Aztec King, whose
8 riches were supposed to surpass man's wild-
9 est dreams.

10 According to the United Press, Dr.
11 Thomas Cann, a German scientist, was wand-
12 ering through the jungle of Guatemala when
13 one of his guides stumbled upon a cave,
14 a cave hidden by jungle moss and creepers.
15 Inside the cave they found the walls all
16 richly carved. They also found a number
17 of iron casks secured with strong iron
18 bands. They haven't opened those kegs yet,
19 but in them the German scientist expects
20 to find the Aztec treasures of Montezuma.

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1 Over in Great Britain, 90,000 Scot-
2 tish miners who were out on strike, have
3 decided to go back to work on Monday.
4 The United Press reports that the employ-
5 ers and the miners, after talking things
6 over, ~~a lot~~, finally came to an agreement.
7 So the Scottish miners and lairds are
8 singing merrily over their hags tonight.

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1 The United Press cables from Russia
2 that the spectacular trial over in Moscow,
3 the trial that all the world has been
4 watching, reached its climax today. As
5 was expected, the Bolshevik prosecutor
6 demanded the death penalty for ^{those} ~~all of the~~
7 eight engineers and professors. That pro-
8 secutor, by the way, is famous for his
9 merciless bitterness. He is KRELENKO -
10 short, blond, mocking.

11 He summed up his attitude in one
12 savage phrase: "DEATH FOR ALL AND CLEMENCY
13 FOR NONE".

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1 I saw Charlie Hackett today -- you
2 know, Charles Hackett, the famous tenor
3 of the Chicago Opera Company. He is a
4 busy man this week, getting ready for the
5 world premier of a new opera next Wednes-
6 day. ~~at the Chicago Civic Opera House.~~ The
7 opera is "Camille" and Hackett has been
8 assigned the leading tenor role. He told
9 me they are ~~just~~ being "run ragged" with
10 rehearsals.

11 He found time, however, to chat a
12 bit about his tussels with high notes. ~~and~~
13 ~~long phrases.~~ And we also yarned some
14 concerning my nightly skirmishes with the
15 News. In fact, the great tenor picked
16 out the news item of the day for me.
17 Charlie was particularly interested in a
18 story he had seen in all the Chicago
19 evening papers. A ~~story~~ ^{tale} about an old news
20 boy - a newsboy of about 60 who for forty
21 years, has been selling papers ^{here in Chicago} at the
22 corner of Adams Street and Wabash Avenue.
23 ~~here in Chicago.~~

24 But let me tell you the story:
25 They are giving a banquet for a doc-

1 tor who has just come from Italy. He is
2 Dr. Nicola Pinterozzi. And at that banquet
3 the old newsboy will have the honored
4 place, because he is Dominico Pinterozzi,
5 the father of the young surgeon. You
6 can't make much money selling newspapers
7 and if you have a family of ~~eight~~^{nine} children,
8 sledding is mighty rough most of the time.
9 But old Dominico sold his papers; raised
10 his nine children and saw to it that they
11 all ~~got~~^{received} a real education so they could
12 amount to something. He scraped and he
13 saved and ~~to~~ he sold papers. He was on
14 the job literally from sunrise until long
15 after sunset.

16 Old Dominico had one grand dream. He
17 had set his heart on having his oldest boy
18 become a great surgeon. Well, medical
19 education comes high, and a news~~boy's~~^{vendor's} pro-
20 fits are small. But old Dominico managed
21 it. He sent his oldest son, Nicola, over
22 to Italy, to the medical school in Naples.
23 It was hard to raise the steamer fare and
24 of course it was harder still to keep
25 on paying the boy's expenses. But Dominico

just kept on scraping and selling papers.

And now his boy is back in Chicago - and He's a full fledged doctor, and Dominico thinke he is going to be the greatest surgeon in the world. And a lot of Chicagoans are giving the young doctor a banquet and of course old Dominico, the 60 year old newsboy is to have the place of honor.

That is the story that Charles Hackett, the great opera star, picked as the most interesting news item of the day. Charlie Hackett knows that there is heart-throbbing drama - on the stage of life as well as the operatic stage.

QUESTION

In looking through the questionnaire in this week's Literary Digest I saw one that aroused my curiosity. The question was: "How fast can the bullet car go?" So I turned over to the article containing the answer and here is what I found:--

The Bullet Car is a new German idea for railway travel. It runs on a regular railroad track and is cigar shaped. It has a 400 horse power airplane motor and is driven along by an airplane propellor. It looks something like a zeppelin on wheels. It scoots along the track, with passengers and baggage at 100 miles an hour. After reading that Literary Digest article I began to think that it might not be so long before we will all be traveling in Bullet Cars.

And another question in this week's Literary Digest questionnaire reads:

1 "WHAT IS THE DISPUTE OVER APOSTOLIC
2 SUCCESSION?"

3 Well, I knew that in the Episcopal
4 Church they were having quite a bit of
5 controversy ~~ey~~ about Apostolic Succession,
6 but I was hazy about the ~~five~~ points of
7 the argument. I am a lot clearer about
8 it now, since I read the Literary Digest
9 article on the subject. ~~It is a full and~~
10 *It explains a* ~~clear explanation of that~~ thorny matter
11 ~~of Apostolic Succession.~~ I'll tell you
12 about it tomorrow night, unless, of
13 course, you are too impatient to wait.
14 In which case I hope you will turn to your
15 copy of this week's Digest and read it
16 tonight.

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1 A fresh-water man-eating-shark has
2 been found in ~~the~~ far off ~~tropical water~~
3 ~~of~~ Malaya. Dr. Homer W. Smith, an Ameri-
4 can scientist, found these sharks forty
5 miles up the Perak River, where the water
6 is perfectly fresh. All other sharks live
7 in salt water. According to the Associated
8 Press, there's a theory that sharks were
9 originally a fresh water fish, and that
10 theory is bucked up a bit by the discovery
11 of those fresh water sharks in Malaya.

12 Well, that item hits home, ~~with me~~,
13 because I once made an expedition up that
14 same Perak River in Malaya. I traveled
15 by native boat, with six brawny oarsmen
16 and a Malay headman, who was an opium
17 fiend.

18 We caught some of the queerest look-
19 ing fish that any mortal ever saw and we
20 shot a few enormous crocodiles, but we
21 saw nothing of these fresh water sharks
22 that Doctor Smith now claims to have found
23 in that same river.

24 The Perak ~~river~~ is one of the most
25 picturesque rivers in the world.

SHARKS

It runs through the heart of the Malay jungle. It is full of rapids, and every time we approached a rapid, the chief boatman, (the opium fiend) would order the oarsmen to pull in to the shore. Then all of my native crew would get out, say their prayers to the spirit of the rapids, and bathe their faces and go through a picturesque ritual.

Then they would swing the boat back into the current again and we would go racing through the cataract, shooting in and out among great boulders. The oarsmen would paddle at double speed, in perfect rhythm, and shout a wild Malay song.

After coming through the white water the chief boatman would stand up in the prow, deliver an eloquent oration, thanking the spirit of the rapids, and then he would throw an offering into the river, a large jungle leaf in which was wrapped some rice and fruit.

After that the head boatman would have the men on the paddles pull over to the shore again, so he could stretch out on the deck, roast a pill of opium over his little ~~wixxix~~ alcohol

lamp, and spend a half hour or so in blissful dreams.

Occasionally we would get stranded in a rapids and have to get out and shove the boat off the rocks. I'm glad that I knew nothing about the existence of these men eating sharks of the Perek River. If I had known, they were there, I ~~xxx~~ might have lost some of my enthusiasm for the expedition, especially at the moments when we had to jump into the river.

END

Here is an item about two mighty hunters up at Ashland, Wisconsin. Their names are Dr. Nolan and Mr. McCall, and these two gentlemen would rather hunt than eat. This week they are out for deer. But it's against the law to shoot deer in Wisconsin right now; that is, it's against the law to shoot deer with guns. So they got themselves bows and arrows, and decided to use the old-fashioned hunting methods of the noble redskin. Then they discovered to their disgust that the law would not allow them to hunt Wisconsin deer with bows and arrows either.

But were they discouraged? No, indeed! Dr. Nolan and Mr. McCall are made of sterner stuff than that. This time they've gone out and gotten themselves a couple of spears and a couple of lariats. If they can't spear a deer, by jimmy, they're going to rope one.

END

Well, that sounds like a good sporting idea. In fact, I think I'll join those two fellows. I'm going out now and buy me a spear. Maybe I won't be able to buy one on State Street, but I think Charlie Hackett can help me from the prop room down at the new Chicago Civic Opera House. I'll just borrow a spear from one of the boys who carry the spear every night. Anyway, if I can't spear a deer, perhaps I can at least lasso a few news items for our next session. So, so long until we all meet at the big hunt tomorrow night.