

INTRO.

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast Page
for The Literary Digest, Saturday,
February 14, 1931.

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5 Good evening, Everybody:-

6 I suppose you've all finished looking
7 through your Valentines by this time,
8 ~~and are ready for a bit of news.~~

9 *Yes, and* I hope you got some of those real
10 old-time funny ones, those caricatures
11 that used to make us howl with glee
12 when we were youngsters -- the ones
13 with funny colored pictures of grotesque
14 fat men with elephant ears, and skinny,
15 sour looking old maids with spectacles.
16 You know the kind. The Valentines we
17 used to send to the teacher, and to our
18 best girl without her knowing where it
19 came from.

20 I got a couple today, but they
21 weren't so funny. I suppose comic
22 Valentines, just like so many other kinds
23 of fun, belong to our childhood days.

24 Perhaps so. But I've a news item
25 here that is something in the mood of the
good, old-time, funny Valentine.

1 No, it's not the old gag about the
2 man biting the dog. This one is about
3 a man biting a cow!

4 The United Press informs us that
5 Bill Williams, of Kingston, North
6 Carolina, has the meanest cow on earth.
7 The fact is that Bill and his cow don't
8 get along very well together. Since
9 Bill bought that cow, here's a list of
10 the things she did:

11 She kicked over the milk bucket.

12 She broke out of the pasture.

13 She stopped automobiles on the
14 highway and blocked the traffic.

15 She ~~knocked~~ butted a farm hand.

16 And finally, she kicked Bill in
17 the stomach. When she did that it was
18 just too much for Bill's patience. He
19 looked for a stick, but couldn't find
20 one. In sheer desperation he leaned
21 over and bit the cow on the leg!

22 Now, there's certainly a picture
23 for a comic Valentine!

24 This story has a happy ending, because
25 after Bill had bitten the cow, her

behavior seemed to be improved. And bill got the pail and milked old Bossy in peace and quiet.

And as all romantic Valentine Day stories should end, Bill and his cow are going to live happily ever after.

ARIZONA

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1 They ^{have just} had a cloudburst down in
2 Arizona. Bridges have been washed out
3 and trains delayed.

4 The town of Welton is situated in
5 a canyon. And, according to the
6 Associated Press, that cloudburst sent
7 a wall of water racing through the
8 canyon. It hit the town and washed
9 away houses. The water pushed over two
10 business buildings. Automobiles were
11 swept away. The people scrambled to
12 the roofs of houses and remained there
13 over night. One motorist was caught
14 in the flood and climbed to the top of
15 a tree, where he waited.

16 One man is reported to have lost
17 his life, and 5 other people are
18 missigg.
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WASHINGTON

There was a bit of action in Washington today. The Senate passed the Drought Relief Bill, and sent it along to the House of Representatives. The House promptly passed the Bill also.

The opposition to the bill in the Senate, which made a lot of noise for a few days, evidently didn't mean much. And so that compromise, which was effected by the Republicans and Democrats of the Senate and which was approved by President Hoover, was put through by a large majority. ~~According to the Associated Press,~~ the vote was 67 to 15.

The soldiers' bonus bill was reported out of committee and turned over to the House of Representatives. It will be voted upon Monday.

I've an International News Service dispatch here which states that the Military Committee of the House has recommended that the West Point Military Academy acquire more land. It is proposed to add 15,000 acres to the grounds which are already attached to the big army school up the Hudson.

1 They are sounding taps today for
2 a distinguished soldier, Major General
3 Clarence R. Edwards, War-Time Commander
4 of the famous Yankee Division.

5 Newspapers everywhere are
6 reviewing his career this evening.
7 General Edwards had served in Texas
8 during the wild old days of fifty years
9 ago. During the Spanish American War he
10 saw action in Cuba. Then he soldiered in
11 the Philippine Islands and in Hawaii.

12 The World War made him a familiar
13 figure to ^{Americans} ~~most of us~~ -- because of his
14 association with the Yankee Division. He
15 had the reputation of being particularly
16 popular with his men.

17 When word went out recently that
18 General Edwards was desperately ill,
19 former dough-boys who had served under
20 him, volunteered ^{for} blood transfusions. But
21 the end came this morning. The General
22 forced a smile to his lips and then set
23 forth on his long journey West.

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1 Well, well, ~~well~~ Here's something
2 about throwing away dollar bills. It
3 says: SUPPOSE YOU ^{had} STARTED THROWING
4 DOLLAR BILLS AWAY AT THE RATE OF A DOLLAR
5 A MINUTE EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF
6 THE CHRISTIAN ERA?

7 That sounds kind of fantastic. The
8 idea is that if you had thrown away
9 dollar bills for 1931 years, at the rate
10 of a dollar a minute, the total amount
11 would ^{only} be about 1/50th of ^{what} ~~the amount of~~
12 ~~money~~ the United States spent on the
13 World War. Secretary of the Treasury
14 Mellon states that the war cost the
15 U.S. \$51,000,000,000. An article by
16 William Philip Simms, in the New York
17 Telegram, tries to visualize what this
18 sum means.

19 He says that ~~in~~ as recently as
20 1885, ~~the~~ \$51,000,000,000 would have
21 bought the whole United States, and
22 everything in it! Today it would buy
23 16 ~~states~~ of the less wealthy ~~ones~~ and 3
24 of the very rich states, like California,
25 with a couple of Colorados thrown in.

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1 \$51,000,000,000 would buy the entire
2 State of New York, and there would be
3 enough change left over to purchase 4
4 states like Maryland.

5 And if ~~that~~^{those} \$51,000,000,000 were
6 put out at 5% interest, ~~it~~^{they} would provide
7 enough yearly income to pension over
8 2,000,000 old people at ^{the rate of} \$100 a month.
9 And that would virtually abolish poverty
10 in this country *forever and forever.*

11 Well, those are startling facts.
12 Somehow, that idea of throwing away one
13 one-dollar bill every hour ~~since~~ since
14 the beginning of the Christian era, hits
15 me the hardest. I guess it's because
16 I've got a bit of Scotch in my ancestry.

DIGESI--MASKED MARVEL

1 ~~Yes sir~~^{Now} folks. Don't be alarmed.
2 But here comes the masked marvel.

3 I've heard that phrase "the masked
4 marvel" for a long time, and it always
5 tickled my ear. I'd never heard the
6 real story, although I knew the masked
7 marvel was some kind of wrestler a few
8 years ago who wore a mask when he went
9 into the mat, and was something of a
10 mystery. Well, ^{I ran across the true} ~~the amusing~~ story of
11 the masked marvel, ^{today,} ~~is told in this week's~~
12 ~~Literary Digest, and I certainly enjoyed~~
13 ~~it.~~ Here it is:--

14 There was a big wrestling tournament
15 16 years ago with a series of bouts
16 every night. There was ^{the usual} ~~a lot of~~ ballyhoo.
17 The ponderous pachyderms tugged and
18 hauled at each other in dramatic fashion,
19 and there was a good deal of popular
20 interest. ^{suddenly} Then ~~appeared~~ the masked
21 marvel. He stalked into the auditorium,
22 a huge fellow with what looked like a
23 big, black stocking pulled down over his
24 head and shoulders. There were ^{gimlet} two ~~holes~~
25 in the stocking through which a pair of

peering eyes could be seen.

With the masked marvel was another man who got up in the middle of the wrestling show and shouted: IT'S ALL WRONG, BOYS! IT'S ALL WRONG! about that time he was ejected by the ushers, and the man in the mask was ejected with him.

The next night the two appeared again, and this time the little man made another outburst. He announced that those ponderous pachyderms up there were all a lot of hams, and that his masked marvel could throw the whole lot clear out into the street. However, once more he was thrown into the street by the ushers. And the masked marvel was shoved out too.

Night after night the same mysterious pair appeared and there was the same outbreak. Then, finally the wrestling promoter announced that if this masked marvel was so good, why not invite him to come up and show his headlocks and toeholds? Of course the public yelled and cheered at the idea.

Well, the masked marvel pinned one wrestler's shoulders to the mat, and then he threw another. He was a sensational attraction. He always wrestled with the mask on his face, and it

certainly was a weird thing to see.

Then one night Strangler Lewis, who was one of that troupe of performing ponderous pachyderms, was seized with pangs of jealousy. He was to wrestle with the masked marvel, and he was jealous of all the publicity the mysterious one was getting. So the Strangler just lost his head and upset the apple cart. He got shold of the marvel, mask and all, and threw him for a total loss. And that folks, was the end of the masked marvel.

The Literary Digest, tells the story this week in an article which quotes from the New York Times. It tells us that the mysterious one was just an ordinary wrestler named Mort Henderson. And he had been hired to play the part of the masked marvel. The other pachyderms were all supposed to lay their shoulders gently on the mat at the right time. It was all a hoax. But it worked fine and fooled old gullible John Q. Public until Strangler Lewis became jealous and spilled the beans.

1 There's disturbing news from Spain
2 tonight. The Spanish cabinet, under
3 General Berenguer, has resigned. The
4 Associated Press explains the fall of
5 the Berenguer government by saying that
6 the leaders of the ^{Liberal} ~~Imperial~~ Monarchist
7 Party withdrew their support. They were
8 dissatisfied with General Berenguer's
9 program for the coming election.

10 King Alphonso has accepted the
11 resignation of the Premier and his
12 cabinet, ^{He has also} ~~and then immediately the King~~
13 ^{widely heralded} cancelled those ^{that} ~~elections. They~~ were
14 scheduled to be held in March.

15 The Associated Press adds that King
16 Alphonso ^{tonight is} ~~is today~~ facing the worst
17 crisis he's ever had to contend with.

18 But Alphonso is getting
19 used to that sort of thing.

KING GEORGE

I don't want anybody to think at this point that I am saying that King George the Fifth of England is likely to become plain Mr. George Windsor, or that the Prince of Wales will become just Davey Windsor. But the fact is that there's a claimant to the Crown of England - a claimant who says that King George should not be King at all. And Associated Press dispatch from London informs us that the claimant is one Anthony Hall, who heretofore has been nobody in particular and possibly won't be anybody in particular hereafter. But, anyway, Anthony Hall has issued a manifesto in which he states that he is the rightful King of England, Emperor of India - Imperator Rex. He claims descent from Henry the Seventh, first of the Tudor Line; and by a complicated process of geneology Mr. Hall tries to prove that he has a better claim to the Crown than King George. His manifesto, says the International News Service, is printed in the London Daily Herald today and it includes this ringing proclamation - "I claim the Crown. My intention is not one of civil

1 war over this matter." Then he addresses
2 King George personally with these words:
3 "You have no connection with the British
4 Royal family. You are an outsider;
5 therefore, leave the country".

6 Well, that may sound grand and
7 kingly but there is no evidence that
8 King George has been around to any of
9 the Steamship companies to buy a ticket.
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GANDHI

Just for a change, there is an optimistic word from India this evening. Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the Indian Nationalists, has written a letter to the retiring British Viceroy Lord Erwin. In that letter Gandhi asks for an interview with the Viceroy. The Mahatma says he wants a frank, across the table talk to dispell all doubts and misunderstanding.

Gandhi has taken an attitude of unbending hostility toward Great Britain, and the International News Service reminds us that only yesterday he stated that he would never be satisfied with anything except complete independence for India.

This letter to the Viceroy, though, makes it look as if the picturesque little man in the loin cloth may still be willing to compromise and come to an understanding with John Bull.

1 ~~My~~ My News Item of the Day was
2 picked ^{for me} by John Erskine, the author of
3 "Helen of Troy", ~~He's~~ the man who has
4 achieved so much glamorous reputation
5 as a classical scholar with the gift of
6 making learned and scholarly things
7 alive and human. ^{John Erskine} ~~He~~ made the golden
8 Helen of the Greek epics come down and
9 take on the reality of ordinary life.
10 Well, it was a romantic item that
11 ~~Professor~~ ^{Dr.} Erskine picked for me.

12 It's an Associated Press dispatch
13 which tells that two brothers of the
14 great St. Bernard Hospice ^{of Switzerland} have gone on
15 a long journey. We all know about the
16 monks of St. Bernard, who for centuries
17 have had their monastic haunt in the
18 high ~~■ ■ ■~~ passes of the Alps and have
19 devoted their lives to the rescue of
20 snowbound travelers. And we're all
21 even more familiar with the famous
22 St. Bernard dogs that patrol the snows
23 looking for people in distress.

24 Well, as ~~■ ■~~ I said, two of the
25 brothers of the St. Bernard Hospice have

gone on a long, long journey. They're on their way to Tibet to choose a site for another Hospice of St. Bernard among the bleak, snow-capped mountains of the towering Himalayas. Why? Well, just because the monks of St. Bernard intend to continue their works of charity up there on the roof of the world in those giant mountains of remote Asia, just as they've done for so many centuries in the Alps of Europe.

I suppose of course, they will take their famous St. Bernard dogs along. And in time perhaps, we'll hear of some Tibetan, or Chinese, or Nepalese wanderer overtaken by storm and blizzard in the weird mountains of Asia; and then we will hear of the familiar figure of the St. Bernard dog finding that wayfarer. Then come the monks of St. Bernard, in their monastic habits, and the Asiatic traveler is taken to the Hospice of St. Bernard. It will be the old way of the Alps transferred to the Himalayas. And that's romance.

END.

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1 I have a letter here and ^I also ^{have a}
2 ~~a little~~ suspicion that somebody is
3 kidding me. The letter is signed

4 OLD BILL BLIZZARD,
5 27 TUMBLEDOWN AVENUE,
6 MUD PUDDLE HOLLOW,
7 ANGLEWORM, MASSACHUSETTS.

8 Well, it only goes to show how
9 some of you listeners-in like to have
10 your little joke. Anyway, Bill sends
11 me a poem. It is supposed to be a
12 Chinese version of MARY HAD A LITTLE
13 LAMB. Bill Blizzard says it is so old
14 it is time it should be heard again.

15 It starts out this way:

16 WAS GAL NAMED MOLL HAD LAMB
17 FLEECE ALLEE SAMEE WHITE LIKEE SNOW
18 EVLY WHERE MOLL GAL GO WALKEE
19 BA-BA HOP A LONG TO.

20 Well, I think I'll spare you
21 the rest of ^{that poem and just} ~~it and in fact I myself will~~
22 hop along, too, So

23 SO LONG UNTIL ~~TOMORROW~~ Monday.
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