

CHATHAM ISLANDS

Lowell Thomas broadcast
Thurs. Dec. 31, 1931.

Good Evening, Everybody:-

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1 Let's begin with a part of the
2 world that naturally comes first.
3 Anyway, it's first to celebrate the
4 New Year.

5 Its people ring out the old and
6 ring in the new before any of the other
7 inhabitants of this ^{dizzy} globe get a chance
8 to perform the merry ceremony.

9 I mean the Chatham Islands. They
10 are in the South Sea, not so very far
11 from the coast of New Zealand. They lie
12 just to the east of the 180th meridian,
13 that ~~the~~ imaginary line which we use as the
14 dead-line between one day and another.

15 The milkman was just making his
16 rounds this morning when the folks of
17 the Chatham Islands were ushering in
18 that lusty, hopeful babe known as 1932.

19 Well, ^{the} Chatham Islands are first
20 and foremost on New Year's. But that's
21 about the only time. They are small
22 bits of land on the vast bosom of the
23 Pacific, inhabited by several hundred
24 Europeans and Maoris who live an
25 exceedingly simple, isolated life. No
Broadway, no Piccadilly, no Montmartre out that way.

1 But just the same, adds the
2 United Press, New Year's was first rung-
3 in today by the bell of a little church
4 on those distant Chatham Islands, *away*
5 out there where the day begins.
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1 Across the sea in the ancient
2 city of ^{Romulus + Remus} ~~Rome~~, they are having a
3 comparatively quiet night this New
4 Year's Eve.

5 Rome has been noted as a noisy
6 capital. The City Commission has again
7 and again requested the Romans to make
8 less racket, but without much effect.
9 Rome has long been accustomed to have
10 an uproarious New Year, with a
11 ~~swarm of~~ pandemonium of sound. This year the
12 City Commission once more has asked
13 the people not to raise so much Cain.

14 But that isn't the reason ^{why} ~~that~~ the
15 ancient city of the Caesars is having
16 a comparatively quiet New Year's night.
17 Another voice has been added to that
18 of the City Commission. It's a deep
19 voice. It's a formidable voice. It's
20 the voice of Mussolini, *saying "naughty, naughty."*

21 The Black Shirt dictator has
22 requested that the people in the streets
23 preserve quiet between midnight and
24 six A. M. ^{Il Duce must have his sleep.} He particularly objects to
25 the honking of automobile horns all

night. Mussolini seems to believe that even on New Year's night the citizens of Rome have the right to snooze between midnight and six A.M. The International News Service adds that most people believe that the Dictator's mandate is going to have considerable effect. His remarks generally do.

1 There seems to be no doubt tonight
2 about the election in Finland. It has
3 gone definitely against prohibition.

4 Officials in Helsingfors have been
5 counting ballots all day, and the latest
6 results indicate a landslide. ~~against~~
7 ~~prohibition.~~ *And apparently that's the finish*
8 *of Finnish prohibition.*

9 The United Press cables that it
10 is a five to one victory for the Antis.
11 In the Capitol city of Helsingfors
12 more than 63,000 people voted against
13 prohibition, while only something more
14 than 13,000 people voted for it. And
15 in eighty-five rural districts which
16 were supposed to be for prohibition,
17 the vote was 78,000 to 18,000 against.

18 One surprising feature was that
19 the women's vote was heavily on the wet
20 side. The women of Finland were supposed
21 to be in favor of the Dry regime, but
22 they voted four to one against it.

23 The International News Service
24 adds that returns have not come in from
25 a number of rural districts which are
believed to be Dry, but they say that
these will not affect the wet landslide.

1 The City of Chinchow stands
2 defenseless tonight, ready for the
3 oncoming Japanese to march in and take
4 possession.

5 The International News Service
6 cables that the last of the Chinese
7 defenders were withdrawn today.

8 Meanwhile reports from Nanking
9 sing a different tune altogether.
10 Eugene Chen, the Foreign Minister of
11 the Nationalist Government, denounced
12 the action of Marshal Chiang in ordering
13 the evacuation of Chinchow. He added
14 that the Nationalist Government is
15 determined to defend the city against
16 the Japanese.

17 The Associated Press quotes
18 Foreign Minister Chen as declaring that
19 the authorities at Nanking ~~had never~~ never did
20 order ~~ed~~ Marshal Chiang to, ^{withdraw} ~~get~~ his troops
21 ^{from} ~~out of~~ Chinchow. He did it on his own
22 responsibility and against the wishes
23 of the government.

24 But just how the powers that
25 be in Nanking are going to defend

1 Chinchow in the face of the aggressive
2 advance of the efficient soldiers of
3 the Mikado - well, that is not made
4 clear.

1 Let's go on to an ominous-sounding
2 phrase. It reads -- "This means war."
3 The words were spoken by one of the
4 prominent lieutenants of Mahatma Gandhi
5 over in India.

6 Such seems to be the answer to the
7 appeal which Lord Willingdon, the Viceroy
8 of India, has made to the ~~Indian~~
9 Nationalists. He asked them publicly to
10 refrain from violence, and today the
11 Viceroy telegraphed to Gandhi and informed
12 him that if he starts that civil
13 disobedience campaign again, the British
14 authorities are prepared to meet it.

15 It was upon the receipt of this
16 telegram that the words were spoken --
17 "This means war."

18 Gandhi gives his views in an
19 article printed in a Bombay publication
20 called "Young India". He repeats that
21 the land of Hindustan must become an
22 independent nation.

23 "It would be wrong", he writes, "to
24 think that the British ministers are
25 humbugs. I am convinced ~~xxxx~~ they are

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honest in their professions, but they betray an amazing ignorance of the actual situation in India."

He adds that the British ministers are misinformed by their agents in India who give them nothing but optimistic reports, which are taken for gospel truth.

1 It seems clear tonight that
2 the bomb explosion yesterday at Easton,
3 Pennsylvania, was only part of a much
4 larger conspiracy. There was a widespread
5 scheme to kill diplomatic representatives
6 and supporters of the Italian
7 Government in this country by means of
8 bombs sent through the mails.

9 Today, relates the Associated
10 Press, a package was delivered to the
11 Italian Consulate at Cleveland. A girl
12 employee received it and was suspicious.
13 The package was turned over to the
14 police. They tried it out by shooting
15 at it with rifle fire from a safe
16 distance. As the bullets crashed into
17 the package it blew up ^{with} ~~into~~ a terrific
18 roar.

19 All over the country people who
20 may have reason to be apprehensive of
21 anti-Fascist activities, are on the
22 look-out for packages delivered to them.
23 *The P.O. authorities have given warning of a nationwide plot.*
24 The International News Service
25 wires that forces of the national
government and of local police have been

1 mobilized in a hunt for the plotters.
2 The ~~kok~~ bomb which exploded in the
3 Post Office at Easton, Pennsylvania,
4 yesterday, and killed two men, was
5 found to be packed with pages out of
6 New York newspapers. This has led
7 the trail of the investigation to
8 New York.

9 It is also reported that the
10 dynamite of which the bombs were made,
11 was stolen from New York building
12 contractors.

EARTHQUAKE

1 They had a slight earthquake in
2 Seattle today. Plates rattled on
3 tables, pictures swung, and doors banged
4 open.

5 The Associated Press reports that
6 the concrete wall of a new building near
7 the city was cracked. And that seems
8 to be about all the damage done.

9 There has never been a serious
10 earthquake in the State of Washington,
11 although scientists say that slight
12 tremors are not unusual.

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1 Chicago's financial troubles
2 came to a climax today when a court
3 decision was handed down declaring that
4 Cook County tax assessment rolls of
5 1928 and '29 were invalid.

6 This ruling came as a result
7 of a test case in which a group of tax-
8 payers charged that tax assessments
9 were fraudulent. They declared that
10 the county assessors and the board of
11 review were all wrong in their appraisals
12 of the taxable value of property.

13 And the Judge now declares that
14 these complaints are quite correct.
15 He described the tax rolls as reeking
16 with fraud.

17 A tax strike has been on in Chicago.
18 Property owners have refused to pay.
19 140 million dollars in taxes are outstanding
20 or about 20% of the total, and the
21 court decision today makes these
22 outstanding taxes uncollectable.

23 The Associated Press declares that
24 the decision leaves Chicago virtually
25 penniless, threatened with receivership,
and incapable of collecting taxes probably for
months.

1 And now let's take up the team
2 of teams.

3 Each year the Literary Digest
4 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ rounds off the football
5 season with a feature ~~xxx~~ which
6 thousands of gridiron fans look forward
7 to. It's a selection of ^{a ~~the~~ final} ~~the~~ All
8 Americaⁿ Eleven^{from all} of the All Americanⁿ
9 Eleven.

10 Throughout the country various
11 experts pick their selections for the
12 mythical football aggregation, and
13 crown them with a mythical championship.
14 Of course, these selections aren't all
15 the same. In fact, they're rather
16 startlingly different sometimes. But
17 the Literary Digest comes to the fan's
18 rescue.

19 This year the Digest sports
20 editor has tabulated Eleven All American
21 teams, has taken the opinions of the
22 eleven most important football experts
23 in the country, and by adding,
24 subtracting, multiplying, and dividing,
25 lo and behold, we have the ~~team~~ of teams.

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1 You'll find the 1931 results in
2 a two-page article in this week's
3 Literary Digest, which includes also
4 a comprehensive table showing how the
5 selections of the experts have been
6 tabulated and summed up.

7 One thing stands out in that
8 table. There is one football player
9 in this broad land whom all the experts
10 picked. They disagreed on the other
11 members of the team, but there is one
12 football star ~~that~~^{who} got everybody's
13 vote. I'll give you three guesses. *Well, you're probably*
14 ~~and then you can~~^{right. But to make sure just} consult your copy of
15 the Literary Digest, ~~and find out who~~
16 ~~he is.~~

1 And now we see a ~~xxxx~~ bright,
2 happy, smiling face, a good-tempered
3 face, a sweet and patient face. That's
4 the Co-ed. She's in college, she
5 attends lectures, she studies her
6 books, and she doesn't get angry. At
7 least, she doesn't get angry as often
8 and as much as the men students do.

9 An Associated Press dispatch
10 gives us the learned information that
11 college Co-eds get angry about four
12 times a week, while the boys get angry
13 about six times a week. The Co-ed
14 when she does have a fit of petulance,
15 may stay that way anywhere from one
16 minute to forty-eight hours. The
17 report doesn't add how long the boys
18 stay mad, but at that rate they must
19 keep hot under the collar for a week at
20 a time.

21 These important conclusions
22 were given to the American Association
23 for the advancement of science by
24 Professor Meltzer, a psychologist of
25 Washington University, at St. Louis.

1 He studied a lot of anger diaries in
2 which both men and women students
3 noted down how, why, and when they got
4 mad.

5 When a Co-ed gets angry, she
6 sometimes cries, or she sometimes
7 screams, or she sometimes jumps ^{up & down,} or she
8 sometimes swears. The men students
9 usually have an impulse to do physical
10 injury. In other words they want to
11 fight.

12 One girl was angry for eleven
13 hours because somebody swiped her candy.
14 One boy remained furious for forty-eight
15 hours because his girl refused to see him.
16 On the other hand, he was mad for only
17 five minutes when he fell in the mud.

18 It has been discovered that
19 the girls grew angry most often because
20 of slights from boy friends, unkind
21 remarks from girl friends, and the
22 boring conversation of a dancing partner.
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1 Tonight in Colorado the folks
2 are having a chance to witness an
3 extraordinary spectacle, a vivid display
4 of flame shooting from the top of *good old*
5 Pikes Peak.

6 There are dazzling showers of
7 red and green, with spectacular
8 explosions and gleaming many-colored
9 flares. In the dark sky of the night
10 the blazing display on the top of the
11 famous mountain is visible in all
12 directions for 150 miles, and will be
13 seen by two-thirds of the people of the
14 entire state.

15 Well, this is one grand
16 celebration for New Year's Eve. The
17 Rocky Mountain News of Denver explains
18 that it is the doings of the Adaman
19 Club.

20 Now that name Adaman means
21 just what it says. Every year a man
22 is added, one new member is taken into
23 the Club. It is an organization of
24 mountain climbers. And each New Year
25 its regular ceremony is a climb to the

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1 top of ^{old} Pikes Peak. No matter what the
 2 weather is, ten or fifteen members
 3 make the hardy journey. Under the best
 4 conditions Pikes Peak is a ^{quite a climb,} ~~sturdy~~
 5 ~~climb.~~ ^{I haven't} In the winter the temperature
 6 often goes down to thirty below zero.
 7 And when there's a blizzard or a gale,
 8 well, it takes a real bunch of
 9 mountaineers to brave the climb to the
 10 topmost summit of Pikes Peak.

11 Tonight the Adaman boys are
 12 setting off a ton and a half of
 13 fireworks, and the tip of old Pikes
 14 Peak is going to look like a flaming
 15 volcano that has suddenly taken up art
 16 and is going in for decorative displays.

17 For this New Year's Eve the
 18 Club has arranged a ceremony in honor
 19 of the great Norwegian explorer, Roald
 20 Amundson, who is the only honorary
 21 member the Club ever took in. The
 22 opening bit of fireworks is a sixteen
 23 pound white rocket to which is attached
 24 a white flag. On the top of Colorado's
 25 favorite mountain a burst of white

1 will be seen flaming high into the sky.
2 And then on that dizzy Peak 14,000 feet
3 above sea level that ton and a half
4 of fireworks goes ~~to~~ ^{aloft} blazing into the dark
5 ~~sky~~ heavens.
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END

The New York World-Telegram prints a headline today which echoes the sentiments of a lot of folks. It reads:
Razz out the old - ring in the new.

Well, there are plenty who feel that 1931 was not an ideal year, and are full of the hope and belief that 1932 is going to be a lot better. They look upon the old year that's leaving us as a miserly old fellow who didn't treat us any too well. They're glad to see him go, and are eager to welcome the sprightly young face of the New Year, which seems to promise much better things.

Well, let's just repeat those sentiments -- Razz out the old and ring in the new -- a Happy New Year -- and SO LONG UNTIL NEXT YEAR -- I MEAN TOMORROW.