

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1931

INTRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY!

I wonder if the principal topic of conversation out your way tonight is how congested the roads were, and how hot it was? I've just been talking with two friends, an artist and a doctor, both political refugees from Venezuela and they said emphatically that it never seems this hot even in their tropical native land down near the Equator.

It has been fairly broiling along the Atlantic coast -- and a shade cooler in the West.

This morning I suppose a few million folks shook out the old swimming suit and counted the moth holes and then took the first dip. And, oh boy, what a grand and glorious feeling!

As usual Memorial Day exercises were held all the way from Bandy Hook and Asbury Park to the Golden Gate. Perhaps the most important ceremony this year was at Valley Forge. A huge crowd gathered in the historic valley, the valley where Washington and his ragged Continentals starved and froze through a bitter winter.

Today's Valley Forge gathering was of national interest, for the President of the United States was there. President Hoover took the occasion to deliver a serious declaration. His speech dealt with the subject of business conditions.

"The American people," declared the President, "are going through another Valley Forge at this time."

Mr. Hoover spoke right out, with the amplifiers carrying his voice to every section of the immense crowd. He told the people of this country that extreme fortitude and sacrifice are necessary if prosperity is to come back. The President called it a battle, a battle that cannot be won by any single stroke, or by any one strategy sprung from the mind of any single genius.

That seems like a sound idea. The International News Service reports the President as saying there isn't any kind of magic or snake doctor medicine that will help things along. What's needed is effort and courageous optimism.

Well, I too was scheduled to make a Memorial Day

address -- for my American Legion friends at Larchmont, New York. We started out in a car, Earl Garey, the Larchmont Commissioner of Police, an old Chicago law school classmate of mine - and right away the congested condition of the roads began to gum things up. It seemed as if all the cars in the country were packed on the highway between New York City and Larchmont.

And then we ran into parades, one parade after another. There must have been a hundred parades.

An escort of motorcycle police picked us up on the edge of Manhattan and for long stretches whizzed us north at 70 miles an hour.

But, by then, we were an hour late, and I arrived just five minutes after the crowd had started home. So the American Legion boys and their neighbors at Larchmont didn't hear any Memorial Day address -- and maybe that was a great relief to them.

But I stayed as long as I could anyhow, and instead of speechifying, we had a session of story telling and general jollity.

1 There was a big Memorial Day
 2 event at Washington. The Air Forces
 3 of the United States Army put on their
 4 last big show. At ^{Lincoln memorial} ~~Washington~~ Bridge
 5 the heads of the Army watched while
 6 a great fleet of airplanes went through
 7 a magnificent series of gyrations.

8 According to the International
 9 News Service, General Fulois points out
 10 the value of ^{all} the sky maneuvers. ~~that~~
 11 ~~they have been held.~~ He declares that
 12 they ^{have} taught the entire air force of
 13 the United States Army to act as one
 14 unit. He added that the training
 15 that the pilots got in the course of
 16 those maneuvers cost far less than
 17 similar training in isolated units.

18 Then he added the impressive
 19 detail that ~~xxx~~ all that wholesale
 20 flying by more than 600 planes, with a
 21 total mileage of more than a million
 22 miles had been accomplished without one
 23 casualty. Two planes cracked up but
 24 nobody was hurt. The Army officers had
 25 expected that about three men would
 be killed in the course of the maneuvers
 but the number of casualties was exactly
 zero.

STEAMSHIP

A steamship disaster is reported on the Pacific Coast. The steamer Harvard, running between San Francisco and Los Angeles, had 500 passengers aboard.

The ship hit a reef at Argwello Point, 75 miles north of Santa Barbara. Men, women, and children were ordered to the boats as the ship sank.

In response to the distress calls many ~~mail~~ vessels hurried to the rescue. The U.S.S. Louisville, Uncle Sam's newest cruiser, got there first. The people were in the boats. They were near shore, but had been ordered not to try to land because of the dangerous surf and rocks. The Louisville rescued every one of them. Reports from the United Press and the International News Service inform us that there were no casualties,

And that makes a happy ending to what might have been a terrible disaster.

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I suppose you've heard all about the big auto races at Indianapolis and how the winner was Louie Schneider, a former Hoosier motorcycle cop. The 500 mile classic was slowed down a

bit by rain. Billy Arnold of Chicago looked as though he had the race in the bag at the 400 mile mark, but a big smashup with another racer put him out of the running.

TRAINMEN

Old Man Unemployment has just been given a good slap by the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

The brotherhood is holding a convention at Houston, Texas, and has passed a new regulation which will provide jobs for 10,850 railroad trainmen who are now out of work.

The way the boys are doing it is by limiting the working hours of the men who are on the job at present. For example, the men in the railroad yards will be allowed to work only 26 days a month.

And train crews are to be held down to a limited mileage. That is, their work in terms of miles will be cut so that men out of jobs will be needed to fill in.

The Associated Press states that the new ruling will become effective as soon as arrangements can be made with railroad executives.

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Memorial Day is always an important date in the sports world. In Philadelphia the track stars of the University of Southern California swept to victory in the Intercollegiate Track and field Meet. Leland Stanford came in second, and the University

TRAINMEN - 2

of Pennsylvania third. Vic Williams, a human bullet from sunny Southern California burnt up the cinder track in the '440'.

He equalled the worlds record which was made back in 1916.

Williams time was 47 and four-tenths seconds.

1 In South Dakota, on the Pea Ridge
2 Reservation, the old days have come back
3 again. The Indians are camped upon the
4 prairie. And all the ancient glory of
5 the red man is seen--teepees, campfires,
6 buckskins, feathers, beadwork. And
7 echoes are ringing of Indian oratory
8 as the great men of the tribes hold
9 forth with a high and mighty declamation.

10 In other words, a grand congress
11 of the Sioux Indians is being held. All
12 the various tribes of the Sioux Nation
13 are there. They have journeyed from far
14 and wide, some in wagons, some on horse
15 back, and some in automobiles.

16 This congress of the Sioux Nation
17 is being held at the Holy Rosary Mission.
18 It's under the direction of the Jesuits,
19 and important eccl^{ia}stics from the
20 western states are attending and
21 confabulating with the Indians. Vital
22 social problems of the Sioux are being
23 threshed out. It appears that the
24 Sioux, like many other Indians, ■■■ and
25 also like plenty of ^{Pale Faces,} ~~Caucasians~~, are
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1 oppressed by the pinch of poverty.
2 Something must be done to raise their
3 economic status.

4 But the three days during which
5 the Sioux congress will hold its sessions
6 will not be entirely given over to
7 serious debate. There are dances and
8 festivities, and jolly pow-wows. And
9 tomorrow night the Indian girls of the
10 Holy Rosary Missions school will stage
11 an Indian play. ~~which they have got up~~
12 The chiefs and the braves will see their
13 daughters acting their parts and speaking
14 their lines, the way the pale faces do
15 in their theatres.

16 And I'll bet those Indian girls
17 are going to get a big hand.
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1 Some years ago when I was in
2 Southern Asia collecting first impressions
3 of that bewildering and romantic part of
4 the world, one of the sights in India
5 that gave me a particularly bewildering
6 impression was a certain Christian
7 church.

8 Everything was arranged, as nearly
9 as possible, like the First Methodist
10 or the First Baptist Church in any
11 American town. And it was odd to see
12 the congregation of swarthy Indians in
13 loin clothes and dotties worshipping in
14 such exceedingly American surroundings.
15 It seemed out of key.

16 I was surprised that the Christian
17 churches in India had not taken on a more
18 Indian look, ~~and~~ with ^{the} church ceremony
19 interspersed with more of the flaming
20 peculiarities of the land of the
21 Hindustan.

22 Well in this week's Literary Digest
23 there's an article which starts out
24 with this sentence: INDIA IS MAKING ITS
25 OWN BRAND OF CHRISTIANITY.

 The Digest quotes from an article
by John Steele, in the Chicago Tribune,
which explains that in India young

1 Christians have become tired of near
2 imitations of the West.

3 It galls their racial pride, the
4 Digest quotes Mr. Steele as saying, to
5 be reminded that the church they are
6 attending is an imitation of a church
7 in Scotland, or an exact replica of a
8 Wesleyan church in ^{Wales} ~~Cambridge~~. The western
9 church architecture is a misfit in India.

10 The result is that native
11 architecture is now being employed in
12 Christian churches. The Christian colony
13 at Tiruppur ^{in Southern India} is building a real Hindu
14 temple, a Christian place of worship,
15 modelled on a beautiful piece of
16 Dravidian architecture near Tinevelly.

17 And ^{furthermore} American church hymns are
18 not at all suited to the Indian
19 temperament. Both the words and the
20 tunes are foreign and incongruous. And
21 so the hymns are being Indianized.
22 They're being sung to native Hindu tunes,
23 that strange ^{minor} Oriental music which
24 bewilders the Westerner ~~so~~ so much.

25 Well, they are translating the

1 Bible into the languages of India, and
2 they're pouring Christian theology into
3 the moulds of traditional Indian thought.

4 Yes, ~~is it~~, as the Digest says--
5 INDIA IS MAKING ITS OWN BRAND OF
6 CHRISTIANITY.

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1 This Texas Guinan affair is
2 certainly becoming hectic. It's a case
3 of "Off again, on again, gone again,
4 Finnegan".

5 The latest news is that the
6 president of the French republic has
7 taken up the case of the Queen of the
8 Night Clubs and her troop of night
9 club beauties.

10 The International News Service
11 reminds us how first the French
12 immigration authorities at Le Havre
13 told the big whoopee mamma that she
14 and her whoopee girls would not be
15 allowed into France.

16 Next the case was taken under
17 consideration by higher authorities
18 at Paris. Then the word came once
19 more that it was "nix" for Tex--back
20 to the United States for her and her
21 chickens.

22 A cable to the New York Herald
23 Tribune tells us that when the big
24 jazz baby of Broadway got that piece
25 of bad news she put on a one-woman

1 show, all by herself. She passed in
2 rapid succession from anger, to tears,
3 to scorn. She wept bitter tears and
4 told the French what she thought of
5 them, and then she spoke loud and
6 angry words and once more told the
7 French what she thought of them.

8 But now the word comes that the
9 case has been appealed to the President
10 of France. He is now considering
11 the matter, and it may still be that
12 the jazz queen and her band of
13 chorines may ~~still~~ see the lights of
14 gay Paree. *Texas says she's willing*
15 *to give odds that they will.*
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1 A report from Rome ~~tonight~~
2 states that the Fascist government of
3 Italy has ordered the immediate
4 dissolution of all Catholic organizations.
5 The Fascist government has been claiming,
6 as the International News Service
7 advises us, that these Catholic
8 organizations are likely to become
9 political.

10 The inference is that Mussolini's
11 government believes that ~~they may not~~
12 ~~work~~ entirely in the support of
13 Fascism. Anyway, the Catholic
14 organizations have been ^{ordered} dissolved.
15 The police have raided the headquarters
16 of several and seized documents and
17 archives for investigation.

18 Some people over in Italy believe
19 that this new movement of the Italian
20 government may bring about a dissolution
21 of the Lateran Treaty, which was
22 concluded between the Vatican and
23 Mussolini. If that happens, it would
24 throw the situation between the church
25 and the ~~state~~ state in Italy back to
the old ~~condition~~ condition, with the Pope
a voluntary prisoner in the Vatican.

END - KNIGHTS OF MALTA

An election will be held tomorrow. No, this will be no political affair. It won't have any importance in the solution of any international problems. In fact, so far as the practical affairs of the world are concerned that election won't amount to anything.

Tomorrow, the Knights of Malta will elect a new Grand Master.

It will be an occasion of splendid medieaval pomp. On the Aventine, one of the historic seven hills of Rome, overlooking St. Peters, is the priory of the Knights of Malta. Members of the order will march in solemn procession. They will wear the historic raiment of the Crusading Knight of Old -- black silk mantles with white crosses on the shoulders.

And then in quaint old fashioned way they will case their ballots, and elect a new Grand Master.

For nine hundred years there has been a succession of Grand Masters of the Knights of Malta. The new one who will be elected tomorrow

1 is the 76th. He will stand a romantic
2 figure reminding one of centuries past.

3 As for immediate importance in
4 this world of machinery and modern
5 mechanism--well the Italian Government
6 rates the Grand Master of the Knights
7 of Malta as a Prince and pays him
8 princely honors. It's just so much
9 charming, stately ceremony.

10 The Associated Press reminds us
11 of the magnificent history of the Knights
12 of Malta. Originally they were a ~~bro~~
13 brotherhood ^{of mercy} formed to help pilgrims who
14 made the long journey through Medieval
15 Europe, to the holy places in Palestine.
16 But they quickly turned into a fighting,
17 war-like organization, a brotherhood
18 of knights doing battle with the infidels.
19 Together with the ^{Knights} Templars, the Knights
20 of Malta were dominant figures during the
21 Crusades. After the Crusades ^{had} lost
22 the Holy Land, the Knights established
23 themselves on the Island of Rhodes, and
24 there at the Gate of Asia, they defended
25 Christendom against the tremendous power

1 of the Turks. They had to withstand
2 the whole mighty armament of the great
3 Turkish Sultans. They were besieged
4 in their Island stronghold but beat off
5 the attack. Then the Turk made his
6 supreme effort. The attack was of savage
7 intensity. The cause of the Knights
8 was hopeless. They couldn't possibly
9 hold out forever but they made such a
10 desperate defense that the Grand Turk
11 himself was impressed. Honorable terms
12 were made. The Knights left Rhodes
13 and were given the Island of Malta
14 instead as their strong-hold. And from
15 then on they held Malta.

16 The Turks attacked them again
17 and again but the heroic brotherhood
18 held out.

19 Well times changed and the world
20 became another kind of world. The
21 military order of the Crusades became
22 an anachronism among the modern
23 nations. And all that is left today
24 is a continued tradition that has lasted
25 through the centuries. A still

1 surviving brotherhood keeping fresh before
2 us a gorgeous page out of the history
3 of the Medieaval Ages.

4 But wait a minute, I'am dreaming,
5 ~~away~~--and ^{I've} ~~have~~ been suddenly awakened--
6 dragged out of those visions of the past
7 into the workaday world of 1931.

8 Announcer Neil Enslin is pulling me
9 by the sleeve, and telling me to snap
10 out of it. He's ~~is~~ telling me it's ~~is~~ time
11 ~~for me~~ to leave the romantic world of
12 the Middle Ages, time ~~for me~~ to take off
13 my chain armour and pack my bathing suit
14 and start for the Jersey Coast and say

15 SOLONG UNTIL MONDAY.
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