

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1931

INTRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Well, let's start the week with good news, something cheerful about the unemployment situation.

All the New York evening papers carry the announcement by the Unemployment Committee of the Welfare Council that at least half a million workers are sure of their jobs; 25 large corporations have just given definite word that they will not lay off any of their employees. Some in fact are now putting men back to work. And that helps.

1 It ^{has been} ~~is~~ announced in Washington
2 that February 16th is the date for the
3 court martial of General Smedley ~~E.~~
4 Butler.

5 Secretary of the Navy, Adams,
6 according to the International News
7 Service, declares that there may be
8 open proceedings. Anyway, February 16th
9 is the day when General Butler will be
10 tried for ~~these~~ things he said about
11 Mussolini.
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1 One of the most famous houses
2 in the world lies in blackened ruins
3 tonight. A fire has all but destroyed
4 the Dower House, a romantic old mansion
5 down in Maryland.

6 It was built by the second
7 Lord Baltimore in 1642. It was the scene
8 of one of the ^{most resplendent} ~~splendid~~ weddings of
9 Colonial times, when John Custis,
10 ~~the~~ stepson of George Washington, married
11 Eleanor Calvert, the granddaughter of
12 the second Lord Baltimore.

13 Fire broke out in the huge
14 mansion, and when the firemen came they
15 were handicapped, for last summer's
16 drought had caused a shortage of water.
17 A valuable collection of antiques were
18 saved by firemen and servants, but
19 \$75,000 worth of damage was done ^{nevertheless.} ~~by the~~

20 ~~fire~~

HACK WILSON

Here's a real home run. Hack Wilson hit it, although the baseball season is still a couple of months off it's a home run alright alright. But it's a financial home run.

The mighty Hack, just lifted his salary right over the fence. According to the Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph, Home Run Hitter Wilson signed today with the Chicago Cubs for the largest salary paid to any player in the National League. Babe Ruth, of course, gets more, but he's in the American League. Rogers Hornsby gets more, but he is paid not merely as a player, but also as manager of the Chicago Cubs.

I suppose by now you are asking just how much will the mighty Hack get for next season? Well, it's reported that the figure is 35,000.

Wilson hit more home runs last season than any other player in either League. He lined out 56. And that, it appears, entitles him to swat a homer over the financial right field fence.

1 And now for ^{another} a fast one. In fact a
2 real bee-liner. 240 miles an hour!
3 Which is just about as fast as you can
4 wink your eye or say Jack Robinson.

5 According to the International News
6 Service Captain Malcolm Campbell whizzed
7 along this afternoon in his racing car,
8 Blue Bird Second, and beat the World's
9 automobile speed record by nine miles
10 an hour. It was not an official
11 performance, however.

12 Captain Campbell expects to make an
13 official ^{run} ~~try~~ tomorrow when he will try
14 to shove her up to a flat 250 miles ~~per~~
15 hour.

1 No, sirree. This man didn't
2 **deserve** any reward.

3 According to the Associated Press,
4 a man out in Iowa shot a wolf and then
5 took the skin of the animal to the
6 county officials and demanded the \$10
7 bounty which is paid for killing a wolf.

8 The authorities said "nix." The pelt
9 he had was the skin of an Alsation
10 sheperd dog of the breed commonly called
11 "police dog". He hadn't shot a wolf at
12 all. He had merely shot some neighbor's
13 dog.

1 This next item is for the children
2 who are listening in, and it just goes
3 to show that if they don't go to
4 school the school will come to them, *anyhow.*

5 Down in Arizona they have a
6 school house on wheels. It travels
7 along day after day across the Arizona
8 desert and teaches the children the
9 old familiar reading, ^{and} writing, and
10 arithmetic.

11 The United Press tells us ~~that~~ it
12 ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~has been~~ put into operation for
13 the benefit of the children of people
14 working on the roads. Families live
15 out there, scattered along the highway.
16 The children can't go the long distance
17 to the nearest school, and so the
18 perambulating school just buzzes along
19 the road and goes to them. *The little*
20 *old red school house is now on wheels.*

1 Great guns! This certainly seems
2 like ancient history. Remember those
3 old bank notes that were so big? --
4 big in shape I mean. The new, smaller
5 bank note was put into circulation just
6 19 months ago, and those older bills
7 now are hardly more than a memory.

8 An Associated Press dispatch from
9 Washington informs us that the large
10 size notes have gone out of use so
11 rapidly that only one-eighth of them
12 are still in circulation. At one time
13 there were five billion ^{dollars worth} of them, and
14 now only a little more than \$600,000
15 worth of those big old time bills are
16 going the rounds. Well, the new ones
17 are more convenient, ^{says T. H.} ~~they say~~, but a
18 lot of us don't care a hoot what size
19 they are so long as they just look like
20 the "long green."
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1 I read ~~an article~~^{something} today ~~which~~^{that} caught
2 my imagination. It's about a way of
3 learning--not one language, but seven
4 languages^{all} at the same time! A French
5 professor tells us how he teaches his
6 pupils simultaneously Greek, Latin,
7 Spanish, Italian, French, German, and
8 English--all at once. *I wish I had stumbled*
9 *into that professor's class a long long time ago.*
10 How does he do it? Well, when you
11 learn a word or a grammatical point in
12 any one of these languages, you go on
13 to find ~~how~~^{how} the word or grammatical point
14 is the same or is different in the other
15 languages. In other words, you learn by
16 comparison.

17 You are told, for example, that
18 the Spanish word for father is padre,
19 and so is the Italian. But you are shown
20 that the plural of padre in Spanish is
21 padres, while in Italian the plural is
22 padri--and then the reason for this
23 difference is explained.

24 This new way of learning many
25 languages at the same time is explained
in this week's Literary Digest. The

1 Digest quotes from the French magazine
2 "Psychology and Life", and goes on to
3 give further details of this way of
4 learning languages by comparison. For
5 example, you are told that words which
6 in Latin begin with a p, generally begin
7 in English with an f. Thus, it's pater
8 in Latin, and father in English. It's
9 pes in Latin, and foot in English. It's
10 piscis in Latin, and fish in English.

11 Then take our English word knee.
12 The k is silent. In German the k is
13 sounded. And we have kn~~ie~~--k-n-i-e
14 But in Latin the place of the k is taken
15 by g, and the Latin word ~~kn~~ for knee
16 is genu--which also gives us our English
17 word genuflexion.

18 Well, I can see that when you get
19 differences and similarities put into
20 your mind like that, the various facts
21 about the different languages ~~kn~~ would
22 stick. And learning seven languages at
23 the same time doesn't seem such an
24 awful undertaking. ^{Yes,} I wish I'd heard of
25 that idea fifteen years ago. Maybe it isn't too
late even now.

VII

1 The other night we had a moon
2 rocket, which instead of going to the
3 moon, fell into San Francisco Bay.

4 And now away over in Italy
5 another moon rocket blew up today. It
6 was a huge projectile made in Milan
7 under the direction of an American
8 Professor - Darwin Lyon, formerly of
9 Columbia University. They took it to
10 the top of a high peak of the Italian
11 Alps, from which they were going to
12 launch it, and there it exploded. Four
13 men were hurt. One seriously.

14 Strictly speaking, this moon
15 rocket was not supposed to go to the
16 moon. It was intended to soar to a
17 height of fifty miles above the earth,
18 and it was so equipped that it would
19 record observations of that distant
20 region on the fringe of the earth's
21 atmosphere. If that was successful
22 it was intended to try to send a rocket
23 of this sort on to the moon. *But it*
24 *went off with a mighty bang - ahead*
25 *of time. And another one-way expedition*
to the Man in the Moon is off.

AIRPLANE

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1 A wireless message has come to
2 the Navy Department from the steamship
3 Youngstown reporting some grey-colored
4 floating wreckage 150 miles off the
5 Azores. The Youngstown didn't get a
6 close look, ^{but} ~~and~~ it is suspected that
7 the wreckage may be the airplane.
8 Tradewind which left Bermuda ~~XXXX~~ for
9 the Azores ^{early this month} and was never seen again.

ALASKA

A copy of an Alaskan newspaper arrived on my desk this morning, The Empire, from Juneau. In glancing through it an item about automobiles caught my eye.

When I was up in Alaska before the War, an auto was still a curiosity. The ones that were there were nearly all of one make and they looked like wrecks because of the terrific pounding and abuse they had to take. There were only a few roads, so these who owned them drove them across country, over muskeg, across the frozen tundra, over fallen trees, and through rivers. They even took the doors off their cars so they could lash on still more supplies and packages in them.

Well, this story in the Juneau Empire that reached me today stated that in Juneau alone there are now 537 autos. Two-thirds of these are pleasure cars, the rest are taxis and trucks. Ketchikan, the center of the salmon fishing industry of the Alaskan Panhandle, ranks second with 470 cars. But here's what gets me: Over 300 of these are pleasure cars, and as I remember Ketchikan, most of its streets were just about

perpendicular, ideal for coasting on sleds - if there were any snow, which there never was because it always, always rains at Ketchiken. As one lantern jawed old timer said to me:

"Wal, we don't take much stock in the story of Noah and the great flood up here. It's rained for 40 years and 40 nights up here in Ketchiken, and she haint even affected the tide!"

But just hold on to your seats a moment now and listen to this automobile item from Alaska:-- In the Alaskan town of Juneau, there is one car for every seven persons. And according to the National Automobile Association, this is a higher average than in 9 of our states down here.

1 Down in ^{the} Argentine two famous
2 bandits have ended their career. They
3 were Severino di ~~Rmx~~ Giovanni, bandit
4 chief, and his lieutenant, Paulino Scarfo.
5 They were anarchists and desperados.
6 They confessed that they were guilty
7 of the recent bombings down in Buenos
8 Aires. This was the case about which I
9 told you a week or so ago, when bombs
10 were exploded in the principal railroad
11 stations of the Argentine capital.

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12 These two anarchists also admitted
13 that they had bombed the Buenos Aires
14 Branch of the National City Bank of New
15 York two years ago. They also exploded
16 infernal machines in the Italian
17 Consulate during the Sacco Vanzetti
18 agitation in 1927.

19 The Associated Press informs
20 us that the bandit anarchist leader, di
21 Giovanni, was captured after a pitched
22 battle in the street. Scarfo was arrested
23 later after another grand fight. The
24 bandit chief faced a firing squad yesterday
25 with a smile of bravado, and the
International News Service informs us that
Scarfo was executed today.

1 There is a bit of trouble
2 threatening in the wilds of Ecuador.
3 Thousands of Indians ~~xxx~~ have gathered
4 for a meeting to protest against the way
5 their white neighbors have been treating
6 them. They have a lot of grievances it
7 seems, and they are drawing up formal
8 demands that the government should do
9 something about it. Communist agents
10 are said to be ~~xxxxx~~ stirring up trouble
11 among the Indians, and the United Press
12 informs us that the authorities in
13 Ecuador have sent a strong force of
14 troops to keep an eye on that grand
15 conclave of Indians.

LETTER--BALD HEAD

The Tall Story Club comes to bat tonight with a fine, big whopper. It's from Jack Cummings, of Philadelphia, who modestly admits that he loves fish stories, and the taller the better. So Jack proceeds to send in a real skyscraper for the benefit of the members of the Tall Story Club.

He says he was out fishing with a bald-headed man at Beachaven, New Jersey. They were in a launch and it was blowing a bit. The bald-headed man threw his hat into the cabin. Well, the sun got to work on his bald head, and burned him good and proper. Then one of the other boys slapped him on the dome with a blue-fish. It was a good smack, with the bluefish going plop on that noble bald head.

That night the bald-headed man went to run some ungentine on his sun-burned scalp, but in his nervousness he got a tube of toothpaste instead, and rubbed toothpaste all over his feverish bald pate.

A few days later he noticed that hair was growing on his bald head, a fine fuzzy crop. And today that formerly bald-headed

man has a magnificent shock of curly red hair.

"Now what did it?" asks Jack Cummings. "The
sunburn, the bluefish, or the toothpaste?"

Well, I don't know, but it certainly is a tall story.

1 I suppose I ought to close this evening's
2 broadcast by giving you a fine and compre-
3 hensive weather forecast. I ought to be
4 able to tell you definitely whether Spring
5 is here or not. Because today is Ground
6 Hog Day, and I really ought to be one of
7 the foremost ground hog experts in the
8 country. I'm willing to bet that there
9 are more ground hogs out in the ^{hills} ~~country~~, in
10 my neck of the woods than there are any-
11 where else ^{on earth} ~~in the country~~. They eat ~~one~~
12 Brussels sprouts, and they chew up ~~one~~
13 rutabagas. They nibble at ~~the~~ cabbages,
14 and they walk off with ~~one~~ eggplants. When
15 I get out the old shotgun and go stalking
16 Mr. Ground Hog, why he usually scurries
17 into his hole before I can draw a bead on
18 him. Or when I do cut loose and give him
19 both barrels, ^{I miss him} ~~he somehow manages to dodge~~.

20 Anyway, I was up on the farm for the
21 weekend and knowing that ^{this} ~~today~~ was Ground
22 Hog Day, I got up bright and early ~~this~~
23 ~~morning~~ in order to be all set to make a
24 ground hog weather forecast for you. Of
25 course you know all about how

1 after the winter's sleep, the ground hog
2 comes out of his hole. If he sees his
3 shadow he just turns around and goes
4 back for another snooze. Because there
5 will be 40 more days of winter. If, how-
6 ever, he doesn't see his shadow, he stays
7 out because he knows spring is at hand.

8 And so this morning I was out watching.
9 ~~for the ground hog to come out of his hole.~~
10 But there are so many ground hog holes
11 up my way that you can hardly walk without
12 stepping into one.

13 Anyhow, I saw nary a ground hog. So
14 as a Ground Hog Day weather prognosticator
15 I'm a ~~total~~ washout.

16 I know you'll be bitterly disappointed
17 not to know what Mr. Ground Hog's ^{verdict} ~~dope~~ is
18 on the weather, but I can't tell you
19 whether spring is here or not. In fact, at
20 ~~this~~ particular moment, ^{there is only about} ~~I have just~~ one
21 ~~thing I can tell you~~ ~~remark left to make,~~ and that is, so long
22 until tomorrow.
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