

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1931

WEATHER

Good Evening, Everybody:

This was a day for people to talk about the weather.

In some parts of the country they were remarking, "Here we are, going into December, and it seems like June." But it isn't all like that. In other parts they're fighting blizzards.

Here in the East, today set a record for warmth.

The temperature went up to 73; and the average temperature for November 23rd is not 73, but 41.

But out in the Rocky Mountain Section and in the Middle West, it's another story -- snow and blizzards and howling winds.

1 A call was ~~made~~ sounded at
 2 Washington today, ~~it's~~ a summons for
 3 the Democratic National Committee to meet
 4 on January 9th. The program of the
 5 Committee will be to pick a site for the
 6 next Democratic National Convention,
 7 ^{which} ~~that~~ will choose a nominee for ~~the~~
 8 Presidency.

9 The question of funds will be
 10 discussed -- ^{you know,} ~~you know~~ the business of
 11 raising the money to run a Presidential
 12 campaign. That's always a political
 13 problem of ^{paramount} ~~major~~ importance.

14 The third subject ~~mentioned~~ which the
 15 Democratic National Committee will take
 16 under consideration is the usual
 17 bouquet of thorns -- Prohibition.

18 The meeting ^{will} take place ^{the day} after the
 19 ~~evening of the~~ Jackson Day dinner. The
 20 Democrats' always celebrate the
 21 anniversary of the great Democratic
 22 president, Andrew Jackson. They
 23 commonly make the occasion one ~~for a~~
 24 ^{of important} ~~large~~ political hurrah.

25 The International News Service

1 reports that this year the speakers at
 2 the Jackson Day dinner will be limited
 3 to three. And they will be the three
 4 living candidates who have run for
 5 President on the Democratic ticket.

6 In other words, they will be: ex-Governor
 7 Cox, ^{of Ohio,} John W. Davis, ^{of West Virginia,} and Alfred E. Smith, ^{of N.Y.}

8 They will tell the world about the
 9 glowing Democratic prospects for 1932.

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1 Here's a bit of testimony
2 that was given today before the Senate
3 Lobby Commission in Washington. It
4 was stated that both Senator Davis of
5 Pennsylvania and Senator Watson of
6 Indiana received blocks of stock in
7 sugar companies. ^{It was charged that} They paid for the
8 stock merely by signing notes which
9 didn't carry any interest ^{cost.} ~~charge.~~
10 ^{The U. P. story mentions that} Sugar stock was also sold to a
11 number of other political big wigs,
12 both Republican and Democratic,
13 including Senator Moses of New Hampshire
14 and former Governor Alfred E. Smith of
15 New York. These, however, paid for the
16 stock in cash.

17 Another witness testified that
18 the head of the sugar company had
19 ordered ten thousand dollars to be sent
20 to Senator Davis. The books of the
21 sugar company, however, show no record
22 of any such payment. Senator Davis
23 himself ~~den~~ounced the charges as false.

24 The whole affair is connected
25 with tariff on sugar. ^{The A. P. explains that} The Senate

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~~xxx~~ Lobby Commission is investigating a rumor that Senator Davis received one hundred thousand dollars from sugar companies that were lobbying extensively for a high tariff on sugar. The Senator declares emphatically that it is nothing but malicious falsehood, *just a cock & bull story.*

1 Tonight, or in fact any other
2 recent night, seems a proper time to
3 remark that Manchuria is ~~xxxxxx~~ like the
4 poor. The poor we have always with
5 us. And we always have Manchuria with
6 us.

7 ~~The~~ Activities in the Council
8 of the League of Nations ^{today} ~~centered~~ around
9 naming a neutral commission to
10 investigate ~~that~~ trouble between China
11 and Japan. Foreign Minister Briand of
12 France ~~today~~ presented a proposal, ~~to the~~
13 ~~League Council.~~

14 The Associated Press reports
15 that the Council decided not to O. K.
16 the report, until the Chinese and
17 Japanese delegates had a chance to look
18 it over. No official statement was given
19 out but it was understood that the
20 Briand plan concerns itself with the
21 make-up of the neutral commission. It
22 suggests ~~that it be composed of~~ five
23 members, three neutrals, one Chinese and
24 one Japanese.

25 The correspondent of the United

1 Press had an interview today with Dr.
2 Alfred Sze, the Chinese delegate. Dr.
3 Sze declares that the quarrel in
4 Manchuria can be solved by the application
5 of the Kellogg Peace Pact. ~~He believes~~
6 ~~that if everybody were compelled to~~
7 ~~live up to those peace treaties, which~~
8 ~~both China and Japan signed, why, that~~
9 ~~would end the disturbance. Violations~~
10 ~~of the Kellogg peace treaty, declared~~
11 ~~Dr. Sze, should be brought before the~~
12 ~~Count of Public Opinion.~~

13 From Tokio comes word of a
14 possible change in the Japanese government.
15 A scrap is going on between the civilian
16 and military authorities, and now there
17 come hints of a compromise.

18 The International News Service
19 cables that a coalition government has
20 been proposed. That is, a government
21 which will include the leaders of both
22 the war party and the peace party. The
23 idea would be for the opposing forces
24 to try to get together and have their
25 representatives work in harmony as
ministers of the government.

1 China has a new Foreign Minister
2 tonight. He is Dr. Wellington Koo,
3 whose name is quite familiar in this
4 country.

5 Dr. Koo is one of those ~~xxxxxx~~
6 Chinese students in American universities
7 who have had brilliant careers. He *was*
8 graduated from Columbia and later on was
9 Chinese Minister to Washington and then
10 to London. He represented the Chinese
11 government at ^{*Versailles*} ~~the peace conference at~~
12 ~~Paris~~ in 1919, and at the Washington
13 Arms Conference in 1921.

14 The Associated Press quotes him
15 as saying today that China will not be
16 satisfied with any settlement of her
17 quarrel with Japan unless it includes a
18 provision for the early withdrawal of
19 Japanese troops from Manchuria.

20 From Nanking comes word of what
21 may be an important change in the Chinese
22 government. A National Disaster Commission
23 has been appointed. It is an emergency
24 organization which will take charge of
25 the nation's affairs ~~xxxxxx~~ while the
crisis in Manchuria continues.

1 Some of the inside workings of
2 applied communism are revealed in a
3 United Press dispatch from Moscow. Just
4 now they are having a sugar scandal in *the*
5 *red capitol* - ~~Moscow~~ - that is, the Soviet authorities
6 are investigating a lot of crooked work
7 on a large scale in the ~~state control~~
8 sugar trust.

9 This Sugar Trust controls forty-four
10 huge farms which grow sugar beets and
11 also grain. They say that over a long
12 period the trust has been falsifying
13 its reports. It has been underestimating
14 the amount of sugar and grain that is
15 produced, and boosting the figures for
16 the amount of seeds and food supplies
17 which it has demanded. As ^a~~the~~ result,
18 the sugar trust has been holding out a
19 huge ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ quantity of stuff, which
20 it has used for its own purpose.

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1 It is with a trifle of melancholy
2 and disillusion that I come to this
3 next bit of news. I must admit that I
4 was rooting for the Sing Sing team.
5 When the convicts played the cops it
6 did seem only poetic justice that the
7 convicts should win.

8 But it didn't happen that way
9 in the big football game at Sing Sing
10 yesterday. The Sing Sing team played
11 the Police Department of Port Jervis,
12 New York, and the cops won, thirteen
13 to nothing. ^{TP} ~~The game was practically~~ *cops put the game on ice*
14 ~~over~~ when they ~~cops~~ scored a touchdown
15 on a forward pass from Patrolman Duffey
16 to Patrolman Thomas. That namesake of
17 mine from Port Jervis seems to have
18 been the star for the cops.

19 But is he really a cop? That
20 is the question which is agitating the
21 minds of the boys of Sing Sing. The
22 New York World Telegram tells us that
23 accusations are being hurled. The
24 convicts claim that they were not beaten
25 by cops at all, but by ringers. They

1 say those Port Jervis cops can't play
2 football and so they gathered an Eleven
3 made up of former high school players
4 and swore them in as deputies.

5 Take the case of Patrolman Thomas
6 who scored all of the thirteen points.
7 ~~made~~: They say he is an unemployed
8 clerk who played football in school,
9 and the cops swore him in temporarily
10 as a desk sergeant. The convicts claim
11 they were framed. They vow they were
12 taken for a buggy-ride. They declare
13 they were railroaded, and they say it's
14 just like *the* cops.

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1 The United Press tells of ~~the~~ ^{has just been} ~~a~~ ^{in the course}
2 most interesting person discovered ~~by a~~
3 ~~a~~ census which ~~is being~~ taken in Cuba.

4 Teresa Rivera is a negro woman ~~who is~~
5 130 years old. She wasn't born in Cuba
6 -- she was born in Africa. She was one
7 of a thousand young black slaves brought
8 to Cuba from the Dark Continent in the
9 early part of the last century. She was
10 a belle of the jungles when the slave
11 traders caught her and carried her
12 across the sea to a strange land. They
13 say she has so many descendants that
14 she isn't able to count them.

15 And right to the point is an
16 article in the current issue of the
17 Literary Digest, which tells us of the
18 most historic negro in the United
19 States. He is ^{oo}Cudjo Lewis, who lives
20 in Alabama near the shore of the Gulf
21 of Mexico. He doesn't talk the familiar
22 dialect of the other Southern negroes.
23 He speaks English with strange guttural
24 sounds. No wonder, because Cudjo Lewis
25 was born in Africa and was pretty well

1 grown up before he was brought a slave
2 to the United States. He has the
3 distinction of being one of the
4 melancholy passengers aboard the last
5 slave-running ship that brought its
6 cargo of black ivory to these shores.

7 This was in 1859. The slave trade
8 had long been ~~abolished~~^{prohibited}, but occasionally
9 a contraband ship would make a secret
10 voyage and mysteriously land its
11 forbidden cargo on the shores of the
12 Southern states.

13 The Literary Digest quotes an
14 article by Walter Hart Blumenthal in the
15 New York Evening Post, and tells ^{of} vivid
16 memories ^{still retained by} ~~that~~ that most historic ^{of all the} negroes
17 in the ^{se} United States. ~~still retains~~

18 Along the Congo River lived the
19 Tarkar tribe. They were peaceable black
20 folk. Nearby were the savage Dahomeys,
21 long the terror of Central Africa. One
22 day the Dahomeys in full warlike array
23 swooped down on the Tarkars. The
24 unfortunate victims ~~defended themselves~~
25 ~~as best they could, but they~~ were no

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to tell of those far-off days when he
was a young warrior of the Tarkar
tribe on the banks of the Congo.

1 There's been a good deal of stir
2 in Illinois about the case of a man who
3 has spent 23 years in prison for a crime
4 he did not commit. His name is Jesse
5 Lucas. He lived at Mount Carmel, in
6 Illinois, on the banks of the Wabash.

7 Back in 1909 he was convicted of
8 killing a man. Four witnesses testified
9 against him, and ~~convicted him.~~ ^{sealed his fate,}

10 Last June another man, on his
11 death-bed confessed that he was guilty
12 of the murder. And following that, a
13 campaign was started by the Daily Times
14 of Chicago to run down the four witnesses
15 whose testimony had convicted Lucas.
16 One was found to be dead, one is still
17 missing, but two of those witnesses were
18 hunted out by the Daily Times.

19 And now they have confessed that
20 the case against Lucas was a frame-up,
21 pure and simple. One of the two
22 witnesses, a woman, tells a dramatic
23 story of how she was forced to go on the
24 witness stand and tell a tale that sent
25 an innocent man to prison ~~in~~ under a

1 life sentence.

2 Meanwhile, Lucas has been
3 released on parole, and a movement is
4 now on ~~the~~ foot to get a pardon for him.
5 But, as Dick Finnegan, editor of the
6 Daily Times, remarks, a pardon is a
7 mighty small recompense for an innocent
8 man who entered the grim, gray walls of
9 prison a young fellow of 27, and is now
10 a man of 50.

1 I heard a prize story today. It's
2 about a blind insurance salesman who
3 has been making records. His name is
4 Henry G. Robbins, and he lives in
5 Philadelphia. He has been blind from
6 birth, but just the same he has been
7 supporting himself ever since he was 9
8 years old. He sold subscriptions to
9 magazines, then he worked his way through
10 a school for the blind, and then won a
11 scholarship to the University of
12 Pennsylvania.

13 Ever since then he has been in the
14 insurance business, and ^{he is now} ~~his company~~
15 rated ~~him~~ as one of ^{the} ~~the~~ crack salesmen ^{of the country.}
16 ~~He has made one sales record after~~
17 ~~another.~~

18 Well, that brings us to the story
19 of how Henry G. Robbins was walking
20 along South Penn Square in the City of
21 Brotherly Love. He was feeling his way
22 along with a cane. A manhole was open.
23 The blind insurance salesman fell into
24 it. He went right on down and landed on
25 top of a workman by the name of Marsden.

1 Neither man was seriously hurt. They
2 were just a bit shaken up by the
3 unexpected encounter.

4 "What the dickens," growled the
5 workman.

6 "My lamps are dim," explained the
7 blind insurance salesman.

8 The workman understood, and the
9 two started talking. You can guess the
10 rest of the story.

11 "I know it must be tough," the
12 insurance salesman apologized, "to have
13 somebody come plunking down on you like
14 that. On this job you certainly need
15 some accident insurance."

16 And he went ahead and sold the
17 workman a policy.

18 Well, that's what I call
19 salesmanship.
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1 A curious sight was seen in the
2 national capital today. An ancient
3 cart drawn by two oxen came lumbering
4 into Washington, and as ~~the~~^a result,
5 President Hoover is going to have enough
6 potatoes to last the White House family
7 for the winter.

8 The Associated Press explains
9 that the governor and the potato growers
10 of the State of Maine decided to do
11 something ~~xxx~~ for the President. They
12 wanted to show their loyalty to the
13 government and they have said it with
14 potatoes. They dug up an old ox-cart,
15 a hundred years old, and loaded it with
16 prize Maine tubers. They hooked up a
17 couple of oxen, and the old-fashioned
18 outfit started for Washington. The
19 driver was Len Hawkes of Cumberland
20 Center, Maine. No, Len is not an old
21 ~~xx~~ timer. He's just a young fellow in
22 fact, but he knows how to drive oxen.
23 He didn't break any speed limits on
24 the trip from Maine to Washington. It
25 was just a case of slow, but sure.

Anyway, Len drove his ox-cart into Washington today and the potatoes were duly delivered at the White House.

I wish I could tell you what you say to oxen when you drive them. But all I can think of is gid-dap, and

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.