

Lowell Thomas Broadcast for Literary Digest
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Intro.

Well, there's a lot of hot news tonight. I made a hurried trip up to Utica last evening, and in order to get back here in time to catch the day's news flashes and shoot them out to you I hopped the Montreal - New York airplane, the one that brings the mail, and I got here from Albany in just an hour and 30 minutes.

There didn't seem to be much news of importance this morning, but this afternoon, about the time I jumped out of the plane over at Newark Airport, it began to flash in. Let's see. Let's begin with Legs Diamond. He's been in the papers every day for some time now, and a lot of people have been talking - but not Legs. He's been keeping mum and silent--until now. And the New York

evening papers in eight column streamer headlines tell us that Legs Diamond has broken his silence.

Diamond

Today in the Metropolitan Hospital, on Welfare Island, New York, Legs told District Attorney Crain how he was shot. And here is Diamond's story, according to a late edition of the New York Evening World:-

Two friends had called on him in his hotel room, he said. It was morning, and he was just out of bed. They left. He went back to sleep. Then he was awakened by a noise in the little hall of the room. He saw three or four men whom he didn't know. They were at the door, and they had guns. They opened fire.

"The first shot hit me on the front part of the head, and partially stunned me." That's how the Evening World quotes Diamond. "The next shot hit my collar bone. I think the next bullet went into the left side of my chest. They must

have shot me eight or ten times."

The gunmen dashed away. Diamond, pretty well riddled with bullets, made his way out of the room and along the hall to the room of a friend of his.

That's Diamond's story of the famous shooting. He positively insists that he doesn't know who shot him. But he says he'll find that out. Well, so much for Legs Diamond. Now here's a big piece of news from the Far East.

Chiang Kai Shek

The President of China has become a Christian. General Chiang Kai Shek is the strong man of China, the War Lord. And ^{now} today he ^{has been} ~~was~~ baptized a Methodist. The simple ceremony was in the International Settlement at Shanghai. The Rev. Z. T. Kuang, Chinese pastor of the Young-Allen Memorial Church, asked the President whether he sincerely desired to become a Christian. Chiang answered that he did. So the pastor sprinkled water on the new convert, and admitted

him into the Christian Church. And so, China, which is now seething with anti-Christian agitation, has a Christian president.

And, by the way,

China

It looks as if they might do something out there about the recent communist bandit outrages. That massacre I told you about last night was too much.

Anyway, the provincial authorities at Hankow, in Central China, are raising a loan of about \$900,000---American money. According to the United Press this is to finance an expedition against the communists. A large force of soldiers will be assembled, and they are scheduled to start after the bandits on November 1st.

Here's a late dispatch from the International News Service: 13 troop divisions and 6 gunboats will be sent to Kiangsi province by the Nanking government to wipe out the bandits.

There's also important news from
the West African Coast tonight.

Liberia

Over in the black republic of
Liberia, an Emancipation Proclamation has
been issued by a black Abraham Lincoln. The
President of Liberia has given out a decree
freeing all slaves. This, according to the
United Press, was announced today by the Liberian
delegate to the League of Nations. It seems
strange to hear about slavery in Liberia, because
that African republic as you doubtless recall,
was founded by American negro slaves who had been
set free. But Liberia has had slavery right on
down to 1930, and this new Emancipation Proclamation
specifies one peculiar form. Members of families
were "pawned" as security for debt, and if the
debt was foreclosed, they remained slaves. This
is to be abolished.

Now here's one that will strike home to
all of us. We've ridden through tunnels many a
time, and we've wondered - at least I have - what

would happen if the thing caved in.

Tunnel

Well, near Steubenville, Ohio, a tunnel caved in today, while a freight train was passing through it. Six cars and the caboose were caught and crushed by falling masses of rock. And three trainmen were in the caboose.

The tunnel is on the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad. A rescue crew of fifty were rushed to the scene. They started to dig. Communication was established with one of the men trapped beneath the tons of rock. Al Romano is his name, and he told them by signaling that he was pinned and held fast by a large boulder. Regarding his two companions, he said he didn't know whether they were alive or not.

Here's a late flash regarding the cave-in from the International News Service. The body of J. O. Sells was recovered from the tunnel by the rescue workers after four hours digging, -

two men were taken out alive - one of them was Al Romano.

First Shot

Today is the anniversary of the first shot fired by the American forces in the World War. It was a shell from Battery C of the 6th Field Artillery just 12 years ago. The occasion is being commemorated at Fort Meyer, Va. The Society of the First Division of the A. E. F. is holding a reunion there, and one of the ceremonies is a shot fired by the same Battery C of the 6th Field Artillery, the same outfit that fired the first shot.

And in Russia also they are celebrating an anniversary today.

Russia

It's the second birthday of the famous Soviet Five Year Plan. The results for last year, says an Associated Press dispatch, were five per cent under schedule. Nevertheless, the Communists say their Five Year Plan has been a real success

so far.

That Five Year Plan is just about the hugest industrial project ever undertaken by any government. Its purpose is to industrialize and socialize Russia, and if you want to understand it better, why, you'll find illuminating information in an article in the Literary Digest which is now on the stands. That article deals with the agricultural angle of the Five Year Plan--collective farming, and it has a snappy headline: Down on the Soviet Farm. I read it on the last stage of my flight down the Hudson today when it gradually grew too hazy to enjoy the scenery.

South America is always good for an item or two. Here's one - a bit melancholy -

Argentine

The deposed president of Argentina, Hipolito Irigoyen, is still being held a prisoner on a cruiser. Irigoyen appealed to the supreme court of the country to let him go free, says

the United Press, but his appeal was refused. In the meantime, criminal proceedings have been started against him, charging that he misused public funds. And until that suit is settled, the ex-president stays on that cruiser.

Brazil

In Brazil, where the civil war is still going on, the first hospital train with wounded has arrived in Rio de Janeiro. The banks have reopened in Rio. They were closed for 15 days.

The International News Service tells us that President Hoover has ordered that no munitions be shipped from the United States to the rebel forces in Brazil.

Oh yes, I say, England chips in with something rawther shocking too.

Rum Row

For England has a rum row. It is "somewhere" in the English Channel. Silks, cigars, and brandy are smuggled in. Coasting

windjammers are used. The goods, usually of French origin, are transferred to British smugglers in the middle of the Channel. From there they are taken to various east-coast ports in Suffolk and Essex. A cargo costs \$250, and brings a profit of \$1500. And that's a good profit, as any store owner will tell you.

Now in Portugal they are having serious financial difficulties today.

Portugal

That bank crash over there was a real one--a whopper. The Banco do Minho, the biggest financial institution in north Portugal, went to the wall. It had deposits of more than \$75,000,000, but could pay only 40 per cent.

Like a bombshell, came the announcement that the government would take over the bank's affairs. Not even the bank directors knew this. Naturally a lot of Portuguese bank depositors are mad as hornets tonight.

News Item of the Day

Here's the News Item of the Day and it may start an argument. In fact, the argument has been going on for a long time. And it's about sharks. Are sharks dangerous to human beings? Did a shark ever bite anybody? Do sharks attack swimmers? I've heard Will Beebe, the famous naturalist, say positively that sharks are quite harmless and inoffensive to human beings. And, by Joe, I've heard my old friend Count Luckner, the Sea Devil, thump the table and give the traditional view of the sailor. Yes, by Joe, those wolves of the sea will eat you alive, and they've eaten more than one poor old Jack Tar sailor. Well, here's some testimony on the subject in the New York Evening World, and it says that sharks do bite.

J. E. Williamson, who specializes in under-sea photography, has been studying and photographing sharks down around Nassau, in the West Indies, where they have some of the biggest and meanest looking sharks you might want to go near - or stay away from.

Williamson had fifty gallons of animal blood dumped into the water, and then went down in his diving bell. Then, biff, bang. A big school of mackerel sharks came dashing up. They were headed by a big hammer-head. With the taste of blood those wolfish monsters became frantic. They hurled themselves at the diving bell and the man inside, and as they crashed against it, the diving bell shook and swayed, until it seemed about to break.

A baited hook was lowered from the surface. One shark seized it. The monster tugged and struggled, the others turned upon it and tore it to pieces.

Do sharks bite? Yes, says Mr. Williamson.

And so do snakes. Which brings us to a long distance snake killing record.

Snake Killer

Charles M. Dayhoff of Rock Springs,

Arkansas, has killed 175 rattlesnakes in three days. According to a United Press dispatch, Dayhoff came upon a snake den while herding cattle for shipment. The first day he killed 80 reptiles, the second day 90, and the third day 27.

Snake

Arthur Rose, of Rapid City, South Dakota, had a snake adventure too. It's sympathetically reported by the United Press-- and I'm passing it on to you with all the sympathy in the world.

Mr. Rose climbed the bank of a stream to take a short cut home. As he reached the top he was confronted by a snake of brilliant coloring, and as slender as a lead pencil. It was a deadly coral snake. Rose reached for a rock - and found a polecat, instead.

But he kept his mind on the snake, and killed it. And that's what I call concentration.

Flashes

Here are a few short oddities:

A meteorological observatory in Mexico City is looking for a new location. The traffic has become too heavy in the present neighborhood. When the seismographic needle vibrates, the scientists can't tell whether it means an earthquake or a five-ton truck going by.

Miniature Golf Courses

Miniature golf courses will have to remain out in the cold. They wanted to move into basements of apartment houses but Tenement House Commissioner William F. Deegan, of New York, says that golf courses are places of assembly, and therefore illegal in a dwelling.

Woman - 150

A woman 150 years old, died in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. According to a United Press dispatch, she left four children, all more than 100 years old, a total of 124 grandchildren, 230 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren. That's interesting if true. I wonder if anyone in the U.S.A. can match that one.

Divorces

The first four years of married life are the hardest, according to Judge A. J. Pearson, of Cleveland. If husbands and wives stay clear of marital obstacles for that length of time, they will probably live together in harmony the rest of their natural lives. And Judge Pearson is the man who ought to know something about it. He is said to dispose of more divorce cases annually than are handled even by the courts of Reno, Nevada.

Copenhagen

Married life seems to be in a bad way in Copenhagen. A women's organization, a sort of wives union, was formed to check up on married men and advise wives of their husbands' flirtations. Now the married men of Copenhagen, according to the New York Times, have countered by organizing a league to tip husbands off to the flirtations of their wives. Ho, ho. So there may or may not be something wrong in Denmark.

Milk Bottles

At Coney Island during the summer months 7,050 milk bottles are recovered daily along the beach. According to the New York Times, a total of 700,000 undamaged milk bottles, valued at about \$35,000, were gathered during the months of July, August, and September, and an equal number of broken ones. The broken ones were responsible for more than 9,000 cuts inflicted daily on bathers, who stepped on

broken milk bottles-or sat on them.

Bridge

Bridge hands can now be dealt in a jiffy, and without any misdeals. A machine that will shuffle and deal four hands in twenty seconds has been invented. The deck, according to the New York Herald Tribune, is simply put into the machine. The dealer turns a small crank. And Presto, the cards are whisked into four separate compartments. These are the hands, most of which will probably be bid wrong and then played wrong.

As I mentioned when I started out tonight, I flew down here at 115 miles an hour, so I've been in the air and on the air. And now I'm going to come back to earth and hop a subway for home. So goodnight.