

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

This evening the old world seems a bit larger. Some how land has been discovered. But it won't be cut up into real estate subdivisions for quite a while. It's a bit too close to the South Pole for that.

A Norwegian expedition, under the famous Norwegian flier, Captain Riiser-Larsen, reports that his airplanes have sighted a new body of land between Enderby Land and the Weddell Sea. According to the International News Service, the aviators dropped Norwegian flags and also documents, and claimed the land for Norway.

Well, the discovery of new bits of earth is always a fascinating thing, even if the land is icy waste, deep in the Antarctic.

Riiser-Larsen, the leader of this expedition, will be recalled as the aviator who accompanied Amudsen on that explorer's first attempt to reach the North Pole by air. Riiser-Larsen also was the Norwegian pilot acting with General Nobile aboard the

dirigible Norge when she flew across the Arctic from Spitzberger to Alaska.

Now comes a dispute about some frozen islands up in the Arctic Ocean. They're the Jan Mayen Islands, at present held by Norway.

The Czechoslovakian government has received a message from an admiral named Baltaza. He was formerly an officer in the Austro-Hungarian navy, but is now a citizen of Czechoslovakia. He claims that those Jan Mayen Islands belong not to Norway by right, but to Czechoslovakia.

The admiral commanded an expedition back in 1882, which discovered the islands. That gave Austro-Hungary the right to them, he maintains, and as Czechoslovakia is a successor to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, why then Czechoslovakia should have the islands.

Of course it may seem that a few dots of frozen land up in the Arctic aren't much to quarrel about. But, according to the New York Evening Post, the Jan Mayen Islands contain rich deposits of iron ore - in addition to still richer deposits of icicles.

AUSTRALIA

Here's a prosperity note from out in Australia. The weird Aborigines of the great southern continent are flourishing and getting rich. Not long ago it was a common sight to see tribal chiefs hanging around the outskirts of the city of Port Darwin, hungry and abject, begging for food. Now they all have money. The reason, according to the Associated Press, is that the Australian Aborigines have gone into the business of entertaining the tourists.

They have found that tourists are willing to pay to see their strange tribal rights, so they are putting on these savage ceremonies and making them a little more weird and fantastic than they ever were before. The tourists come and the Aborigines put on a show and play Wild Men of Borneo. The principal ceremony is the corroboree which is the tribal ceremony for making boys into men. They perform that corroboree so often just for the tourists - that most of the boys out there are made and remade into men time after time. By the way, I happened to be talking to Sir Hubert Wilkins, the Polar explorer, today, and I asked him

what he thought of the Australian Aborigine. He is an Australian and I knew he had lived among them.

There is a common belief that the Australian Aborigine represents the lowest form of humanity on earth. Captain Wilkins denies this, and among his reasons he included their religious rites of which Corroboree is a part. He told me that their religious ritual was much more complex than any other known to man.

INDIA

Word comes from India of what was said in the secret talks between Lord Erwin, the Viceroy of India, and Mahatma Gandhi.

~~The New York Evening Post states that~~ Gandhi, in his conversations with Lord Erwin, had demanded that Great Britain forget about that Round Table Conference which met in London a few weeks ago. Gandhi declares that the work of the conference must be thrown right out of the window and that negotiations must begin all over again. He wants the British Government to make terms directly with him and with his Indian Nationalist Party.

Well, that Round Table Conference was a great and glittering show, and it will be hard for the British to toss all it accomplished into the scrap heap. For that reason those secret talks between Lord Erwin and Gandhi haven't stirred up much optimism out in India.

PERU

There was a bit of excitement down in Peru today.

A group of revolutionists made an attack on the Presidential palace. There were about sixty of them and the International News Service says that they were led by a former army officer. The attack was beaten off. This attempted revolution doesn't seem to have been anything big or dangerous, but you know how quickly things can happen in Latin America.

Anyway, according to the United Press the Peruvian government thinks the situation serious enough for severe measure. Martial law was declared today, and this evening military forces are again in control of the city of Lima.

ARGENTINA

Down in the Republic of Argentina rescuers are fighting their way through a storm to reach a town that fell into a river. There have been wild floods along the Rio Grande River - the Argentinian not the Texas Rio Grande - and the water undermined a village which proceeded to slide into the stream. According to the International News Service, six people are known to have lost their lives. Fishing craft are also in distress but no loss

of life is reported.

STORMS

Well, the weather around these parts is neither too good nor too bad, but over in Europe it's something else again. They've been having storms and blizzards.

According to the Associated Press, there was a dense fog in the English Channel, and the giant liner the MAURETANIA ran aground off Southampton. She was quickly refloated, however. Freight ships and fishing craft are also in distress but no loss of life is reported.

BULGARIA

There's a big trial on over in Bulgaria. 68 persons including several women, are facing the judge. They're charged with being mixed up in the deaths of a number of people who were killed in a fight between peasants and the police.

According to the Associated Press, the battle took place in the village of Govedova during ~~an~~ an election. The prisoners have been held for a year, but today the long delayed trial began, and 68 defendants were marched into court.

NEWS ITEM

My news item of the day was picked for me by a Texas cowboy, a real, old time rider of the range and hunter of treasure. He's Frank Dobie, who for years has been a prospector for forgotten mines in the land of mustangs, longhorns and rattlesnakes. And in addition he's devoting himself to the collection and preservation of the old lore of the southwest and he has the most fascinating drawl ever heard this side of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

The story ~~is~~ he picked tells of a pile of trouble they're having in a small town over in Germany about a wagon load of sausage. Chuck they'd call it in Frank Dobie's country. And its the pastor of the local church over in Germany who's making the trouble.

The New York Evening Post informs us that in the town of Demen in the Province of Mecklenburg, there's an old law, dating back in 1707, which requires that the community provide the pastor of the church with 143 pounds of sausage a year. Well, that wagon load of sausage a year was delivered regularly for a century or so, and then the custom lapsed. For several decades nobody bothered any more about the sausage. Three years ago, however, the pastor of the local church developed a good appetite for sausage, and he

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demanded that the 143 pounds a year be delivered. The community said, nein, nix, no. The dispute went on for three years, and the pastor went to court and the judge said that the town would have to produce the sausage, wurst, or bologna. And not merely one year's supply, but a three year's supply to cover the three years in which the pastor had been vainly demanding the wurst, that made 529 pounds of sausage in all.

The community has to obey and loaded a wagon with all kinds of wurst - knackwurst, braatwurst, bludwurst, leberwurst, weinerwurst, frankfurters, and bologna. And all that sausage was ~~delivered~~ delivered to the pastor.

He tasted it and said it wasn't the right kind of sausage. There was too much beef in it. It wasn't good wurst - it was bad wurst. In fact, he implied that it was the worst wurst.

Well, the community took back the 529 pounds of sausages and delivered 529 pounds more. The pastor tasted this collection of wurst and said it was still worse.

By now the patience of the community was exhausted and they refused to deliver any more wurst. So the pastor has gone

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to court again, and a big trial is on. Many sausage experts are called as witnesses - some to testify that the wurst is good and some to testify that its bad.

Meanwhile, people in the town have retaliated by refusing to go to church. They say the pastor is too materialistic. Anyway, the trial is on and its impossible to say as yet who'll get the worst of it.

Don't shoot folks --- the worst is over! I hope.

DIGEST - PROPERTY

This afternoon I read some of the wisest words I've seen in a long time. They're from a London publication called the Efficiency Magazine. The subject is "Old Uncle Sam". The English magazine remarks that practically every security in the United States is now being sold at less than its value. And it goes on to point out that the great millionaire Frick started his career by buying coke ovens in the slump of 1873. Then there was Andrew Carnegie. He made \$300,000,000 by purchasing steel plants during times when business was bad and prices were low. Hundreds of fortunes have been made on the sound principle of -- buying from pessimists.

That's the British slant on the present condition of things in the U. S. A. Its quoted in this week's Literary Digest and the Digest goes on to give a parting shot from that British writer. He says: IN FIVE YEARS MOST AMERICAN BUSINESS MEN WILL BELONG TO THE 'I-WISH-I-HAD CLUB'.

And I guess that's right. There'll be a lot of us telling how we missed our big opportunity in the depression of 1930.

BONUS

Well, the Bonus Bill is on President Hoover's desk down in Washington, and is awaiting his decision. The United Press states that the President will veto it without delay. Meanwhile, the Senate is determined not to take any chance of a pocket veto. A pocket veto comes about when the President just holds a bill without either signing it or vetoing it until Congress adjourned. That means the bill has to wait until the next Congress.

According to the International News Service, the Senators who are for the bonus announced that they will hold up important bills until the President has either signed or vetoed the bonus bill. They will refuse to pass such measures as the appropriation putting up money for the navy until the President has decided one way or the other on the bonus. Here's a late flash from the International News Service which states that Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, has just announced in the Senate that President Hoover promises to send the Bonus Bill back to the Senate by the middle of next week - with his veto and with his explanations.

TARIFF

A dispatch from Ottawa, Canada, states that the Canadian Government has increased the tariff on automobiles. This means that American cars imported into Canada will have to pay an increased duty.

The Associated Press states that the price of an American car selling for \$600.00 in Canada will be boosted by about \$60.00. A thousand dollar car will cost \$77.00 more.

FARM POPULATION

Now let's see - this is news.

We've been hearing for a long time how the people on the farms are drifting to the cities. But here comes something different - something opposite.

According to the New York Sun, a recent survey of the Bureau of Agriculture shows that fewer people are deserting the cows and the chickens and drifting to the bright lights of the cities. In 1926, for example, 2,155,000 farm folk went to live in town. Last year the number was only a little over a million and a half. The reason given is the unemployment situation in the cities. Farmer boys figure that they won't find it so easy to get a job in town so they are staying on the farm - and maybe that isn't a bad thing.

MOSQUITOS

I don't think many of us will shed any tears over this next item -- although it is hard on the mosquitos.

On Staten Island in New York more than 12,000 acres of choice homesteads for mozquitoes are being taken away from their old buzzing and stinging population - that is, a huge area of swamp land is being reclaimed. This, according to the New York Sun, is part of a systematic campaign to abolish man's old enemy, the skeeter.

QUEEN MARY

I am a little bit surprised by the first line of this next dispatch. It says that Queen Mary does not approve of long skirts.

Well, the Queen of England is an exceedingly proper person who has been known to disapprove of short skirts.

Now, don't think that Queen Mary advocates no skirts at all. The Associated Press informs us that she thinks that skirts should be of ankle length. She went to a fashion display where the models were sweeping along with skirts touching the floor. The Queen said that the skirts were handsome all right, but that they were too difficult to wear to suit her. She thought that only a skilled model could wear them effectively.

SHOE STRING

I wonder what Queen Mary would have to say about this next one?

According to the New York Evening Post, the latest American fad is the rubber shoe string. No, I am not referring to the sort of shoe string that some of the boys go in for down in Wall Street. This is merely a lace that is supposed to make it unnecessary for you to tie and untie your shoes each morning and evening. You just stretch 'em on and off! Can't you imagine what it would be like in a school room if all the boys had rubber shoe strings? Wouldn't they make ideal bean shooters?

TALL - EGGS

The Tall Story Club swings into action this evening with an unroarious whopper. Its from our venerable Philadelphia member, Sam McCue. Sam assures me that he's a man of unquestioned veracity.

The Tall Story Club members have a way of putting themselves in the George Washington class by assuring us how they simply couldn't tell a lie. Anyway, Sam tells me of a friend of his, a farmer who lives near Absecon, New Jersey. The farmer noticed that the eggs the hens were laying had a slightly luminous glow, a sort of phosphorescence like wet matches in the dark. He observed the hens to ascertain the cause and found they were eating lightning bugs. That gave him an idea. He put his hens on an exclusive diet of lightning-bugs instead of corn. And those hens started to lay lighted and glowing electric light bulbs. Sam says that his friend proceeded to equip his house with these poultry-produced electric lights.

The other day this same farmer ran his flivver into a tree and smashed both headlights. And now he has bought an ostrich. He's feeding that big bird on lightning-bugs in the

hope that it will lay a couple of headlights for his disabled car.

Well after that yarn I think we ought to elect Sam to the Post of Grand and Exalted Ananias of the Tall Story Club. All in favor say "Aye". Just as I thought - not a dissenting vote.

is that he took part in a plot to smuggle aliens into the United States, and, according to the New York Herald Tribune, he was tried at Trenton, New Jersey, and sentenced to four months in jail.

He explained that he had no money. All he had was two camels over in the desert, and when the time came for him to pay his attorney, he offered the lawyer those two camels. The lawyer declined with thanks. And so amid the sands of the far off desert two camels await patiently for their master who is in a New Jersey newspaper.

After that sad story of the chick of Arab and his two camels, I think I'll join a caravan - I mean I'll hop a street car - I'll seek an oasis of date palms, and sparkling springs - in other words, I'm going to my apartment - and I'll fold my tent like the Arabs - or, I should say, - where's my tent?

CAMEL

Well, its too bad about Shbin Regat. He's in jail but at least he still has two camels.

Shbin comes from the glamorous parts where East is East. He is a good Mohammedan of the desert. The difficulty is that he took part in a plot to smuggle aliens into the United States, and, according to the New York Herald Tribune, he was tried at Trenton, New Jersey, and sentenced to four months in jail.

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After that sad story of the shiek of Araby and his two camels, I think I'll join a caravan - I mean I'll hop a street car - I'll seek an oasis of date palms, and burbling springs - in other words, I'm going to my apartment - and I'll fold my tent like the Arabs - or, I should say, - where's my hat?

Well, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.