

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1931

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Late word has just come through from the Arctic regions by way of Copenhagen, Denmark to the effect that Augustine Courtauld, that English scientist marooned on the Greenland ice cap, has been found. In fact two conflicting dispatches have come through. The first cablegram stated that the missing man had been discovered by the Scandinavian aviator, Captain Ahrenberg, the flyer who had flown all the way from Norway to Greenland to scout by air for Courtauld. The message added that today he soared into the arctic sky, and went scouting far over that tremendous field of ice which covers the greater part of Greenland. He spied the camp of the missing scientist. It was 124 miles from the coast and on an icy summit.

A later dispatch, which comes from the International News Service, states that Courtauld has been rescued by J. H. Watkins who went in search with a dog team. Watkins is a member of the same B.

FIRE

They've had a big fire in Buffalo, and what a giant colossal blaze it must have been. Many of you have already read about it in your local papers. But, judging from tonight's news dispatches it must have been one of the most spectacular fires of recent years.

It was the Armory of the 106th Field Artillery that went up in flame and smoke - a vast roomy structure. The fire was discovered in the basement. At first it didn't seem to amount to much. But the firemen couldn't get it under control, and it began to spread until finally that immense armory was one colossal inferno.

The climax came when the roof gave way. Down it came with a thundering crash. Then the flames shot higher than ever. Burning brands were flung way up in the air, and a strong wind blew them far and wide--so far and wide that they fell on houses in the neighborhood and started new fires.

According to the Associated Press one

1 of these fiery meteors landed on a church
2 four blocks away, set the church on fire
3 and ~~the building~~ ^{it} burned ~~down~~ ^{to the ground} in all,
4 damage to the extent of seven million
5 dollars was done.

6 The big armory stood on one of the
7 highest points of land in the city and to
8 the inhabitants of Buffalo it was a wierd,
9 awe-inspiring sight.

1 In a college on the broad
2 plain of Texas the President of the
3 institution is signing diplomas. He
4 is not signing them rapidly with a sure
5 stroke, but slowly, ~~and~~ with a feeble
6 hand. ¶ He's ~~is~~ signing those diplomas
7 against time. ^{For} He has ^{just} two weeks to
8 live, ^{so} the doctors say; and he is
9 determined to complete his task in the
10 time that is left him. ¶ He wants to
11 have the diplomas of the graduating
12 class all signed, ~~so~~ as he says, ^{so}
13 ~~that~~ the students won't be disappointed.

14 The United Press tells us
15 that he is Dr. Samuel Palmer Brooks,
16 President of Baylor University.

17 Dr. Brooks was a railway
18 section hand in his youth. He drove
19 himself upward through college life and
20 on to academic honors with brave courage
21 and unshakable determination. ~~with~~
22 That same courage and determination ~~he~~
23 forged to the front when the doctors
24 told him he had only two more ~~years~~ ^{weeks} to
25 live. ¶ He is sixty-seven years old and

1 suffers from an incurable malady.

2 He had one task left ^{in order} to complete
3 his work for the present college season —
4 and that was to sign the diplomas.

5 There were 429 collegiate documents
6 on which his name had to be written.

7 At last reports he had signed sixty of
8 them. 369 still remain. He is working
9 on them as fast as his feeble strength
10 will permit - just signing his name
11 again and again *and again.*

1 Two very small children caused
2 a good deal of bother in two different
3 and widely separated towns, [^]at Woodcliffe,
4 New Jersey, and at Geneva, Nebraska.

5 At Woodcliffe, all on account
6 of Richard Casavecchia, aged 3, policemen,
7 firemen, ~~**~~ telephone repairmen and
8 garage mechanics had a bit of ^{hurry} ~~hard~~ work ^{to do.}

9 Richard went to the store with
10 his mother. Outside ~~of~~ the store the
11 adventurous three year old decided to
12 find out whether his foot would fit in
13 a ventilating pipe. It did. In fact
14 the tiny foot fitted so well that it
15 became wedged in the elbow of the pipe,
16 and they couldn't get Richard loose.

17 Then, according to the New
18 York World-Telegram there followed a
19 lot of desperate efforts. ^R It was not
20 until all those policemen, firemen,
21 telephone repairmen and garage mechanics
22 had ripped out part of the store's
23 foundation that they were able to get
24 the pipe loose and release little Richard's
25 foot.

1 At Geneva, Nebraska, a crowd
2 of a thousand people gathered and watched
3 while a company of volunteer firemen
4 with spades and pickaxes dug their
5 heads off, getting a little girl out of
6 a well. She is Carol Brower, and ^{Carol} is just
7 eighteen months old.

8 Her father drove a motor truck
9 over an old well which caved in just
10 enough to leave a hole. The baby girl
11 trotted along after the truck and fell
12 through the opening, and nobody could go
13 down into the old well after the girl,
14 because the opening made by the cave-in
15 was ~~not~~ ^{it} large enough to admit a ~~adult's~~ ^{grown person's}
16 body.

17 And then those volunteer firemen
18 began to dig. They sank a shaft along-
19 side the well and ~~then~~ ^{across} tunnelled ^{to} the
20 bottom of the pit and got out the little
21 girl. She was recovered whole and sound
22 - just crying her ~~head off~~ eyes out and
23 never knowing what a lucky girl she was.
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1 Now comes what seems to be the
2 idea of putting the stove inside -- no,
3 not inside the house but inside of one's
4 own body. In other words, the project
5 is that we should warm ourselves -- not
6 by heating the outside of our bodies as
7 we do at present, but by raising our
8 temperature internally.

9 According to the International
10 News Service, Doctor Willis R. Whitney,
11 a director of ~~The~~ Electrical Research,
12 told the Boston Chamber of Commerce today
13 about a high frequency ^{radio} device which is
14 capable of heating the inside of the
15 human body.

16 Well, a rise of the internal
17 temperature of the body is what is
18 known as fever. Yes, the Doctor says
19 that the idea is to raise a fever
20 artificially. We'll be quite well
21 otherwise, and that high frequency radio
22 device will give us a fever which won't
23 harm us but will merely keep us warm.

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1 Yes, sir, those folks down
2 in New Orleans certainly saw snakes.
3 They saw plenty of snakes. ~~It~~^{They} broke
4 up the party, and there was a panic
5 along St. Charles Street.

6 Senor Escoval is from British
7 Honduras. He journeyed to New Orleans
8 with a handsome present for the local
9 zoo. The present consisted of two
10 huge boa constrictors. The Senor
11 before taking the reptiles to their
12 future home kept them overnight in
13 his hotel. He had them in a large
14 box. While the Senor was away
15 presumably seeing the sights, the
16 boa constrictors broke out of the
17 box. They ambled around. They
18 proceeded slithering out of the room and
19 on downstairs. They made a spectacular
20 entrance into the patio restaurant
21 where a large crowd was at the table^s.
22 ~~There~~^{There} were yells and howls and shrieks
23 as the two snakes came sliding along
24 the floor among the diners. People
25 cleared out as fast as they could.

1 Along the street word was
2 spread that the boa constrictors were
3 coming. Policemen and firemen arrived.
4 They did ^{not} ~~not~~ know much about boa
5 constrictors. All they could think of
6 was to keep a safe distance and open
7 fire with their guns.

8 The two valuable presents for
9 the New Orleans Zoo were about to be
10 exterminated by the fusillade of
11 bullets when Senor Escoval returned
12 to the hotel. He was just in time to
13 save his pets. Knowing how to handle
14 boa constrictors he took care of the
15 snakes. He subdued them with chloroform
16 and put them into another box, this
17 time a good strong one.

1 Over in France the boys are raising
2 high jinks in the Chamber of Deputies.
3 They're having a red hot debate -- and
4 on the outcome rests the Fate of one of
5 Europe's most important statesmen --
6 Aristide Briand, French Minister of
7 Foreign Affairs.

8 Briand and his policies went on trial
9 before the Chamber of Deputies today.
10 Briand's handling of the international
11 situation is sharply questioned in a
12 motion brought before the Chamber.
13 ~~According to the International News Service,~~
14 Briand's opponents charged today that he
15 had been mistaken in his handling of the
16 Austro-German customs union, the problem
17 of disarmament and the relations between
18 France and Soviet Russia.

19 When the debate ends the deputies
20 will vote, and the ballots they cast^t will
21 probably decide Aristide Briand's political
22 future. That vote may also determine who
23 will be the next President of France. At
24 present, of course, the President is
25 Gaston Doumergue. His term will

1 be up before long, and Briand is
2 prominently named as his successor.

3 It is said that if the French Foreign
4 Minister wins in the fight which began
5 today in the Chamber of Deputies, why,
6 he will come out as a candidate for the
7 presidency, and the indications are that
8 he will be elected by an overwhelming
9 majority.

10 And so the eyes of Europe are on
11 the ~~debate which is going on~~ ^{French Chamber of Deputies just} now. And
12 statesmen all over the world have their
13 hands at their ears listening.

14 While the talking went on in the
15 Chamber of Deputies this afternoon a
16 crowd of royalists staged a demonstration
17 in front of the building.

18 According to the International
19 News Service three or four hundred
20 Frenchmen who want a king shouted:
21 "Vive le Roi" and howled: Down with
22 Briand." They denounced Briand's
23 foreign policy in fiery terms and
24 generally raised an uproar.
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1 Let's take up the case of
2 another old saying that may need
3 revising. That saying is - As solid
4 as the Rock of Gibraltar. Now,
5 according to the United Press, it
6 appears that the Rock of Gibraltar
7 may not be so solid after all.

8 It has long been an article
9 of faith for the world that the Rock
10 of Gibraltar was immune from attack,
11 that the mighty fortress was proof
12 against soldiers on land or ships on
13 the sea, against bombs and the shattering
14 fire of big guns. But now it appears
15 that the Rock of Gibraltar is crumbling
16 because of the fire of guns, [^]not of
17 hostile guns, but of its own guns.

18 The great fortress is armed
19 with hundreds of huge cannon, and
20 periodically these are fired, in target
21 practice, ~~in target shooting~~. Whenever
22 one of these giant pieces of ordnances
23 ~~are~~ ^{is} fired it causes a jar, a kick [^] And [^] it
24 shakes the ^{old} rock.

25 Geologists tell us that the

1 towering mass of Gibraltar consists
 2 of an immense ~~gibbxxxxxxx~~ chunk of
 3 limestone which stands on a deeper, harder
 4 base. ~~of granite~~ ^{And} Limestone ^{usually} is a fairly
 5 fragile kind of rock, ^{- much softer than granite.} And so the
 6 intermittent firing ^{and concussion from} ~~of the~~ guns, ~~with~~
 7 ~~their jarring concussion~~ over a period
 8 of years, is causing the limestone
 9 to disintegrate.

4
 10 And the Rock of Gibraltar,
 11 ~~a~~ symbol of strength and enduring
 12 solidity, is weakening, ~~and is~~ crumbling
 13 and eventually may fall to pieces, so
 14 the news dispatch tells us. ~~But it will~~
 15 ~~be long, long after you and I behind~~
 16 ~~the veil have passed, so we needn't~~
 17 ~~worry about it.~~ But the British
 18 intend to do something about it. They're
 19 going to stop that crumbling.

1 ~~Let's have a tall story now,~~
2 ~~xxx it's about golf.~~

3 A poor golfer was swinging
4 at the ball. It seemed he could never
5 get it in the hole. Then an earthquake
6 came along and rolled the ball right
7 into the hole for him.

8 Yes, that sounds tall,
9 doesn't it? Well, ~~xx~~ it's a tall
10 story with a purpose. It is merely
11 ~~intended to show how things sometimes~~
12 ~~do actually happen in a very tall~~
13 ~~storyish way.~~

14 The International News
15 Service informs us that two golfers of
16 ~~Manchester~~ Manchester, England, have
17 appealed to the experts of St. Andrews
18 Club for a ruling on the subject of
19 earthquakes.

20 The two English golfers
21 were playing over the Chorlton links.
22 On the fourth green one golfer putted
23 the ball which rolled almost to the
24 hole and then stopped.

25 Just then an earthquake

1 happened. The ground shook, ^{and} in the
2 cities of Manchester and Birmingham,
3 crockery fell off tables and a few
4 chimneys crashed down.

5 But the thing that is bothering
6 British golfing circles is the fact
7 that out there on the Charlton links
8 that earthquake shook the golf ball
9 and sent it rolling into the hole.

10 ^{HP} Can an earthquake be considered a
11 legitimate stroke in golf? ^{HP} That's ~~is~~
12 the question ^{now puzzling} ~~that is~~ before [^] the experts
13 of old St. Andrews.

Hold everything, Here,

1 Now comes a professor who prophesies
2 fainting. Yes sir, he says the girls
3 will all be fainting. The professor is
4 Doctor Harry Allen Overstreet who teaches
5 the boys and girls sociology at the
6 College of the City of New York. In
7 an article printed in the New York
8 World-Telegram, the Professor declares
9 that the girls are just going to keep
10 on getting more and more old fashioned.
11 Styles change, he reminds us, and that
12 modern girl, independent and strong-
13 minded, of a few years ago, is already on
14 her way out ~~of~~ the gate.

15 The real ultra-modern girl has
16 taken to ultra-feminine ways, long
17 skirts, demure glances and a fluffy,
18 charming kind of femininity.

19 The Professor says the smart college
20 girls around him already have abandoned
21 that independent feministic attitude.
22 He declares that ever so often he hears
23 a girl saying -- ALL RIGHT, BOY, YOU'RE
24 THE BOSS. And that's a sign of the times.
25 In a few years the pendulum of

1 fashion will be swinging all the way
2 back to the Victorian era of laces and
3 hoop skirts and blushes. It also was an
4 era of fainting.—When a lady was neither
5 very sweet nor much of a lady, unless
6 she fainted every so often.

7 Yes, the Professor thinks that
8 before long the girls will all be faint-
9 ing again, ^{and} all over the country the men
10 will be standing a bit puzzled and
11 uncomfortable as the damsels swoon into
12 their arms.

13 And I suppose when that golden
14 age comes, husky guys like football
15 players will be much in demand when they
16 faint -- or perhaps baseball players, I mean
catchers, would be better.

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1 I have some interesting information
2 here on the subject of the unifying and
3 clarifying idea that springs into
4 consciousness suddenly as a solution to
5 a problem. Yes sir, that sounds deep
6 and intellectual. That unifying and
7 clarifying idea, however, is nothing
8 but a hunch. It's the way a learned
9 professor describes a ^{humble} hunch.

10 In the Science and Invention section
11 of this week's Literary Digest is a
12 brisk and illuminating article ~~which is~~
13 headed -- SCIENTIFIC HUNCHES. The Digest
14 tells us that the deep and abstruse men
15 of science work along pretty much the
16 same line as most of us. They have
17 hunches and rely on them a good deal.

18 Professor R. A. Baker of the College
19 of the City of New York has conducted a
20 bit of research on the subject of hunches,
21 particularly those scientific hunches.

22 The professor analyzes a hunch by
23 telling us that it follows a long period
24 of study but comes into consciousness
25 when we are not consciously working on

1 the problem. Yes, that's the way it
2 works with most of us. We think about
3 a thing for a long time ~~and can't~~ ^{without} getting
4 anywhere. We take our mind off it and
5 suddenly up pops the idea we've been
6 looking for -- just a hunch.

7 The Digest article tells us a
8 great many interesting and valuable things
9 about the circumstances in which we are
10 most likely to get those hunches, ^{in fact} gives
11 us a hint as to how we can cultivate
12 hunches.

13 The Digest quotes Professor Baker
14 as saying that the great majority of
15 scientists work their problems out to
16 some extent by hunches. Out of 232 men
17 of science, 33 per cent reported that
18 they had hunches often. Fifty per cent
19 declared that their minds were illuminated
20 by a hunch occasionally. Only 17 per cent
21 maintained that they have never had a
22 hunch.

23 Well, I've got a hunch right now, a
24 good hunch. It is that it's time for me
25 to say --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.