

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1931

NANKING

There seems to be serious danger tonight that China may be drifting toward anarchy. The Nationalist regime is facing a crisis.

The International News Service calls today the wildest day that the city of Nanking has known since the Taiping rebellion. There were savage outbreaks of rioting. Mobs of students were on the rampage.

1 That confusion about the President  
2 of China that we heard last night has  
3 cleared up. General Chiang-Kai-Shek  
4 did not resign yesterday. He resigned  
5 today. He stepped out of ~~the~~ office after  
6 having held on in spite of an intense  
7 agitation waged against him.

8 The United Press cables that the  
9 retiring President has been succeeded  
10 by Lin-Sen, chairman of the legislative  
11 committee of the Nationalist government.  
12 Lin-Sen has become Acting President.

13 And no sooner <sup>had</sup> ~~than~~ the announcement  
14 of the resignation of General Chiang-  
15 Kai-Shek ~~had~~ been made than riots broke  
16 out. Students at Nanking attacked the  
17 Foreign Office and broke up a meeting of  
18 government leaders. Soldiers opened fire  
19 on the mob. <sup>A number of officials were badly beaten.</sup> Martial law has been  
20 proclaimed in the vicinity of the  
21 Japanese consulate, to prevent attacks  
22 upon the representatives of the Mikado.

23 Eighty thousand students are in  
24 Nanking. They have flocked from all  
25 parts of China. They are agitating for

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1 a red-hot, warlike policy against  
2 Japan, and that mob of hot-headed young  
3 Chinese is a possible source of all kinds  
4 of trouble.

5 The Associated Press reports that the  
6 attack on the Foreign Office was made by  
7 600 students from Peiping.

8 The new government of China faces  
9 plenty of serious problems. It has the  
10 trouble with Japan on its hands. On one  
11 side it is <sup>con</sup>fronted <sup>by</sup> ~~with~~ the aggressive  
12 forces of Nipon, and on the other hand  
13 there is the wild outcry on the part of  
14 millions of Chinese that something must  
15 be done, something drastic, something  
16 ■ warlike, to stop the Japanese.



1 (At <sup>2</sup>~~the~~ meeting of the Republican  
2 National Committee in Washington today  
3 a move ~~was~~ got under way to re-nominate  
4 President Hoover in 1932.

5 Senator Fess of Ohio told the  
6 Committee that its job was to back up the  
7 President for a second term.) He  
8 mentioned Mr. Hoover's stupendous efforts  
9 and brilliant leadership.

10 And the National Convention is to  
11 be held in Chicago.  
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1 The organization of the House of  
2 Representatives was completed today--that  
3 is the Committees have been appointed  
4 and confirmed. These Committees are ~~xxx~~  
5 important for the power they have in  
6 steering and regulating legislation.

7 There has been considerable talk  
8 about the fact that according to ordinary  
9 custom the Democrats ~~will~~<sup>would</sup> get most of  
10 the chairmanships. Chairmen are appointed  
11 according to seniority rule, that is  
12 the longer a Congressman has served the  
13 more likely he is to take ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~  
14 charge of an important Committee.

15 Most of the Democratic representatives  
16 who have been in the House for a long time  
17 are Southerners and that seemed to mean  
18 that the South would get nearly all of  
19 the plums. This ~~th~~reatened to cause some  
20 disagreement unless some sort of compromise  
21 could be worked out by the Democrats.

22 The Associated Press gives the  
23 line-up of Committee Chairmen. Out of  
24 47 places the Northern states ~~xx~~ received  
25 20. The Southern states get the other 27.  
And that doesn't seem to be such a lopsided  
division as ~~might have been~~ expected.

1 The Democratic Policy Committee held  
2 a meeting today. This is a Committee to  
3 outline Democratic policies in Congress.  
4 When it was over a joint statement was  
5 made by Senator Robinson, the Democratic  
6 leader in the Upper House, and Speaker  
7 Garner, the Democratic leader in the  
8 House of Representatives. The statement  
9 declares that the Committee decided that  
10 President Hoover's moratorium is not a  
11 party issue. That is, the Democrats are  
12 instructed to decide the matter on the  
13 basis of their own opinions. They're  
14 not to consider that the Democratic party  
15 takes any definite stand either for or  
16 against the suspension of debt payments.

17 The International News Service adds *also*,  
18 that the meeting called for a reduction  
19 of governmental expenses.

20 Meanwhile, according to information  
21 from the United Press, sharp attacks on  
22 the moratorium are continuing in Congress.  
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1       The Associated Press declares that it  
2 has learned from the highest authority  
3 today that a further moratorium for  
4 Germany will be recommended by the Young  
5 Plan Committee. This Committee is meeting  
6 in the Swiss city of Basle, and is  
7 considering the question of how much  
8 reparations Germany can pay. It is  
9 preparing a final report which, so we are  
10 informed, will recommend that a further  
11 delay be granted to Germany.



1 Now that we've had a chance to think  
2 and talk about President Hoover's plan  
3 for raising taxes and the taxation ideas  
4 ~~which are~~<sup>now</sup> mulling around in Congress,  
5 let's take a few cold facts that lie  
6 behind that problem of government revenues.

7 In this week's Literary Digest is an  
8 article headed, "The Lost Army of  
9 Millionaires."

10 The article goes on to explain that  
11 in 1928 the government listed 42,184  
12 millionaires in this country. In 1929,  
13 after the stock market collapse, the  
14 number ~~had~~ dwindled to 38,650. The  
15 figure now is only 19,688. Of course,  
16 that's a lot of millionaires, but just the  
17 same it represents a decrease of 23,496.  
18 That's the lost army of millionaires  
19 the Literary Digest tells us about.

20 Now take the people who have incomes  
21 of a million dollars or more a year. In  
22 1928 there were 511 of them. Today there  
23 are 149 million-a-year men.

24 All this, of course, means a huge  
25 drop in ~~the~~ income tax. The Literary

1 Digest adds that the taxable income of  
2 individuals has dropped 7 billion  
3 dollars, while the taxable income of  
4 corporations has fallen over 4½ billion.  
5 The loss to the government means nearly  
6 a billion dollars a year. That's how  
7 much income taxes have shrunk.

8 The little fellows seem much less  
9 hard hit than the big fellows. The  
10 vast majority of taxable incomes are  
11 below 5,000 dollars a year. Since 1928  
12 that class has shown a comparatively  
13 small decrease.

14 These figures which the Literary  
15 Digest gives us, were compiled by the  
16 Treasury Department, and they provide the  
17 hard facts on which the necessity of a  
18 boost in taxes is based.

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Martin S.  
Telgan.

Lawyer -  
Commercial  
Law League  
of America.

Dec. 15, 1931

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1 ~~However,~~ here's a millionaire who  
2 ~~isn't lost at all. He~~ has been found --  
3 ~~found~~ to be a curious sort of fellow, in  
4 fact.

5 The New York Sun today tells a story  
6 of broken windows. At Salinas, California,  
7 local railroad officials had been  
8 mystified by the fact that night after  
9 night windows had been broken in cars  
10 standing on the railroad track. They  
11 thought it must be a case of  
12 mischievous boys. But upon investigating *they*  
13 discovered that it was something else  
14 again. The window-breaker is a  
15 millionaire who lives at Pebble Beach, a  
16 fashionable resort.

17 Every night he drove up to the  
18 railroad track in his limousine, got out,  
19 looked over the cars, and picked one.  
20 Then his solemn-faced chauffeur looked  
21 around for a brick, found one, and  
22 handed it to his boss. Whereupon the  
23 millionaire heaved the brick through the  
24 window of the car, dusted off his hands,  
25 and nonchalantly drove back to the  
aristocratic haunts of Pebble Beach.

Now what's the answer to that one?

1 It would take a legal mind to figure  
2 that out.

3 And there are some legal minds here  
4 in the studio with me tonight -- members  
5 of the great Commercial Law League of  
6 America. Sitting opposite me is one of  
7 its officials, an eminent Chicago  
8 lawyer, Mr. Martin J. Teigan. Well,  
9 Mr. Teigan tell us -- what is the  
10 Commercial Law League? And what is your  
11 new Chicago Mayor like -- the man who  
12 succeeded Big Bill the Builder? And  
13 how about that Worlds Fair in Chicago?



1 Well, Mr. Lowell Thomas, the  
2 Commercial Law League is an organization  
3 of some 9,000, lawyers ~~mainly~~ mostly. One of  
4 its main purposes is to establish certain  
5 uniform law fees all over America --  
6 that is, so you will pay the same amount  
7 whether in Alabama or Montana.

8 The League is mainly of interest to  
9 lawyers who handle commercial rather  
10 than criminal cases.

11 As to how things are going in  
12 Chicago, well the New Mayor, Mr.  
13 Cermak, appears to be going about his  
14 job in a determined way. And he seems  
15 to be keeping his promises. Yes, we have  
16 great faith in Cermak. He is cleaning  
17 house in Chicago -- and I guess all  
18 great cities need plenty of that. At  
19 any rate, Cermak is not trying to wage  
20 war on King George.

21 What about the World's Fair in 1933?  
22 Well, I believe it will be the greatest  
23 yet. Just mark it down on your  
24 calender and don't miss it.  
25



1 *And then* I have two letters here from  
2 which I should like to read a few  
3 sentences. No comment is needed, and I  
4 wan't make any.

5 One is from Court Koontz of  
6 Glen ~~Karn~~, Ohio, who writes:

7 "I heard you tell of the man *who has been*  
8 in the hospital twenty years with a  
9 broken back. ~~I feel very sorry for him,~~  
10 ~~and~~ *He* has my heartfelt wishes for  
11 better days. But I can beat his record  
12 by over two years. In 1909 my back  
13 was broken. A scaffold gave way and  
14 let me fall. For two years I was in  
15 bed. For nineteen years I have been  
16 able to sit in a wheel chair. I have  
17 made my way and supported my family by  
18 rebuilding shoes, filing saws, repairing  
19 harness, and making curtains, and I sure  
20 live a happy life. I am every day at  
21 my job, working hard all the time,  
22 keeping happy all the time."

23 Does that need any comment? No,  
24 ~~it doesn't~~ *indeed!* *And* neither does this letter  
25 from Mrs. S. Bregman of Chicago:

"I would appreciate it very much", she writes, "if you would give me the address of the man who has been in bed for twenty years with a broken back. I'd like to write to him. I have a broken back too. But thank heaven, I don't have to lay in bed. I can get around in a wheel chair. I do all my housework, cooking and baking, and everything around the house."

Well, there's another person who is happy, all the more so because she can be cheerful in the face of misfortunes that would flatten most of us.

As for the address Mrs. Bregman ask<sup>s</sup> for, it's Tom Shinner, St. Mary's Hospital, Passaic, New Jersey.



1 From Moscow comes news of the  
2 discovery of a strange prehistoric  
3 animal. The moldy skeleton of the  
4 extinct creature is reported to have  
5 been discovered in Siberia. It was a  
6 kind of lizard about as big as a cow.  
7 Its brains were not much bigger than  
8 those of an ordinary chicken, and it  
9 seems to have had three eyes. In the  
10 skull, relates the United Press, is an  
11 opening ~~xxxx~~ which Russian scientists  
12 can only account for by supposing that  
13 the creature possessed a third eye in  
14 addition to the two ordinary ones, a  
15 *sort of special headlight.*  
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Well, I wouldn't tackle this  
next trick unless it had already been  
abolished. It's a tongue twister ~~which~~  
the New York Broadcasting Company <sup>gave</sup> ~~used to~~  
~~give~~ to prospective announcers. ~~In~~  
auditions for announcers the candidates  
are required to say: The seething sea  
ceaseth and thus the seething sea  
sufficeth us.

Yes, sir, that is a tongue  
twister. It is a matter of historical  
record that out of 2500 candidates all  
but ten muffed that stretch of  
sibilants, *and why not?*

But, as the New York World-  
Telegram informs us today, the NBC  
has abolished the test. Candidates  
don't have to wrap their tongues around  
that twister any more.

Well, if it were still an  
official test, I wouldn't take a chance  
with it. I'd be afraid of getting all  
twisted up as I said: The seething sea  
ceaseth and thus the seething sea  
sufficeth us.

## WITCHCRAFT

We ought to have the lights dimmed for this next bit of news - and it should be told in a deep, spooky, spectral sepulchral voice, for the tale concerns witchcraft, and magic night, when the witches dance.

We are told of a great wierd ceremony of black magic that is to be conducted in January. It will take place at the time of the new moon, at the top of a peak in the Hartz Mountains. That peak is called "the Brocken." All lovers of Goethe's FAUST will recall the Brocken, the traditional haunt of witches and necromancers, the mysterious place for the secret rites of the black art.

The New York Sun today relates that the National Laboratory of Psychical Research of London has acquired possession of an old, musty manuscript which tells how a goat can be transformed into a youth of surpassing beauty. The psychic researchers have laid plans to carry out those rites.

They must be held on the Brocken at



the time of the new moon. <sup>modern sorcerers</sup> They must take with them a maiden pure of ~~heart~~ heart and in snow-white garments. They must light a fire of pine logs, and then construct a circle of white. In this circle they must place magical triangles.

Then the maiden pure of heart and in snow-white garments takes the goat on a silken cord and leads it to the magic place. She anoints the goat with a "faire ointment" consisting of the blood of a bat, scrapings of church bells, and honey. A bowl of incense will be lighted, and the <sup>psychic investigators</sup> ~~scientists~~ will chant Latin incantations.

Then the goat will be covered with a sheet, and in a moment when the moon is obscured, the maiden will whisk away the sheet and there in place of the goat will stand a youth of surpassing beauty. That is, he'll stand there if the magic works out all right.

The London Daily Mail explains that the scientists will conduct this strange magic experiment, though with no



expectation that it will go according to form. They merely want to demonstrate the folly and dangers of infernal necromancy to such people as still believe in the black art.

Well, that bit of the day's news does conjure a fantastic, unearthly mood, and so it's in a deep and sepurchral voice I'll say, --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.