

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1931

INTRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

I've a warning to pass on to you tonight, and I went to headquarters to get it straight.

The New York newspapers today are printing an alarm- an alarm that counterfeiters are putting out a large batch of bogus ten and twenty dollar bills. If you have a ten or a twenty handy, you might take a squint at it right now and check it with what I'm going to tell you. It might also be a good idea, if you have a pencil and paper handy, to take down the description of the counterfeits, as I pass it along to you.

I wanted to get the full details so I called up the Federal Secret Service.

I was told to warn the public to be on the lookout for two dangerous counterfeits, - false ten and twenty dollar gold certificates. They have already begun to appear in considerable numbers in the Metropolitan area of New York. And, I suppose they'll soon be spreading through out the rest of the country.

The first of these counterfeits is a twenty dollar gold

certificate, of the series of 1928. The check letter "K" is in the lower righthand corner. The face plate number of the phoney bill is 109. The counterfeit bears the portrait of Andrew Jackson. A sharp and practiced pair of ~~xxx~~ eyes can detect that the note is a counterfeit. Fine lines appear on the back of the genuine bill. In the counterfeit, these are dulled by heavy green printing. The back of the fake twenty dollar bill has a smudgy appearance.

The second bill to be on the lookout for is a ten dollar gold certificate, of the series of 1928. The check letter is "G". The face plate number is 136. It bears the portrait of Alexander Hamilton. This spurious note too, is badly printed on the back. The green is off-color, and the whole back has a smudgy appearance.

The Secret Service asks that all you folks be on the alert and take a good look at any ten or twenty dollar bills that you are offered. If they have a suspicious appearance, notify the police.

Here's hoping none of you get any of that wooden money.

1 I seem to hear a sound of biff!
2 bang!--or, rather, it goes something
3 like this:-- You say, biff; I'll say,
4 bang! It was Germany and Austria who
5 said, biff! They got up and told the
6 world that they were going to have an
7 economic union between themselves.

8 "It's true," declared Germany
9 and Austria, "that you fellows won't
10 let us unite politically and become one
11 nation. But, just the same, we're
12 going to get together in an economic
13 way. We're going to stop making each
14 other pay tariffs on each other's
15 goods."

16 Well, France, and some other
17 countries that were on the Allied side
18 during the World War, didn't like that.
19 And so, Germany and Austria having
20 said, biff! France is saying, bang!

21 Foreign Minister Briand of France
22 arises and says--"well, we'll have a
23 little ~~union~~ economic union of our own.
24 A few of us countries will get together
25 and form an economic combination to

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21 Foreign Minister Briand of France
22 arises and says--"well, we'll have a
23 little ~~union~~ economic union of our own.
24 A few of us countries will get together
25 and form an economic combination to

1 balance off that ~~economic~~ economic union
2 between Germany and Australia.

3 The International News Service
4 informs us ~~that~~ it was announced today
5 that Premier Briand has ^{made an interesting proposal. He} proposed that
6 Hungary, Rumania, Yugo-Slavia, Poland,
7 and Bulgaria get together. These are
8 all agricultural states, and the idea
9 is for them to form an agricultural
10 or agrarian alliance. They're to
11 cooperate with each other in the buying
12 and selling of agricultural products.

13 Biff! says Germany. And, bang!
14 says France. And that sounds like an
15 old story.
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1 There is more trouble in Spain
2 tonight. In the streets of Barcelona
3 mobs are rioting. They have been on
4 the rampage all day.

5 According to the Associated
6 Press the police have been unable to
7 do anything about it. The rioters
8 burst open the jails and let out the
9 prisoners.

10 The mobs are protesting against
11 the new Republican Government at Madrid.
12 They demand that the Province of
13 Catalonia, with Barcelona as its
14 capital, be made an independent republic.

15 ~~A delegation from Madrid~~
16 ~~arrived in Barcelona today by airplane.~~
17 ~~They want to talk over some scheme by~~
18 ~~which Catalonia can have local home~~
19 ~~rule and yet remain a part of Spain.~~

20 The International News Service
21 cables that the Minister of Finance of
22 the Republican Government at Madrid
23 announced today that all financial
24 obligations made by King Alfonso and
25 the monarchial government will be
respected. The Republicans will assume
the financial agreements made by the
monarchy.

1 The Associated Press cables
2 an odd detail. Offices and factories
3 are having trouble with their workers.
4 Of course about half of the workers
5 are absent, celebrating the birth of the
6 New Republic. But those ~~that~~^{who} are on the
7 job are badly handicapped. Their voices
8 are gone. They can scarcely speak above
9 a whisper. After two days and nights of
10 cheering the ^{new} Republic and shouting VIVE
11 incessantly at the top^s of their voices
12 they are so hoarse that they can hardly
13 talk.

1 The situation in ^{Central America} ~~Nicaragua~~ looks
2 bad this evening.

3 In Washington Secretary
4 Stimson has issued a warning to American
5 citizens in Nicaragua and has urged them
6 to leave the country altogether, or
7 at least to go to the towns along the
8 coast where they can be protected by
9 the American warships and marines.

10 According to the United Press,
11 Secretary Stimson made it clear that
12 there can be no general protection of
13 American citizens in all parts of the *disturbed*
14 ~~Central American~~ Republic, and any
15 Americans remaining in the threatened
16 parts of the interior do so at their
17 own risk.

18 An International News Service
19 dispatch from Colon in Panama states
20 that large forces of Sandino's rebels
21 are concentrating against the United
22 Fruit Company plantations at Bluefields.
23 They are gathering for an attack and
24 seem determined to capture Bluefields
25 and the United Fruit Company's properties.

1 The Company is arming it's men and
2 preparing to resist the rebels.

3 Meanwhile the policy of with-
4 drawing the marines from Nicaragua
5 will be continued. Not more than
6 500 American ~~sea soldiers~~ ^{Devil Dogs} out of 5,000
7 will be left in the country.

8 The well known political
9 expert, David Lawrence, writing for
10 the New York Sun, states that the
11 administration started withdrawing
12 the marines as the result of pressure
13 from Congress. Congress wanted the
14 marines to leave Nicaragua.

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1 An appropriate song at this
2 point would be the sweet refrain of
3 the Old Folks at Home.

4 The town Corveo, in Italy,
5 is high in the mountains. It has 180
6 inhabitants. The Associated Press
7 informs us that 3 of 180 are over 95;
8 13 are over 90 and 20 are over 75.
9 And that's a good average for the
10 Old Folks at Home.

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1 anything to persuade the beetles not
2 to go away.

3 The beetles become real gigolos.
4 They make fools of the ants. They
5 let the ants provide them with food.
6 They just hang around and live at the
7 expense of the ant colony. If an
8 enemy attacks the beetle, the ants
9 rush to the defense. They fight off
10 the enemy savagely.

11 It's a strange situation. And
12 I'm afraid it tends to destroy my
13 faith in the race of ants.
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1 Well, I explained to you
2 folks a couple of days ago that I
3 was all wound up on the subject of
4 sports, and I wouldn't be able to
5 resist the temptation of telling a few
6 sport stories.

7 So here goes, with a few
8 words about a ponderous big fellow
9 who a few years ago was a headliner
10 on the sporting pages of newspapers
11 all over the country.

12 He is Louis Angel Firpo, the
13 former wild bull of the Pampas, the
14 grim powerful giant who in a mad
15 nerve-wracking fight knocked Jack
16 Dempsey kicking out of the ring,
17 and just barely missed winning the
18 heavyweight championship of the world.

19 I have an article here
20 which tells how the other day Firpo,
21 who is in retirement in his native
22 Argentina, reached into his pocket and
23 extracted a frayed Christmas card
24 which bore in fancy lettering the
25 message: - Greetings from Jack and

1 Estelle.

2 Well, the old wild bull of
3 the Pampas fought one of the most
4 ferocious fights on record with that
5 same Jack Dempsey,, but they're good
6 friends. The battle now is between
7 Jack and Estelle who are having it
8 out in the divorce courts.

9 The reason for my present
10 enthusiasm for stories about sport, is
11 the fact that the Literary Digest
12 editors have gone in for sport stories
13 in the present, the April 18th issue
14 of the Digest, and ~~they tell~~ ^{they tell} us ~~xxx~~ a
15 reporter for the New York Sun in
16 Buenos Ayres called upon the great
17 hulk of a man with uncombed hair and
18 great hairy paws and slouchy dress.

19 But Firpo is in good shape
20 financially. He made plenty of money
21 during his fighting career in the
22 United States. He hung on to every
23 nickel of it and invested it well.

24 He is now supposed to be
25 worth two or three million dollars.

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1 He's in the automobile business in
2 Buenos Aires. He has a ranch, three
3 cars, two dogs, a canary bird, a
4 secretary, a penthouse and a good
5 looking wife. He is fat and prosperous.
6 Of that the Literary Digest gives
7 convincing proof in a photograph which
8 shows the former cave man of the ring
9 sitting at his desk with ^{the} contented
10 look of a man who has a comfortable
11 padding of fat around his waist and
12 sleek jowls beneath his jaw. I can
13 only give you a sketch of the information
14 in that Digest article. It is an
15 amazing, colorful story of the retired
16 life of the dark and hairy Goliath
17 whose ponderous right hand punch was
18 the talk of the country half a dozen
19 years ago ~~when he knocked Jack Dempsey~~
20 ~~clear out of the ring. What a mighty wallop~~
21 ~~that must have been!~~

1 Here's a Hit and Run Story.

2 A car came along. A boy was in the way.
3 He was hit and he ran.

4 The New York World-Telegram
5 informs us that he scampered off limping
6 a little and calling to the motorists
7 that he was late for school already
8 and didn't want to be any later. After
9 school was over it was discovered that
10 he had a broken hip.

11 Well, that boy had plenty of
12 spunk.

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8 I saw an article today in that
9 sprightly magazine "The New Yorker" --
10 an article by Andrew A. Freeman, a chap
11 I used to know out East. He was the
12 editor of a newspaper in Bangkok, the
13 capital of Siam.

14 I asked him today to come in and
15 see me. He exclaimed as we shook hands:-
16 "I want to suggest your News Item of the
17 Day. You know, of course, that the King
18 and Queen of Siam landed at Vancouver
19 today on their way to New York. That's
20 it."
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Well, King Pradjadhipok and his royal consort, Queen Randaï Barni, are the newest royal guests who will be entertained by Uncle Sam.

The King was ill on the ship that just brought him across the Pacific. According to the International News Service, he had a slight attack of influenza, and then was threatened with malaria. Then he got bronchitis. I suppose he was also seasick. And, in addition he's headed for New York to be treated for eye trouble. No, the King is not exactly in perfect health.

I wanted to ask Andrew Freeman about the doctors of Siam. I thought maybe I'd get some weird, fantastic story of witch doctors and medicine men and their grotesque, magical remedies.

"You're all wrong there," Freeman told me, "The ~~best~~ doctors out in Siam are up-to-date medical men, trained by the Rockefeller Foundation, which has taken numbers of bright young native Siamese and turned them into clever, skillful physicians.

"The reason the King is coming to the United States for medical treatment is not because Siam has wild and wooly witch doctors, but because it has first rate physicians. They've done

just what any good Western practitioners would do. They've ordered their patient to one of the foremost eye specialists of the world."

Mr. Freeman gave me one other interesting sidelight. He reminded me that a number of people were a bit surprised when the King of Siam made a gift to the Episcopal cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Siam is a Buddhist country. The King is Buddhist. He is, in fact, one of the august heads of Buddhism. Just the same, he constantly makes donations to Christian churches.

The reason is the Buddhists think that all people are Buddhists. They believe that you're a Buddhist, and I'm a Buddhist, and we're all Buddhists. The Christian churches, according to their idea, are really Buddhist churches that conduct their worship in a somewhat different way.

I've a letter here from Mrs. Gordon Morse, of Rochester, New York. Mrs. Morse is the author of a book on the white elephant of Siam - a book called "Chang." We met in Singapore. Being vastly interested in things Siamese, she suggests that I should say so long until tomorrow in Siamese, in honor of the King of Siam.

She tells me how.

Andrew Freeman also told me how. In fact Andy-from-Siam gave me a few lessons in the peculiar sing-song of the Siamese language.

Well, here goes right off the deep end:---- Kaw lah pie gone. Yes, Kaw lah pie gone. In other words,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.