

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1930

OIL

There was a terrific explosion in New York today. Eighteen huge tanks of the Standard Oil Company caught fire and blew up. The explosion occurred in the borough of Brooklyn.

A fire started and then those tanks went off one after another, like gigantic fire-crackers. According to the Associated Press, the oil ~~xxx~~ even spread into the East River, and then the river caught fire. The flames spread to piers and warehouses and for a time the whole Williamsburg section of Brooklyn was in danger.

Thirty-five ~~xx~~ engines and fifteen fire boats battled the flames and one fire boat got trapped in the flames and started to blaze.

The damage is estimated at two million dollars.

1 Down in Brazil they had a terrific
2 explosion, too. Tons of munitions blew
3 up. Scores of buildings were blown to
4 bits and the United Press reports that
5 thirty people were killed, Among them
6 ~~were~~ many soldiers who took part in the
7 recent revolution. A director of a lead-
8 ing Rio de Janeiro newspaper and his family
9 are reported to have been wiped out.

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BURMA

That earthquake I told you about last night, the mysterious one recorded by the instruments at the Harvard Observatory, well, the scientists were right. It occurred a long way off. Away ~~xx~~ out in Burma. In fact it shook the famous old Moulmein Pagoda and was felt all the way from Rangoon to Mandalay.

Two shocks were felt down in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and gave the folks a good scare. But the seismograph recorded a far heavier series of shocks, and the experts figured that they were a long, long distance from this continent.

Well, the big quake turns out to have occurred in Burma, and the United Press cables that whole towns were destroyed. Some twenty odd persons were killed and perhaps a hundred other injured at the town of Pyu, which is one hundred and fifty miles north of Rangoon.

The natives out there give a strange explanation of the earthquake. They say it came because the government of Burma is to be ~~xxxx~~ separated from the government of India. The London Round Table conference made the decision to separate Burma and India

politically, and the superstitious natives believe this important enough to have caused the earth to tremble and shake.

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From France tonight comes news that)

1 ~~Here's a flash:~~ (Premier Tardieux
2 ~~has~~ has resigned, and his whole cabinet
3 ~~along~~ with him. The Premier received a
4 severe jolt in the Chamber of Deputies.
5 It came on a question of the government's
6 general policy. The deputies voted ~~their~~ a
7 lack of confidence in the government, and,
8 ^ according to the International News
9 Service, the vote was 140 to 145. ^{But} That
10 was plenty, and the government fell.

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1 comes that ~~in New York~~ six inmates of the
 2 Matteawan hospital for the criminal
 3 insane have escaped. Three men armed with
 4 guns walked in and held up the guards.
 5 And they took away with them six men whom
 6 the courts had confined as criminal
 7 lunatics.

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TAX

This next item seems to make it just about unanimous, and evidently there isn't any doubt but what we are going to pay more income tax this year than last year.

As I mentioned, night before last I guess it was, President Hoover said it was probable that the one per cent reduction in the income tax rate would have to go. He reminded us that the government is facing a deficit ^{of} one hundred eighty million dollars.

Now an Associated Press dispatch from Washington adds that Secretary Mellon confirms it.

In his annual report the Secretary of the Treasury points out that he said a year ago the income tax rate would have to return to its old level, unless government revenue took a jump. Then he explains that it didn't take the jump. So up jumps the one per cent bugaboo to make faces at us.

By the way, that bill for a hundred and fifty million dollars - for the fund the president wants for unemployment relief, well, it went before Congress today.

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President Hoover, as you may have ^{heard,} ~~read,~~ is having a painting made of the ancestral Hoover homestead. It's over in Germany. The Hoover family used to be known as Huber. ~~and~~ They came from the village of Ellerstadt in Germany, and a painter is painting the old ancestral house, where the president's ancestors lived.

But now a Berlin professor tells us that the house in the picture is the wrong ^{one} ~~house.~~ In other words, ~~according to the International News Service,~~ they have picked out the wrong building as the ancient Hoover homestead, ^{the Int. New Service tells us that} and the painter will have to pack up his easel and his pallet and his brushes and go to another Huber house and start all over again.

BOLSHEVIKS

Have you heard about the complaints the Chinese are making? Well, they are kicking about the Bolsheviks. The Canton newspaper, The China Truth, says that the Soviet Government is trying to stab China in the back. An article in the New Literary Digest tells us just what China's grievance is. The Soviets apparently are stirring up all those Communist disturbances in China, and the turmoil and fighting has done enormous damage. It all tends to keep China from forging ahead as she ought to, says the Literary Digest.

1 Admiral Byrd is ^{out here this week and} ~~in Chicago today and~~
 2 ~~By chance~~ I happened to be asked to intro-
 3 duce the conqueror of the poles and his
 4 famous dog igloo to a Chicago audience ^{today.}

5 The Admiral is having a busy time of
 6 it, ~~lecturing and talking to the crowds that~~
 7 ~~gather wherever he goes.~~ ^{but} In spite of the
 8 grind and the strain, he looks fit and
 9 cheery.

10 We talked about the news of the day for
 11 a moment, and I showed him ^{a lot of} ~~news~~ dispatches
 12 I had and asked him to pick the ^{most interesting} ~~news~~ item
 13 of the day.

14 Being a flying man, naturally his eye
 15 fell on a flying story. Here it is:- It's
 16 about a British ^a ~~aer~~oplane that took a
 17 plunge into the Mediterranean today.

18 In it were a man and a woman. Flight
 19 ~~Officer~~ Edwards and a Miss Spooner. They
 20 were trying to break the record between
 21 England and Cape Town, but motor trouble
 22 forced them down and they crashed ⁱⁿ to the
 23 sea.

24 Flying Officer Edwards was injured ~~a~~
 25 ~~bit~~. Miss Spooner was merely shaken up.

1 The plane floated.

2 The couple waited for a ship to
3 ~~come in sight,~~ but none appeared. They
4 were three miles from the shore and
5 drifting farther out.

6 The flying officer needed medical
7 attention. So Miss Spooner started to
8 swim for shore through three miles of
9 rough sea. But according to the Internat^o
10 ional News Service, she made it. And then
11 she got a boat to go out and picked up her
12 companion.

13 By the way, in London today the name
14 of this same Miss Spooner came up in the
15 proceedings of the board of inquiry which
16 is investigating the R-101 disaster. There
17 were rumors of drinking parties aboard
18 that ill-fated airship, which crashed in
19 France. Sir John Simon, chairman of the
20 board of inquiry, according to the Associa-
21 ted Press, declared the stories were **false**.

22 There also were many rumors about a
23 woman being aboard. The woman who at first
24 was reported to have been killed in the
25 disaster, is the same Miss Spooner, who ^{today}
made the heroic swim from the drifting
plane to the Italian Coast.

LIPTON

Sir Thomas Lipton got his consolation cup today. That cup, you will remember, was bought by dollar subscriptions from all over the country, and today in New York, it was given to the fine old sportsman as an expression of admiration for his ~~xxx~~ fine spirit and rare sportsmanship.

Sir Thomas took the cup. Then he started to make his speech of acceptance: But he collapsed right in the middle of it.

According to the International News Service Sir Thomas was so overwhelmed that he just broke down and couldn't go on.

Well, all the world would like to see Sir Thomas win the big race if he can ever arrange to come over again and have another shot at it.

1 Down in Louisiana there are a cou-
2 ple of prisoners and a United States Dep-
3 uty Marshall who are mighty good friends
4 today. We see in the papers a lot of
5 stories these days about how crimes are
6 committed and how criminals are captured.
7 Only, too frequently they are not captured.
8 But this prisoner story strikes a rather
9 pleasing note.

10 It was like this: -- Tony Patorno
11 and John Quate were doing a bit of illegal
12 trapping down in Louisiana. Deputy Mar-
13 shal, Emile Kinler arrested them. Accord-
14 ing to the Associated Press, the deputy
15 marshal had his prisoners in a boat.
16 Suddenly the deputy marshal fell over-
17 board. No, he wasn't pushed.

18 It 's been pretty cold lately in
19 Louisiana and the water was icy. The dep-
20 uty marshal was dragged down by his heavy
21 coat. In fact, he was drowning when the
22 two prisoners jumped into the icy water.
23 After a hard fight they got him out. Then
24 the bedraggled marshal took his prisoners
25 along to jail. The story fails to tell us

1 whether the deputy marshal is going to
2 press that charge of illegal trapping
3 against the two prisoners who saved his
4 life.

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1 Oh yes, and now about that Literary
2 Digest questionnaire and that curious
3 question, "DO BANANAS GROW ON TREES?"
4 Did you look it up in the new Digest? If
5 not, I'll give you the answer. No, bana-
6 nas do not grow on trees. I've seen them
7 growing in Central American, Ceylon and
8 many places and this was startling news
9 to me. But there is an article in this
10 week's Literary Digest telling all about
11 it. The article is headed, "A MISUNDER-
12 STOOD FRUIT", and it goes on to quote Dr.
13 Free, who is a great expert on the life
14 and habits of the well known bananas.
15 Dr. Free says that bananas grow on a plant
16 that is not a tree at all. It's just an
17 overgrown herb or vegetable.

18 So, from this we see that as far as
19 trees are concerned, well, the trees can
20 all sing, ("Yes, we have no bananas") and
21 in doing so tell the plain truth.

22 Dr. Free adds that bananas are cou-
23 sins of the humble cabbages.

24 ~~The Digest article also tells us that~~
25 ~~the time to eat bananas is not when they xx~~

1 Now, girls, here's a problem that
2 no doubt is an old one to you. What problem?
3 Suppose you're wearing a handsome brown fur
4 coat and a smart brown hat to go with it.
5 Well, that's all right. But suppose your
6 dress is of that deep new wine color. You
7 take off the coat and the brown hat doesn't
8 match the wine colored dress -- in fact,
9 there's a clash. That's the problem..Of
10 course I'd never be able to solve a problem
11 like that. But here's a United Press dis-
12 patch telling how the fashion creators over
13 in Paris say you should tackle it.

14 You simply have another hat along --
15 a spare -- a wine colored hat to match the
16 wine colored dress. The spare hat, of
17 course, should be so you can fold it neatly
18 and carry it in your pocketbook. Then when
19 you take off your fur coat you simply
20 switch off your brown hat and switch on
21 the wine colored one.

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1 Over in London something of a royal
2 shopping record has been set. Queen Mary
3 is often seen in the stores, buying things,
4 and now she has a few Christmas purchases.
5 What did her Imperial Majesty Queen of
6 Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of
7 India buy? Well, she bought toys for her
8 grand-children.

9 But that's not the story the news
10 dispatches feature today. They call atten-
11 tion to the fact that a royal shopping
12 record was set because three queens went
13 shopping together.

14 The three queens were Queen Mary,
15 Queen Anna of Spain and Queen Maude of Nor-
16 way. What did they buy? -- Well, they
17 bought three work bags, with tortoise shell
18 handles.

19 As I understand it, work bags are
20 used to carry sewing and knitting materials
21 and they are a little bit out of fashion
22 nowadays, but here are three queens who are
23 still tending to their knitting.

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1 Christmas is on its way so they
2 say. At any rate all the children are
3 waiting for Quetzalcoatl. What is that?
4 Well, Quetzalcoatl is what they call
5 Santa Claus down in Mexico.

6 According to the International News
7 Service, the Mexican government wants to
8 make Mexicans more patriotic. Santa Claus
9 is not a Mexican, so the government has
10 decreed that our version of Kris Kringle
11 will have to go. From now on he's to be
12 Quetzalcoatl.

13 Quetzalcoatl is an old Aztec god of
14 the winds, and he's represented as a gigan-
15 tic plumed serpent. And so it will be a
16 plumed serpent that will distribute cloth-
17 ing and toys to fifteen thousand poor
18 children in Mexico City on Christmas.

19 Well, Christmas comes but once a
20 year and let's all wait and see what jolly
21 old Quetzalcoatl will bring us.

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1 There's a new dancing fad over in
2 England. I don't mean that new step re-
3 cently introduced from Africa. No, it's
4 merely a new way to conduct a society
5 ball. And they say it's all the rage in
6 the smart set of Mayfair and the homes of
7 the British aristocrats. The new dance
8 fad is called "Do You Mind?". And here
9 is the way it's done: --

10 According to an International News
11 Service cable the couples just go on
12 dancing until the orchestra blares out a
13 signal. And then there's a general re-
14 shuffling of partners. A man just leaves
15 his fair partner and quickly picks out
16 some other chap's partner. He say: "I
17 say, do you mind?" And if she doesn't,
18 then he whirls away with her. No doubt
19 you will say, "Why that's the old familiar
20 American 'cut-in'. Exactly. The only
21 difference is that in England you have to
22 wait for the orchestra to give the signal.
23 It's a more decorous scheme than the way
24 we cut-in over here. And instead of tap-
25 ping a fellow on the back and then taking

1 his girl, over in jolly old London you
2 must bow and say, "Oh, do you mind?".

3 In the midst of an orderly and
4 peaceable fox trot the orchestra suddenly
5 lets out a crash - bang and the whole
6 floor is turned into a shuffling mad-
7 house, a scene of wild pandemonium.

8 There goes the crash of the orches-
9 tra now. Yes, and the signal that my eve-
10 ning's Charleston with the news is over.
11 It's the cue for Amos and Andy and some of
12 your other friends to say, "Do you mind?"
13 and then cut-in and whirl away on the air
14 with you. So, so long until tomorrow.

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