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LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1930

ARMY AND NAVY

Here's hot news for you football fans. As all of you will recall, there hasn't been an Army-Navy game since 1927. The last gridiron battle between the two was won by West Point, and then relations were broken off. Papers everywhere carried columns about it, Senators and Congressmen entered into the discussion. It developed into a national affair and an apparently hopeless deadlock. But today, out of a blue sky, came a flash from West Point to the effect that there will be an Army - Navy game this year after all, i.e. - if a date can be agreed upon. It will be for the benefit of the unemployed, and probably will be played either Saturday, November 29th, or December 13th. This will be great news for all football fans. So much for that.

Now, here's one about two fellows who had a close shave.

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ENDURANCE FLIGHT

1 <sup>An</sup>~~That~~ airplane endurance flight that  
2 started yesterday over Long Island, came  
3 to a dramatic end this morning. John  
4 Donaldson and Edward Weimer were trying  
5 to break the <sup>endurance</sup> record ~~and stay up~~ <sup>by staying up for</sup> 1,000  
6 hours. The New York Evening Post says  
7 they had been up 16 hours when the gasoline  
8 tank caught fire. Donaldson made an  
9 emergency landing on a cement roadway,  
10 and the two men escaped from the blazing  
11 plane with not more than two seconds to  
12 spare. Let's see. I said they were up  
13 altogether 16 hours. Well, that means  
14 that endurance flight fell just ~~out~~  
15 984 hours short of its goal.  
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KIDNAPPING

From Los Angeles comes word of a huge kidnapping plot. Here is the way the police got wise to it. A man named Gilhousen was arrested for a robbery committed last September. When he confessed, he not only admitted his connection with the robbery, but he told what he knew about the plans of some other crooks who had already pried money out of two Los Angeles citizens by threatening to kidnap them unless they forked over - which they did. He told the police that now the kidnappers were framing a really big stunt, a series of kidnappings on a land office scale. And one of the victims was to be Harry Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times, and one

1 of the best known men in the West. Two  
2 detectives were assigned to guard him.  
3 At the same time, the publisher, himself,  
4 got a tip from underworld sources that  
5 ~~xx~~ the gang was after him.

6 Well, the police broke up the  
7 plot, and the Associated Press states  
8 that now they are hot after the kidnapers  
9 who are led by a notorious western  
10 character, named Morris Moll, ~~who is~~  
11 generally referred to in the California  
12 Underworld as the Phantom Gunman.  
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PERU

That South American volcano is shooting off again. This time it's back in Peru where twelve people, among them two Americans, have been killed, and several more injured, when Indian miners went on strike and began rioting. All this happened way up in the Andes Mountains at some copper mines, that are owned by Americans. A general strike is threatened for the whole country, and the Peruvian government has declared martial law in the capital and in the copper mining districts. Two hundred soldiers have been rushed to the mountains. According to the United Press, all the foreigners have been hurried down to the coast.

Those copper mines are up in the air literally as well as figuratively. They are right up in the tops of the Andes, three miles above sea level. The miners employed by the Americans are all Indians. The only way they can work at such a high altitude -- in such thin air -- is by chewing coca leaves, from which cocaine is made. It bucks them up.

Well, that old story of trouble in South America

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reminds me of a line I read in the new Literary Digest. The editor of the Topics in Brief page quotes it from the Springfield Union, and it says "South America's greatest need just now seems to be a revolution to end all revolutions."

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HAVANA

Yes, and that remark might be applied to Cuba, too.

A late dispatch to the International news Service says that student rioting has broken out again in Havana. Students have been raising cain in Cuba for some weeks now. After 12 hours of street fighting, with six people killed, the mounted police quelled the riot.

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SANDINO

And they are fighting again down in Nicaragua.

That belligerent hombre Senor Sandino is back in the Nicaraguan Jungle as full of fight as ever. His representatives in Mexico, says the Associated Press, have issued a statement that two sons of Sandino's principal lieutenant have been killed in a skirmish with Uncle Sam's Marines. In a previous fight, Sandino, himself, was wounded, but now he is back at the head of his men waging another campaign of guerilla warfare . I don't like to report so much about fighting but there also is a hint of trouble from Poland.



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POLISH

Our own recent election seems like a game of tiddly winks beside what the Poles are up against. They'll have to decide whether they're for or against the government of Marshall Pilsudski, and he's a hard boiled Polish citizen. His mustaches are fierce and his words are fiercer. He says his government is going to carry that election, and he pointedly adds that his political slogan is: "Parliamentarism with a Revolver." So it looks as if the Poles might be going in for both bullets and ballots.

They are trying to say it with bullets in Ireland too.

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IRISH PRESIDENT

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1 An attempt was made to assassinate  
2 William Cosgrave, the president of the  
3 Irish Free State. A report to the United  
4 Press from Dublin says that several  
5 revolver shots were fired into his  
6 automobile as he was driving to his  
7 country home. He usually has an armed  
8 guard with him, but on this occasion he  
9 didn't, and the would-be assassins  
10 apparently knew about it. <sup>Luckily</sup> Nobody in the  
11 automobile was hit.

12 But from France comes  
13 word of serious casualties  
14 of another sort.  
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# LANDSLIDE

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1 Lyons, the 3rd largest city in  
2 France, has had a series of disastrous  
3 landslides, and an Associated Press  
4 dispatch states that the inhabitants  
5 have been moved out of a large section  
6 of the city. It is feared that there  
7 will be a further shifting of the  
8 earth. Between sixty and a hundred  
9 people have been killed.

10 There is a hill in Lyons, and  
11 it was densely populated. Suddenly  
12 there was a landslide, ~~and that hill~~  
13 Tons of earth and stone slid down, <sup>that hill</sup> ~~and~~  
14 carrying houses with it. Buildings were  
15 crushed and ~~the~~ people buried. Rescuers  
16 rushed to the scene. ~~Then~~ a second land-  
17 slide brought houses and walls down  
18 on top of the rescuers. ~~Then~~ ~~More~~  
19 slides followed, one after another.  
20 According to the United Press recent  
21 ~~xx~~ heavy rains have undermined the soil  
22 and caused the shifting. You can see a  
23 yawning hole at the scene of disaster,  
24 a huge pit 180 feet wide and 900 feet  
25 deep, half filled with the wreckage of  
houses.

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HINDU WOMEN (NEWS ITEM)

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1           This afternoon I was talking to  
2 Richard Duffy, the Foreign Editor of the  
3 Literary Digest, and he said to me:  
4 "You know, you've got a weakness for  
5 color, especially oriental color. Well,  
6 here's a piece about that Round Table  
7 Conference in London. Those rajah  
8 fellows must look like a circus parade."  
9 Well, Mr. Duffy was right, and I'm  
10 picking the bit of news he handed me as  
11 the News Item of the Day.

12           The British Government gave a  
13 midnight ~~reception~~ <sup>reception</sup> last night, at  
14 Lancaster House, in honor of the Indian  
15 princes who are attending the Round  
16 Table Conference. ~~Well~~, probably there  
17 was a murky fog hanging over old London.  
18 Through the fog comes an endless stream  
19 of purring limousines. Out of these  
20 step the lords and ladies of the British  
21 Empire, the ladies in their ermine coats

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1 and evening gowns, and their jewels; the  
2 men in their top hats, men who are almost  
3 legendary figures--Ramsay MacDonald,  
4 Winston Churchill, the Earl of Redding,  
5 the Prince of Wales, Stanley Baldwin,  
6 Sir Austin Chamberlain, Lord Allenby of  
7 Armageddon, Byng of Vimy, and so on.  
8 And from one car descends an Indian  
9 prince and his lady. He is the Gaekwar  
10 of Baroda, famous in India for his  
11 immense palace, his bushels of uncut  
12 jewels, and his panoplied elephants. A  
13 few minutes later, from another car steps  
14 a tall Rajput king, the Maharajah of  
15 Bikaner, famous for his tact, his lavish  
16 entertainment, and his Camel Corps, one of  
17 the most spectacular fighting organizations  
18 in the world. And here comes another  
19 resplendent Oriental potentate, the  
20 Maharajah of Kashmir, famous tiger hunter,  
21 and ruler over one of the most beautiful  
22 regions in the world, the far-famed  
23 Vale of Kashmir.

24 But the Associated Press correspondent  
25 tells us that the Indian women ~~even~~

outshone even the sultans and rajahs and khans. They were dressed in gauze of gold and in draperies of ivory silk encrusted with silver thread<sup>d</sup>. No wonder Mark Twain said that India is the most gorgeous human spectacle on earth. A vivid splash of Indian color has indeed been transported to foggy old London for this Round Table Conference.

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KARACHI

In the meantime, this weekend will see the final wind-up of that other conference which has been going on in London for the past month, the Imperial Conference, the one attended by all the premiers of the British commonwealth of nations.

There is a timely, up-to-the minute article about this Imperial Conference in the new Literary Digest. In the center of the page is a vivid cartoon from the Montreal Daily Star, showing a family of lions representing Australia, South Africa, Canada, and other parts of the empire -- each lion with a bone in his mouth, each ready to start home. The title of the Digest article is "The Shipwrecked Imperial Conference". One-fifth of our fellow human beings on this planet are citizens of the British Empire, and this article in the Literary Digest gives a vivid account of what happened when they tried to get together and talk about their family problems.

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DECORATIONS

In New York there's ~~an old~~<sup>a</sup> pawn shop that specializes in war medals. It's near the famous old Bowery. In it you will see scores of decorations earned by brave men. These medals are from many wars, but of course, the World War predominates. War heroes, broke and in need, come in and pawn or sell the decorations they won with their courage and their blood.

In the New York Evening World the owner of this pawnshop tells something about the market price of medals. The German iron cross, for instance, is the most in demand, and brings the best prices. He can't get enough iron crosses to fill the demand. The French croix de guerre comes last. Few people want to buy them, and they bring a small price.

~~well~~, Every nation that fought in the world war figures among these medals for sale in the <sup>ie</sup> pawn shop <sup>ie</sup> everyone except the United States. No American war decorations are for sale. The ~~xxx~~ reason? Because it's against



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DECORATIONS - 2

the law. Plenty of men come into the pawn shop and try to sell American medals of heroism, but the pawnbroker cannot buy them. "Why", says he, "I've even been offered a Congressional Medal of Honor." A man is sure hard up when he has to hock a Congressional medal.

And here's a freak item:-

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RAGPICKER

A New Jersey ragpicker fell asleep in court just as the judge was about to sentence him. Court attendants tried to wake him up, but he wouldn't stir. Doctors found he has sleeping sickness. Once before according to the New York Evening World he had an attack and didn't wake up for sixteen weeks. The law states that a man ~~must~~ must hear his sentence. If the ragpicker is in for another long nap he may not hear his sentence for quite a while.

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DOG SLEDS

A new motion picture house has just been opened in Sudbury, Ontario. That's up in the land where the snow gets a bit deep at times, and I saw an odd item in Variety today which says that the new movie house will have a space reserved in the rear for dog sleds. The movie fans have to travel miles over the snows, and when they want to see and hear a talkie, they just hitch up the old dog sled and mush in over the trail to Sudbury, and park their huskies and malamutes in the special parking place for dog teams.

But just lean your eye against this next news story about slang from the New York Sun.

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1 Seventy-five thousand words are  
2 knocking at the door. That is, <sup>75,000</sup> ~~they are~~  
3 new words ~~that~~ are trying to squirm their  
4 way into the New Standard Dictionary. ~~The~~  
5 <sup>Evidently a</sup> ~~New York Sun says a~~ lot of them are going  
6 to get in too--especially the latest slang  
7 and the latest wisecracks. The man who  
8 has the say about which words are going to  
9 crash the dictionary gate, and which ones  
10 will get the clammy eye and the cold  
11 shoulder, is Dr. ~~Frank~~ Vizetelly, the  
12 famous lexicographer. He says that most  
13 of the seventy-five thousand new expressions  
14 are scientific terms, and he thinks that a  
15 lot of these ought to be satisfied to grab  
16 off a place in technical dictionaries,  
17 where they won't block traffic for us  
18 ordinary non-technical folks. But he's  
19 all for letting in the slang and the  
20 wisecracks. Incidentally, the word  
21 "wisecrack" is already in the New Standard  
22 Dictionary. So are the words "racket,  
23 racketeer, bootlegger, and speakeasy".  
24 The gangster term "put on the spot" is  
25 trying to get in, but hasn't made the

grade. The "time" that a convict serves, which is popularly called "the stretch", is in. But the phrase "doing time" is one of the seventy-five thousand terms still on the outside looking in.

The other day George Bernard Shaw used the expression "get away with it". Dr. Vizetelly brought that phrase in out of the cold quite a while ago.

"I guess this about finishes my evening's ramble on the air, and "I've done my bit". Dr. Vizetelly tells me that I'm "O. K." in using that slang phrase. He also says that it's "jake" with him if I now say that I'm going to "pull my freight" and "beat it". So,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.