

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1930

INTRO.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Old Mother Earth has had a bit of relief today from her aches and pains. That is ^{the} news has been fairly free from trouble. The dispatches that have been coming in from all the seven continents include everything from auctioning off a railroad to the arrival in America of Professor Einstein. Then there's more concerning Formosa, and a rip-roaring story about a farmer and a watermelon.

Let's start off with the railroad auction.

1 A railroad was sold at public auction
2 today. It was the Chicago and Alton. And
3 it went to the highest bidder, just about
4 the way a second hand chair does.

5 The Chicago and Alton, or the C & A,
6 as we used to call it, is an old line and
7 once was properous. But it somehow fell
8 on evil days during those big railroad wars
9 of twenty years ago, when the Harrimans and
10 the Vanderbilts were fighting each other.

11 The International News Service in-
12 forms us that there was only one bidder --
13 the Baltimore and Ohio, and down - bang -
14 went the auctioneer's hammer.

15 The Chicago and Alton, said to be a
16 hundred million dollar line, sold to the
17 B & O for only 23 millions.

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Back in N.Y. There has just been a bank failure.
2 ~~In New York.~~ The Bank of the United States
3 has closed its doors. 5,000 depositors
4 gathered at the Bronx Branch and the police
5 were called to keep order.

6 According to the International News
7 Service, officials of the banking depart-
8 ment and of the Federal Reserve Bank have
9 been conferring today and it is said they
10 hope to find a way by which the bank can
11 meet its obligations.

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1 Way up in the frozen North, two men,
2 given up for dead, have returned to life.
3 Seven American and Canadian aeroplanes
4 have been searching for them. They are
5 Bob Marten, a prospector of Wrangell, Ala-
6 ska, and Emil Kading, an aeroplane mechanic.

7 Two months ago, they took off in a
8 plane to fly across the wilds^{of} Yukon terri-
9 tory, ~~of Northwestern Canada~~. A third man,
10 Captain Burke, was the pilot. They were
11 caught in a snowstorm and had to land deep
12 in the Northern wilderness. They started
13 to walk out. Day after day they trudged
14 across the ice, shooting game for food.
15 The pilot died. The other two kept ~~xxxx~~ on.

16 They saw one of the searching planes
17 overhead but the plane did not see them.
18 ^{So} they ^{continuing their trek} ~~kept on walking~~. Then they again saw
19 a plane, and ^{they} built a signal fire. The men
20 in the plane saw them and landed ten miles
21 away. Then there was a long search before
22 the rescuers and the two castaways found
23 each other.

24 A storm blew up and the plane could
25 not take off. They had to wait. And now,

1 an Associated Press Dispatch tell us that
2 the rescue plane has brought them back to
3 civilization.

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Here is something that promises to make birdmen look a good deal more like birds. That is, it's a scheme for putting wings right on the flyers' shoulders. An Associated Press dispatch states that a young inventor of Genoa, Italy, has just invented the smallest aeroplane yet.

It consists of two wings 18 feet wide, steering gear and a ~~xx~~ 5 horse-power motor. This miniature plane is attached to the shoulders of the pilot. The idea seems to be to take off from the ice, because the bird-man is described as wearing a pair of skis.

It is said you can make 60 miles an hour with this contraption, and ^{they claim} it is also ~~said to be~~ quite safe. The pilot wears a parachute, which will bring both him and the plane safely to earth, if necessary.

1 America is receiving a distinguished
2 visitor today -- Professor Einstein, dis-
3 coverer of the famous theory of relativity.
4 Well, the Professor is a shy and retiring
5 scientist and the reporters and photograph-
6 ers and radio men swooped down on him --
7 the whole mob, shouting and pushing and
8 asking questions.

9 The United Press informs us that the
10 Professor actually ran away several times--
11 just turned and walked off. But he always
12 came back. He told them that he felt like
13 a Punch and Judy show with all the children
14 gathering around. But that was about as
15 much as the reporters learned from the
16 great scientist.

17 He turned off their questions with
18 statements that some of the boys called
19 "wise cracks". Here's a sample: They
20 asked him to tell them what relativity was.

21 "That would take about three days",
22 he replied, "And I haven't that much time".

23 They asked him what the fourth dimen-
24 sion was.

25 "You'll have to ask the spiritualists

1 about that", he said.

2 They asked him how things were go-
3 ing to turn out in Russia, and he replied
4 "I don't know -- I'm no prophet".

5 Of course they asked him about pro-
6 hibition, and he came back with the state-
7 ment that he didn't drink, and consequently
8 wasn't thinking much about prohibition.

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NOBEL PRIZE

A group of distinguished scientists have foregathered over in Stockholm. They are the Nobel Prize winners for various sciences, and they arrived in Stockholm to receive their awards. Each told something about his work.

Sir Chandrasekhara Raman, the Indian scientist who won the prize for physics told how he had started his remarkable investigation into "the constitution of matter". He said it was all because ~~if~~ he began to wonder why the Mediterranean Sea was so blue. He passed light beams through a bottle of water taken from the Mediterranean, and found that the color was due to a diffusion of light. Then he kept on and made other discoveries, which won for him the Nobel Prize.

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Last night, I told you about an attempt to assassinate the President of Chile, and here's something similar - only it's out in China. A dispatch from the International News Service states that there was a plot to kill General Chian-Kai-Shek, president of the Nationalist Government of China. But it was nipped in the bud and eight of the ringleaders ^{sent to join} were their honorable ancestors.

Off the coast of China,

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1 On the island of Formosa, the revolt
2 of the Head Hunters has quieted down ~~into~~
3 a long siege of guerilla warfare. I told
4 you a couple of weeks ago about that weird
5 uprising of head hunters ~~at origins~~ against
6 the Japanese. Dispatches from Tokyo say
7 that the Japanese have not been successful
8 in handling the people of that strange
9 island off the China Coast. The Japanese
10 policy in Formosa has been one of mixed
11 kindness and severity, it seems. In fact,
12 they thought that everything was settled
13 and serene when along came that ferocious
14 revolt. Most of the people of the island
15 had submitted to Japanese rule - but not
16 the Head Hunters.

17 The new Literary Digest which ap-
18 peared on the news stands today has a
19 striking article on the strained state of
20 affairs in Formosa. The Digest, in summing
21 up the situation, goes clear to the other
22 side of the world for its facts. It quotes
23 Japanese newspapers in telling how wild and
24 wooly things are ~~at there~~ in Formosa - a
25 fantastic mixture of head hunting, economic

1 conditions and opium.

2 If you want a bit of excitement,
3 just turn to your new Digest and read this
4 picturesque article.

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1 I ran into one of my friends from
2 New York this afternoon so I hustled him
3 into service and made him pick my news item
4 of the day. Some of you know my friend.
5 His name is Ed Wynn. Ed is out here play-
6 ing the role of "Simple Simon", and he's
7 funnier than ever. I showed him my batch
8 of dispatches. But his eye fell on a let-
9 ter I had just received from a radio xxx
10 listener. It was from E. M. Best of Phila-
11 delphia. Ed read it and said:

12 "Look here, why don't you use this
13 as your News Item of the Day?"

14 Well, that was an idea.

15 There is a lot of news that does not
16 appear in the papers, news that never gets
17 printed, or that appears in small country
18 papers and never gets any further. Mr.
19 Best's story is that kind. It was printed
20 in a local paper down in Elizabeth City,
21 North Carolina. And it's just the sort of
22 a story that helps to make life worth liv-
23 ing.

24 Way down in the sand hill section of
25 Currituck County, North Carolina, lives a

26 caps - error in typing

1 FARMER whose name is Carol Roughton. He
 2 has a fine watermelon patch. Unfortunately
 3 however, it is located near a fishing stream
 4 The neighborhood boys fish for mullet at
 5 night down there -- and they just naturally
 6 have to go right by this watermelon patch.

7 Now you folks who have lived in ~~A~~
 8 watermelon country will recall that a moon-
 9 light night and a melon patch are a combin-
 10 ation fraught with possibilities. Farmer
 11 Roughton finally reached a point where pat-
 12 ience ceased to be a virtue. One night he
 13 loaded up his shotgun with rock salt, or
 14 bacon grease and took up his vigil in the
 15 patch. Finally he fell off to sleep.

16 The boys arrived in due course. They
 17 selected a likely looking melon. Now the
 18 custom in/such cases seems to be to destroy
 19 the evidence forthwith - by eating it. The
 20 melon is usually broken by crushing it over
 21 a fence post or a log. The boys on this
 22 night found what looked like a log. Down
 23 came the melon with a crack and a "squish".
 24 The log, however, turned out to be old
 25 Farmer Roughton in person! He gave one wild

ITEM OF DAY

shriek and never even stopped to pick up his gun. He ran home in nothing flat and as he entered the house he yelled to his wife: "They've killed me! I can feel my brains running down my back!"

"Well, Ed Wynn and I laughed about that watermelon story and then he said.

"Say, did you ever hear about the man who ran over himself?"

Then he went on.

"A man walked into a cigar store and said, Give me an ice cream soda. The clerk replied: You will have to get that at the drug store across the street.

"The man said, I am very tired. Run over and get a soda for me, won't you?"

"But the cigar store clerk said, No, he would have to run over himself. So the man ran over himself!"

1 Here's some news that ought to cheer
2 us up a bit. We are worth four hundred
3 billion dollars - I mean the whole country
4 is. The national wealth of the United
5 States is equal to the combined wealth of
6 all the other world powers.

7 The average Russian is worth \$300.00;
8 the average Italian or Japanese is worth
9 \$800.00; the average German is worth
10 \$1,000.00; and the average Frenchman is
11 worth \$1,500.00. The average Englishman
12 is almost as rich as the average American;
13 the Englishman has \$2800.00. How much is
14 the average American worth? He is worth
15 \$3400.00. This is an interesting topic
16 and you can find out all about how much
17 money you ought to have in the new Literary
18 Digest.

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CHINA

Here's one that has to do with drivers' licenses.

But it won't affect most of us.

Out in Shanghai, China, they are getting strict about drivers' licenses - I mean rickshaw drivers' licenses. The Chicago Daily Times prints an Associated Press dispatch from Shanghai, stating that if John Chinaman wants to drive - or I should say push a rickshaw, he must be at least 17 years old. If he is under 17, Hop Sing no pullee rickshaw.

Any Chinese boy who fails to heed this will probably get plenty bamboo chow chow. Which is pigeon English for a sound beating.

1 We all know that Polly wants a crack-
2 er, and Fido wants a bone, and rats and ~~xxx~~
3 mice love cheese -- yes, but not in the
4 town of Dunster. Dunster is in England,
5 and over there they seem to have artistic
6 rats, rats that like beautiful things.
7 The United Press informs us that the people
8 of Dunster have found that the rats of
9 Dunster love flowers. It's no use to bait
10 rat traps with Limberger or Camembert in
11 Dunster. But those rats can~~not~~^t resist the
12 perfume of flowers. And so the people of
13 Dunster are baiting their rat traps with
14 pansies, nasturtiums, and forget-me-nots.

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1 The Prince of Wales certainly does
2 have a gift for keeping in the limelight.
3 Here he is in the headlines again:

4 The Prince, you know, is called "the
5 world's best dressed man", and it appears
6 that he is superstitious about his clothes.
7 For instance, if he has had a bad round of
8 golf he will go straight home and take off
9 the suit he has been wearing and he won't
10 wear it again. And it's ~~is~~ the same if he
11 makes a poor speech.

12 On the other hand, when he was voyaging
13 to Australia on the battleship, "Reknown",
14 he had a bet with Lord Louis Mountbatten
15 as to who would stand the heat of the
16 stoke-room the longest. The Prince won by
17 three seconds, and ever since then he has
18 kept the overalls he wore.

19 ~~He once went to a fancy dress party and~~
20 ~~wore a pair of old tennis trousers that~~
21 ~~were too large for him, a gaily colored~~
22 ~~sweater and a top hat. He enjoyed himself~~
23 ~~so much that he still carefully keeps that~~
24 ~~costume.~~

25 An International News ^{Service} dispatch tells us

1 that the Prince of Wales has never worn a
2 pair of darned socks in his life.

3 Well, I once traveled with the
4 Prince for several months. That was out
5 in India. And I picked up that habit of
6 his, about clothes. Whenever I make a bad
7 speech, I throw away the suit I've been
8 wearing. Yes, and for the last few weeks
9 now, I've thrown away so many suits that
10 I've been kept broke buying new ones.

11 And here I am ^{now} on my way home ~~now~~ to
12 throw away another suit. So long until
13 tomorrow.

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