

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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WASHINGTON

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The big meeting of the Progressives got under way down in Washington today and from the opening gavel until the final gong the halls rang with oratory.

According to the Associated Press Senator Norris opened the proceedings with what the press boys call a ringing declaration in which the Senator said that the big issue in American politics today is power.

He claims that the power trust is trying to throttle that powerful issue. Well, nearly all of us use electric lights and electrical gadgets of one sort or another, and I suppose the issue of the distribution of electrical power does hit pretty close home.

According to the press reports Senator Borah arose to announce that the great issue before the people is the control of great wealth. Then he proceeded to the subject of agricultural relief and declared that while he recognized the Farm Board has done some good work, on the whole it was a washout.

Representatives of farm organizations told the gathering that the situation of the farmer was desperate.

Senator Blaine of Wisconsin attacked the tariff. He said it should be reduced.

A committee of Filipinos appeared before the meeting and asked that the Progressives endorse the principle of Philippine independence.

.It looks as though the regular Republicans tried to throw a monkey wrench into the progressive machinery. How? Well, Senator Watson, the Republican leader wrote and suggested that the Progressive conference take up a lot of very thorny and controversial questions. Prohibition for instance - things that would be sure to cause endless arguments. The Progressives, however, intimate that they are not going to fall into the trap.

WALKER

All the New York newspapers this afternoon carried headlines about the big attack that is being made on Mayor Walker. Various civic organizations and religious bodies demand that the Mayor's administration be investigated. Some think he ought to be removed.

The New York Board of Trade joins the chorus by urging that a big searchlight be turned on the city government to reveal the reason for recent scandals.

The gay and wise-cracking Jimmy is on his way to California. And the International News Service states that when he was informed of the agitation against him he did not seem greatly concerned. In fact, he made one of his usual snappy come-backs and said that apparently the people who are making the outcry took good care to wait until he got out of town before starting anything.

HAY

Now comes something which sounds at bit like a hay pitching contest.

At Berlin, Connecticut, members of the State Police got busy with hay forks today in a big barn turning over hundreds of tons of hay. Why all the heavy exercise? Well, they are looking for six thousand dollars in greenbacks.

Robbers held up the Berlin Savings Bank and got away with thirteen thousand dollars. According to the news dispatch two of the bandits were sons of a local farmer. They were captured hiding in the hay loft of the old barn. They had seven thousand dollars on them. The other six thousand they had hidden somewhere deep down in the hay.

And so, according to the International News Service, the police have been busy all day breaking their backs with the pitch forks - pitching hay as they never pitched it before.

SCULPTURE

1 There's ~~going~~ to be an exhibition
2 of sculpture in New York ~~which certainly~~ ^{an exhibition that}
3 brings to a climax a strange, strange
4 tale. It will be a sale of marble
5 bas reliefs which were denounced and
6 exposed not long ago as fakes and
7 frauds.

8 Over in Italy ^{lives} ~~is~~ the sculptor
9 Dossena, a sculptor of singular talent.
10 He works in a style that closely
11 resembles that of the old masters.
12 Dealers ^{at one time,} ~~^~~ bought his marble pieces from
13 him for small sums and then palmed
14 them off on rich collectors as antiques,
15 and got large sums for them ^{too.}

16 Then the supposed antiques were
17 exposed and found to be the work of the
18 obscure sculptor ^{Dossena,} ~~^~~ living in Rome. ^{But he} ~~He~~
19 declared that he didn't know ~~that~~ his
20 pieces were being fraudulently sold as
21 antiques. ^{Furthermore he} ~~He~~ ~~^~~ sued the art dealers who
22 had done the selling.

23 The upshot, according to the
24 New York Evening Post, was that Dossena's
25 talent was recognized. And now those

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sculptures which had been denounced as fake antiques are being put on exhibition in New York and are fetching large prices as fine modern works. *Yes, Dame Fortune is a strange lady - but sometimes she does reward the right people - one of whom is this obscure sculptor in Italy.*

STREAMLINED

I wonder if this will be known as
the bullet era? At any rate It seems from this next item

1 as if most everything on wheels is
2 going to look like a bullet pretty
3 soon.
4

5 The Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph
6 carries an article today which states
7 that recent experiments at the
8 Westinghouse Research Laboratories
9 are going to revolutionize the
10 construction of vehicles. It has been
11 found that operating costs could be
12 greatly cut on transportation lines
13 by having the vehicles streamlined,
14 which points to streamlined trolley
15 cars, and streamlined railroad cars,
16 ■ streamlined automobiles, and stream-
17 lined everything.

18 In other words, it may not be
19 long until all the rolling stock
20 scooting hither and thither will look
21 like bullets on wheels. Not canons
22 to the right of us and canons to the
23 left of us — but bullets.
24
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COW

And along comes one of those solemn questions which agitate the minds of solemn statesmen. Anyway, it's agitating the minds of the city fathers of Sierra Madre, California.

The question is: SHOULD A COW SAY MOO?

Of course, you may reply that you could hardly expect a cow to go woff woff, or MEOOW, or HEHAW.

Anyway, a man out at Sierra Madre has a cow that's lost her calf and she's been mooing all night long. Neighbors complained and the district attorney drew up an ordinance making it illegal for cows to "moo". The owner asked just what did they expect his cow to do - jump over the moon?

So a meeting of the town council has been called to decide whether the mooing of a cow is legal and if not why not?

1 An important document was
2 published today. It's the text of the
3 naval agreement between France and
4 Italy.

5 ~~As reported by the United Press,~~
6 the agreement reveals that France and
7 Italy have agreed not to build more
8 than two big warships each until
9 December 31st, 1936. Each fighting
10 craft will be of not more than
11 23,333 tons, ~~and will be armed with~~
12 ~~guns~~ and the biggest guns ^{aboard} ~~they~~ will
13 ~~carry~~ will be twelve inches.

14 France has been planning to
15 build a super-cruiser and the tonnage
16 for that proposed super-cruiser is
17 23,333 - the exact figure mentioned in
18 the agreement.

19 So it seems as if France, who
20 was fighting for an arrangement that
21 would allow her to build this new type
22 of craft, had won her point.

23 The International News
24 Service states that France is going to
25 toss one old battleship into the scrap

1 heap, and that Italy will junk
2 16,820 tons of worn out cruisers.

3 According to the Associated
4 Press the publication of the agreement
5 is being received with cheers in both
6 Paris and Rome.

7 Reichstag today approved of the naval
8 estimates for building a naval craft.

9 The German navy is severely
10 restricted by the Versailles treaty,
11 but the naval experts over in Berlin
12 have went ahead and devised that new
13 type of cruiser which aroused so much
14 discussion not long ago. It's only a
15 ten thousands ton ship, but is supposed
16 to have a striking power all out of
17 proportion to its size.

18 France has been worried about
19 that new type of warship, which the
20 Germans have developed, and this has
21 had a good deal to do with the French
22 demand for a large fleet. The Germans
23 seem to think well of that first pocket
24 battleship of theirs, because they are
25 now building a second one.

Along with that comes news of —

1 ~~Now here comes~~ - no, not a ~~mix~~
2 pocket knife or a pocket handkerchief -
3 but a pocket battleship.

4 The Germans are going to build
5 another pocket battleship. According
6 to the International News Service, the
7 Reichstag today approved of the naval
8 estimates for building ~~a naval~~ ^{that} craft.

9 The German navy is severely
10 restricted by the Versailles treaty,
11 but the naval experts over in Berlin
12 ~~you probably have heard~~ ~~they~~ went ahead and devised that new
13 type of cruiser which aroused so much
14 discussion not long ago. It's only a
15 ten thousand ton ship; but ^{it} is supposed
16 to have a striking power all out of
17 proportion to its size.

18 France has been worried about
19 that new type of warship, ~~which the~~
20 ~~Germans have developed~~, and this has
21 had a good deal to do with the French
22 demand for a large fleet. The Germans
23 seem to think well of that first pocket
24 battleship of theirs, ^{so well of it that} ~~because~~ they are
25 now building a second one.

PLANET

Here's an item about a celestial stork bringing us another planet. What I mean to say is:- The solar system may have a new addition to the family.

An Italian astronomer claims to have discovered traces of a new planet. He declares that photographs made of the stars show its existence.

According to the United Press the new member of the planetary household has provisionally been ~~xxx~~ named B - A - Bah, Bah Bah Black Sheep, of the solar system. I wonder if that's the idea?

ROUMANIA

Well, well, upon my word, here is a familiar subject - the subject of borrowing money. Only this isn't a case of borrowing a fiver or touching somebody for a ten spot.

The Republic of France has loaned the Kingdom of Roumania fifty million dollars - and that's a sizeable financial transaction as you will agree.

The International News Service states that about eight million dollars of the loan was taken over from France by American interests.

1 There's another political row ^{getting}
2 under way over in England. This time
3 it's a battle in the ranks of the
4 Conservative party. And the cause of
5 the trouble is the declaration of
6 Conservative leader Baldwin that his
7 party is against another general
8 conference on the subject of India.

9 The agreement recently made
10 between Gandhi and the British Viceroy
11 in India provided that such a conference
12 should be held.

13 A number of Conservatives have
14 come forward ^{however and deny} ~~and have denied~~ that the
15 Conservative party will not take part
16 in the proposed conference. They say
17 that Mr. Baldwin's declaration merely
18 meant that the big get-together should
19 not take place until there has been
20 preliminary discussion. In other words,
21 ~~in my opinion~~ according to the United Press,
22 they are going on record as being rather
23 in favor of ^{another} ~~the~~ big pow-wow ~~which is to~~
24 ~~take place~~ between the representatives
25 of Great Britain and India.

India is also in the news tonight with another story of riot. This time the trouble was in the city of Ahmedabad - the home town of Mahatma Gandhi. Hundreds of women staged the disturbance. They were trying to storm their way into a hall where Gandhi was speaking. In the wild and eager stampede to hear the words of the Holy Man who seems to be the voice of voiceless India, several women were badly injured. And one, the wife of the former president of the municipality of Ahmedabad, was finally hurt. According to the International News Service the turmoil was so wild that Gandhi had to discontinue his speech.

1 I got a telegram today about
2 the story I told the other night on
3 how in Russia motion picture houses
4 accept farm produce from the peasants as
5 the price of admission.

6 Well, that same sort of thing
7 seems to happen in our own country. At
8 least so says that telegram. It is from
9 Harry Moller of BelleFontaine, Ohio.

10 He tells me of a food matinee
11 they had in a motion picture house at
12 Belle Fontaine. Twelve hundred children
13 went to the pictures and the admission
14 that each paid consisted of cabbages,
15 carrots, beans, oranges, grapefruit,
16 honey, jelly, bread and so on. *Not thrown -*
17 *Just used as money.* All that food is being

18 distributed among the poor of the town.

19 Two weeks ago a potato matinee
20 was held and it brought in over 45
21 bushels. These were all given to the
22 needy.

1 It has been a bright sparkling
2 day in these parts. The sun was
3 shining and it felt as though Spring
4 was just around the corner. And that
5 always makes me want to go places and
6 do things as they say. At any rate
7 when Spring is in the air I want to
8 be off on the long trail for strange
9 lands and far-away places. Beyond the
10 Utmost Purple Rim as Colonel E.
11 Alexander Powell puts it.

12 That's the feeling I had today,
13 and then something came along to make
14 that feeling all the stronger--and
15 that something was my advance copy of
16 the new Literary Digest, the March 14th
17 number which will be out tomorrow.

18 On the cover is a reproduction
19 of a painting of tall trees and quaint
20 cottages and blue hills in the distance.
21 It's called "Spring in Wicklow"--in
22 Iréland's old, romantic county of Wick low.
23 # You've all heard how beautiful Ireland
24 is, the land of the River Shannon and
25 Lake Kilarney. I've been ~~in Iréland~~ ^{there} a
few times--not as often as I would like;
~~to have been there.~~ But long enough to
make me fall head over heels in love
with old Ireland.

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1 Well, that painting on the Digest
2 cover is by Paul Henry, the Irish artist.
3 The Digest tells us how he studied in
4 Paris and had a fine career in London,
5 but couldn't forget his native Ireland.
6 So he went back to stay and work among
7 his own people. Since then he has been
8 painting the beauties of the romantic
9 green Isle. And among his finest works
10 is that painting--"Spring in Wicklow",
11 which you will see on the Digest cover
12 tomorrow.

13 That outbreak of the wanderlust
14 which I felt today made me rest a
15 lingering eye on a picture in the Digest
16 showing a handsome bay with a white
17 sailboat scudding before the wind. It's
18 printed in an advertisement about
19 California. And then there was another
20 ad about France--a picture of an old
21 street, a scene in ^AMontmartre restaurant.
22 And there are advertisements in the
23 Digest telling about old English
24 cathedrals, lakes in Switzerland,-- Sweden,
25 ~~Stockholm~~, Germany, and many ^{fascinating and} pleasant ~~places~~

1 alluring places throughout the world.

2 If I had an itching foot to start
3 with, well those advertisements in the
4 Digest made the old travel itch ten times
5 worse.

6 And then, I picked up a book of
7 poetry in which I've been reading bits
8 of verse on and off all this week. I've
9 mentioned the author before. He is
10 Wilfred Funk, delicate, satirical, gay.
11 His book of poems has a snappy ultra-
12 modern title - "Manhattans, Bronxes and
13 Queens," is what it's called.

14 Well, I turned to it to quiet my
15 restless mood - but it wasn't to be.
16 The ^{very} first poem ^{I found} ~~I turned to~~ was entitled:-
17 "Silken Chains." It goes like this:-

18 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

19 "Could I go here, could I go there?
20 And could I, please, go everywhere?

21 Just put my finger on the map,
22 And pack, and never give a snap

23 About my wife and children, or
24 A thing this side of Singapore,

25 Or worry over this or that,
Or if I set the thermostat.

How very simple it would be
If only walls surrounded me,

1 But I am held by slender strings
2 That bind my wrists like iron rings."

3 And what a lot of truth there is
4 in those lines!

5 Ah, well we can't always travel
6 just when we please. We can't all start
7 out for Singapore. But I know a place
8 that's even better than Singapore. It
9 is spelled H-O-M-E, home! And that's
10 where I'm bound for now.

11 So long until tomorrow.
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