

DISARMAMENT

Lowell Thomas
Broadcast for Page _____
The Literary
Digest, Thursday,
February 11, 1932

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4 GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-
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8 There were sounds of loud cheers in
9 Geneva today. And the chap who got the
10 applause is a dardonic looking fellow
11 who isn't accustomed to getting any
12 ovations at International Conferences.
13 He is Maxim Litvinoff, head of the
14 Soviet Delegation at that Disarmament
15 Conference.

16 Litvinoff presented a proposal
17 advocated by Moscow. This proposal
18 was the same that he brought forward at
19 a previous conference. At that former
20 time it was received with loud shouts of
21 razzberry. But today it was greeted
22 with vociferous hurrahs.

23 The New York Sun explains that
24 the bad bold Bolshevic wasn't so bad today.
25 Litvinoff didn't speak with his usual

1 Bolshevic truculence. He suggested a
2 program of total disarmament, abolition
3 of all armament, and he did it in a
4 highly reasonable tone.

5 The Soviet attitude today was
6 one of moderation and a spirit of
7 friendly teamwork. Litvinoff called
8 upon the Conference to make a move for the
9 abolition of tanks, heavy, long-range
10 artillery, naval guns of over 12 inch
11 caliber, air-craft carriers, military
12 dirigibles, heavy bombing planes,
13 chemical warfare, ships of over 10,000
14 tons, and everything but bean shooters.
15 In other words he seconded what Dino
16 Grandi proposed yesterday.

17 Litvinoff added mildly that
18 Soviet Russia is willing to collaborate
19 in any scheme of disarmament that the
20 Conference might advocate.

At this very minute

1 The fighting is still going on
2 in Shanghai. ~~at this very minute.~~ But
3 it soon is going to stop. It will stop
4 in a few minutes now, In just about *twelve*
5 ~~five~~ minutes, to be precise, a sudden
6 peace will descend upon battle torn
7 Shanghai. The roar and the crash of
8 war and death will suddenly be turned
9 into quiet. ~~The~~ The reason for this is a
10 truce, which has been arranged between
11 the Chinese and the Japanese. The
12 truce is scheduled to begin at eight
13 o'clock tomorrow morning in Shanghai.
14 ~~But~~ That means seven P. M. Eastern
15 Standard Time in these parts.

16 And so it is that within a few
17 minutes a sudden reign of peace will
18 come over the stricken ^{metropolis} ~~city~~ on the
19 China Coast. But the angel of peace
20 won't hover for long. Within four
21 hours the frightful turmoil of war
22 will break out again. It's a four
23 hour truce that has been arranged between
24 the fighting legions.

25 The purpose is to allow the

1 removal of non-combatants. The battle
2 will cease while peaceful Chinese
3 inhabitants are removed from the zone
4 of the fighting.

5 The New York Evening Post relates
6 that the four hour armistice was arranged
7 by a one-arm^{ed} French priest, Father
8 Jacquinot of St. Francis Xavier College,
9 at Shanghai. He is a soldier himself,
10 this Father Jacquinot. He fought at
11 Verdun and lost an arm there.

12 It was he who appealed to the
13 Chinese and Japanese to stop fighting
14 for a while so that the peaceful people
15 could be moved out of the neighborhood
16 of the battle lines. His plea was
17 supported by the American and British
18 authorities, and it was accepted.

19 Meanwhile the Japanese have been
20 hammering away against the defenders of
21 what remains of the Chinese part of
22 Shanghai, and after the truce that begins
23 in a few minutes has expired, why the
24 battle will begin again with the men of
25 Nippon striving once ~~again~~^{more} to beat down
the resistance of the grim and determined
Chinese defenders.

1 The Japanese authorities of
2 Shanghai delivered a formal apology
3 today to the American Consul General.

4 The apology concerned the bombing of
5 a cotton mill ^{during the fighting today - a cotton mill} inside ~~of~~ the section of
6 the International Settlement that is
7 being defended by American Marines.

8 An International News ^{Service} Dispatch
9 in the New York Evening Journal ~~today~~
10 explains that the bombs dropped from
11 the Japanese planes killed six Chinese
12 and endangered the lives of a hundred
13 American Marines.

14 The Japanese ~~explain~~ today
15 ~~that~~ the bombing of the cotton mill
16 was a mistake. They say they want to
17 pay money as compensation to the
18 relatives of the victims, and give
19 expressions of regret.

It has been said

1 ~~They say~~ that ~~it~~ an old quarrel
2 came to a final and complete end today.
3 It came to an end in the form of a
4 stately ceremony in the ancient city of
5 Rome.

6 A procession of automobiles
7 went rolling into the grounds of the
8 Vatican, and amid a ritual of medieval
9 courtesies, Benito Mussolini, the
10 Fascist Premier of Italy, was received
11 in a formal visit by the Roman Pontiff.

12 The visit today was made to
13 celebrate the anniversary of the signing
14 of the Lateran Treaties between the
15 Papacy and the Italian Government. That
16 treaty, of course, was intended to
17 end the old ~~strike~~ between the Italian
18 Government and the Vatican, but even after
19 it had been formally ratified, disputes
20 and disagreements cropped up. But they
21 say that Mussolini's visit to the Pope
22 today ends all that. It celebrates
23 the establishment of real harmony
24 between the two great powers that are
25 centered in Rome.

1 An International News Service
2 dispatch printed in the New York Evening
3 Journal, declares that the meeting of
4 Mussolini and the Pope was most cordial.
5 they had a long talk, and when the
6 Duce emerged from the audience, he was
7 smiling broadly.

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4 Now for a few questions and
5 answers. Letters have been flooding in
6 concerning the Literary Digest prohibition
7 poll. Those letters disclose interesting
8 argument and comment. Many a man or
9 woman who has been selected to cast a
10 vote in this 20 million ballot test has
11 not merely voted enthusiastically, but has
12 also explained why. Advocates of
13 prohibition give earnest and carefully-
14 argued reasons for their stand -- and so
15 do the voters opposed.

16 And there is one particular
17 question that comes in. For example,
18 here's a note from Baden, Pennsylvania:-

19 "Kindly explain why only
20 one ballot is sent to a home where there
21 are four voters? Please make this plain."

22 From Allentown, Pennsylvania,
23 comes a letter asking: "Why do you
24 send only one vote to a family in which
25 there are ten voters?"

1 A lady in New York City makes a
2 protest by asking "how about the wife?"
3 "My husband," she writes, "has received
4 his ballot, but I haven't received any,
5 and I am one wife who would like to vote."

6 In another case we have a husband
7 who grumbles that his wife received a
8 ballot, but he didn't -- how come?

9 Then there are a number of other
10 indignant citizens who declare that they
11 have been waiting patiently for their
12 ballots, but haven't received any as yet.

13 Well, the answer is that the
14 Literary Digest prohibition poll does
15 not pretend to register the opinions of
16 all the voters. In Uncle Sam's last
17 presidential election something less than
18 37 million votes were counted. Well,
19 the Literary Digest has a list of 20
20 million voters. So obviously everyone
21 will not get a ballot. The 20 million
22 represents a cross-section of the American
23 voting public. And it is a mighty
24 large cross-section.

25 Now of course it is impossible



1 to send ballots to folks who simply
2 write in and ask for them. It might
3 seem to be a small matter to be good-
4 natured and send out a few thousand,
5 but the fact that the rules of the poll
6 are so strict is what makes it accurate.
7 Ballots are distributed only by mail
8 in conformity with the Digest system
9 of conducting a poll, from which
10 it never departs by a hair's breadth.

11 The system is as impersonal as
12 a machine.

13 Then there's an inquiry from a
14 lady at Kokomo, Indiana, who asks
15 whether it is possible for a husband and
16 wife to use the same ballot -- that is,
17 for both of them to vote on the same
18 card. No, it is not. Any ballot that
19 might come in with two votes on it would
20 be thrown out as invalid.

21 An interesting point is raised by
22 a man at Scranton, Pennsylvania. He
23 asks why the ballots are not returned in
24 envelopes. They are simply cards which go
25

open through the mails. His point is that it might be possible for the ballots to be mailed, and then to be marked with an added 'x', or something like that -- marked in such a way that they would be invalid and would not be counted. The answer to this objection is that Uncle Sam guarantees his mail service. Nobody is going to fool around and do any marking on cards that are sent through the United States Postal Service. That might be a dangerous thing to try.

Here's advance word for a million or so people scattered through 15 states. Today's allotment of ballots went hurrying to widely separated sections of the country. And the word is -- Watch for your ballots, especially you folks in: Kansas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, West Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Delaware, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Meanwhile, the staff is preparing huge heaps of ballots to be shot out to

Ernest
Kehr.

former
botanical
champion.

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various other states.

There was another big jump today in the number of votes that are coming back in the vast flood. Over 200,000 marked ballots were received today, and the leaders in today's procession are about the same as last night: Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and also Nebraska. The people of those states seem to be jumping at the chance to utter those two words, YES or NO.

Well, they are all set for the big international bob sled race at Lake Placid. A huge crowd is waiting to see it. And tonight, across the desk from me sits Ernest Kehrer, one time member of the champion team of the world. That team was called the Queen of Hearts. They raced for years in Switzerland & year after year whizzed to victory. Ernest Kehrer is gray now. He doesn't go in for such wild sport any more. But, tell us Mr. Kehrer, what you think of this wild bob sled racing game.

1 Well, I'll tell you, bobsled racing is a sport by
2 itself... it combines the thrills and dangers of an auto race
3 and the tailspin of a plane.

4 Just imagine yourself coasting around fifty-two sharp
5 curves down the side of a mountain at the rate of over a mile a
6 minute.

7 Our team which held the championship from 1907 to 1911
8 was called the Queen of Hearts. At the steer was a daring young
9 English girl... and although her task was the easiest of the crew,
10 it required unusual nerve and courage. The number 2 man and my-
11 self had the hardest work. At the start we had to bob the sled
12 into momentum. Whizzing around the curves it was our job to
13 balance the sled. The fourth man handles the brakes and directs
14 the bobbing.

15 Personally, I have been in over a hundred races, includ-
16 ing the International Sweepstakes, when I was on the team of
17 the German Crown Prince in 1909. And in all that time, I am
18 lucky to say that I had only three accidents.

19 In one case we lost our front runners and crashed
20 over a bank and down a ravine some fifty feet below. Because
21 there were no trees the entire crew escaped without a scratch.

22 The second time we hit a curve too sharply and the
23 sled capsized before we could balance it, and it fell right on
24 my back... a sled you know, weighs about four hundred and seventy
25 pounds.

26 In 1912, at the Kaiser Prill, in Davos, the man at
27 the brakes fainted, and as I reached back to hold him from fall-
28 ing, my head struck an ice block and gashed my skull.

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Although a race on a "bob" lasts only a little over two minutes, it is so strenuous, that is, the work of bobbing, and the terrific speed is so great that it takes many a cognac and about half an hour's time to revive the team thoroughly.

1 There were loud and joyous sounds
2 in Wall Street today. The stock market
3 staged one of those big days of hullabaloo
4 that remind us of the old boom times.

5 There was a ~~wild~~^{wild} session of
6 trading--the Bulls had the Bears on
7 the run, and stocks jumped all along
8 the line from three to fourteen points.

9 The New York World-Telegram
10 explains that the stock market staged
11 its burst of optimism and confidence
12 because of that ~~proposal~~^{plan} of President
13 Hoover's which I mentioned last night.
14 The President's ~~plan~~^{intent} is to liberalize
15 the rules of the Federal Reserve
16 System, so as to make credit easier for
17 the banks. They say that this will set
18 free more than two billion dollars to
19 be added to the active money of the
20 country.

21 Wal l Street felt the effects
22 promptly and stocks went booming today.
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A bill was put before the Senate this afternoon for the purpose of putting the President's plan into effect. Senator Glass, D. of Virginia, sponsored it, with some change.

1 (Governor Roosevelt of New York
2 announced ~~today~~ ^{this afternoon} that he will hold a
3 public hearing on next Tuesday to
4 consider the charges that have been
5 brought against Sheriff Thomas M. Farley
6 of New York County.

7 The Governor will pass judgment
8 on the demand that Sheriff Farley shall
9 be removed from his post.) Samuel Seabury
10 head of the Hofstader Committee, which
11 brought the charges against the Sheriff
12 has been invited to attend the hearing.

13 The New York Evening Post makes
14 the comment that the Governor, ~~in~~ in
15 holding this public hearing, will be
16 acting personally as Judge and Jury, in
17 passing on the charges that have been
18 made against Sheriff Farley.

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1 This afternoon I devoted a couple
2 of hours to the affairs of the Tall Story
3 Club. There was a bit of mail which I, as
4 Exalted Giraffe of the lofty brotherhood,
5 had to answer. A whole flock of membership
6 cards were to be sent out. Several local
7 chapters ^{of the} whopper telling fraternities,
8 were clam~~bering~~ing for charters. And then
9 I had to autograph a few books, copies of
10 that volume of TALL STORIES, which is the
11 manual of the Tall Story Club. You know
12 autograph~~ed~~ed copies may be had at the
13 regular price at any book store, or direct
14 by mail from the publishers of the Literary
15 Digest. The book sellers have a way of
16 sending in orders saying several of ~~our~~ ^{them}
17 customers want their Tall Story Books
18 autographed, and that puts it up to me
19 to get busy with the old fountain pen.

20 Well, in the mail, there was
21 a letter from Eddie Davis, an actor. He
22 is a member of the National Variety
23 Artists, Incorporated, and then he goes
24 on to relate that the NVA is one of the
25 cloud-car~~rying~~rying branches of the Tall

1 Story Club.

2 Eddie tells of a conversation
3 between several actors that took place
4 at the NVA. One of them was telling
5 about a time when he was with a theatrical
6 troupe that was playing in India.

7 There were a number of native
8 women washing clothes in the river, he
9 related, when just then a giant Bengal
10 tiger came along. That ferocious
11 man-eating tiger went stalking right down
12 to the edge of the river where the women
13 were. My heart was in my throat, ^{said the actor,} but one
14 of the women, with great presence of mind,
15 splashed some water in the tiger's face,
16 and the tiger turned around and slunk
17 away.

18 "Gentlemen", spoke up a man who
19 was lounging comfortably in an arm chair.
20 "I was a member of that same company in
21 India, and I can vouch ~~for the truth of~~
22 ~~that remarkable event~~ for the fact that
23 the woman splashed water in the tiger's
24 face. A few minutes after the incident
25 occurred, I encountered that same

1 ferocious man-eater. According to my usual
2 custom, I walked up to the tiger and
3 proceeded to stroke his whiskers, and
4 gentlemen, those whiskers were still wet."

5 ~~Well, after that one I think~~
6 ~~we'll agree with Eddie Davis that the~~
7 ~~NVA is the sanctum sanctorum of the Great~~
8 ~~American Whoppers.~~

9 And after that lofty tale
10 about all I can do is stroke my
11 whiskers and whisper s-l-u-to-m.