

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1930

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I suppose you have all finished your turkey dinner.

Or maybe some of you prefer evening, instead of the good old fashioned dinner time at noon. Anyway, here are a few bits of Thanksgiving day news to go along with the nuts and raisins.

## THANKSGIVING

A curious story about the first presidential Thanksgiving proclamation comes over today in a dispatch from the Associated Press. George Washington signed the proclamation. It was in the year 1789. Then the document was lost for 132 years, until it turned up in some strange fashion at an auction in New York. The Congressional Library of Washington bought it. In it George Washington called upon the citizens of the new nation to set aside Thanksgiving Day "to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be."

Did you know that the setting aside of Thanksgiving as a national holiday was due to a woman? I didn't until I picked up a copy of the famous Hartford Courant of Hartford, Connecticut, this morning. In it I saw that it was in 1864 that this really became a national holiday. Mrs. Sarah Josephine Hale, of New Hampshire was responsible. She had been left a young widow with five small children, but she fought her way to success in the business world, and was a

woman of prominence from 1828 to 1877. She edited women's magazines, founded the Seamen's Aid Society of Boston, was largely responsible for the building of the Bunker Hill Monument, and she was famous for her skill at roasting turkeys and suckling pigs and at making mince pies. Well, for twenty years Mrs. Hale campaigned for the establishment of Thanksgiving as a national holiday, and in 1864, as the result of her campaign, the Hartford Courant points out that Abraham Lincoln issued the first proclamation declaring Thanksgiving a national holiday.

The New York World points out editorially today that at a time like this when things look a bit glum to many, at any rate not so cheery as they did, say two years ago, it is interesting to recall that the Pilgrim Fathers who established Thanksgiving Day hadn't very much to be thankful for. They were cold, they were hungry, they had holes in their shoes, they had aches in their hearts for those who had died in the preceding year remarks the New York World, and as for the Pilgrim Mothers, well the less said about their plight the better. In fact, about all

that can be said for any of the surviving pilgrims was that they had survived and hoped to survive a little longer.

The papers are full of Thanksgiving Day news items. For instance, you can imagine the joy in the heart of Joseph Barbato. The New York Herald Tribune tells the story. For five months Barbato had been in the death house up at Sing Sing awaiting execution, but today he is free at last. The Judge who pronounced his doom has now dismissed the charge against him because of lack of evidence when his case was appealed. Reporters went to question him on what he thought Thanksgiving Day would mean after all those months in the death cell, Barbato's hand shook and he was too overcome to reply.

And here's one American who has received a fine Thanksgiving present. <sup>Page</sup>

1     ^ The Honorable Frank B. Kellogg,  
2     formerly Secretary of State and one  
3     time Ambassador to Great Britain, today  
4     was awarded the Nobel prize for peace  
5     for the year 1929. At the same time,  
6     the ~~prize~~ committee named the winner  
7     for 1930. This year's winner is Dr.  
8     Nathan Soderblom, the archbishop of  
9     Upsala, Sweden. The International News  
10    Service says that Mr. Kellogg was named  
11    for the prize because of his work in  
12    framing the Kellogg Peace Pact. He is  
13    the ~~xxx~~ fifth American to get the  
14    peace prize. The others were Roosevelt,  
15    Elihu Root, Woodrow Wilson, and Charles  
16    G. Dawes.

17        The new Literary Digest, which  
18    is on the stands today has a strong  
19    article on the subject of peace. It  
20    is headed - SHOUTING FOR PEACE AND  
21    ARMING FOR WAR. If you want to get a  
22    real insight into all those peace and  
23    disarmament discussions that are going  
24    on, you ought to read that article.

25        Well, now we have to go on to a  
few things that are not <sup>quite</sup> ~~exactly~~ in the  
spirit of Thanksgiving.

1           The reporters at that dramatic  
2 trial over in Moscow <sup>are sending</sup> ~~have sent~~ <sup>^</sup> in more  
3 grim stories. ~~today~~. They describe the  
4 setting in the court room as being like  
5 a Russian film tragedy. According to a  
6 the United Press dispatch, the 6 of the  
7 8 professors who have testified all told  
8 the same story, and they apparently  
9 repeated with monotonous regularity--the  
10 story that while they held important posts  
11 in the Soviet industrial organization  
12 they were secretly working against the  
13 Bolsheviks. One of the defendants tells  
14 how he gave secret military plans to the  
15 French government. Another describes how  
16 they were forming an ~~secret~~ anti-Communist  
17 organization right within the ranks of  
18 the Red Army.

19           They all tell how they were  
20 conspiring with French and British  
21 statesmen. They point out Poincare,  
22 Briand, Winston Churchill, Sir Henry  
23 Deterding, the oil magnate, and the  
24 legendary Colonel Lawrence as conspirators.

25           Their mention of Colonel Lawrence

puts the final touch on that fantastic melodrama in Moscow. For the past 12 years, every time there has been trouble anywhere someone has attempted to put the blame on Lawrence. Two years ago, when he was serving as a private in the Royal Air Force out on the Afghan frontier, and at a time when I happened to be in Moscow, the Russians gave out a report to the effect that Colonel Lawrence was behind the Afghan revolt. That story went all over the world and was rather generally accepted. At any rate, it so embarrassed the British that they had to take Lawrence away from India and have him stationed in England again.

PERU

From Russia let's make a flight across the globe to South America, where there's more fighting down in Peru. Last night I told you about rioting between workmen and students in Lima. Now the trouble has grown more serious. According to the International News Service, several leaders of the revolutionists have been executed.

Peru is just through with one revolution. At the end of that session of trouble a provisional government was established, and now this new government seems to be having difficulties. They are blaming it on the communists, for a change.



# SPAIN

1 Things are quiet in Spain today,  
2 but there are ominous signs of <sup>more excitement,</sup> ~~trouble~~.  
3 In Madrid the people are nervous because  
4 there are thousands of soldiers on duty  
5 in the streets. The city is under such a  
6 heavy guard that you can see the  
7 government is expecting trouble. Leaders  
8 who are opposed to the government are  
9 constantly shadowed by detectives. The  
10 New York Times correspondent <sup>says</sup> ~~states~~ the  
11 people believe that the republicans are  
12 ready to start a revolution to overthrow  
13 ~~the~~ king Alfonso.

14 Trouble started a few days ago  
15 with an outbreak of strikes and riots.  
16 And these were caused by hard times.  
17 According to the new Literary Digest, the  
18 labor disturbances in the Spanish cities  
19 are just another troublesome angle of  
20 the world wide business depression. But  
21 when strike riots began, they soon took a  
22 political slant. ~~political~~ agitators who  
23 are for a republic and against King Alfonso,  
24 took advantage of the trouble and tried  
25 to turn it into a revolutionary movement.

The Digest article points out that the Spaniards are getting ready for an election in January, the first election they have had in eight years.

I suppose you've long ago heard how the football ~~ex~~ games came out. But in case you have missed them I'll reel off a few.

Cornell trounced the University of Pennsylvania 13 to 7.

Colgate 27 - Brown 7.

Syracuse walloped Columbia 19 to 7.

Oregon State and West Virginia tied.

Pittsburgh 19 - Penn. State 12.

St. Mary's 7 - Oregon 6.

Tennessee 8 - Kentucky 0.

Texas 26 - Texas Ag. 0.

Alabama 13 - Georgia 0.

Tulane 12 - Louisiana 0.

Florida 55 - Georgia Tech. 7.

Utah 41 - Utah Ag. 0.

Notre Dame and Washington State )  
Alabama and Utah ) unbesten.

## EARTHQUAKE

In Japan, some 30,000 people haven't as much to be thankful for as the most of us. Their homes have been destroyed by that earthquake. Relief workers are still searching through the ruins of towns and villages in Central Japan. Airplanes flew over the devastated regions to find the localities where the destruction was worst, and also to supervise detachments of Japanese soldiers who were rushed out to do relief work. Press cables place the total number of dead at 300, and the injured at 500.

Talking about people who have no reason to be thankful --

1 Here's a Scotsman tore up two five dollar  
2 bills. There's a news item that would  
3 attract anyone's attention. The New  
4 York Times assures us that it really  
5 happened. Who was the Scotsman? Why *he*  
6 ~~he~~ was Sandy McNeil, skipper of the  
7 Mauretania -- the man who saved that  
8 shipwrecked crew in mid-ocean last week.  
9 Here's how it happened:- Captain Sandy  
10 McNeil came back to his ship with his  
11 pockets full of clippings about that  
12 ocean rescue. But this hero stuff means  
13 so little to him he didn't bother to  
14 read them. He tore them into little bits  
15 and threw them away -- and then dis-  
16 covered he'd torn up ten dollars along  
17 with the clippings.

18 "To tear up ten dollars is un-  
19 lucky for anyone", said Captain Sandy  
20 McNeil, "but for a Scotsman to do it,  
21 hoot mon, that's terrible." -- *and*  
22 *unbelievable.*  
23  
24  
25

# BURIED TREASURE

1 Here's one of the strangest stories  
2 I've seen in a long time. Out in Los  
3 Angeles a writer is suing a convict.  
4 He wants damages for the loss of five  
5 years of his life. He wasted the five  
6 years in hunting buried treasure.

7 The convict is known as Bluebeard  
8 Watson. Ten years ago Watson was given a  
9 life sentence for doing away with one of  
10 his twenty-five wives. He boasted that  
11 of the twenty-five wives, he had polished  
12 off sixteen. Five years ago ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> writer *named*  
13 Hill, while on a visit to the prison,  
14 met Bluebeard Watson, and the convict  
15 told the writer that he had buried a  
16 fortune of \$87,000, which he had got from  
17 his victims. He told where the money  
18 was. The writer went searching for it.  
19 He searched for it for ~~ix~~ five years. *But*  
20 ~~the~~<sup>he</sup> never found it. ~~the~~ Now he is  
21 suing the convict for \$25,000 - damages  
22 for those five years he wasted in that  
23 useless hunt.  
24  
25

1           In Mexico a lot of people are  
2 hunting African lions, Burmese elephants,  
3 and Himalayan bears today. That sounds  
4 impossible, I know. But you see a circus  
5 train near Guadalajara jumped the track,  
6 and a number of people were killed. A  
7 tank car~~s~~ full of gasoline caught fire,  
8 and blew up. Soon the coaches were  
9 ablaze. The cars with the wild animals  
10 were shattered. Some of the wild beasts  
11 were killed. Others escaped. According  
12 to the United Press, several lions  
13 started out on a cross-country dash, and  
14 maddened elephants and bears went  
15 tearing through the smaller town of  
16 Guadaloupe, wrecking everything in their  
17 path. Hunting parties, with all kinds of  
18 guns, have been organized and are now  
19 scouring the hills for the animals.  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

# DANCING

*Ohio,*

1           Out at Painsville, ^ they're having  
2 a dancing marathon. Oscar Pronto is  
3 out on the floor shuffling a long, and  
4 <sup>Oscar</sup> ~~is~~ has a bad tooth. A doctor has told  
5 him that the tooth will have to be  
6 pulled right away. Did the doctor's  
7 verdict put Oscar out of the running -  
8 or rather out of the dancing? Not by  
9 a jugful. <sup>The International News Service tells us</sup> He's having that tooth  
10 pulled out right there on the dance  
11 floor. And he's going to be dancing  
12 while <sup>the</sup> tooth is being yanked. I suppose  
13 the dentist will be his dancing partner.

14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 Near Morristown, New Jersey, three  
2 railroad linemen were stringing wires  
3 from a platform mounted on a handcar.  
4 Suddenly they saw the New York express  
5 rounding a curve. There was no time to  
6 get that handcar off the tracks. Those  
7 linemen just made one leap to a network  
8 of wires, and <sup>then</sup> worked their way, hand over  
9 hand, to the cross arms of a telegraph  
10 pole twenty feet away. The train hit  
11 their hand-car, and splintered it into  
12 kindling wood. The linemen shinnied  
13 down the telegraph pole, ~~mighty thankful~~  
14 ~~to be alive.~~ And they unanimously  
15 voted that they had plenty to be thankful for.  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25



1 It is never very difficult for a  
2 traveler to remember where he spends a  
3 holiday. He usually devotes part of it  
4 to wishing that he were home in America  
5 with his family. In 1917 I was with the  
6 Italian Army and had just come from the  
7 Front. ~~an Italian officer, xxx~~ <sup>a</sup> Major  
8 Tots<sup>i</sup>, ~~the famous portrait painter,~~ was  
9 with me. He had been in America and  
10 wanted to arrange some special way of  
11 celebrating Thanksgiving. We traveled  
12 most of the day on a troop train and  
13 at dark ~~x~~ arrived in the City of Bologna.  
14 The lights were out because of the fear  
15 of air raids. We could only find one  
16 restaurant open. It was one of those  
17 meatless days too. But when we explained  
18 to the waiter that it was an important  
19 holiday and that we wanted to celebrate,  
20 he winked and in a little bit came back  
21 with a special dish for us consisting  
22 of a platter of fried eggs, but ~~x~~ the  
23 eggs were only camouflaged. Hidden  
24 underneath the <sup>se</sup> eggs were delicious  
25 steaks.

Then we prowled around the streets looking for a place to sleep. There wasn't a room to be had in a hotel. But an officer directed us to a building which looked like a palace. We banged the heavy knocker and the caretaker came to the door with a lantern. We explained what we wanted, and he said there was only one place in the palace where he could put us and that was in a tiny bathroom. Major ~~Topsi~~ curled up on the floor and I slept in the tub and that was the way we celebrated that Thanksgiving Day.

END

Thanksgiving is a great day for the poets. Hi Phillips, the famous humorist who conducts the Sun Dial column of the New York Sun, bursts forth with a string of verses which he calls "Thanksgiving Meditation." Maybe a few of the verses would make an appropriate ending for tonight. Here they are:

Well this Thanksgiving  
I am glad  
For lots of things  
That weren't so bad.

I'm thankful, and  
I'd have you note,  
That I was not  
A Lipton boast;  
And I give thanks  
In strident tones  
That I did not  
Play Bobby Jones

I'm glad that I  
Did not, oh man!  
Campaign as a  
Republican:  
With gratitude  
I deeply thrill  
That I don't rule

In far Brazil;  
And this I think  
Is also true  
Of Chile, Spain  
And of Peru;

And I give thanks --  
As who should not? --  
By racketeers

I was not shot:  
And this, too, cheers  
Me much, for sooth;  
Against West Point  
I was not Booth!

Well, Hi, as a Thanksgiving rhymster is quite some  
pumpkins.

That poem's good,  
That poem's fine.  
And now I think  
I'll add a line.

I hope for you  
The day's been bright.  
So long until  
Tomorrow night.