

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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INTRO

There certainly is a lot of variety in the news tonight. It comes from all kinds of places, and is about all kinds of things: -- A forest fire in California, an earthquake in Italy, a billion dollars to be spent for unemployment in the United States, head hunters still on a rampage in Formosa, a royal christening in England, and a dark political plot in Greece.

## EARTHQUAKE

Let's begin with the earthquake over in Italy. It was quite serious but not so bad as that great earthquake disaster several months ago. The latest reports are that there are about 50 dead. The United Press wires that the shock was felt all through Central Italy, and down the coast of the Adriatic. The people who lost their lives in the earthquake were inhabitants of the town of Sinigaglia, which I find on the new Funk and Wagnalls atlas is about 150 miles south of Venice. 4 dead are also reported at the important seaport of Ancona, a few miles still farther south. There was a noise like a terrific explosion, immediately followed by the shaking of the earth.

A late flash that has just come in from the International News Service adds that a huge tidal wave struck Ancona, demolished the hospital there, and battered an American freighter against the pier. Well, on the other side of the world from Italy, there's another catastrophe.

## FIRE

That California fire I told about last night is still out of control, according to an Associated Press dispatch, and eight men have been killed and twenty injured in fighting the flames. The fire is near Ventura, California. It swept down from the forest and has invaded four oil fields where the black derricks are going up like torches. Two thousand people are fighting it. All the unemployed men for miles have been rounded up to battle the flames, and even the jails have been emptied to provide additional fighters.

There's a conflagration over in Greece too, but its political.

GREECE

Fourteen army officers and a number of civilians have been arrested. They've been trying to overthrow the government at Athens, and want to reinstate the regime of ex-premier Pangalos. A dispatch from London to the International News Service says that officials of the government have fled from the city of Athens, and today the affairs of the Greek government are being run from outside the capital. It looks threatening.

In England, on the other hand, politics have quieted down somewhat.

BALDWIN

Stanley Baldwin won out as leader of the Conservative party. The Associated Press says that the voting took place at a private session of the Conservative members of Parliament. Baldwin's forces rallied to his support and turned in an overwhelming majority of 460 to 116, about four to one.

Over here on this side of the ocean the newspapers are jammed with politics, the business situation, and unemployment.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Let's take unemployment. A billion dollars is being thrown into the struggle against it. That huge sum is being spent on projects to give men jobs. The Pacific Coast leads with an expenditure of 475 millions. The Middlewest is next. Then the South. And last the East.

In the new Literary Digest there's an article that tells us just what all this unemployment relief means. There's one thing I especially like about the article. It gives figures and economic facts, and that's all very well, but it also tells some human interest stories about the intimate side of unemployment relief. I particularly enjoyed reading those brief bits about how happy Joe was when he got a job again after being idle for months, and how tickled Jake's wife was when they gave Jake a job.

American business may be having some temporary difficulty, but in many directions it is progressing remarkably. For example:

U. S. IN GER.

America's industrial penetration of Germany seems to be proceeding at great speed. According to the International News Service there are 80 American-owned branch factories, 135 American sales organizations and 1,200 agencies of American firms in Germany. The total American investments in Germany, both permanent and short-term, including loans, are estimated at \$3,000,000,000.

It's a far cry from modern industry to those head hunters in Formosa - but that's the way the news goes.

## HEAD HUNTERS

The Aborigines of the island are now reported to have massacred 86 Japanese, cut off their heads, and taken them away as trophies. 36 children suffered the same fate. And now the Japanese have sent an expedition of more than a thousand picked soldiers to wipe out the head hunters, and a squadron of bombing planes is flying over the mountains of Formosa to drop a few explosive eggs on the heads of those head hunters.



YOKUM

Well, there's a man hunt on in Illinois. The other night I told you about the kidnapping of Earl Yokum, that wealthy banker out in Galva, Illinois. He was held for a \$50,000 ransom. Mrs. Yokum paid, her husband was released, and they both refuse to talk or ask help from the police. But there's a new development in the case. Last night the police encountered three suspicious men. They were in an auto and the police suspected they were after the final instalment of the ransom. When they tried to arrest the trio, they buzzed off in their car at high speed, but they wrecked the car in their haste and ducked into the woods just ahead of the police. And now the man hunt is on.

In the meantime somebody phoned Yokum's house demanding another \$10,000. in cash. They said if they didn't get it they would bomb the Yokum home. So fifty of the banker's fellow townsmen, armed with shotguns, policed the grounds all night and flood lights were installed on the lawns.

The Associated Press has just phoned us a bulletin to the effect that one of the kidnapers has been caught and has

confessed to the whole plot. His name is Verne Algren. He says that after capturing the banker they held him prisoner in a hunting lodge fifty miles away from his home. The police now expect to round up the whole kidnaping ring.

## AVIATOR

Here's a fantastic story about a woman aviator who saved her life by singing and dancing. It comes in an International News Service cable from London. The woman aviator is the Honorable Mrs. Victor Bruce. She has been making a solo flight from England to Japan, and she sends back word of one of her adventures.

Mrs. Bruce had to make a forced landing in the wild country of Baluchistan, and the first thing she knew, she was surrounded by Baluchi tribesmen. One of the Baluchis began to do a sword dance and by his movements she gathered that she was expected to follow him and dance a bit too. Out in Baluchistan all the women are veiled. Any unveiled woman must surely be a dancing girl. The wild fellows wanted to be entertained. So the English woman aviatrix obliged them. She danced, and then she sang too. Her songs were strange to Baluchi ears, but evidently they liked them. They made her sing some more. Mrs. Bruce sang and sang until she had gone through her whole repertoire. The show must have been a success because

the fierce tribesmen got help for Mrs. Bruce, and she was able to repair her plane and take off for troubled India.

## INDIA

The Scripps Howard Newspapers of America are printing an interesting story tonight on the Indian situation. It comes from my old pal, Webb Miller. We were cub reporters together in Chicago fifteen years ago. Webb is now one of the star foreign correspondents with the United Press. He has recently returned from India and wires a dispatch from London to the effect that radicals in India appear to be on the verge of abandoning Gandhi's non-cooperation scheme and adopting methods of violence and terror instead.

From Delhi, India, comes the news that the police have just discovered quantities of acids and other materials for making explosives and bombs. A police officer in Calcutta was lucky enough to be out of his room when the building was wrecked by a bomb. An unsuccessful attempt has been made on the life of the British governor of the Punjab.

The United Press states that during the past year 21,000 persons died in India from snake bite. There are three particularly deadly snakes in India, the green Russell's viper,

the krat Kipling tells about in his jungle books, and the picturesque hooded cobra. The krat sometimes crawls in through the drain pipes and it is a good idea to take a look in your bath tub in the morning before you jump in. I had a Russell's viper strike at me once when I was examining rather closely some of the weird images on the famous Black Pagoda.

NEWS ITEM

My mother-in-law picked the News Item of the Day.

It's a story that she saw in the New York Evening Post about the christening of a baby. Of course, all babies are interesting, but because our birth is something over which we have so little control it is doubly interesting when a baby is born a prince or a princess. The baby christened today was Princess Margaret Rose of York.

The event took place at Buckingham Palace in London. That eminent dignitary, the head of the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury, did the christening. Yes, that's interesting. But just listen to this:-- The news dispatch tells us that Princess Margaret wore the same christening robe of lace and silk that was worn by another royal baby who grew up to be one of the most famous persons who has lived in the past hundred years -- I mean Queen Victoria. And this little Princess of York stands a chance of being a queen herself, for she is fourth in the line of direct succession to the throne of England. The Prince of Wales is first, the Duke of York second, little Princess Elizabeth third, and this baby fourth.

OLD MAN

The other evening I told about a woman who was very old and had a huge number of children and grandchildren. And now Mr. W. F. McClellan writes to tell me about Lee Hall, a Confederate Veteran of 84 years. He had 19 children, and he says he lost count of his grandchildren when the count reached a hundred. He has forty five great grandchildren, and I suppose he'll lose count of them before long.

And here's a young chap who has lost all enthusiasm for the fairer sex.



## BANDIT

A young man held up a hosiery shop in New York the other day. The only person in the shop was a pretty blonde. The bandit tied her to a chair and made off with \$30 from the cash register. But even hold-up men can fall in love at first sight. Next day Orman, the bandit, phoned the girl, and then began sending her gifts. She notified the police and they told her to keep kidding him along. Finally Orman asked her for a date. He got it - but the detectives also got him. His sweetie tipped 'em off. It turned out that the robber had stopped on his way to rob a bookshop of \$65 so he could show the girl a big time. According to the New York Evening Telegram Orman says this love at first sight business is all horsefeathers.

PISA

By the way, that leaning tower of Pisa, just about the most famous building in the world because of the way it slants, keeps leaning more and more. But some gentlemen over in Italy say they are going to put a stop to it. It leans about a quarter of an inch more every two years. But Italian engineers say they have found a way to inject something into the ground under the tower that will make it so hard that the tipping will stop. So maybe the leaning tower of Pisa isn't going to fall over after all.

POPE

The Associated Press informs us that an American telephone company has just manufactures a special telephone for the use of the Pope in Rome. It was presented to him in Rome today by a special representative of the American firm that made it for the Vatican. It is made of pure gold, set with mother-of-pearl, and engraved with the Pope's coat of arms.

Let's spin the globe and hope all the way around it again for a final item or two.

## BEARS

Up in Vancouver, in British Columbia, Archie McGregor was driving his team along a ledge on a mountain road. There was a steep drop on the down side. Two bears, locked in each other's clutches and fighting, suddenly rolled down the cliff. They hit the team and horses, and over the ledge went the wagon and McGregor. The bears rolled on down the mountain, still fighting, and McGregor and his horses landed in some treetops. According to the New York Evening World, McGregor walked two miles for an axe, cut his horses free, and continued his journey without bothering to see what had happened to the bears. Curious that, but listen to this:-

QUADRUPED

Here's a new way to keep from growing old. The scheme is going to be tried over in Italy by an American, named Park Hammar from St. Louis, a retired manufacturer who is sixty-six years old, a bachelor, and wealthy. Three others are going to try it with him. They are a Russian and two English ladies. The four are meeting in Genoa, Italy, says the United Press, and for six months they will live as primitive man did, eating nothing but fruits and raw vegetables. They will sleep on logs and live largely in the sunshine, and walk on all fours instead of upright. Mr. Hammar expects to prove that six months of this life will make a new person out of you. I wonder what would happen if now that I've finished telling you the news - if I started off down Fifth Avenue on all fours? Maybe I'll try it - or maybe I won't. Goodnight !