Lowell Thomas Broadcast for Literary Digest Wednesday, July 28, 1931

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Good Evening, Everybody:

A bit of news with a wild and woolly sound comes from China. tonights.

The revolutionary government at Canton announces that it has received a telegram from the military governor of Manchuria. He states that he is talking in behalf of General Chiang Kai-shek, the President of the National st Government of China.

The gist of the telegram is that General Chiang Kai-shek is willing to resign the presidency - on one condition, and this condition is that all of the Chinese parties get together, form a government, and declare war on Japan. But that a startling proposal.

Chiang proposes that all the provinces of China unite in mobilizing half a million men on the border of Korea. The idea is for these half a million men to start military operations against Japan. And Chiang wants to be commander in chief of the Chinese army in that war against the armies of the Illikedo The Associated Press in

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In London today American Secretary - of - State Stimson had a session with the newspaper men. He declared that the conference to help Germany is making real progress. He thought that the proceedings might be finished off tomorrow.

There was in Secretary Stimson's statement one hint of the international line-up. He emphasized that the United States and Great Britain were looking at things in the same way.

And the Associated Press interprets this as meaning that France is a bit out of step with the two English-speaking nations.

The New York Evening Post prints a cable from Berlin
which states that German financial authorities and also American
financiers in Germany don't think that President Hoover's latest
plan is sufficient. The President's proposal was that the other
nations should give German industrial and financial concerns a
bit more time in which to pay their debts. And this is the plan
which is not considered quite enough to pull Germany out of the
desperate hole in which she finds herself.

Meanwhile, those statesmen in London are wrestling with

all sorts of intricate technicalities concerning budgets and credits and all the rest of those thorny puzzles of international commerce.

Now for a short bit about selling short. President Hoover you'll recall, came out with a blast denouncing the speculators, especially the speculators in wheat who make it a business to sell short. The President declared that he didn't want to say anything about the ethics of the matter in ordinary times, but right now short selling is downright unpatriotic. It tends to cut down prices and make life harder for the farmer whose life right now is hard enough.

In the new Literary Digest that comes out tomorrow, there's an illuminating article about those strong words which the President had to say to the speculators in wheat. The Digest editors take pains to tell us just what short selling is.

Well, as the Philadelphia Public Ledger explains, it's selling something you haven't got. A speculator may sell you thousands of bushels of wheat, when he doesn't own a grain of wheat. He makes an iron-clad contract to deliver the wheat

to you at a certain price. When the time comes he has to go out and buy the stuff to satisfy the contract. If it costs him more than the price at which he has sold it to you, why, he loses money. But if wheat prices go down meanwhile, he pays less for the wheat than he gets from your. And that's where the profit comes in. And that's where the profit comes in. And the short-seller is naturally a bear. He wants prices to go down.

The Digest reminds us that there have been several attempts in Congress to stop short selling, and quotes the New York Times as saying that in the last Congress, and the one before it, and the one before that, bills were introduced to put an end to the practice. But the bills didn't go through.

On the other hand, the Literary
Digest quotes the Wall Street Journal as
pooh-poohing the idea that short selling
is such an evil. It is pointed out that
Liverpool is the international wheat
market and that wheat prices in the United

States are slightly higher than the Liverpool quotations.

And there is a general opinion that the trouble is we produce more wheat than we can consume and our prices are too high to enable us to sell our excess grain to foreign countrise.

Perhaps this is not a very sprightly subject but it's a mighty important one.

We've been having word on and off that something's wrong with the new cruisers that are being built by the United States Navy. The Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post gives us a but of information on the subject.

For one thing, those new cruisers the papers have told us about this roll too much. In any kind of a sea they lurch from side to side in a way that interferes with accurate gunfire. One ship rolled so badly that a top-mast was snapped off.

The officials of the Navy explain that this is because the cruisers are of a new design. It was impossible without actual tests of the vessels to tell how much they would roll. In fact, that they would do a bit of excessive lurching was expected and heeling over.

And the trouble can be corrected. It is being corrected. They're installing anti-roll tanks in those new cruisers and putting larger bilge keels on them. This will make them steadier.

Also it was found that five of the new cruisers had cracked stern posts. The contractors who did the building are responsible for that, and they are making good. The United Press reports that the naval experts are using radium to detect any further faults that may develop. It's emphasized that the trouble is not serious, and the new cruisers will be put into service. The first one, the Pensacola, will join the fleet on the first of August. The second, the Northhampton, will fly her colors no later than September 15th.

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There are still wild doings in sunny romantic Spain.

Strikes and Communist riots are going on. The Associated

Press gives the total casualties as fifteen.

of strikes. The International News Service reports that the authorities have ordered the Confederation of Labor to close up shop - at least for a while. They say the Labor officials have been playing too prominent a roll in stirring up strikes in the land of the Alhambra.

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and from down in Chile comes news

through the streets, of the sity of Santiago.

Chile has been having a lot of political complications of late. Three cabinets have been in power during the last two weeks. The third one was sworn in this morning at one o'clock, and it was this formation of the new cabinet that caused the rioting.

who are trying to persuade the ministers not to take office under the new Premier, Francisco Garcias Gana, and they used strong methods of persuation. They bombarded the city hall with stones, and then proceeded to the house of the new Minister of the Interior, and shouted and raised cain there. However, as the United Press tells us, the new government is in power, after a day of wild agitation.

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In India an attempt was made today to assassinate
the acting governor of Bombay - and that acting governor certainly
had one narrow escape. He is Sir John Hotson, and he was
inspecting Ferguson College at the time.

A young student walked up and fired two shots, point blank, at him with a revolver. One shot went wild, but the other was aimed with deadly accuracy. It hit the British official just above the heart but was stopped by a metal stud of a pocketbook. No harm was done. The student was arrested and, as the Associated Press tells us, the acting governor continued his inspection, his British calm unruffled.

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Well, I should have thought the flagpole sitting would have been enough. I mean the case of that college girl, Betty Fox, who sat 126 hours on top of a glagpole at Battle Creek, Michigan. That Co-ed established a new record for flagpole sitting. And as I say, x you'd think that that was enough.

But along comes the United Press and tells us that the college girl went right from the **g*** flagpole to the show-window of a department store. She went to bed in that show-window and slept on public display, while a big crowd stood watching.

She slept steadily for seventeen hours. At 9:36 this morning she woke up, rubbed her eyes, and treated the crowd to a bewitching smile, and the crowd roared with applause. Then she turned over and went to sleep again.

Last reports she was still snoozing.

well, I suppose it's a great performance, but what does it mean if anything.

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Ind now Mo, I don't blame the Chicago cops for being sore. They didn't join the force to be competted to figure out puzzles in cockney dialect.

A man was arrested in Chicago for 6 trying to cash a winning to lottery ticket that didn't belong to him. His 8 name was Sam Fine, and he had a ripe and rosy cockney accent. The police were inquiring about his record and forced him to admit that he had been in trouble with the law before.

"Were you ever convicted of a crime?" the cops demanded.

"Oh yes -- ripping," was the blithe cockney answer.

"What do you mean -- ripping?" growled the detectives.

"Bli'me -- I used an "old man', you know."

The United Press describes the faces of the cops as being puzzled and perplexed. The cockney went on explaining:

"An 'old man'," he chirped "--strike me pink -- an 'old man' is what you use to

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to do the ripping."

After much palaver the cops finally learned that in the cockney thieves! talk of London "ripping" me ans to tear off the combination of a safe and get what's inside. And old man" is the tool used to wrench off the combination.

In other words, the cockney was an old-time London crook who, even in Chicago, talked the lingo of Limehouse.

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Let's solve a mystery. What kind of a mystery? Well, a sea-serpent mystery.

story of a sea-serpent has spread among the residents along the Ohio Shore of Lake Erie. People said they saw a sea-serpent out on the Lake and they were laughed at and elected members of the Tail Story but the legend of the Lake Erie sea-serpent persisted. A number of people declared positively that they had seen the monster.

A solution of the puzzle comes in a story from the International News Service, which tells us that Clifford Wilson and Francis Bagentose were out xix fishing in a boat on Sandusky Bay. The boys nearly fell into the water when they saw the sea serpent, right beside their boat. Wilson moved fast and hit the critter over the head with an oar. The sea serpent rolled over on its back and Wilson hit it again. The sea serpent rolled over on its back and giant 18-foot snake. It seemed to be

dead and they hauled it into their boat and pulled for shore.

The sea serpent began to wiggle a bit. It was merely stunned. They put it in a box. And pretty soon the sea serpent was as lively as ever.

The curator of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History was called upon and he cast a scientific eye upon that seaserpent. He declared it was an East Indian python. That species of giant reptile doesn't occur anywhere within thousands of miles of Sandusky, Ohio, and how the big python got into Lake Erie to play the part of the sea serpent, well that's another mystery.

Some people called attention to the fact that we two big boa constrictors were stolen from the Toledo zoo several months ago and thought the sea serpent might be one of them. But the scientists are definite in saying that the Lake Erie sea serpent is not a boa constrictor, but an East Indian python.

And now let's have a real Tall Story.

The Tall Story Club this evening pays its homage to the science of medicine. The members of the truth-telling confraternity delight in paying honor to the noble self
EXX sacrificing physicians of our country. Some of them even pay their Doctor bills.

In this instance we have a bit of high and lofty tallstory telling in the Illinois Medical Journal. This exceedingly
scientific publication tells us of a hen that would hatch out
anything from a tennis ball to a lemon. Why, one day that hen
sat on a piece of ice and hatched out 2 quarts of hot water.

In another case a hen was fed m on a diet of sawdust.

That old barnyard bird ate sawdust day after day. She laid

12 eggs, and when she hatched them 11 of the chicks had wooden

legs, and the 12th was a woodpecker.

That's the way tall-story telling flourishes among the doctors.

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I guess I ought to use nothing but short words right now, for this bit of news tells of short names.

At Coldwater, Michigan, was a man who claimed he had the shortest name in the country. He was H. P. Re -- R-e. Well, that short-named man died several days ago, and ever since a contest has been on to decide who should succeed Mr. Re as the possessor of the shortest name.

Here are a few of the early entries, as given by the United Press.

S. Uva -- U-v-a; G. Utz -- U-t-z; and A. Utt -- U-t-t. All these citizens of Chicago. And there was Finn Ax -- A-x -- of Indianapolis, Indiana.

short names came along: Ed Py -- P-y -- who is in jail in Newcastle, Indiana;
C. Au -- A-u, of Clinton, lowa; J. Ur -- U-r -- and C. Ek -- E-k -- of Duluth,

Minnesota.

Well, those names certainly sound pretty short. But imagine the

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consternation of the competitors when along came Mr. A. A., of Chicago. His full name is Aaron A. How do you spell the last name of Mr. A? Why A! Just A.

That single-letter name seemed certain to win the prize, and they were ready to crown the short-name champion when somebody threw a bomb-shell by entering a name which tied Mr. A for the honors.

The fact was dug up that a Chinese medical student once lives in Baltimore, and his last name consisted of the *** letter I. Mr. I was graduated from John Hopkins in 1925 and now is in China, a member of the health service of the Chinese government.

And so the short-name championship is divided between Mr. A. and Mr. I. And I suppose the next thing will be to hold a competition to find the man who has the longest name.

Well, in the news tonight we've had short selling, and short names, and just to be in harmony I'll now cut it short -- and say:-

So LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.