

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1931

COLORADO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

A peculiar mix-up is on in Colorado and it may turn out to be a troublesome mix-up. Farmers are preparing to defend their land. Against whom? Well, against homesteaders, people who want to walk in and take possession.

The cause of all of this is a Government ruling which has just been given out. It affects a huge tract of land, most of it in Weld County, in the heart of the rich beet-sugar farming section of the state.

These fields are now occupied by farmers who have been cultivating them for years. But the new Government decision declares that those acres are public domain and may be taken by homesteaders. All they have to do is just settle down and the land is theirs.

Yes, that does seem to be a mix-up and it is explained by the Associated Press in the following way:

In 1867 the Union Pacific Railroad and its subsidiaries

received

1 a great land grant. The Government  
2 turned over <sup>thousands of square miles</sup> ~~the land~~ to the railroad  
3 for the development of communications.

4 And now it has been discovered  
5 that the railroad received 20,000 acres  
6 too much. It got those 20,000 acres in  
7 <sup>Colorado</sup> and wasn't entitled to them.

8 And so, says the Government  
9 decision, all that land legally reverts  
10 back to the United States and becomes  
11 public domain.

12 Meanwhile, years ago, the  
13 railroad sold the land to farmers.  
14 They hadn't any idea that the <sup>company</sup> ~~railroad~~  
15 wasn't entitled to it. They went ahead  
16 and cultivated the fields, and all this  
17 time believed that the land was theirs.

18 Yes, that makes it a peculiar  
19 situation. The farmers don't intend to  
20 give up their <sup>property.</sup> ~~lands~~. At the same time  
21 homesteaders are swarming out that way  
22 to take possession. And that's going to  
23 cause many a quarrel and argument.

24 Legal experts believe that the  
25 farmers can go to Court and have their

1 claims to the land legally established.  
2 But meanwhile, until a Court decision  
3 can be handed down they are going to  
4 have trouble in keeping the homesteaders  
5 off of those acres that have been  
6 declared public domain.

7 Well, this sounds like  
8 something of the old story, in Colorado.  
9 in former days the State witnessed  
10 plenty of ugly trouble between the  
11 settlers who occupied the land and the  
12 type of intruder known as the claim  
13 jumper. In many cases legal titles  
14 weren't so good and the claim-jumper  
15 was somebody who tried to take advantage  
16 of a faulty title and claim the land for  
17 himself.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 That mix-up, tangle, and  
2 all-round muddle in Louisiana is getting  
3 more mixed-up, tangled and muddled all  
4 the time. There are now three  
5 gentlemen who claim to be the Governor  
6 of the <sup>fair state of alligators, bayous, and old Creole</sup>  
~~state~~ <sup>life.</sup> ^

7 The affair is so complicated  
8 that they say the old Mississippi River  
9 is a bit dizzy.

10 The latest governor in the  
11 field is Walter L. Aldrich, a plain  
12 citizen of Shreveport. Would-be-  
13 Governor Aldrich is a bill-collector.  
14 No, he has never been elected. He has  
15 never even tried to be elected. ~~Well,~~  
16 what ~~xxx~~ makes him Governor? Well,  
17 Bill-Collector Aldrich explains it this  
18 way.

19 The United Press quotes him  
20 as saying that the row between the other  
21 claimants for the Governor's chair has  
22 created a condition according to which  
23 the Governorship has been abandoned.  
24 It's just abandoned property.

25 Now the ~~xxx~~ law of the land is

1 such that abandoned property belongs to  
2 the first one who ~~xxxxxx~~ comes along and  
3 claims it. Bill-Collector Aldrich is  
4 loudly doing his claiming, and  
5 consequently that makes him Governor. *Maybe!*

6 He put in his claim in a very  
7 simple way. He just went to a notary  
8 public in Shreveport and asked the  
9 notary ~~public~~ to administer the  
10 Governor's oath. The notary public did,  
11 and that's how Bill-Collector Aldrich  
12 had himself sworn in as Governor of the  
13 ancient and historic Commonwealth of  
14 Louisiana.

15 Meanwhile the quarrel between  
16 the two more serious claimants is growing  
17 more and more bitter. They are abusing  
18 each other with quantities of hard names.

19 Huey Long who has been Governor  
20 for some time is holding the fort in the  
21 State Capitol.

22 The conflicting argument <sup>on one side is</sup> ~~seemed~~  
23 ~~to be~~ <sup>that</sup> since Governor Long has been elected  
24 Senator he can't be Governor any longer.  
25 He can't at the same time be Chief

1 Executive of the State and the  
2 representative of the State in the Senate.

3 And so the Lieutenant Governor,  
4 Doctor Paul Cyr, claims that he has  
5 automatically become Governor.

6 But ~~Governor~~<sup>Hevey</sup> Long argues to the  
7 contrary that he has not yet been formally  
8 be inducted into the United States Senate  
9 and until he has been, why he's still  
10 Governor.

11 Meanwhile nobody in Louisiana  
12 knows whom to obey, although a lot of  
13 people have strong opinions on the subject.

14 Louisiana has long been famous  
15 for its cotton crop and now it has a  
16 real record-breaking bumper crop of  
17 Governors, three of them, and that's  
18 plenty Governors for any state.  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 I don't suppose the Chicago  
2 school children are going to worry  
3 terribly about this next bit of news.  
4 But there may be a strike of school  
5 teachers in the windy city.

6 The Associated Press explains  
7 that this is just another angle of  
8 Chicago's financial tangle and muddle  
9 over taxes. The city can't pay the school  
10 teachers. They have been without their  
11 salaries for some time, fourteen  
12 thousand of them, and they haven't any  
13 definite ideas as to just when they  
14 will get paid. They haven't received  
15 any money since last spring, but have  
16 been paid with script, that is, engraved  
17 sheets of paper which merchants have been  
18 willing to accept in payment for goods.

19 Well, the teachers seem to be  
20 tired of it. At a meeting of four  
21 thousand of them ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> high school  
22 instructor got up and said they might  
23 as well go on strike. And the proposal  
24 was received with loud cheer<sup>s</sup>.

25 I should think it would

1 put the city in a bad tangle if there  
2 were a school teachers strike, but ~~as~~ maybe  
3 ~~I said, I don't suppose~~ the kids wouldn't  
4 shed any copious tears over that.

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25



1 Here's a fascinating headline for  
2 an article - What the Next Boom Will  
3 Be Like. Well, that topic is one to  
4 make any of us sit up and think.

5 The article is in the new  
6 Literary Digest which came out today.  
7 It discusses what the coming upgrade  
8 of business is going to be like. It  
9 ~~xxxx~~ compares the boom of 1927 with  
10 the next one.

11 And there's some shrewd  
12 reasoning by Elmer Davis, the writer, ~~of~~ ~~of~~  
13 ~~that article~~ It takes up the present  
14 state of things, the present state of  
15 the public mind, and from that figures  
16 out a few probable facts about the next  
17 boom. The Digest quotes from Harpers  
18 Magazine and gives us a clear picture  
19 of the reasonings by which the writer  
20 arrives at his conclusions. Some of  
21 those conclusions are that the next <sup>up-surge</sup> ~~boom~~  
22 <sup>of prosperity</sup> will be a commodities boom. People  
23 are going to buy things they can use.  
24 There'll be a tremendous business in  
25 automobiles, jewelries, furs and so on.

1                    There'll be a <sup>huge</sup> ~~tremendous~~ amount  
2 of travel <sup>to</sup> Florida, California, <sup>New England, Canada,</sup> Cuba,  
3 ~~and~~ Europe <sup>and so on.</sup> The business of the  
4 railroads will swell. There'll be  
5 much leisure and much vacation and  
6 people will rush to buy the things they  
7 want.

8                    There's wealth enough in the  
9 country for that right now, and all  
10 that is necessary is for the ball to  
11 start rolling.

12                    It's always fascinating to try  
13 to peep <sup>based</sup> into the future, and by logical  
14 reasoning <sup>^</sup> on the way things are, ~~to~~ try  
15 to figure out the way things are going  
16 to be. And I don't know of any more  
17 interesting instances of this sort of  
18 thing than that article in the new  
19 Literary Digest.

1                   They are having a ghost-hunt  
2 at Cloquet, Minnesota. Last night a  
3 thousand persons gathered at an Indian  
4 cemetery four miles away from the city and  
5 they watched for the ghost. And I suppose  
6 tonight the crowd is on the job again.

7                   Nine days ago an Indian woman  
8 was buried in that cemetery, and right  
9 afterward two Indian men reported that they  
10 saw a ghostly phenomenon--two lights  
11 somewhat like the headlights of an  
12 automobile. The lights rose from the  
13 ground and then turned red. Then they  
14 fluttered away in the darkness.

15                   Other witnesses, says the ~~XXX~~  
16 Associated Press, claim they have seen the  
17 same strange sight.

18                   It's got the whole countryside  
19 excited, ~~xxx~~ with crowds of people ~~xxx~~ out on  
20 the trail of the ghost.

21

22

23

24

25

(b)

1 Down in Mexico City they had  
2 a shake-up in the Government today.  
3 Four ministers resigned and four new ones  
4 were appointed in their stead.

5 The International News Service  
6 names General Calles, Mexico's Iron Man,  
7 as one of the new Ministers that have just  
8 taken office.

9 The reason for the change is  
10 said to be the fact that the former  
11 ministers were squabbling among themselves.  
12 They couldn't agree. They were just  
13 having one argument after another.

14 General Calles, the Iron Man,  
15 who as a mere common citizen was looking  
16 on, suggested that the boys stop the  
17 bickering and quarreling. He said if  
18 they didn't he'd have to join the  
19 cabinet.

20 And that's what has happened,  
21 with some of the ministers stepping out  
22 and General Calles among those who are  
23 stepping in. Calles has a tremendous  
24 influence in Mexico---that's the answer.  
25 And the Associated Press makes

1 the comment that former President Calles  
2 has emerged once more as the dominant  
3 figure in Mexican politics.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 From Madrid comes word of an  
 2 attempt to form a compromise in the  
 3 religious dispute that is agitating Spain.

4 The compromise, as given by the  
 5 International News Service, is a proposal  
 6 that the State shall support the clergy  
 7 for two years. After that period the  
 8 clergy will be required to provide for  
 9 their own support.

10 Spain has always worked under an  
 11 agreement with the Vatican that the  
 12 government should pay salaries to the  
 13 clergy of the country. This state of  
 14 things, of course, was nullified when the  
 15 Spanish Cortes put an article into the  
 16 new constitution of Spain, an article  
 17 which separated Church and State.

18 Meanwhile, a new government is  
 19 on the job in Madrid after the resignation  
 20 of President Zamora yesterday. His  
 21 Minister of War, Senor Azana, succeeded  
 22 him as Provisional President.

24  
 25

4

1 (The council of the League of  
2 Nations voted this afternoon to invite  
3 the United States to participate in the  
4 attempts to settle the quarrel in the  
5 Far East. The vote, says the  
6 International News Service, was 13 in  
7 favor of American participation, and one  
8 vote against.)

9 *And* The country that said NO was  
10 Japan.

11 The United Press has a cable from  
12 Tokyo which states that the Japanese  
13 government sent orders to its League  
14 representative to fight against the idea  
15 of having the United States take a hand  
16 in the attempt to settle things between  
17 China and Japan.

18 In casting his negative vote, the  
19 Japanese delegate explained that it was  
20 purely a matter of principle. He believed  
21 that American participation was <sup>contrary to</sup> ~~against~~  
22 the constitution of the League of Nations.  
23  
24  
25

## DIVING

It looks as though there might be a new era coming in the history of diving - that is, divers may be able to go down to depths that are impossible just now.

The United Press reports that a new fangled diving belt has been invented in Italy, and it enables the submarine explorer to be sent to a depth of 600 feet. In a test made in the Mediterranean the diver equipped with the new device was able to read the markings on his instrument at a depth of 540 feet.



## TALL STORY

I have an announcement to make this evening and it's about some grand doings that are scheduled to take place Saturday night.

It's to be a tall story banquet to celebrate the inauguration of the New York Chapter of the Tall Story Club. It will be held at the top the tallest building in the world. Yes, sir, a rare bunch of tall story tellers are going to be there, and some of them are going to get up and tell a few of the fanciest whoppers you ever heard.

Among those who will glorify the great American whopper by telling one are Jimmie Doolittle, the wizard aviator, Count Luckner the Sea Devil, Sir Hubert Wilkins the North Pole Explorer, Ripley, the man of Believe It or Not fame, General Robert Lee Bullard of World War fame, and M. H. Aylesworth of the National Broadcasting Company. And it's going to be a scream to hear those great personalities famous in books and exploration and the large affairs of the world, get up there and tell each one a favorite howling tall story.

Yes, and all of you folks are

(2)

1 invited to participate - by radio.  
2 The formation of the New York Chapter  
3 of the Tall Story Club is going to be  
4 put on the air in a country wide hook-up.  
5 The formal tall proceedings will begin  
6 at nine on Saturday evening and will  
7 continue to 9:30, Eastern Standard Time.  
8 All you'll have to do is tune in on the  
9 Tall Story Club banquet, and you will  
10 hear the way the distinguished celebrities  
11 of the New York Chapter can reel off  
12 whoppers.

13 ~~Don't forget. Let's get busy with~~  
14 ~~the dial and tune in at nine o'clock~~  
15 ~~Eastern Standard Time on this coming~~  
16 ~~Saturday evening, October 17th.~~

1 And by the way, <sup>here's a</sup> ~~let's have a~~  
 2 tall story from Australia <sup>on tonight's news dispatches,</sup>  
 3 <sup>It's from the New York Sun.</sup>

4 It appears that the primitive  
 5 aborigines of the great southern  
 6 continent have their own particular  
 7 type of whopper.

8 It tells about the Bunyip. The  
 9 aboriginal story tellers are fond of  
 10 spinning yarns about the Bunyip. It is  
 11 as big as a lion and has a peculiar  
 12 twisted body which enables it to writhe <sup>like</sup>  
 13 ~~as~~ a snake. It's as cunning as a fox  
 14 and as ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ferocious as a tiger.

15 Well, there's a Bunyip scare  
 16 on in the neighborhood of the Tantawonglox  
 17 mountains of New South Wales. A  
 18 mysterious animal has been prowling  
 19 around. It has terrified thousands of  
 20 people in the last few months. Some say  
 21 it's a Bunyip. They <sup>say</sup> ~~think they saw~~  
 22 ~~that~~ it looked like a lion and wiggled  
 23 like a snake. Others declare it's a  
 24 lion or tiger that has escaped from a  
 25 traveling zoo. Several hunts have been  
 organized to <sup>run</sup> ~~hunt~~ down this supposed

1 Bunyip, but they haven't been able to  
2 locate the crittur.

3 And hundreds of miles away,  
4 near Melbourne, <sup>adds</sup> ~~says~~ the New York  
5 Sun today, a mysterious animal has  
6 been killing poultry. Some think  
7 it's a native wild cat. Others  
8 believe it's a fox. But the old  
9 aboriginees have examined the evidences  
10 of the mysterious animal and they  
11 solemnly shake their <sup>shaggy</sup> ~~heads~~ and say it's  
12 a Bunyip.

13 Well, that's an interesting word -  
14 Bunyip. It might almost be an  
15 aboriginal salutation. In fact, it  
16 seems so much like <sup>one</sup> ~~that~~ that I'll just  
17 say Bunyip, and so long until tomorrow.  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25