

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1931

CHICAGO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Here's a cheery news item to start off with tonight. They're having big times in Chicago. It's a ten day celebration of what they call the city's renaissance. In other words, it's the all-Chicago-jubilee, a sort of joyous outburst against the rule of gangs.

According to the United Press Chicago is holding a series of demonstrations not against any king or ruler or former political government - but against gang government.

Today bands marched down Michigan Avenue playing "Happy Days are here again."

All this popular clamor is on account of the drive the new city officials are making for better government. Killer Burke, said to have been chief villain in the St. Valentine Garage massacre, has gone to prison. Six of his henchmen have been arrested and brought to Chicago. And all over civic, political and religious heads are saying that a new era has begun for the Windy City.

And so the people are doing a bit of good natured shouting.

Also there are a few things more important than shouts, more practical. For instance the organization of cleaners and dyers has sent word to Capone. According to the United Press report the cleaners and dyers have informed Scarface Al that his services as an organizer are no longer needed.

The Associated Press informs us that those same cleaners and dyers have come out with the statement that Capone had offered to run things for the cleaning and dying industry and wipe out competition. All he wanted was half of their annual profits. They claim that Capone threatened them, saying:

"Either you accept my protection or I'll take charge of the cleaning and dying business anyway. "

But just the same they have refused. The cleaners and dyers say the new city administration has promised to protect them. And so they've turned down Capone's proposition. And that means more than the shouts of the populace and the bands along Michigan Avenue.

STUDENT

A lot of sociologists and experts on crime are going a bit of thinking this evening trying to figure out an explanation for the big crime story of the day in New York.

There is another sensation on Manhattan's crime's list. The man who was put "on the spot" this time was the eloquent college graduate who talked his way out of Sing Sing recently. There seemed to be no reason why a young man of his calibre should drift into the under-world. He was of a fine and educated family. He had all the schooling that colleges could give him, so it is said, and a brilliant university career.

But, according to the Associated Press, he fell in with bad companions, was convicted of robbery and sent to Sing Sing. He was a mechanical expert. In fact they say he knew too much about mechanics to be a comfortable guest in prison. He was always devising clever ways of get through bars and bolts and doors, and the prison authorities caught him in a number of attempts to escape. But he studied law in prison and argued and talked his way out. The newspapers carried accounts of how the young academic wonder had prepared his own case, and argued it through the Courts and won his

freedom.

A good deal of sentimental interest was aroused by that and again they said that the former pride of campus life had a brilliant career before him.

Police thought differently. It was not long before they implicated him in a hold-up and he was held for trial. He was out on bail, and protested he was innocent. He was preparing another brilliant case for himself.

But that's all off now. The underworld took the case into its own hands. Somewhere perhaps there was some gangster grudge. A man met the former student and walked along the street with him, apparently putting him "on the spot". A car drove along,-- a burst of shotgun fire. The shotguns were loaded with slugs ---that's all. Just the old story of the brilliant young man who failed to use his talents as he might have used them.

1 During the next few weeks a lot
2 of whiskers are going to be seen on the
3 campus of the University of West
4 Virginia. Graduation Day is on June 9,
5 and a whole bunch of ~~other~~ graduates
6 of former classes are going to be there.
7 The boys of the 1931 class, ^{now in college,} want some
8 way to distinguish them ^{selves} from the
9 others and so they ^{we} decided to grow
10 whiskers. There will be black whiskers
11 and blond whiskers and red whiskers,
12 long whiskers, short whiskers, silken
13 whiskers, stubby whiskers.

14 The Associated Press informs
15 us that the class is enthusiastically
16 in favor of the whiskery plan. The
17 decision was almost unanimous, ^{— almost, but not quite.} There
18 was only one student who did not agree
19 to the idea of growing a beard, and
20 she's a girl.

21 And so on June 9th that 1931
22 class will parade ~~out~~ in a whole array
23 of whiskers; all except that one
24 lonesome co-ed ^{who is} ~~will~~ be smooth-faced
25 unless she decides to hire a beard
from a theatrical costumer.

1 A diplomatic treaty, a shaky,
2 wobbling bank--these are the elements
3 of the latest bit of international news
4 from Europe.

5 According to the New York Evening
6 Post word has been received from Rome
7 that ~~a~~ triangular trade agreement has been
8 made between Austria, Hungary and Italy.
9 The three countries are getting together
10 for the promotion of mutual trade between
11 themselves.

12 And right in the middle of it
13 is the shaky, wobbling bank. It's ~~is~~ a
14 big Austrian financial institution and
15 is said to need support right away.

16 Both Italy and France have been
17 trying to make a trade agreement with
18 Austria but the Government of Vienna
19 has been holding off. Now though, the
20 ~~unsteady~~ unsteady condition of that
21 bank has forced the hand of Austrian
22 **diplomacy**. They can't let their big
23 financial institution go tumbling and
24 they had to have help from somewhere.
25 They say that France offered mostly words

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but Mussolini offered something substantial and so Austria has had to turn to Italy and enter a trade agreement with the Governments of Rome and Budapest.

1 It appears that some of victims
2 of German atrocities during the War have
3 been found, ~~mean these baby killing~~
4 ~~atrocities~~. To date ten of the infant
5 victims, ^{supposedly made away with} ~~murdered~~, by the ferocious Huns
6 have come to life. They are grown up
7 now and some of them are married.

8 At any rate, the International
9 News Service cables this report from
10 Germany.

11 Ghastly tales were told of what
12 the Prussians had done, but the babies
13 were merely lost. They were eventually
14 found in good health. Two of them turned
15 up recently although they had been
16 registered as dead. They were supposed
17 to have been victims of the German
18 war-hate, but an inheritance case came up
19 and they were the heirs, so they appeared
20 in Court and testified.

21 One ~~of them~~ was a baby girl back
22 in 1914 but now she is married and has
23 a baby of her own.

24 The Germans naturally are pleased
25 at having these atrocities of theirs
appear in later years, alive and healthy.

SPAIN

The report tonight on Spain is that the government has the situation under control. Martial law has been clamped down in many parts of the country. According to the Associated Press

(conditions in Madrid this afternoon were back to normal, or nearly so.

But, while the government was restoring order in the capital the anti-clerical wave swept to other cities.

In nearly every other large town in Spain mobs raged through the streets today. In some places they overpowered the soldiers and then burned churches and other religious edifices. A more complete nation-wide check-up tonight shows that more than a score of church buildings have been destroyed by fire and ten more seriously damaged.

~~The United Press informs us that~~ an immense treasure in the form of works of art, has been destroyed in blazing churches and in bon fires built by the radical mobs in the streets.

But the new republican government claims to have the trouble largely under control tonight.

Premier Zamorra, blames both the Communists and the

monarchists. The Communists have been conducting a red revolutionary agitation. And the government declares that the monarchists have stirred up the people by an anti-republican movement. The government blames both extremes.

One prominent official of Madrid claims that King Alfonso was behind the monarchist plot and that this was the real cause of the uprising of the mobs and the burning of the churches.

A correspondent of the International News Service wires from Paris that King Alfonso through an official spokesman denies that he has been doing any plotting in Spain. The King states that he is deeply distressed by the recent outrages. He declares that he has been sitting quietly, merely watching the course of events.

PRINCE OF WALES

Well, if you want to sell goods, here's how. This bit of expert advice comes from the world's foremost travelling salesman, Great Britain's royal drummer, the Prince of Wales.

H.R.H. has come right up and told British business men the lessons he learned from his recent selling trip in South America. This one came out this afternoon.

According to the Associated Press, he tells the leaders of British business that they are far behind in the art of advertising

"Our foreign competitors, including our friends in North America," stated His Royal Highness, "advertise a great deal".

The Prince then added that many Englishmen are backward in realizing the importance of American advertising, and then the heir to the Throne of Great Britain resorted to a bit of American slang. Said he:- "the Americans get away with it by advertising -- they put their goods across."

Then the Prince explained that even in South America, the business man of Buenos Aires or Rio de Janeiro, as he walks around the city in which he lives, is confronted on every side with

attractive advertisements of American goods. And consequently they buy American goods, which adds the Prince of Wales, proves that IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE.

YSAYE

Newspapers everywhere tonight are reviewing the career of one of the great musicians of our time.

The famous violinist Ysaye has died and this brings to a close one of the really extraordinary musical careers of our generation. For half a century the distinguished Belgian musician was a veritable King of the Violin.

He made one world tour after another and everywhere his brilliant virtuosoship was greeted with acclaim. For four years, ending with 1922, he was a conductor of the Cincinnati ~~Symphony~~ Symphony Orchestra.

The United Press informs us that Ysaye had been in failing health for some time in Brussels. Queen Elizabeth of Belgium was a constant visitor to his sick-bed and now is the first to pay homage to his memory. The Queen reminds us of the glory of Ysaye, the famous Master of the Violin.

1 Here's a success story. It's
2 about the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

3 The Passion~~x~~ Play that was
4 given last year made money, in fact
5 plenty of money. The figures, which
6 have just been given out, are quoted by
7 the Literary Digest from the London
8 Evening Standard. The Digest tells
9 us that the total amount of money taken
10 in at the Passion Play was \$1,750,000.
11 Of this \$100,000 was realized from the
12 sale of programs, books, photographs and
13 picture postal cards. The heaviest
14 item of expense was for actors' salaries,
15 which came to \$570,000. Building
16 improvements, scenery and stage con-
17 struction cost \$250,000. and \$12,500.
18 was spent on costumes.

19 Yes, sir, the Passion Play was
20 a financial success. The committee had
21 a debt outstanding of \$400,000. This
22 was paid off and there's still ~~is left~~
23 a handsome profit.
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HOSPITAL DAY

Well, today is the anniversary of a number of interesting events. May 12th seems to be a rather cheery day in history. I looked up the list of things that have happened on May 12th and most interesting of all are a couple of marriages. - also May 12th was the birthday of some interesting people.

Seven hundred and forty years ago, in the year 1191, a gala wedding was celebrated in old England. The bravest knight in Christendom was married, one of the most celebrated kings of all time, with the splendor of medieval ceremony and surrounded by the barons of the English realm, Richard the Lion Hearted went to the altar with the fair Berengaria, the lady of that fair distant age after whom a great ocean liner of our time has been named.

And on May 12th, 1621 the first marriage among the Pilgrim Fathers was celebrated when Governor Winslow, married the Widow White.

As for birthdays, Rossetti, the famous English poet and painter, was born on May 12th, and so was Massenet, the French composer who wrote lovely operas like Thais and Manon.

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HOSPITAL DAY - 2

Also - Florence Nightingale was born on May 12th, the angel of the Crimean war and the patron saint of nurses.

Well, Florence Nightingale's birthday happens to be dedicated throughout this land as Hospital Day. Today hospitals every where in the United States are thrown open to the public. People are invited to inspect them and witness the works of mercy that they do.

Right this very night there are 720,000 men, women and children in our hospitals. Each year twelve and a half million patients are helped in one way or another. There are 700,000 hospital workers and 97,000 physicians who are in the service of hospitals.

And today those institutions of mercy have been having open house, and people visited them and were shown the laboratories, the X-ray divisions, the kitchens, the wards, and so on.

In hospitals for and wide programs of entertainment are being held, and there are reunions of babies born in hospitals during the year. That sounds like the most interesting event of all to me.

HOSPITAL DAY- 3

Well, there is nothing too good for the hospitals or for the folks who have to spend a while in the care of nurses and doctors. They deserve as cheery a time as possible. And here's good luck and a double dose of it to any of you folks who happen to be spending a few days or a few weeks - or maybe a bit longer - to those of you who are a bit under the weather tonight.

And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.