

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1931

DAM

Good Evening, Everybody:

Here's come optimistic news. The West is going to have another enormous dam across the Colorado River. This one will be in southern California. The decision was made today to issue bonds to the amount of 200 million dollar, which will finance the construction of a dam that will carry water across the Great American Desert. The water will flow for 266 miles and will be distributed among 13 cities. Seven million people will be supplied with water by that huge project.

The Associated Press announces that the new dam will be as big as the giant Hoover Dam, which calls for an outlay of 165 million - about the same size. Yes, and the big dam in southern California will have a bearing on unemployment too -- it will give work to about 10,000 men. Yes, that's good news.

1 Today political wiseacres have
2 been doping out the meaning of that
3 Congressional election in Missouri
4 yesterday. The returns today show that
5 the Democratic candidate won a sweeping
6 victory.

7 Well, ordinarily those odd
8 elections of Congressmen don't stir up
9 any particular excitement, but that
10 peculiar situation in the new Congress
11 which will meet in December, has got the
12 boys on their toes. The election last
13 fall resulted in one big question mark --
14 218 Republicans and 216 Democrats and
15 one Independent in the lower House. That
16 gave the Republicans a majority of one.
17 And it was understood perfectly well that
18 in the ordinary course of things, through
19 death or retirement, several of those
20 seats would be left vacant and new
21 elections would have to be held.

22 Well, as a matter of fact, six
23 of those seats have fallen vacant to
24 date. That meant six special elections
25 which would tell the story of the next

1 Congress. Three Republicans and three
2 Democrats were to be ^{replaced} ~~chosen~~ by the
3 voters. That election yesterday was the
4 first one. It was held to fill the place
5 of a Democratic Congressman. And now
6 he has been replaced by another Democrat.

7 That leaves five more special
8 elections to be held. Two Democrats are
9 to be replaced, and three Republicans.
10 One of the Democratic seats is in New
11 York, in Brooklyn. The other ~~one~~ is in
12 Ohio.

13 The Associated Press places the
14 three Republican seats that are to be
15 filled as in Michigan, ~~in~~ Pennsylvania,
16 and ~~in~~ Ohio. This Ohio seat is the one
17 that was held by the late Nicholas
18 Longworth, Speaker of the House.

19 Well, you can exercise your
20 political talents by trying to figure out
21 how those elections will go.

22 The Democrats, says the United
23 Press, are jubilant tonight about the way
24 the Missouri election went yesterday.
25 It wasn't so much that they won. It was

1 the way they won. It was an overwhelming
2 victory, and the Democrats claim it shows
3 the way the wind is blowing.

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

1 From China tonight come loud
2 protests against that latest development
3 in Manchuria, ~~and~~ an independence
4 movement is under way in that northern
5 province, where the Chinese and Japanese
6 have been fighting. The idea is to
7 make Manchuria a country all by itself.

8 *Well,* The Chinese claim that this
9 Manchurian demand for independence
10 has been ^{inspired and} instigated by Japan. They say
11 that the Japanese have cooked up the
12 whole agitation simply as a means for
13 getting Manchuria under their own
14 control. A spokesman for the Chinese
15 Foreign office at Nanking gave out a
16 statement today to the effect that the
17 Japanese scheme was that if Manchuria
18 became independent, why it would pass
19 under a Japanese protectorate which would
20 mean that the government at Tokio would
21 be in ^{command} ~~control~~. The Chinese all along
22 have been claiming that the secret
23 ~~purpose~~ ^{purpose} of the Japanese is to take
24 possession of Manchuria.

25 The Associated Press passes

1 along a dispatch from a Chinese news
2 agency which declares that Japanese
3 agents have been talking to his Majesty,
4 Pu Wi, the former Emperor of China.
5 He was the boy monarch who was deprived
6 of his crown when China revolted against
7 her old rulers and became a republic.
8 The Chinese news agency claims that
9 Japan is trying to get the former boy
10 emperor to go to Manchuria and take part
11 in the independence movement there.
12 They might want to make him king of
13 Manchuria, under Japanese control.
14 Anyway, that's the way the rumor goes.

15 Pu Wi lives at Shanghai.
16 Theoretically he still has the title
17 of Emperor. At the time of the Chinese
18 revolution it was agreed that he should
19 continue to receive royal honors - that
20 is, the honors without the power.
21 Recently he had some trouble with his
22 wife, or one of his wives. She left
23 the former boy emperor, made her escape
24 and claimed she hadn't been treated
25 right. She is now suing ^{his former majesty} ~~the emperor~~

1 for a divorce and the United Press
2 reports that the case is making quite
3 a stir along the China coast. They
4 say it's a battle between Chinese
5 Conservatism and the modern spirit,
6 with the emperor representing the old-
7 fashioned ideas of China, and the
8 discontented wife the new ideas that
9 have come in from the West.

10 The Emperor and his other two
11 wives haven't anything to say on the
12 subject, but the brother of the runaway
13 wife has written an open letter in
14 which he severely condemns his sister's
15 conduct. "The former emperor", he
16 writes to his sister, "has never
17 ill-treated you, and if he did you
18 should endure it - for it is your fate.
19 Do you not remember that at the time
20 the emperor was forced out of the
21 Forbidden City you carried a knife under
22 your sleeve ready to commit suicide
23 should any mishap occur to the emperor
24 or yourself? What a holy and divine
25 spirit was that. And how you have

changed now to a different person."

Those are elevating words, but the runaway wife doesn't seem to be paying much attention to them.

Anyway, it's a bit of domestic complication, and now there seems to be an addition of political complication around the man who was once the boy ruler on the old and glorious throne of the Manchu emperors of China.

A United Press dispatch from Mukden, the capital of Manchuria, tells of Japanese airplanes which have been sent in pursuit of a force of Chinese soldiers. These soldiers are said to have attacked several villages inhabited by Koreans in Manchuria. The Chinese are accused of having looted the villages and killed a number of Koreans.

Here's another important news dispatch from the Far East. China has a new foreign minister. Dr. C. T. Wang resigned today. He is the official who was badly beaten several days ago by a gang of students enraged by the fact that he hadn't accomplished more in

1 resisting the Japanese.

2 The Associated Press explains the
3 resignation of Dr. Wang by saying that
4 the Chinese don't like the way the
5 League of Nations has handled the
6 Chinese appeal that the League should
7 intervene against Japan. Dr. Wang
8 was back~~ed~~ of the policy of putting the
9 matter up to the League. His successor
10 is Dr. Alfred Sze, the Chinese Minister
11 to Great Britain and representative
12 at the League of Nations.

13 Dr. Sze will now have a chance to
14 see what he can do to solve that tangled
15 Manchurian situation. *And it sure is one grand*
16 *tangle.*

17 At Washington today Secretary of
18 State Stimson declared that advices
19 to the American Government indicate
20 that the Manchurian trouble is easing
21 up somewhat. The International News
22 Service quotes the Secretary of State
23 as declaring that the Japanese have
24 moved their troops out of Mukden. It
25 was when the Japanese a month or so ago
seized the capital of Manchuria after

some stiff fighting, that the trouble flared up. The Secretary of State adds that only a Japanese policing detachment has been left in Mukden. He states that American observers figure that there are fifteen thousand Japanese troops altogether in the province of Manchuria. And this is O. K., because according to the treaty between the Great Powers Japan has a right to keep that many soldiers in the country.

And that's a lot of news from the Far East, from the Chinese Coast, for one night.

And even this next one - from Switzerland - has an echo of China.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

1 The League of Nations adjourned
2 its session today, and all is quiet in
3 Geneva. The adjournment will continue
4 until October 14th -- and even then there
5 may be a further postponement. The
6 League, says the International News
7 Service, will be called into session on
8 October 14th unless the trouble in
9 Manchuria has been so far settled that
10 there won't be any need for the League
11 to take up the matter.

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 There have been some more
2 unemployment disturbances in London. A
3 big mob gathered outside the Bow Street
4 court. Inside, ~~says~~^{cables} the International
5 News Service, eleven men and one woman
6 were up before the Judge. They were
7 arrested yesterday during the Communist
8 disturbances in front of the House^s of
9 Parliament.

10 After the court proceedings were
11 over the big crowd outside started down
12 the street for Hyde Park. They passed
13 through a fashionable shopping center,
14 and they were roaring and shouting and
15 singing Communist songs. Hundreds of
16 women shoppers were scared out of their
17 wits.

18 The police came dashing to
19 break up the ~~young~~ riot. The London
20 Bobbies charged the Communists and
21 chased them away.

22 The rioters retreated to Hyde
23 Park, and there they staged another
24 demonstration. About 100 of them saw a
25 horseman trotting down a bridle-path.

1 He wore a riding costume and looked
2 prosperous. He was a fashionable
3 gentleman of some sort or other out for
4 a canter along ~~fashionable~~^{world famous} Rotten Row.
5 The Communists charged toward him and
6 stopped the horse. The rider jumped
7 off and ran for his life. The Communists
8 chased him for a while, until the
9 police rescued him.

10 Then the London Bobbies sailed
11 into the crowd of rioters in Hyde Park,
12 and after a lively skirmish, sent them
13 scattering for home.

14 Word comes tonight
15 that Parliament will adjourn
16 next week and then there
17 will be a general election.
18 Everyone is wondering what
19 Ram's fate will be.
20
21
22
23
24
25

Dr. Victor
K. LaMer-
chemistry
Dept. 7
U of Columbia-
re luminous
clock dials

And now for the evening's marvel. It concerns Science. Yes, we all know that Science has its almost incredible marvels.

Sitting here with me tonight Dr. Victor K. LaMer, of the Chemistry Department at Columbia University and author. He has studied at Cambridge, England, and at Copen-Hagen as well as in this country. He is a man who delves into that strange world where the elements play fantastic games with each other. Yes, sometimes they play hide-and-seek. The elements hide, and the Professors seek.

Well, there are many miracles of Science in that new Literary Digest Book of Marvels, and I wonder what kind of marvel Professor La Mer has up his sleeve. How about it, Professor? What do ~~is~~ you think is the greatest marvel in that world of chemistry?

Well, it's a marvel that you may have in your pocket, or on the shelf. I mean one of those watches or clocks, with a luminous dial that glows at night. If you want to do a simple experiment, try this one. Take your luminous timepiece into a dark room. Wait ten minutes to get your eyes accustomed to the dark, and then examine the dial with a common hand-lens. I mean an ordinary magnifying glass.

You'll see that the glow is not continuous. It resembles a shower of shooting stars, bright flashes of light, streaming scintillations that appear and disappear. Yes, it's radium. And, those flashes are produced by explosions of the atoms of radium. The white material on the dial is zinc sulphide, mixed with a tiny amount of radium. When the atom of radium on your watch dial ~~it~~ explodes, the fragments shoot out and hit the neighboring zinc sulphide atoms. And that produces the scintillations -- those tiny sparks that you see.

3

1 How much radium do you suppose
2 there is in the zinc sulphide on the
3 dial? ^{of your watch?} The imagination is staggered by
4 the smallness of the amount. Radium
5 costs 3 million dollars an ounce. The
6 amount of radium on ^{your} ~~the~~ whole watch dial
7 is worth but a few ^{Albany} [^] cents.

8 And yet that indescribably tiny
9 amount of radium shoots out all those
10 numberless particles that produce the
11 flashes of light. One grain of radium
12 bromide gives off 10 million of those
13 particles every second.

14 Yes, that watch or clock of
15 yours with the luminous dial represents
16 one of the biggest wonders of Science.

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Well, Prof. LaMer, you
are associated with educational
matters, and maybe you'll be interested in this
and it certainly is ~~Here's some~~ ^{Here's some}

2 good news for the
3 youngsters. I know a lot of them are
4 all het up about that Literary Digest
5 prize contest -- the one I mentioned a
6 couple of weeks ago. All over the
7 country teachers have been asked --
8 "Please tell us about those prizes the
9 Literary Digest is going to give to
10 celebrate George Washington's 200th
11 anniversary."

2
11 And of course we grown-ups too
12 are interested, because next year we are
13 going to have a grand and glorious
14 celebration in honor of the 200th
15 birthday of the Father of Our Country.

16 The National Bi-centennial
17 Commission, appointed by President Hoover
18 to arrange the ceremonies, is on the job
19 already. The Literary Digest is
20 co-operating with the Commission to make
21 that celebration a huge success. And the
22 Digest is working hand in hand with the
23 school teachers all over the country who
24 are telling the children what they have
25 to do to compete for the prizes.

1 Well, the news I have tonight is
2 that the new Literary Digest, the one
3 that comes out tomorrow, is printing
4 its second article intended to provide
5 the boys and girls with material for the
6 contest. The idea is to give the ^{youngsters} ~~kids~~
7 ammunition with which to shoot at those
8 prizes. ~~It is by Clifford Smythe, the~~
9 ~~author of "Builders of America," and it~~
10 ~~gives us a fascinating slant. It tells~~
11 ~~us of the human side of the man who~~
12 ~~created American independence. The~~
13 ~~theme is -- George Washington, the Farmer.~~

14 One anecdote that will warm the
15 cockles of any American heart tells the
16 story of how an actor, a comedian, made
17 the acquaintance of George Washington.

18 Well, ^{boys and girls} ~~the kids~~ far and wide are
19 going to find a lot of valuable material
20 in that article. And for the benefit of
21 children who don't know about that
22 Literary Digest prize contest, why they
23 can find out in school. Just tell them
24 to "ask the teacher".
25

MUSHROOM

Every so often in the day's news there come tidings of some chap who has raised a record-breaking potato, or an enormous pumpkin, or something of the sort. Those championship vegetables and fruits are pretty common, but here's something that does seem almost startling. It's a champion mushroom and it certainly is a whopper.

At Fitchburg, Massachusetts, says the International News Service, Joseph Semmino, is displaying today a mushroom that weighs thirty pounds. It is 12-feet ~~xx~~ around and is 15" thick. Yes, sir, that's some mushroom, and Joe could go on eating it for a week.

But I can't go on talking for a week, and so I'll have to say,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.