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LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1930

INTRO

Well, here we are on the eve of election. And of course that's the topic of the hour. But there are other important items in the day's news, - such as that wild oil gusher in Oklahoma, the new president in Brazil (who by the way didn't get his job as a result of any election); an echo of the Titanic disaster; the French Foreign Legion versus our American gunmen; and a tale of heroism and tragedy from Cuba.

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POLITICS

Now about the election - 47 out of 48 states are all steamed up. Only Maine is missing. Maine, you know, insists on being original, and holds her election in September.

A whole army of office holders in the 47 states, thousands of them, will be elected tomorrow -- all 431 Congressmen, 34 senators, and that's a third of the whole Senate, and 31 governors.

The big prize will be the control of Congress which will have an important effect on the presidential election two years hence.

George R. Holmes, staff correspondent of the International News Service, gives an interesting analysis of the election prospects. Here are a few important points: All over the country, there have been two predominant issues, the business situation and prohibition. Bad business is helping the Democrats, says Mr. Holmes, and even the Republicans do not deny that the Democrats are going to make considerable gains. The Democrats believe they are going to

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POLITICS - 2

win control of the House of Representatives, but conservative judges predict that they will fall a little short of control. There would have to be a turn-over of 54 seats, and that's a lot.

The big thing about this election is that the independent vote is going to be such an important factor adds Mr. Holmes. The country is full of bolters, Democrats who are going to vote Republican, and Republicans who are going to vote Democratic. That independent vote is always a bugaboo to the politicians. They can't quite figure it. Neither can anybody else. That election tomorrow is crammed with uncertainty.

Over in New Jersey, Dwight Morrow, who is running for senator, will miss one vote. Everybody thought he would get the vote of his famous son-in-law, Charles A. Lindbergh. But he won't. According to the New York Evening World, Lindbergh will not vote for Morrow--because he can't. His legal residence happens to be out in Saint Louis.

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ROCKEFELLER

By the way, it looks as though John D. Rockefeller Junior's dream of doing away with city clums is drawing closer to reality. George Seymour, a New York Evening World reporter, tells us tonight that young John D. is planning a one hundred million dollar syndicate to tear down the slums of New York and other cities and then give employment to thousands of jobless men by putting up modern buildings in their place. The scheme is already underway, and an entirely new community has been completed in Cleveland, Ohio.

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JAP SHIP

From far out at sea comes a dramatic flash by wireless.

Adrift in a dense fog a Japanese steamer, the Seiyo Maru, is fighting for life in the North Pacific. The Associated Press says that, according to a radio message received at Portland, Oregon, the ship is in a sinking condition. The American steamer, President Grant, is rushing to the rescue. According to the International News Service, Captain Johnson of the S. S. California has radioed that he also is hurrying toward the Seiyo Maru, hoping to avert a tragedy. Yes, and here is an echo of a famous tragedy of the sea that is still vivid to most of us.

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TITANIC

The hero of the Titanic, Captain Sir Arthur Rostron, is retiring after forty-five years at sea. Rostron was skipper of the steamer Carpathia, and Fate decreed that he was to be just sixty miles away when the distress signals from the sinking Titanic crackled out over the Atlantic. But the Titanic had dived to the bottom of the sea before the Carpathia got there. Fortunately Captain Rostron was in time to pick up the life boats. In recent years he has been the commodore of the mighty Cunard fleet.

From Cuba comes another story of the perils of the sea.

1 Three prominent Americans have been  
2 drowned down on the Cuban coast, and the  
3 ~~story is~~ a tale <sup>is one</sup> of tragic heroism. A  
4 merry company were on a pleasure trip at  
5 Matanzas Bay, one of the beauty spots  
6 along the Cuban coast, east of Havana.  
7 There were five people in ~~about~~ the party,  
8 and they were prominent in diplomatic and  
9 social circles: The American Consul at  
10 Havana and his wife, ~~and~~ the American  
11 Consul at Matanzas, and the Vice-Consul  
12 at Havana and his wife. The United Press  
13 tells us that they were standing on a  
14 cliff overlooking the foaming surf. At  
15 the edge of the cliff stood Mrs. Jackson,  
16 wife of the Consul at Havana. Mr. and  
17 Mrs. Jackson were from Madison, Illinois.  
18 A sudden violent gust of wind caught  
19 Mrs. Jackson, and she <sup>tumbled</sup> ~~fell~~ off the cliff  
20 into the angry sea. Her husband instantly  
21 jumped in after ~~xx~~ her. The two struggled  
22 in the high waves that beat on the rocks.  
23 The Consul at Matanzas jumped in after  
24 them. He was John Tillotson Wainwright,  
25 prominent clubman of New York, Washington,

and Philadelphia. And now there were three in the water, struggling among the wild breakers. Then the third man went in after them, the Vice-Consul at Havana, Sydney Gest. The sea was too wild, the under-two too strong. On the cliff above, Mrs. Gest saw them struggling and weakening. She seized a long pole nearby and reached down with it. Three had already drowned. Only her husband was left. He grasped the pole, and held himself above the water, until he could be hauled to safety. A grim item that, but full of heroism.

Down in Oklahoma City, they have been having a dangerous time, but evidently no casualties and the worst seems to be over.



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OIL

They have at last lassoed, hog-tied, branded and completely subdued that rampant oil well. They didn't exactly rope it like an Oklahoma bronco. What they did was put a bonnet on it. And what a bonnet! It weighs two tons. They lowered it over the spouting oil geyser from a huge derrick as high as a 12 story building. The best oil experts in the Southwest puzzled for four days over how to conquer this mad well. But now the gusher is muzzled. The New York Evening Telegram calls this another example of man's ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Then with that done, the river caught fire. The surface of the water was just one film of oil, and it started to blaze. It is the North Canadian River and the flames spread mile after mile. All the way between McCloud and Harrah that river tonight is just one snake-like inferno. According to the International News Service, the Wainer Bridge was destroyed by flames, and the Associated Press says that the fire is now threatening the giant Horseshoe Lake generating plant of the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company.

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BRAZIL

As I said before, they haven't had an election down in Brazil - or at least the election didn't take but they have a new president. He is Getulio Vargas, the man who was largely responsible for stirring up the recent Brazilian revolution. President Vargas took office this afternoon and in an exclusive interview with the International News Service he stated that his first act would be to dissolve Congress and his second to give full amnesty to all political prisoners who were involved in a previous Brazilian revolution - the one that took place back in 1922 and 1924.

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JEWS

The Brazilian trouble is over, but England's difficulties with Palestine are in full bloom.

In all parts of this country, Jews are holding mass meetings of protest against that new British policy. The British have gone on record as saying they intend to curtail Jewish immigration into Palestine. Resolutions have just been adopted by large assemblages in New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati hotly denouncing the Labor government of England for what Jews call their betrayal. In New York according to the New York Evening Post 25,000 people jammed Madison Square Garden, and fifteen thousand more milled around outside.

This is a continuation of the protest that Jews have been making ever since the British announced their new policy. And if you want to find out how hot that protest has been just read the article about it in the current issue of the Literary Digest, which tells what prominent Jews all over the world have to say about the new turn of events in Palestine.

Right on top of these meetings comes a news flash from London stating that there will be another declaration explaining that former declaration of policy in Palestine. The Labor government feels that its previous declaration was not only misunderstood ~~by~~ but misrepresented. Which means that we are now going to have more material for controversy.

Ah, this next bit of news is an addity.

Those New York and Chicago gunmen have been causing many kinds of trouble, but here's a new one. And I'm picking it for the News Item of the Day.

5 The French Foreign Legion, known as  
6 the Legion of the Damned, is famous as a  
7 hiding place for desperate men, unlucky  
8 fellows with things to forget and things  
9 to live down. In its ranks they are  
10 safe. I mean--safe from everything save  
11 from death and the savage dangers of war.  
12 And now American gunmen are trying to  
13 get into the French Foreign Legion.

14 According to the United Press,  
15 Colonel Röllet, the commander of the  
16 Legion, says that gangsters of New York  
17 and Chicago have been making inquiries  
18 about joining the Legion. Their reasons  
19 are plain. Oh no, it isn't that these  
20 gunmen are afraid of the police. They  
21 are men marked for death by other gunmen,  
22 who will hunt them down and kill them.  
23 And these marked men want to find  
24 security in the Legion of the Damned.

25 But they will not be admitted, says

1 the Colonel. He explains that the  
2 Legion is not a mere hiding place for  
3 criminals. The Colonel prefers to think  
4 of the ~~xxxxxx~~ mystery men in its ranks  
5 as disappointed lovers. Another reason  
6 is that American gunmen are not hard  
7 enough citizens~~x~~ for the Legion of the  
8 Damned. They never would be able to  
9 stand the life, says Colonel Rollet,  
10 the terrors of the African desert and  
11 the Moroccan mountains, the terrible  
12 marches through alkali dust, and the  
13 blood-curdling fights with the fierce  
14 warriors of the North African wilderness.  
15 In a way, it seems too bad that those  
16 fierce warriors won't get a chance at  
17 our gunmen.

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LION

Out in Los Angeles a great film star has passed to his final reward. They say he is the only star who never lost his temper during the making of a film.

The Associated Press says that he took part in some 200 Hollywood films, nearly all comedies. He leaves 28 children and grandchildren although he died at the age of nineteen. The dispatch also states that he was hit by more custard pies than any other actor in Hollywood. His name was Numa. He was a full grown African lion.

LION

# RETAKE

Out in Los Angeles a great film star has passed to his final reward. They say he is the only star who never lost his temper during the making of a film.

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How would you like to have a pet  
2 that could box your ears and hug you until  
3 your ribs snapped? Well, the Superintendent  
4 of Yellowstone National Park has nine  
5 grizzly bears more than he needs. They  
6 are full grown and if you want a playful  
7 pet just ring him up on the long distance  
8 or better still, go out and bring your  
9 grizzly bear home in person. The New York  
10 ~~Evening~~ Sun tells us that the Super-  
11 intendent of Yellowstone has several  
12 hundred elk and about the same number  
13 of buffalo to spare. You can have them  
14 also. But those full grown grizzly  
15 bears are probably the pets that will  
16 appeal to most of you.

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RADIO

Radio is having a birthday party. The big celebration is out in Pittsburg tonight. Just ten years ago radio broadcasting was born in Pittsburgh, and like all infants it did its share of squalling at first. But how that baby has grown. It's only ten years old now, and it already has 600 offspring in the form of broadcasting stations in every state in the Union.

That first program was broadcast from KDKA in Pittsburgh, of the same great chain over which I am sending you these flashes. And that first broadcast was the same kind of news you're going to hear tomorrow. I mean election returns. For that was the day Mr. Harding was elected President. But that's about the only similarity. That first studio was a shack on top of a factory building. The broadcasting station where I am talking is a beehive of a thousand people and occupies a New York skyscraper. The fifty or so listeners that night ten years ago, included merely a few executives and friends of the Westinghouse Company. Tonight KDKA is

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broadcasting over a transmitter 4000 times as powerful and to an audience of hundreds of millions of listeners all over the world.

Well, the immensity of it makes me speechless, and this is just the proper time for me to become speechless, because my time is up. So,

GOODNIGHT.