

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST
FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST.
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1931.

1
2
3
4
5 GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY!

6 A flock of motor boats went *leaping and*
7 tearing down the Hudson River today.
8 It was the annual Albany to New York
9 outboard motor boat race.

10 Wade Woodworth of Evanston,
11 Illinois, won. According to the United
12 Press, he drove his outboard craft all
13 the way from Albany to New York in three
14 hours and ten minutes, and that smashes
15 the record by fifteen minutes and three
16 seconds.

17 Red Woodworth is known in the
18 Middlewest as the wildcat guard of the
19 Northwestern football team.
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 A new gold rush started today in
2 Nevada. The ^{gold} strike is reported in
3 Smith Valley. And this evening the
4 town of Yerrington, the local metropolis,
5 is almost deserted. All the boys ^{are or} ~~have~~
6 ~~gone out looking for~~ ^{the trail of} pay dirt.

7 According to the United Press,
8 free gold--that is, nuggets and dust--
9 is said to have been located in gravel
10 beds. One miner is described as
11 having returned with a pickle jar full
12 of nuggets.

13 But it will be the same old story.
14 No matter how good a strike is, or
15 how big the gold rush, most of the
16 gold seekers are disappointed. There's
17 a hundred to one shot against them. I
18 spent most of my youth in gold mining camps
19 and I've seen it happen over and over again.
20 For every hole in the earth that yields
21 dividends, there are a hundred duds--a
22 hundred blanks.

1 A new gold rush started today in
2 Nevada. The ^{gold} strike is reported in
3 Smith Valley. And this evening the
4 town of Yerrington, the local metropolis,
5 is almost deserted. All the boys ^{are on} ~~have~~
6 ~~gone out looking for~~ ^{the trail of} pay dirt.

7 According to the United Press,
8 free gold--that is, nuggets and dust--
9 is said to have been located in gravel
10 beds. One miner is described as
11 having returned with a pickle jar full
12 of nuggets.

13 But it will be the same old story.
14 No matter how good a strike is, or
15 how big the gold rush, most of the
16 gold seekers are disappointed. There's
17 a hundred to one shot against them. I
18 spent most of my youth in gold mining camps
19 and I've seen it happen over and over again.
20 For every hole in the earth that yields
21 dividends, there are a hundred duds--a
22 hundred blanks.

EXPLOSION

Page 3

1 In Pennsylvania, near the town of
2 Clintonville, there is a hole in the
3 ground, a crater thirty feet across and
4 six feet deep, and it wasn't there
5 yesterday. It was dug out by an explosion
6 of 535 quarts of nitro-glycerin. There
7 was a terrific blast. The country for
8 miles was shaken as if by an earthquake.
9 In towns a few miles away houses rocked
10 and windows were shattered. Nobody was
11 hurt but plenty of people were scared. Scared
12 *stiff.* ¶ I have a wire here from the
13 Pittsburgh Sun-Telegram which tells me
14 that the tremendous explosion was caused
15 by a large black snake. It is believed
16 that old Mr. Black Snake was nosing
17 around among the containers of nitro-
18 glycerin. He crawled around until he
19 knocked one over, and that was when
20 thunder and lightning tore loose as all
21 that nitro-glycerin exploded. I wonder
22 what happened to the black snake.

23 *At any rate, there's a news item that*
24 *sounds wilder than any Tall Story.*

1 It seems as if the law of averages
2 is beginning to work. At least so
3 says Police Commissioner Mulrooney of
4 New York.

5 ~~And work~~ How? Well, the Commissioner
6 informs us that the law of averages is
7 beginning to work against ~~the~~ gunmen,
8 and criminals.

9 He points out, according to the
10 International News Service, that for
11 a while the underworld kings were
12 getting away with everything they
13 tried, and seldom ever got hurt. That,
14 according to the Commissioner, was
15 because things were breaking right for
16 them.

17 But now the pendulum of ^{chance} ~~is~~ has
18 swung back the other way. In other
19 words, the gunmen were playing in luck
20 and the authorities were out of luck.
21 But now the law of averages is beginning
22 to work.

23 The Commissioner ~~is~~ cites a few
24 recent cases:--The capture and conviction
25 of Killer Burk^e in the Middle West, ~~who~~

Burke

1 ^ has gone to prison for life. And then
 2 there's the arrest and conviction of
 3 the ^{Gunman Leo} ~~crook~~ Brothers, in Chicago, for the
 4 Lingle murder. Also, the capture ^{at Dover, N.J.} of
 5 the escaped convict and desperado,
 6 James Nannery, ~~of Dover, New Jersey.~~
 7 And, finally, come^s the cop-killer
 8 Crowley and that other thug, the
 9 slayer of the ten-cents-a-dance girl.
 10 Both are waiting trial and are expecting
 11 to get the limit.

12 The New York Commissioner points
 13 out these cases ^{just} to show that the
 14 pendulum of chance is swinging against
 15 the gangsters.

16 Well, perhaps it isn't altogether
 17 chance or luck. But anyway, ~~hurray~~ *three cheers*
 18 for the law of averages.

1 The big meeting of the International
2 Chamber of Commerce has finished its
3 deliberations and closed shop. The
4 delegates from all over the world
5 rounded off the proceedings by giving out
6 a series of recommendations for dealing
7 with the present business situation.

8 In telling the world how to
9 coax back prosperity the International
10 Chamber of Commerce agreed ~~xx~~ with
11 President Hoover that disarmament was
12 ~~the~~² big thing. The delegates also think
13 that the war debt question should be
14 gone into further. ^{And they believe in} leveling tariff barriers
15 - that is discriminatory tariffs. But they
16 think that a trade barrier should be
17 erected to prevent ^{the} dumping ^{of merchandise}. They are
18 strongly in favor of sound budgets -
19 that is, nations should keep their
20 finances straight and they strongly
21 favor individual initiative in restoring
22 business conditions. They think that
23 everything rests with the individual; and
24 that seems like a slap at Russian
25 Communism.

MAY NINTH

I had a bit of amusement again this afternoon - comparing the things that happened today with the events that took place on May 9th, in other years.

I found that on May, 9, 429 years ago, Columbus set sail from Spain on his fourth and last great voyage. Two and a half years later he returned suffering with the gout and the King gave him - what do you suppose? Why, a license to ride a mule.

Twenty years ago today, King George V combed his royal mustache, dusted off his scepter, put on his silk pants and held his first court in Buckingham palace.

One hundred fifty one years ago Bernardo de Galvez, waxed his fierce mustachos, shook his haughty head and captured Pensacola Florida in the name of the King of Spain.

Yes, everything is an interesting date in history when we check back for a few centuries.

MOTHER'S DAY

Tomorrow, as we know, is what we on this continent call Mothers' Day.

Every newspaper in America has a story on the subject tonight. For instance, the New York World Telegram points out that while year after year we have been stressing "the beauty and sacredness of motherhood," it might do well to face a unpleasant fact: - which is, that the maternity death rate in the United States is higher than in any other civilized country.

The death rate of our mothers here is almost three times as high as it is in Italy or Denmark.

Well, certainly something ought to be done about that. It is not a record to be proud of and Mothers' Day ought to be an ideal time for us to bring about a change.

And here's to every mother in the land!

from the I.N.S.

1 A late flash brings the news
2 that Professor Michaelson has died at
3 Pasadena, California. He had been
4 lingering for days. The doctors had
5 given him up. This afternoon he called
6 some of his assistants, dictated some
7 material on experiments they were
8 working on, and then passed away.
9 Professor Michaelson was one of
10 America's foremost scientists. And
11 the famous experimental work he did
12 provided some of the foundation on
13 which Einstein built up his theory of
14 relativity.
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 There seems to be some kind of
2 jinx attached to that big German
3 flying boat, the DO-X.

4 The report last night was ~~out~~ that
5 she had taken off from the west coast
6 of Africa and started out to South
7 America.

8 Well, it appears that ~~the DO-X~~
9 ~~did start--that is, she started for~~
10 ~~a run along the water, but she didn't~~
11 ~~succeed in taking off.~~ She was
12 loaded so heavily they couldn't get
13 her into the air.

14 According to the International
15 News Service, the big German seaplane
16 was ^{again} slightly damaged. But they expect
17 to get her fixed up and make a take off
18 for South America at any time now.

1 I'd like to ask the question right
2 here--what would you say is the third
3 largest city in the world? Well, you
4 can look that up in your Literary Digest
5 Atlas, which gives a ~~tremendously~~ long and
6 interesting list of the cities of the
7 world. It tells you where to find
8 them on the maps, and gives you the
9 population of each.

10 ^{But} You can hunt through that Literary
11 Digest Atlas from cover to cover and
12 you will NOT find what is really the
13 third largest city in the world, a huge
14 metropolis of 4,000,000 people. Because,
15 in a way, that immense city does not
16 exist--not as an incorporated
17 municipality, at least.

18 The New York Evening Post prints
19 a cable from Germany which tells us
20 that the Socialist party in the Reichstag
21 is pushing a plan to organize the
22 densely populated industrial section
23 of the Ruhr Valley as one city. It is
24 practically one community as it stands.

25 The cities of Essen, Eberfeld,

Dortmund, and scores of other towns are really just so many boroughs of what amounts to one great city. It's an unnamed metropolis of 4,000,000 people. I've flown over it several times and now that I come to think about it - it does look like one vast city from a plane.

If the plan goes through and the closely packed towns of the Ruhr are unified, the municipality will be the third largest in the world--larger than Berlin, or Paris, or Chicago, or Tokyo, with only London and New York ahead of it.

1 Come on, Aristede, and be president.
2 But Aristede just twirls his mustache,
3 and he has plenty of mustache to twirl.
4 He remains silent, thinking.

5 The overwhelming victory of ^{the French} Foreign
6 Minister ■ Aristede Briand in the
7 Chamber of Deputies last night, in which
8 he won by a huge vote of 430 to 52, was
9 so decisive and triumphant that it
10 means just that--come on, Aristede, and
11 be president.

12 On Wednesday of the coming week
13 a new president will be elected for the
14 Republic of France. It's not a popular
15 election, of course, The Chamber of
16 Deputies will cast the ballots--that's
17 the way they do it in France.

18 Briand is the most prominent
19 candidate. ^{Political wise men} ~~It was~~ agreed that if he
20 won last night's big Parliamentary
21 battle, he could have the presidency--
22 if he wanted it.

23 But does he want it? His friends
24 say "yes", and insist that Briand will
25 be the next president of the republic.

4

1 However, Aristede himself is keeping
2 mum. According to the Associated Press,
3 he says he won't be stampededⁱⁿ to declaring
4 himself a candidate. They say he's
5 meditating, trying to ~~think~~^{figure} things out.

6 As the French Foreign Minister,
7 he has control~~■~~ of the international
8 policy of France, and also cuts a big
9 ~~■~~ swing in the statecraft of the whole
10 world. As president of France, it will
11 be something else again.

12 The French president is not supposed
13 to butt into political affairs. He's
14 supposed to stand strickly neutral.
15 He's a highly decorative figurehead,
16 but a figurehead just the same.

17 ~~And so~~ Briand/~~■~~^{would} enjoy the glory
18 of becoming the king pin of the nation,
19 but he still would like to ~~■~~ retain
20 his actual power in foreign affairs.

21 And, according to the International
22 News Service, he's undecided. Perhaps
23 he's trying to find a way around the
24 old truth that you can't have your cake
25 and eat it^{to}. Perhaps the profound and

1 clever mind of the great Briand is
2 trying to discover some way of eating
3 the cake, icing and all, and still have
4 it in his hand.

5 But that's likely to be difficult,
6 *Aristede. We've all tried it and it*
7 *doesn't work.*

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

3

1 The papers, the secret papers--
2 aye, who has the documents? Who has
3 the secret military plans? And the
4 answer is that the secret papers are
5 almost everywhere, almost everybody
6 has the documents--and the secret
7 military plans are probably being
8 passed around as handbills.

9 Well, it was all supposed to be
10 very secret. The French are building
11 a huge and mysterious series of
12 fortifications along the German and
13 Italian boundaries. ~~of the republic.~~
14 Great concrete systems of defense have
15 been constructed, with hidden under-
16 ground forts and secret gun emplacements--
17 a tremendous warlike barrier against
18 any invading enemy. And it was all
19 supposed to be a dark and profound
20 secret.

21 But, according to the United Press,
22 everybody knows all about it. Every
23 trench, every machine gun nest, every
24 underground hospital, every strategic
25 railroad of that great system of

1 fortification^s has been known in every
2 detail to the war departments of half
3 a dozen different countries--with plans,
4 blueprints, and photographs. They're
5 having quite a bit of talk about it
6 over in France.

7 It appears that of 700 laborers
8 engaged in building one of the biggest
9 units of the defense system, only 11
10 were French. They've got to use
11 foreign labor ~~over~~ in France. And
12 nearly all of the men that worked on
13 the great fortress were Germans,
14 Italians, Poles, and Russians.

15 They, of course, knew all the
16 secrets of the secret system, and they
17 didn't feel under any patriotic
18 obligation to keep those secrets to
19 themselves.

20 And many of them were spies. The
21 police have learned of ~~many~~ men who
22 made \$22.00 a week and spent twice that
23 much in the cafes. Many other workers
24 have quit the job without bothering to
25 call around for their pay.

1 Plans of the fortifications were
2 handed from one laborer to another.
3 They all got a good look. Some of the
4 plans were copied. Other ~~plans~~ plans
5 disappeared entirely.
6 ~~And~~ And now the only secret about
7 the big secret, is how they ever
8 expected to keep it any secret at all.
9 It's a grand drama of secret papers
10 and international espionage, only
11 it's turned into farce comedy.

12 University, in Chicago, issued a statement
13 today telling of the discovery of
14 Dia-min-di-sulphuri-olno-argentum.

15 It's said to slay germs. And I
16 don't wonder. When the germs see that
17 word Dia-min-di-sulphuri-olno-argentum,
18 they just fall over and drop dead.

19 And that cures the infection right away.

20 The scientists of Loyola believe
21 in being kind to doctors and druggists
22 who have to pronounce all those new-
23 fangled words. They say that the germ-
24 slaying drug may also be called
25 Neovonargen-if you like that any better.

1 Science has achieved another
2 one of its wonders. And that new
3 wonder is the remarkable medicine called
4 Dia-min-di-sulphuri-cinol-argentum.

5 Science has discovered that this
6 new compound is a good cure for
7 infections. But it was still more
8 remarkable of science to invent that
9 word Dia-min-di-sulphuri-cinol-argentum.

10 According to the Associated Press,
11 the School of Medicine of Loyola
12 University, in Chicago, issued a statement
13 today telling of the discovery of
14 Dia-min-di-sulphuri-cinol-argentum.

15 It's said to slay germs. And I
16 don't wonder. When the germs see that
17 word Dia-min-di-sulphuri-cinol-argentum,
18 they just ^{naturally} fall over and drop dead.
19 And that cures the infection right away.

20 The scientists of Loyola believe
21 in being kind to doctors and druggists
22 who have to pronounce ~~a~~ all those new-
23 fangled words. They say that the germ-
24 slaying drug may also be called
25 Neovonargen--if you like that any better.

Anyway, you can go to the drugstore and say -- I want ten cents worth of Neovonargen, or if you prefer you can also say give me ten cents worth of Dia-min-di-sulphuri-cinol-argentum.

And after that one I think I'd better duck.

SO, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.