

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1931

AUTOMOBILE

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Let's chalk down a new speed record. A man drove an automobile today faster than an automobile has ever been driven before.

At Daytona Beach, In Florida, Captain Malcolm Campbell took a slant around this afternoon and said things didn't look so good. There were little wavelets of sand on the beach speedway. The sun was shining, but there was a haze and he couldn't see more than half a mile ahead. Still, 10,000 people were gathered expecting the Captain to go out and break the record, and the Captain wanted to oblige.

So down the track he roared in that tremendously powered racing car of his. 231 miles an hour was the fastest an auto had ever been driven before, with official timing. According to the International News Service, Captain Campbell today drove at an official speed of nearly 246 miles an hour, while the huge crowd looked on in gaping amazement.

Now I wonder how long that record will stand?

AIRPLANE

This evening a giant airship is at anchor at Guantanamo Bay. The American dirigible Los Angeles is on its way to take part in maneuvers of the American fleet in tropical waters. The big ship left Lakehurst, New Jersey, last night. An International News Service correspondent is aboard, and he reports that the big airship expected to arrive at Guantanamo at about sundown today.

And down at Mitchell Field, on Long Island, this afternoon a small airplane appeared in the sky escorted by a squadron of bigger planes. The little plane landed on the field and a young woman stepped out. She is Mrs. Victor Bruce, an English woman who set out on a trip around the world from London last September. She's been at it ever since flying over land and crossing oceans by ship. Now she's on the home stretch.

1 *Now for one that*
2 ~~This~~ reminds me of those old days
3 of wartime when every so often there
4 would be a move for peace. Here's
5 another peace move--down in Washington.
6 Republican and Democrat^{ic} leaders of the
7 House of Representatives and the Senate
8 got together today and agreed on another
9 compromise.

10 According to the Associated Press,
11 the plan is to add \$25,000,000 to the
12 \$25,000,000 already appropriated to
13 enable the farmers to buy ~~in~~ seed and
14 fodder. *And then to make more elastic*
15 the conditions under which the ~~seed and~~ *farmers may*
16 ~~fodder~~ *spend the* money. ~~is loaned to the farmers~~
17 ~~in the drought stricken regions.~~ In
18 other words, the idea is to let the
19 farmer have a little more leeway in
20 spending the money which he gets from
21 the government.

22 This proposal is to be submitted
23 to President Hoover. Well, President
24 Hoover turned down one compromise
25 yesterday, and ~~the only thing to do is~~ *we wonder*
~~to wait and see~~ how this one ~~appeals~~ *will* to
him.

pause for a moment and

1 Let's pay a heart-felt tribute
2 to H. M. Blodgett of Aberdeen, Washington.
3 He certainly has that old gift of
4 stick-to-it-iveness which we have all
5 heard about.

6 During the past year Mr.
7 Blodgett has played twelve hundred and
8 ninety-six games of Solitaire. And
9 that must be a record.

10 And here's something else that
11 must be a record. Out of those twelve
12 hundred and ninety-six games of
13 Solitaire Mr. Blodgett has beaten the
14 game only sixteen times.

15 That's not only stick-to-it-
16 iveness. It's also that remarkable
17 quality of not knowing when you're
18 licked.

MERGER

Here is a late item about

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~~There has been~~ a big merger in the steel industry. The International News Service reports that the Bethelhem Steel Corporation has merged with the McClintick-Marshall Corporation. And this means a lot to business men all over the country.

1 ~~Now~~ All you members of the Tall
2 Story Club, pull up your chairs ^{now} and listen
3 to this one. I suppose the story is
4 true, all right. ~~But I've an idea that~~
5 ~~if a yarn is wild enough it doesn't~~
6 ~~matter whether it's true or not.~~ Even
7 if ~~it~~ actually happened it may still be
8 worthy of a place in the noble and
9 illustrious list of tall stories.

10 Stephen Loughman, of Pawling, New
11 York--and that makes him a neighbor of
12 mine--writes about a friend of ~~his~~ who
13 went from Brooklyn up to the Bronx in
14 New York City one night. Brooklynites
15 are curious people and ~~and~~ Mr. Loughman's
16 friend thought he was going into the
17 wilds. ~~and~~ so he took a pistol ^{along} ~~with him~~
18 He was riding on a crowded ~~and~~ trolley
19 and in the jam a man jostled him. And
20 then that man hurried out of the car and
21 started down the street.

22 Mr. Loughman's friend instantly
23 thought of pickpockets. ~~and~~ He felt for
24 his watch. His watch wasn't there. And
25 he just went tearing through the crowd,

1 jumped off the car, and ran after the
2 man who was going down the dark street.
3 He had his gun out, and he put the
4 muzzle against the man's side and said:
5 "Give me that watch!" The man instantly
6 forked over the watch. Mr. Loughman's
7 friend put it in his pocket. He didn't
8 want any more bother, so he just hailed
9 a taxi and went back to Brooklyn.

10 When he got home his wife said:
11 "Say, you'll be forgetting your head
12 some day. You left your watch on the
13 dresser upstairs."

14 Mr. Loughman's ~~friend~~^{friend} looked at
15 the watch he had taken from the other
16 man and flopped into a chair, realizing
17 that quite unwittingly he had been a
18 hold-up man and a robber.

19 Well, that may have happened,
20 all right. But it's a fine tall story
21 just the same.

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1 Russia chimes into the evening's
2 news with a war-like Communistic rumble.

3 Stalin, the Red Dictator, made a
4 threatening speech before an industrial
5 conference over in Moscow. According to
6 the ~~International News Service~~^{United Press}, Stalin
7 was very belligerent, although he never
8 is exactly meek and mild. ~~He called for~~
9 ~~action.~~

10 LET US FAN THE FLAMES OF WORLD
11 REVOLUTION! he shouted, AND WE WILL
12 OVERTURN THE WHOLE WORLD.

13 ~~Well, maybe so, Joseph. But again,~~
14 ~~maybe not.~~

15 (7) Meanwhile, a report about the food
16 situation in Russia has been issued by
17 the Soviets. They promise that Russians
18 will get a little more to eat next year.
19 ~~than they've got now.~~ The workers will
20 get 10% more in calories. The manual
21 workers, who are the favored class, will
22 be able to ~~get~~^{eat} as much as 2½ pounds of
23 bread a day, and that's a lot according
24 to Soviet standards.

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1 They say that this next incident
2 was not an attempt on the life of
3 Mussolini.

4 A young Sardinian who had lived
5 in the United States for a while, was
6 arrested in Rome. At the police station
7 he drew a pistol and opened fire. Three
8 policemen were wounded, one seriously.
9 Then the prisoner shot and wounded
10 himself.

11 According to the Associated
12 Press the police found two bombs in his
13 room. There was a rumor that the
14 ~~XXXXXX~~ prisoner had made an attempt
15 on the life of Mussolini, but this
16 is positively denied by the authorities.

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Across the Mediterranean,

1 ^ Among the sandy wastes of the
2 Sahara Desert a stately ceremony has
3 been held. In a magnificent fairy book
4 palace amid the ~~brilliant~~^{shifting} sands a
5 group of smart French officers came
6 to salute in front of an old sheik
7 of the desert. One officer stepped
8 forward and pinned the ~~Military Medal~~^{Medaille Militaire}
9 of France on the white bernouse of the
10 old Lord of the Desert. He is the Lord
11 of the Atlas Mountains and his name
12 is EL HADJ THAMI BEN MAHOMED MEZOUARI
13 EL GLAOUI, PACHA OF MARRAKECH, and
14 the French say that they owe much of
15 their great dominion in North Africa
16 to this same Pacha of Marrakech.

17 He is the absolute monarch
18 over ~~hundreds~~^{thousands} of square miles of the Sahara,
19 ~~desert~~, and has the power of life
20 and death over half a million Moorish
21 tribesmen. He has a large harem and
22 more than * a hundred and fifty wives,
23 and his palace is a marvel of the desert.

24 When the World War broke out
25 Marshal * Lyautey represented the power

1 of France in the heart of the desert.
2 The Marshal was in command of a small
3 body of French troops. He sent a
4 message to the Pacha of Marrakech
5 asking him to come for a conference.
6 The Pacha paid no attention to the
7 invitation. The Marshal sent a second
8 summons, and it was unanswered. Then
9 the Marshal sent a third message which
10 read like this:

11 I AM HAVING A CAGE BUILT. IF
12 YOU DO NOT COME, I WILL ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ^{Come and} GET YOU
13 AND ~~BRING~~ ^{Bring} YOU ~~IN~~ IN THAT CAGE.

14 The Pacha was amused by the
15 boldness of the Frenchman who had
16 only a handful of soldiers. He obeyed
17 the summons and went to call on the
18 Marshal accompanied by a whole army of
19 his fighting tribesmen. The Marshal
20 received him with honors. He sent a
21 whole squadron of dancing girls to
22 scatter roses along the path of the
23 old Sheik. Then the Marshal said to
24 the Pacha:

25 WE ARE AT WAR WITH GERMANY. HOW

1 DO YOU STAND?

2 The Pacha replied:

3 WITHDRAW YOUR MEN FROM MY
4 COUNTRY AND I PROMISE YOU WE WILL BE
5 ON THE SIDE OF FRANCE, AND WILL KEEP
6 THE GERMANS FROM COMING INTO THE LAND.

7 So the French withdrew their
8 soldiers and the old Pacha was ^{as good as} ~~loyal~~
9 ~~to~~ his word. He kept that great
10 territory loyal to France. Naturally
11 the French were grateful. Each year
12 they sent the Pacha two magnificent
13 automobiles. The old ~~Rxxxxxx~~ Sheik
14 visits Paris each year and he is growing
15 very fond of golf. The United Press
16 informs us that he shoots a good game.
17 And now France has honored him with the
18 ~~Military Medal~~ highly prized medaille Militaire.

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1 This afternoon I heard a hearty
2 laugh, a real ringing chuckle right off
3 the funny bone. And I thought right off --
4 when a man has a whole-souled laugh like
5 that, it's no wonder that he was voted
6 time and again the most popular professor
7 at New York University.

8 The man in question ~~was~~^{is} Charles Gray
9 Shaw. He's tall, and has a Van Dyke
10 beard, and a magnificent intellectual head.
11 He's a dignified and learned man, but
12 what a human and humorous chap he is.

13 I was interested in meeting him,
14 because I had just acquired a copy of a
15 book of his called "The Road to Culture."
16 I had dipped into it and it caught my
17 imagination. In fact I hope to read most
18 of it when I go home tonight. Anyway, I
19 was curious about the man who had written
20 "The Road to Culture." What sort of a
21 fellow was he?

22 Well, I got my answer in that
23 rib-shaking, whole-hearted laugh.

24 He was sitting in my office and
25 glancing idly through a sheaf of news
dispatches.

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1 "Look here, old man!" the genial
2 Professor shouted. "You see things like
3 this in the movies, but the most amusing
4 thing in the world is life."

5 I looked at the dispatch which had
6 so heartily amused the author of "The Road
7 to Culture", and it certainly was a story
8 better than the movies. In fact, I'll
9 recommend this story about Berlin policemen
10 to some producer who's getting up one of
11 those screen comedies full of funny cops.

12 A burglar burgled a house over in
13 Berlin. He was climbing up a wall. The
14 cops saw him. And they climbed right up
15 that wall after him. But the burglar then
16 jumped down and went scooting off.

17 Did the cops jump after him and
18 continue the chase? Oh, no! Nothing
19 doing! They didn't like the idea. It
20 was too high. They ~~went~~ up on that wall --
21 but they couldn't get down. According
22 to the International News Service, the fire
23 department was called, and the firemen ran
24 up a ladder to rescue those courageous cops
25 "I only wish I'd been there to see

that", laughed Professor Shaw. "And by the way, why don't you use that story as your News Item of the Day?"

"Right you are, Professor," we'll do just that."

And I think we'll all agree with what Professor Shaw tells us - that a sense of humor is a valuable asset to all who want to journey along "The Road to Culture."

1 I ran across a flashing and
2 interesting bit of contrast today -
3 two men who stand at the head of
4 opposing forces ~~xxx~~ in One of the greatest
5 and most peculiar battles of our time.

6 ~~There are pen portraits of these two men~~
~~made in these two men in two articles~~
7 in the new Literary Digest, the
8 February 7th number, which is on the
9 newsstands today. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

10 One ~~of these~~ Digest articles
11 begins with a vividly descriptive line
12 which reads: A TOOTHLESS, SCRAWNY, HALF
13 NAKED WISP OF A MAN WHO HOLDS THE FATES
14 OF SCORES OF MILLIONS IN HIS EMACIATED
15 HAND.

16 Of course, you know who that
17 is - the amazing little Hindu Mahatma
18 Gandhi. The Digest in ~~an~~ ^{that} article on
19 Gandhi characterizes him further as
20 the sixty-one-year-old, ninety-six-pound,
21 bird-seed-eating ~~xx~~ man.

22 Gandhi, as you know, was
23 recently let out of prison, and the Digest
24 tells us that the British prison
25 officers were greatly bothered by his

1 peculiar diet. Always a strict
2 vegetarian, he gave up even milk, and
3 in his life in jail, ^{he} existed on a daily
4 meal of a handful of cracked corn and
5 bird seed flavored with raisins.

6 And then in this pen picture of
7 the astonishing Mahatma, the Digest
8 ~~XXXX~~ goes on to give a sharply pointed
9 analysis of the secret of Gandhi's
10 power. His two-edged sword, says the
11 Digest, is non-cooperation and non-
12 violence. Where force would lose, his
13 gentleness wins. He symbolizes the
14 terrific ~~XXXX~~ might of meekness.

15 And now for the almost fantastic
16 bit of contrast that I mentioned.

17 The new Digest in a second
18 article gives a pen portrait of another
19 personality, a striking figure that
20 stands squarely in opposition to the
21 bird-seed-eating holy man. ~~Here are~~
22 ~~two leaders of battling forces, and they~~
23 ~~make an almost impossible contrast.~~

24 But wait a ^{moment.} ~~minute.~~ My time is
25 about up. I'll have to let that second

personality go until tomorrow. Times up, so he'll have to wait until our next session.

END

Oh, by the way, I had intended to tell you about an interesting telephone call today. It was from a man who is more than a 100 years old. He is Leprelet Logee, the oldest Mason in the country. He is celebrating his 105th birthday up in Charlton, Massachusetts. Well, I hope you all live to be a hundred and five - and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.