

FOREST FIRES

m Lowell Thomas Broadcast
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Good Evening Everybody;

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1 ~~XXXX~~ The martial law idea seems to
2 be spreading in Idaho. Four counties in
3 the state are patrolled by troops tonight.
4 These counties are in the section of the
5 state that has been ravaged by a series
6 of terrific forest fires.

7 The National Guard for days has been
8 fighting fire. Tonight the guardsmen
9 have been taken off the fire fighting and
10 are patrolling the wooded sections with
11 rifles on their shoulders.

12 The state authorities declare that
13 the epidemic of fires has been caused by
14 incendiaries. People have been going
15 around, setting those forest fires. The
16 rumor is that they are jobless men who
17 want to be put to work fighting the fires,
18 men who must be desperate.

19 These men were put on the job
20 battling the big blaze in the Boise Basin.
21 They were paid. When the flames were got
22 under control they were out of jobs again.
23 And so they figured that in order to get
24 work they must make work for themselves.
25 And so they set other forest fires and
then were employed to fight fire once
more, so the story goes.

1 This is what the state authorities
2 say, and the United Press reports that a
3 man was arrested today for starting a
4 blaze in the underbrush and among the
5 trees of a wooded section.

6 Meanwhile, more than 60,000 acres
7 of timber ~~land~~ have been burned. Two
8 towns -- Quartzburg and Granite Creek --
9 are in ashes, and 300 people are homeless
10 -- all as a result of those forest fires
11 which have swept the central part of the
12 state.

1 Trouble has flared up once more
2 in the mining district of ~~the middle west~~ ^{Kentucky}
3 where miners have been on strike for
4 some time.

5 In the Kentucky coal district
6 new ~~outbreaks~~ ^{bursts} of violence are feared
7 this evening on account of two outbreaks
8 of shooting. In one case a deputy sheriff
9 shot three men, killing one and wounding
10 the other two. The deputy sheriff claims
11 that he stopped his car at a soup-kitchen
12 along the highway when the three men
13 started shooting at him. He says he
14 pulled his own gun and replied.

15 In the second case another
16 deputy sheriff shot and killed a young
17 miner who he claims tried to resist
18 arrest on a charge of drunkenness. There
19 ~~were~~ ^{are} said to be more than fifty murder
20 cases pending in Harlan County, ^{Kentucky}. The
21 United Press explains that most of them
22 are the result of a pitched battle between
23 guards and striking miners, several
24 months ago.
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1 The word seems to be that the *federal*
2 government is not going to increase
3 taxes -- at least such is the comment
4 which the Washington correspondent of the
5 New York Evening Post makes concerning
6 the huge loan of one billion 100 million
7 dollars which the government announced
8 today.

9 Uncle Sam is borrowing all that
10 cash in what is said to be the biggest
11 financial operation that he has undertaken
12 since the end of the World War.

13 There has been a question as to
14 how the United States Treasury would
15 raise money to meet the deficit which it
16 faces and the demands that are made on
17 the public purse. Some thought that taxes
18 would be raised. Many of the Progressives
19 believe that the right thing to do is to
20 boost the income tax rates on large
21 incomes. But the answer seems to be
22 that Uncle Sam is going to raise the
23 money by obtaining a loan and issuing
24 bonds, and not by boosting taxes.

1 The National Amateur Golf
 2 Championship tournament got under way
 3 today at the Beverley Country Club in
 4 Chicago. The boys are fighting for
 5 Bobby Jones' old crown. This is the
 6 first time in half a dozen years that
 7 the immortal Bobby wasn't there. ~~But~~ Or
 8 rather he ^{is} ~~was~~ there -- ^{as a spectator} -- ^{as a newspaper}
 9 reporter. He used to be out there making
 10 those marvelous drives and putts of his,
 11 but this time he ^{is} ~~was~~ just watching ~~how~~
 12 the ~~many~~ other fellows ^{do it.} ~~made theirs.~~

13 The result of the first day's
 14 play, as given by the International
 15 News Service, shows Jack Westland ahead.
 16 Jack is a member of the Sunny Ridge
 17 Country Club of Winnetka, Illinois. ^{He} ~~Jack~~
 18 went around the 18-hole course in 72
 19 strokes. Tonight ^{Jack} ~~he~~ is the ^{fair} ~~white~~-haired
 20 boy out there at Beverley. But tomorrow
 21 it may be something else again.

1 Well, The revolution in Cuba seems to be
2 finally at an end -- this time really at
3 an end. They say that ~~the~~ last important
4 revolutionary leader has surrendered.
5 The Associated Press names him as Colonel
6 *Penabaz* Penate. He kept up the fight against the
7 government of President Machado long
8 after the other revolutionary chieftains
9 had thrown up the sponge.

10 But today he is on his way to
11 Havana, a prisoner. He gave himself up
12 with one single follower near the town
13 of Ranchuelo, in the province of Santa
14 Clara. His capture, say the Cuban
15 authorities, is the last important
16 incident in the revolt that flared up so
17 wildly a couple of weeks ago.
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1 This evening in Italy the Catholic
2 clubs are open once more - that is,
3 except in Rome. All day throughout the
4 cities and towns of Italy officers went
5 around and took off the seals which the
6 Fascist Government had placed on the
7 doors of the Catholic Club rooms. The
8 city of Rome was ^{the only exception} ~~excepted~~ says the
9 United Press. The religious organizations
10 ~~there~~ ^{in Rome} will be allowed to reopen as soon
11 as conditions of the agreement between
12 the Pope and Mussolini have been made
13 public.

14 The announcement was made today
15 that the agreement had finally been
16 completed to the last detail and
17 accepted by both sides. The text of the
18 understanding has been privately printed
19 and was sent today to all the Cardinals
20 throughout the world.

21 ~~The International News Service~~
22 ~~reports that the terms of the agreement~~
23 ~~will soon be made public.~~ The gist of
24 the matter is that the Vatican and the
25 Fascist Government have effected a

1 compromise, according to which Mussolini
2 withdraws his opposition ~~from~~ to Catholic
3 clubs and the Pope guarantees that
4 these organizations will keep strictly
5 off the subject of politics.
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1 The New York Evening Post ~~states~~ tells us
2 today that it has word from an authoritative
3 diplomatic source that the International
4 Court at The Hague has decided that
5 Germany and Austria have no right to
6 form that customs union which created
7 so much stir several months ago.

8 Germany and Austria, it will be
9 recalled, decided to form an economic
10 compact according to which ~~neither side~~^{they}
11 would ^{not} charge ^{any duty} ~~duties~~ on goods imported
12 from each other.

13 Other countries especially France,
14 ~~xx~~ claim that this violated the Treaty
15 of Versailles which forbids a political
16 reunion between Austria and Germany.

17 They declare that the economic
18 union would result ^{ultimately} in a political union.

19 It is said that the Austrian
20 Government has been told in advance
21 of the decision of the Hague court to
22 rule against that customs union and
23 that Austria intends to say O. K. If
24 you think we ought ^{not} to do it, we won't.

25 Well, this decision would

1 have aroused a good deal of excitement
2 a little while ago, but now the financial
3 crisis in Germany and the rest of Central
4 Europe has taken the edge off that
5 question of the intended economic union
6 between Germany and Austria.

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1 An important statement comes from
2 Paris on the subject of disarmament.
3 Joseph Paul-Boncour is chairman of
4 foreign affairs of the Chamber of
5 Deputies. He is a great authority on the
6 question of disarmament and is certain to
7 be one of the chief delegates who will
8 represent France at the disarmament
9 conference that will open at Geneva next
10 February. That's enough to indicate that
11 whatever Monsieur Paul-Boncour has to
12 say on the subject of cutting down armies
13 and navies is important.

14 Well, he has uttered a few words
15 to the Associated Press which outline
16 what is certainly a rather sensational
17 plan. His idea is that the League of
18 Nations should have a certain amount of
19 control, a certain amount of actual
20 command over the armies of the nations ^{world.} ~~of the~~
21 No, this doesn't merely mean that the
22 League of Nations should have a say about
23 how big an army a nation should have. **■**
24 It's more than that. It means that in
25 case of a war the League should have the

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1 right to tell the armies of the nations
2 what to do.

3 Monsieur Paul-Boncour thinks that
4 first of all the disarmament conference
5 should decide how big a 6-shooter each
6 country should be allowed to ~~■~~ tote on
7 its hip. And after that, the League of
8 Nations should hold what Monsieur Paul-
9 Boncour calls a mortgage on those guns.

10 If one nation starts what the
11 League considers a war of aggression, why
12 then the League would simply call upon the
13 armies of the other nations to join
14 forces and squelch the obstreperous
15 individual.

16 Yes sir, that does seem like a
17 rather drastic plan, but they say that
18 Monsieur Paul-Boncour ^{would} ~~is~~ ^{be} not ^{actually} likely ^{to}
19 ^{advocate} ~~say~~ anything like that unless it
20 represents ^{ed} the views of important
21 political elements in France. *So that's*
22 *what makes his statement significant.*

DIGEST

Let's pay a visit to the land of eternal warfare.

Where is it? -- why, just across the way from Jerusalem. It's Transjordan, the land across the sacred River Jordan, the ancient Land of Moab where Moses was buried.

Back in Biblical days it was a land of warfare, and it still is. This week's Literary Digest reminds us that Transjordan, is an Arab kingdom which is under British protection. It is a semi-desert country inhabited by fighting tribes and villagers. And then to the east and south lies the great desert of Arabia where, in the solitude of the sands, and the lava mountains reigns Ibn Saud, the war-like king of the Wahabis. He is the enemy of the Sultan of Transjordan, the Emir Abdullah. And time after time Ibn Saud's troops of Bedouins, on their fleet horses and racing camels, come raiding and bringing the terror of war and rapine to the land across the Jordan.

Well, if you want to visit the country of eternal warfare, just take your current copy of the Literary Digest and turn to page eleven. There you will find a pen picture of Amman, the capital and royal city of Transjordan -- and a weird place it is.

There are the grotesque contrasts that you will find all over the East, where Western modernism is pushing in. The bazaar at Amman is a typical oriental bazaar -- only what's the dreadful noise? Why, it's the blare and uproar of a hundred gramophones going at once.

Well, I can recall, how only a few years ago, Emir Hussein, the father of Emir Abdullah, looked upon the gramophone as the instrument of the devil and would not allow one in the Holy City of Mecca.

Yes, and Amman has a police force, and it's quite active in its way. Thieves infested the bazaar. The merchants organized a demonstration, demanding that the police do something, and the police did plenty. They arrested the merchants. They tried the merchants and found them guilty -- guilty of insulting the police.

There was a bit of opposition among the people against the way my old friend Sultan Abdullah was ruling the land. The local newspapers started a campaign of agitation. What did his Majesty the Emir Do? Well, the Literary Digest quotes an

1 article in the Leipzig illustrierte Zeitung
 2 and tells us that the ^{Emir} ~~king~~ ~~suppressed~~
 3 ~~the~~ suppressed all the newspapers except
 4 the single one which was supported by his
 5 own personal funds and was a champion of
 6 the government. Then after all the
 7 opposition newspapers were put out of
 8 business, he didn't see of what use the
 9 official newspaper was anymore. He had
 10 been supporting it just to counter-balance
 11 the attacks printed in the independent
 12 papers.

13 ~~And~~ So now he stopped giving it
 14 any money, and ~~so~~ it passed out of
 15 existence. *And that disposed of the power of the*
 16 *press in the Ancient Land of Moab.*
 17 ~~But~~ ~~And~~ now the sounds of shots ~~are~~ *is*
 18 heard in the strange city of Amman.
 19 What's the trouble? ~~What~~ Are the Wahabi
 20 tribesmen raiding the town? No, not at
 21 all, says the Literary Digest. The sound
 22 of shooting comes from the local motion
 23 picture show. The boys must like the
 24 latest screen thriller that has made its
 25 way to the land across the Jordan, because
 they're applauding heartily. No, not by
 clapping their hands, but by shooting
 their guns in the air. *Whenever they are*
happy out there, or whenever they are unhappy
they start to shoot.

TALL STORY

I've been tackling a job recently that's got me rather puzzled. That job has been assigned to me by the Tall Story Club. Requests for membership have been coming along in a stream, coming from every corner of the continent. There are a lot of noble patriots who want to enroll themselves under the waving banner of the Great American Whopper.

Well, I sort of feel that we ought to have a formal membership card, something in the spirit of the thing -- snappy, whimsical, and suggestive of the owlish seriousness with which the brothers tell those tall ones.

I have received a number of documents from various local organizations devoted to the telling of whoppers, such as fishing clubs. And they provide some good ideas, but just the same I'm stumped about how to get up a sufficiently magnificent piece of literature to be worthy ~~x~~ to act as a membership card for that ancient and honorable order the Tall Story Club. Maybe some of you tall-story tellers have a few ideas. What do you think should be on that noble document?

This afternoon

1 ^ I ran across the origin of a
2 good old story - ~~this afternoon~~ - you
3 know, the type of story that sounds too
4 neat and nifty ever to have been true.

5 It's the one about the time
6 they had a riot down in Texas, a big
7 riot, a furious riot. The authorities,
8 unable to cope with the situation,
9 called upon the Texas Rangers, and in
10 due time one Texas Ranger arrived -
11 yes, just one. X

12 "What, just one Ranger?"
13 exclaimed the authorities.

14 "Well, thar's just one riot,
15 ain't thar?" responded the hardened
16 old two-gun man from the plains.

17 The New York Sun today prints
18 an article on the Texas Rangers, and
19 quotes from a story by Carey J. Crouch
20 in the National Republic which gives the
21 origin of that ^{Texas classic} ~~story~~. It didn't happen
22 quite as told.

23 The famous old Texas Ranger,
24 Bill MacDonald, swung off the train at
25 Dallas. The authorities wanted to stop

1 a prizefight which was scheduled to be
2 held and had wired for help from the
3 Rangers. They expressed their surprise
4 at the fact that only one man was sent.

5 "Well, there's only one fight,
6 ain't there?" was the classical reply
7 of Bill MacDonald.

8 Yes, and this is only one
9 news broadcast, which leads me to say
10 so long until tomorrow.

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