

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1931

HENDERSON

Good Evening, Everybody:

All aboard! for our evenings jaunt around the globe.

Did you hear that loud blast as we came to the outskirts of London?

Well that loud blast comes from Arthur Henderson, Foreign Secretary of Great Britain. Mr. Henderson comes out today with the emphatic statement that tariffs are the principal barriers to world prosperity at present. He declares that the tariff system is undermining the foundations of the world's economic prosperity.

According to the Associated Press, the British Foreign Secretary made these forceful remarks in an address today before the Pan-European commission.

And, of course, what the Europeans are particularly annoyed about is that tariff wall which stands high and forbidding around this fair land of ours.

1 The subject of wheat and the
2 price of grain was taken up in London
3 today. And a delegate of the United
4 States declared himself in no uncertain
5 terms.

6 Samuel R. McKelvie, a member of
7 the Federal Farm Board, who is representing
8 the United States at the World Grain
9 Conference in London, declared that
10 what the world should do is ~~to~~ cut down
11 the production of wheat. ^{This old globe} ~~The world~~ is weighed
12 ~~way~~ down under a mountainous pile of
13 wheat, ~~and~~ and the American delegate
14 said that there must be a curtailment
15 of production.

16 According to the Associated Press,
17 Mr. McKelvie went on to assure the
18 delegates that the American Farm Board
19 had no intention of dumping on the
20 world markets the huge stores of grain
21 accumulated by the Farm Board. These
22 mountains of wheat will not be hastily
23 sold at a cut price, but will be
24 disposed of in an orderly, systematic
25 way.

1 King Alphonso seems to have beaten
2 the Spanish republican government to
3 the punch. In his exile in Paris, the
4 former king announced today that he
5 would donate all of his property in
6 Spain to the government to be ~~applied~~ ^{used for}
7 ~~to~~ the relief of the unemployed.

8 ~~The International News Service~~
9 ~~informs us that~~ the property owned by
10 the king in Spain consists of palaces,
11 jewels, and stock in the Madrid subway--
12 several million dollars worth in all.

13 Well, last week the republican
14 authorities started to talk about
15 confiscating the property of the king.
16 But now it looks as if Alphonso has
17 anticipated them.

18 ~~Anyway, there won't be much use~~
19 ~~of confiscating what has already been~~
20 ~~given to them.~~ And the king's demand
21 that the money be devoted to unemployment
22 relief will make a hit among the
23 thousands of jobless men in Spain.

1 A disturbance is reported from
2 over in Italy,- a musical disturbance.
3 No, it wasn't a German band, and it
4 wasn't because some singer sang a few
5 sour notes. This musical disturbance is
6 all mixed up with politics. *According to*
7 *the U.P.* It was at a concert at the
8 world-renowned La Scala Opera House in
9 Milan. The Dutch conductor Van Raalte
10 was directing the orchestra. The first
11 orchestral number had just begun when
12 ~~a number~~ ^{some} of the people in the audience
13 staged a big rumpus. They started
14 shouting:- "Long Live Toscanini! Bravo
15 Toscanini!"

16 This of course, came as an
17 aftermath to the recent episode in Bologna
18 where Toscanini had trouble with the
19 Fascists because he refused to play
20 Giovinezza, the Fascist war song. All of ^{which}
21 points to the fact that there may not be
22 too much love lost between the great
23 Maestro Toscanini, and the equally great
Duce Mussolini.

24 Anyway, the great musical city of
25 Milan is Toscanini's old stamping ground,
and for many years he has been

worshipped by the Milanese.

And so it's not surprising that a demonstration was staged in his favor. At any rate, the beginning of the program of the Dutch conductor was spoiled by the shouts for Toscanini. The police arrived and stopped the uproar. But they made no arrests while the concert was in progress. They didn't want to spoil the music. However, they spotted the disturbers, and when the program was finished, there were arrested.

Well, Italy is a land famous for musical disturbances. The story is told of famous riots at Bologna during the last century. When Wagner's opera Lohengrin was performed in the city for the first time, it started a riot which lasted for three days. Mobs fought with each other all over the city and they finally had to bring the army in to put down the musical uproar.

The International News Service cables a report from London that Toscanini is being held virtually a prisoner.

The London Daily Telegraph states, in an article today, that the maestro's passport has been withdrawn and that he's being kept in his house under a special guard of police and secret service men.

NEWS ITEM

Well, donner wetter! Also, was is los!

Himmel! But it's something awful when you're having a big ceremony very solemn, and something goes all wrong.

They certainly were having a big ceremony today over in the harbor of Kiel. It was a great event for Germany. In fact, it was a mighty important event for all the world, and one that bulks large in the affairs of the nations.

They were launching that new and revolutionary ship of war, the Deutschland, which is described as a vest-pocket battle cruiser. The ship is the last word in improved naval technique. It's said to be more powerful, ton for ton, than any other ship ever built.

They say it's strong enough to sink anything that can catch it, and speedy enough to escape anything that can sink it. Naval experts all over the world are watching that ultra-modern German warship; and many believe that it will cause a revolution in battleship construction and will have far-reaching political effects.

And so naturally the eyes of Germany and of the whole world were on that launching ceremony at Kiel today. The ceremony was stately and impressive--that is, it would have been if things hadn't gone wrong.

President Von Hindenburg was there, the old Iron Man of Germany, lending his warlike presence. He was to christen the new and marvelous fighting monster of the deep. Chancellor Bruening made the address of dedication, and he uttered impressive words for all the world to hear. He declared that Germany, while launching this new warcraft, was waiting for some sign to show that the world was ready to disarm.

The chancellor was saying just that when things began to go haywire. There was a tremendous crash and a roar. Something was happening to the big ship on the ways ready for launching.

The astonished crowd looked and saw that the vest pocket cruiser, for no apparent, was sliding down to the water. The ship was launching itself in advance. Something had gone wrong, and the Deutschland, without waiting for the proper moment, glided gracefully down into the water.

"Ja wohl!" shouted President Von Hindenburg, the Iron Man of war. "Wait a minute there, you foolish battleship! Don't you know that I'm to christen you?"

At least, the President of Germany said something to that effect. In a desperate attempt to break the bottle of champagne over the bow of the ship he started after the craft which was on its way down the skids.

Von Hindenburg is lively on his feet for a man of his age. But the farfamed warship was too fast for him. It got away and went splashing into the water as unchristened as any heathen.

Von Hindenburg made a wild, despairing pass but the bottle of champagne broke from the string to which it was attached and went bouncing on the ground.

However the old Commander-in-Chief of Germany's war machine during the struggle of the nations, arose to the occasion. It was all slightly undignified but he silenced the crowd with a sweep of his arm. He turned to the misbehaving ship and addressed it.:

"Do your duty!" he called to the vessel. "Keep your flag clean and high! Your name is Deutschland!"

That had to take the place of a regular christening, and the president's words were received with deafening cheers. And the military band broke into the strains of "Deutschland Uber Alles".

The strange incident has caused widespread consternation in German naval circles. Sailors all believe that it's a bad omen for a ship to encounter an accident when it's being launched. Old navy men shook their heads.

But, according to the Interantional News Service, the officials of the German admiralty have issued an authoritative statement declaring that a premature launching is not a sign of bad luck. If a ship gets stuck while being launched, that brings bad luck. But the Deutschland certainly didn't get stuck. It was the other way around, and they say that's not bad luck at all.

Anyway, it was a most singular occurrence, and I think we'll have to call it the News Item of the Day.

And now let's hop an express train for France.

1 A prominent American military
2 officer has fallen victim to a peculiar
3 accident in France. He is General
4 R. H. Dunlap of the United States Marine
5 Corps.

6 The General for the last few months
7 has been in France occupying a chateau
8 about ten miles from the city of Tours.

9 According to the United Press,
10 recent rains have weakened the walls of
11 the cellar. A couple of workmen were
12 repairing the wall when a section of it
13 collapsed and they were buried. General
14 Dunlap was trying to help. A stone was
15 in danger of falling upon a woman and he
16 held it up. Then the rest of the wall
17 collapsed and he was buried. Tons of
18 earth and masonry slid down. The French
19 rural police immediately began to dig,
20 but at last advices the three buried men
21 have not been dug out. The International
22 News Service states ^{there is very little} ~~that no~~ hope ~~is held~~
23 ~~out~~ that either the General or the two
24 French workmen ^{are} ~~may be~~ alive.

GOLF

Well, the big British Amateur Golf Tournament is still in full swing over in England. And the American hope, George Voight, of New York, is still in the running. He won his match today and thereby got safely through the third round.

According to the United Press, Voight today beat the British crack golfer, J. R. Abercrombie, of Liverpool the man who, yesterday put Douglas Fairbanks out of the running after a hard game.

1 All day today in California bands
2 of men went around removing sign boards,
3 knocking down those roadside ^{works of art} ~~atrocities~~
4 ^{that} ~~which~~ advertise everything ~~for~~ ~~all the~~
5 ~~way~~ from hot dogs to real estate lots.

6 According to the International
7 News Service, California intends to
8 remove all the illegal signs from along
9 the state highways. Any sign that
10 hasn't a perfect right to be ~~where~~ ~~it is~~
11 is just pulled down. California is
12 trying to beat Wisconsin's record.
13 Wisconsin has yanked down 52,000 sign
14 boards along the roads. *All of which*
15 *leads us to believe that* ^{the} ~~millenium~~ *will*
16 *soon be here.*

4

1 In a livery stable at Newark,
2 New Jersey, a policeman walked up to
3 a mare in a stall - I suppose she was
4 an old grey mare. Anyway, the policeman
5 said to the horse:

6 "Hey Lilly."

7 And the mare nodded her head.
8 And that's the way Frank Mokery, a New
9 Jersey farmer got his horse back.

10 The horse was stolen from him
11 a year ago. He notified the police
12 that he had trained the nag to nod her
13 head whenever she heard her name spoken -
14 and her name was Lilly.

15 And so, according to the
16 New York Evening Post, the Newark police
17 identified Lilly by the way she nodded
18 her head. ^{She was} ~~and~~ returned ~~her~~ to her owner.

END (TALL)

Right at this minute a group of jolly fellows are gathered in a big hotel dining room in Chicago.

One hundred prominent railway men, representatives of the Class One railroads of the country, are assembled tonight as guests of the National Safety Council, at the Stevens Hotel.

The idea of the gathering is safety. 188 of our American railroad lines have just completed a seven year accident prevention drive.

Well, when we think of a railroad accident the picture that usually comes to mind is of a collision or a train running off the tracks.

Do you know that during fourteen years, from 1917 and including 1931, sixty-eight of the Class One steam railroads have operated without a single casualty among their passengers caused by collision or derailment?

The railroad lines, whose representatives are meeting in Chicago, have cut down injuries among their employees by over 77%. In 1923 those railroads had 148,000 injuries to employees. Last year that was cut to approximately 33,000. Four of the lines cut down their accidents to employees by over 90%. The Lake Terminal

END (TALL) - 2

Railroad of Lorain, Ohio, cut their accident figure by 100%.

The casualties due to accidents on that line in 1930 were zero.

I suppose just about now Charlie Carlson, President of the Duluth, Missabe and Northern Railroad is telling that tall story about safety. He thinks so well of it that he has contributed it to the Tall Story Club.

A freight train with thirty box cars and a caboose left Proctor, Minnesota, for Hibbing. The train made no stops, but when it arrived at Hibbing there was a car missing. It had left with thirty freight cars and got there with twenty-nine.

An investigation revealed that one of the cars in the middle had jumped the tracks, but other cars were so well educated in the ways of safety that the train thus broken in two automatically closed the gap and coupled up and went merrily on its way.

Well, the Tall Story Club appreciates that one, but just the same the learned brothers want to remind the railroad executives of a peculiar way in which accidents can occur.

For example, there was a slight mishap in Alabama years ago.

T. M. Beudall, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, tells us that

when the railroad was first built north from Mobile, Alabama, into Mississippi, the farmers came from fifty miles around to see the strange sight as the iron horse went by. One old fellow from down at a Fork of the Creek drove up in his horse and buggy. A city drummer told him what a railroad train was like, and the farmer thought if it was as bad as all that his horse might get scared. So he took the old grey mare out of the shafts and tied her up a mile or two away.

Then he figured that maybe his buggy was too close to the tracks. So he decided to pull it off to a safe distance. He had just got between the shafts and started hauling the buggy along, when the railroad train came roaring around the curve. The farmer got so scared that he ran away with the buggy himself.

Well, that old yarn ought to inspire those railroad presidents to new efforts in their accident prevention drive.

Meanwhile, the brakeman at my ~~elbow~~ elbow is signalling with his red lantern. The switchman is getting ready to switch me right out into the street. In other words, it's time for me to pull my freight. So, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.