

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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STARS

Tonight is the night of nights.

If you want to see a grand gala display of celestial fireworks absolutely free of charge, just get out your old grey bonnet and wrap a shawl about your shoulders and watch the sky tonight between midnight and dawn. It's foggy here, but probably it's clear where you are. According to all the signs and prognostications so the astronomers tell us this is the night when the darkness is to be shot with flashes of light as shooting stars chase each other across the sky. Maybe, if they show up.

And while we are waiting for those star flashes, here are a few news flashes.

BLACK TOM

The first is about a damage suit involving two nations. Forty million dollars were at stake. It took fourteen years to settle it. Do you recall the Black Tom explosion in New York harbor back in July, 1916? That was in the days when even a tire blow-out was blamed on the Ksaler's spies.

Anyhow, the Black Tom was one of the worst ammunition explosions in history. It happened in northern New Jersey. One terrific blast after another shook the locality for hours. Tons of dynamite, shrapnel, and T.N.T. turned northern Jersey into a battle field. Warehouses, whole trains of freight cars and homes were blown to smithereens. German agents were accused.

But now, according to the New York Evening World, a Mixed Claims Commission in Hamburg, Germany, a commission made up of both Americans and Germans, has announced that there is absolutely no proof that the German government was responsible either for this or for that other explosion at Kingsland, New Jersey, that same year.

FREE GAS.

And then up near the city of Syracuse, New York, a lot of motorists are getting free gasoline these days. There is a hole in the ground with a steady flow of gasoline coming from it. More than 200,000 gallons have been taken out of the hole by city officials for purposes of safety and it still flows. The whole thing is a mystery. One theory is that tanks at Syracuse filling stations are leaking.

That may be a theory but this ~~ix~~ next is a fact.

FOOTBALL

There isn't as much weeping and wailing in Tigertown tonight as the experts predicted. True, the bulldog is on his way north licking his chops. But he had a close shave. As you no doubt have heard that traditional game between Princeton and Yale ended with the score of 10 to 7 in favor of Yale.

Fordham, undefeated for two years lost this afternoon to those rampant Irishmen from California. I mean St. Mary's. That's a shock to New Yorkers.

No doubt you have heard about Dartmouth, Holy Cross, Army and Michigan winning - and all the other scores.

1 This is the season of the year
 2 when football, of course, is the great big
 3 thing in sports, but just the same, boxing
 4 has crashed through into the headlines.
 5 There's a new lightweight champion today.
 6 Most boxing experts thought that Al
 7 Singer, the Jewish boy, would be champion
 8 for a long time. He was a beautiful
 9 boxer, maybe a second Benny Leonard,
 10 but last night Tony Canzoneri, who
 11 used to be a bootblack down in New Orleans,
 12 knocked him ~~out~~ ^{cockeyed. And how long do you think it took}
 13 ~~him to do it? Exactly 66~~ ^{him to do it? Exactly 66} seconds. The New York
 14 ~~Evening Sun~~ ^{Al Singer} points out that ~~the~~
 15 beaten champion, ^{Al Singer} now has a record for
 16 short fights. Four months ago he won the
 17 title by knocking out Sammy Mandell in
 18 1 minute and 46 seconds. Then he fought
 19 ~~with~~ ^{who was in another class.} Jimmy McLarnin. It was not for the
 20 lightweight title, because McLarnin is a
 21 welter weight. Well, McLarnin knocked
 22 out Singer in the first round. And last
 23 night Canzoneri, who wasn't given much of
 24 a chance, did the trick in exactly sixty
 25 six seconds. Add to that the fact that
 Singer was champion only four months, and
 everything certainly was short and snappy.

BACKGAMMON

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1 From football and prize fighting
2 to backgammon may seem a let down, but
3 it appears that backgammon is a game of
4 violent feelings and bloodthirsty fury.
5 This week's Literary Digest carries a
6 lively article about that latest fad in
7 games. The Digest discusses the back-
8 gammon question in ^a calm, analytic way.
9 Nevertheless, there's quite a bit of
10 excitement in the article. The Digest
11 quotes Julian Jerome, writing in Vanity
12 Fair, and he says that not even contract
13 bridge is such a goat getter as backgammon.
14 He rages against the lazy players, mostly
15 women, who take hours in arranging the
16 board; and the cup rattler who drives
17 the serious backgammonist crazy by
18 rattling the dice in the cup for hours.
19 Then there are the slow player and the
20 fast player, also the cocked dice shooter
21 who rolls the dice over on the checkers,
22 or off the board, or off the table. There
23 is a weeping of tears and a gnashing of
24 teeth in that Digest article.

25 That's about enough for sports.
Now for a bit of wild adventure.

WILKINS

You probably have read a lot about that trip Sir Hubert Wilkins is going to make to the North Pole in a submarine next year. Well, the New York Mirror says a woman is going, Lady Wilkins. She is to be the only one. Lady Wilkins announces that she is to be in charge of the cook's galley. She's busy practicing for the expedition by cooking flapjacks and other things that her husband and his crew are likely to want when they are groping under the ice fields of the Polar Sea.

And here's one about another adventurous woman, a flashing eyed French girl whose life story is wilder than the wildest fiction. In the New York Evening Post, Louis Sherwin, the Roving Reporter, tells about Titayna. That's the name she goes by. Her real name is unknown. ~~but she is of an ancient French aristocratic family. In Europe she is known as a woman traveler, who has been to the wildest places on all the continents.~~

Titayna says she has a peculiar amusement. She likes to shock barbarians by telling them the truth about the manners and habits of civilized people. It's great sport, she says, to tell Asif Khan the Baluchi, or Shwe-yo the Shan about the way people behave at gay parties almost anywhere in Europe or America, and then to see how badly Asif Khan and Shwe-yo are shocked.

In a flying tour of Europe several years ago, I happened to run

TITAYNA - 2

across this same daredevil, unconventional Titayna and she told me all about a trip she had just made. It was a tour deep into the Sahara, with one lone companion. And that companion was a Mohomedan holy man, the Grand Mufti of Morocco.

We've got a few political items from the other side of the pond.

1 In Italy, Mussolini has started
2 something else that's new, and this time
3 it concerns the Jewish ~~population~~. The
4 Italian Jews, says the Associated Press,
5 are being brought under the direct control
6 of the Fascist government. A decree just
7 issued directed that a council of rabbis
8 be formed, and this council is to
9 represent the various Jewish communities
10 in Italy in their dealings with the
11 government. In the decree, ancient rights
12 of the Jews have been guaranteed, rights
13 granted centuries ago with the permission
14 of the Pope. In some cases these ancient
15 rights allow the Jews to form separate
16 municipalities and impose their own taxes.
17 Leaders of the Italian Jews have telegraphed
18 to Mussolini saying the new decree suits
19 them to a T.

20 The New York Times informs us that
21 the British are going to confer with the
22 Jews about the Palestine situation. The
23 Labor Government has invited the Zionist
24 leaders to a conference which will try
25 to clear up the muddled situation in the

1 Over in Russia they've still got
2 the war scare and the war fever. Today
3 according to the Associated Press, the
4 Soviets began what they call "ten days
5 of defense." This is, from now until
6 November 25th the Russians will go through
7 the routine of preparing for war. They
8 have these "ten days of defense" every
9 year, but this time there's a lot of
10 excitement behind it all. The Moscow
11 newspapers are full of war scare, and
12 are running streamer headlines about the
13 supposed intention of the western powers to
14 invade ~~the~~ Russia, ~~telling the Russian~~
15 ~~people that invasion is coming.~~

FAST WARSHIP

In France, they've just launched the fastest warship in the world. A new destroyer for the French navy named the Bison, with engines of 66,000 horsepower that can send it zipping over the ocean at 37 knots an hour. The United Press says there isn't another ship in any navy under the sun that can touch it for speed. Well, maybe there isn't now, but if I know Uncle Sam and John Bull, I'll be dollars to doughnuts it won't be long before there will be.

NEWS ITEM

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1 Out of the sweep and whirl of the
2 day's news there's one bit of news that
3 certainly stands out as the weirdest.
4 It's a ghost story, and I'm awarding it
5 the distinction of ~~standing as the~~ ^{winning as my} News
6 Item of the Day.

7 Over in England there's a composer
8 of music who has the high-sounding name
9 of Darewski. That makes us think of
10 Paderewski and highbrow concerts. But
11 this Darewski composes popular songs.
12 He's a jazz composer and one of the top
13 notchers along London's Tin Pan Alley.
14 Among Darewski's long list of compositions
15 some are world famous. He wrote the song
16 that had everybody stuttering. I mean,
17 k-k-k-Katie. You remember!—"I'll be
18 waiting at the k+k-k-kitchen door." "When-
19 We-Wound-up-the-Watch on the Rhine," was
20 another of his popular hits. He also
21 wrote the music for "Irene", and he
22 composed "Razzle Dazzle" and "Whispering".

23 Well, last night, according to the
24 Associated Press, Darewski was at Covent
25 Garden Opera House, and he was conducting

1 the orchestra for a jazz dancing act. On
2 the stage the dancers were stepping along
3 to the measures of a syncopated modern
4 waltz. Darewski was beating the time
5 with a jazzy swing, Then he saw the
6 fellow at the kettle drums staring. The
7 drummer had his eyes on the stage as
8 though he saw something to frighten him.
9 Darewski looked, and his eyes began to
10 pop. Above the dancers a vague apparition
11 floated, and slowly it became clear. It
12 was the bright, shimmering figure of a
13 warrior with a glistening helmet and a
14 spear. And Darewski recognized it as
15 Siegfried, the legendary hero who appears
16 in several of the profoundest and longest
17 operas of the great composer Wagner. And
18 while the band continued the jazzy waltz,
19 that ghost of Siegfried floated slowly
20 across the stage, and disappeared.

21 Darewski collapsed. ~~He~~ Sank into a
22 chair. ~~behind him.~~ The dancers stopped
23 dancing, and the orchestra stopped playing.
24 Everybody stared at the composer, who sat
25 there pale and wide eyed. They thought he

was ill. But he told what he had witnessed. Nobody had seen the apparition, nobody but the drum player and Darewski.

Well, there's one worried musician in England today.

Darewski has an idea that the ghost of Siegfried appeared before him as a protest against the age of jazz and blues.

Maybe Wagner sent the spook of his great hero to reproach Darewski for writing K-K-Katie, When the M-Moon shines over the C-cow shed.

ELECTION

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1 Out at Bridgeport, Nebraska, they
2 had a hot battle for sheriff on Election
3 Day, and when the returns were in
4 Candidate Davis, Republican, and Candidate
5 Webb, Democrat, had exactly the same
6 number of votes. The election officials
7 were puzzled, naturally. Then they got
8 a deck of cards, and gave it to the two
9 candidates, and told them to settle it
10 that way. So, the candidates cut the
11 deck. The Democrat won, and was given
12 the certificate of office. But now the
13 Republican says it was all wrong, and
14 that he's going to contest it.

15 This ^{next} one is a blast in
16 defense of cats.
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CATS

All of us have met the irate chap who hoists his window at two o'clock in the morning and fires a boot or a milk bottle at a tom cat on the back fence. Well, there's a fellow here in New York who has his back arched and his fur up over the way people are treating cats. He is Bobby Cole, the perambulating cat specialist for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. And he ~~is~~ asserts categorically in the New York Telegram, that the cats are not getting credit for all their feline virtues.

"When people say cats are selfish and hard-boiled, and faithless and quarrelsome, like as not it's themselves they're talking about. People just use cats to blame their own faults on," says this famous catologist.

"I've known cats that wouldn't leave the side of a sick person, who was their friend, until that person recovered."

END

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1 Wal, by heck, here's an item that ought
2 ~~to~~^{to} make you waggle your whiskers. It's
3 about a farmer out in Ohio who hadn't been
4 to town for nigh onto 20 years. But
5 curiosity got the better of him. So he
6 got out^{of} that there gosh-danged old buggy
7 and hitched up the old gray mare, and
8 drove right into town. Yes sir, and when
9 he came to Main Street he found a lot of
10 funny new-fangled gimcracks, sech as
11 traffic lights and all that sorter thing.

12 But was he bothered by them? No, by
13 gum. He ~~jest~~ drove that ~~car~~ consarned
14 spring buggy of his right through them
15 there red traffic lights. And when he
16 came to a No U-Turn sign he said "giddap",
17 cracked the old buggy whip, swung right
18 around it, and hitched the old mare to a
19 fireplug! Yes sirree, them city slickers
20 ~~and~~^{and} them there new-fangled automobiles,
21 they never saw nuthin like it before.

22 Good for you, Si, and I hope they
23 had the right brand of chewin' terbaccer
24 in that cigar store.

25 Well, that pitchfork full of news
ends my hay pitching for tonight, and I

1 wish, by heck, that I could get in one
2 of them there gosh-dinged old buggies
3 myself, and crack my whip, and drive
4 past all these ^{here} red traffic lights ~~here~~
5 on 5th Avenue on my way home tonight.
6 But I guess it cain't be done.

7 So, so-long until ~~tomorrow~~ ^{Monday} night.
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