

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1931

SPAIN

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Spain seems to be in trouble again. The situation in Spain is a little quieter tonight, but not much. All day in Madrid the mobs rioted in the streets. Their anger was turned principally against churches and religious institutions.

According to the Associated Press, crowds of reds and radicals first attacked the headquarters of the Jesuits, and soon the large building was in flames. Then the mobs surged against a nearby church and burned it too.

From then on one religious edifice after another was destroyed -- ten in all.

According to the International News Service, the city firefighters of Madrid in some cases refused to try to put out the fires. They displayed their radical sentiments by standing idly by.

The government withdrew the Civil Guard, which has aroused the anger of the radicals. The Civil Guards were sent to their barracks, and troops of the regular army replaced them in policing the streets -- or trying to police the streets.

1 According to the United Press, the
2 disorders are believed to have been
3 inspired by a recent pastoral letter of
4 the Cardinal Primate of Spain, which is
5 interpreted as having a Monarchist tone.
6 At any rate, today was the wildest day
7 Madrid has known since the revolution
8 which overthrew King Alphonso.

9 As evening drew on, things became
10 a bit quieter. Street cars and busses,
11 which had been out of commission all day,
12 started running again as ~~street car~~
13 conductors and motor men and bus drivers,
14 who had joined the mobs, returned to work.

15 But as darkness fell in the Spanish
16 capital, mobs were still surging through
17 the streets.

18 Throughout the rest of Spain
19 things were quiet, except in the city
20 of Cordova, where, according to the
21 International News Service, a mob attacked
22 the Episcopal ~~palace~~ palace.

23 Today's disturbances present a grave
24 problem for the ~~the~~ new Spanish government.
25 The radical elements in Spain were behind

1 the rioting. They claim the government
2 is too conservative. And they want a
3 more ■■ red and radical regime.

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FRANCE

Well, Briand has said "yes".

According to the Associated Press the French Foreign Minister has announced himself a candidate for the presidency. He made his decision public late this afternoon.

Thirty representatives of the Left Republican groups called upon Briand and asked him to be a candidate, and he said "yes". It is expected that he will be elected President of France by the French Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday.

1 Millions of people over in
2 Russia are meditating this evening
3 upon what to them is a piece of very
4 bad news. The Sōviet government has
5 boosted prizes for living commodities
6 by 50 per cent.

7 ~~According to the Associated~~
8 ~~Press,~~ the Bolshevik authorities are
9 systematically increasing prices as a
10 means of deflating currency. The idea
11 seems to be this way: The Soviet
12 government has printed huge quantities
13 of money -- too much, in fact. They
14 realize this and want to get some of
15 that money back. They figure one way to
16 do it is to increase the prices people
17 pay to the government for food and
18 clothing. All they have to do is to
19 run the prices high enough and all the
20 money will come back ~~in~~ into the
21 government's pocket.

22 This may be a clever communistic
23 financial move, but it is hard on the
24 folks whose salaries are not being raised
25 at all while these price increases are

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going on.

Anyway, the price of commodities
in Russia is said to be ~~rising to~~ ^{shooting up to}
fabulous heights. ^

RUSSIA

The floods that have been raging over in Russia are threatening to cause one huge slice of damage.

It's the Dnieper River that has been running wild over its banks. And across the stream at one point Soviet Russia has huge hydro electric dam, one of the biggest engineering undertakings in all Russia.

According to the International News Service, the flood is threatening to burst the dam. And tonight 10,000 workmen are fighting like mad, laying sand bags, trying to build a barricade that will break the flood and save the enormous power plant.

55 villages in the valley of the Dnieper have been washed out.

Another river, the Oka, is on a rampage too, and the surging waters have hit the big automobile enterprise which the dispatch here calls the Soviet Ford Plant.

Scores of American and German engineers and mechanics have been washed out of house and home. But so far no lives have been lost.

1 There is a big show in London
2 tonight, but Charlie Chaplin won't be
3 on the stage. It is a command per-
4 formance at the Palladium Theatre. And
5 the King will be there.

6 Charlie Chaplin was commanded
7 to go, so they say, but according to
8 the United Press Charlie claims he was
9 merely asked by a theatrical manager,
10 and he refused.

11 As a result he has been
12 attacked by the British newspapers, and
13 now he is talking back. He says his
14 countrymen, the British, are the
15 biggest hypocrits in the world. He
16 declares that no one cared a twopence
17 for him when he was a struggling young
18 man, but since he has become famous his
19 country has welcomed him.

20 And he doesn't give that same
21 twopence for the King. Says Charlie:

22 "I know that the jester
23 always pays, for the King inevitably
24 kicks him down the stairs. The most
25 famous court clowns eventually are

1 beheaded."

2 Well, nobody talked about
3 beheading Charlie. At least, not King
4 George. But just the same he is
5 peevish at the King ^{and} ~~in~~ his ^{native} ~~own~~ country
6 and so the great royal performance in
7 London tonight will go on with the
8 King in the royal box, but without *the*
9 ~~King of Festers~~ ~~Charlie Chaplin~~ on the stage.

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3 beheading Charlie. At least, not King
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5 peeved at the King ^{and} ~~in~~ his ^{native} ~~own~~ country
6 and so the great royal performance in
7 London tonight will go on with the
8 King in the royal box, but without ^{the}
9 ~~King of Jesters~~ ~~Charlie Chaplin~~ on the stage.

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QUEEN MARIE

Page 10 ~~11~~

1 A cable to the International News
2 Service states that Queen Marie of
3 Roumania has been injured while sight-
4 seeing in Italy.

5 The accident took place in a
6 mountain gorge of the Italian Alps, near
7 the town of Belagio. The dowager queen
8 was climbing a ladder to the top of the
9 cliff, when she missed one of the rungs.
10 ^{Queen Marie} She fell, and was hurt.

1 Several times in the past I have
2 referred to the interesting letters that
3 keep coming in. Here's one tonight from
4 Timothy Heywood, of Boston, who tells
5 me he's interested in advertising.

6 "It's great fun," he writes, "to
7 look at a lot of advertisements and pick
8 out the one you think is the most
9 effective, the one that hits you the
10 hardest. Every week, when I get my copy
11 of the Literary Digest, I go through
12 the ads and pick ^{my favorite} ~~the one I think is the~~
13 ~~best.~~

14 "Some ads are the same as the
15 week before, others have changed.

16 "Anyway, that's my weekly sport
17 with the Digest, which I consider ~~is~~ a
18 ^{particularly} ~~pretty~~ good publication for the purpose,"
19 continues Mr. Heywood. "It has not only
20 many ads, but it's advertising is so
21 varied. There are so many different
22 things to pick from.

23 "Sometimes I have a friend pick
24 out his favorite ad, just to see whether
25 he ^{spots} ~~picks~~ the same one I ^{do.} ~~pick~~. He seldom
does.

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"It's an amusing game, and I'll bet there are a lot of other Digest readers who've had some fun playing it."

Well, I guess ^{Jim} ~~Mr~~ Heywood is right. There is one advantage that advertisements have over regular articles. They can be sized up quickly. And looking at ads is good fun for most all of us.

1 The word from Washington this
 2 evening is economy. Government expenses
 3 are going to be cut by ten percent, if
 4 possible.

5 ~~The New York Evening Post~~
 6 ~~informs us that President Hoover is~~
 7 ~~conducting a series of conversations~~
 8 ~~with heads of government departments~~
 9 ~~with the idea of reducing expenditures~~
 10 ~~and orders have been given to ~~cut~~ slash~~
 11 ~~wherever possible.~~ *they can.*

12 In the War Department
 13 ~~RRR~~ Secretary Hurley moved quickly today
 14 to put the President's ideas of economy
 15 into effect. He announced that some
 16 of the army posts will be abolished and
 17 others will be consolidated.

18 Yes, ~~says~~ the President is
 19 determined on economy and he seems to be
 20 ~~going~~ ^{setting} about it ^{quickly and} in an active way.
 21 [^] [^]

1 Now let me think. Which was it?
2 I mean, which was the hottest railroad
3 trip I ever made?

4 Well, there was the time we
5 traveled across the Sind Desert in
6 North Western India from Lahore to
7 Karachi in a sandstorm. The heat in
8 that railroad coach was so unbearable
9 that at each stop we bought all the ice
10 we could get, cracked it up, and hung
11 it in bags beneath the electric fans
12 in the coach -- so the current of air
13 from the fan would be cooled off by
14 passing through the ice.

15 Then there was that railroad trip
16 ^{up} ~~the~~ the Nile from the Luxor to the first
17 cataract, and on across the Soudan to
18 Khartoum in mid-summer. The heat was
19 staggering on that jaunt.

20 But those foreign places haven't
21 a thing on our own U.S.A. Two or three
22 times in mid-summer I've crossed our own
23 southwestern desert, down around Yuma,
24 Arizona, and Needles, California, and
25 El Centro, ^{in the} ~~the~~ Imperial Valley -- and for

1 real popping heat that section of
2 America, in July and August, might even
3 show the burning sands of the Sahara a
4 thing or two.

5 And so, as one who has suffered
6 from the heat a time or two, I am giving
7 three cheers regarding an article printed
8 in the Baltimore Sun. That article tells
9 us about what is said to be the first
10 air-cooled train ever ~~put on the~~ sent over the
11 ~~railroad tracks.~~ tracks.

12 It is the ^{oldest railroad in America} ~~Baltimore & Ohio Railroad~~
13 that is starting this pleasant hot
14 weather innovation. It's crack train, the
15 Columbian, will be air-cooled throughout.
16 The cooling device will be operated
17 whether the train is in motion or standing
18 still, and the air will be kept at a
19 constant moderate temperature. The
20 thermostat will do the regulating.

21 If I ever go back to the Nubian
22 Desert in Africa or the Sind Desert in
23 India, I'd like to take that new American
24 train air-cooling system along.
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1 One of the boys in the lock-up
2 who do the lock step, has invented a new
3 gadget, and quite appropriately that
4 gadget is a lock.

5 The Associated Press informs us
6 that Harold Marks who is doing a long
7 term in San Quentin prison, California,
8 for robbery, has perfected what is said
9 to be an unpickable lock. Once the
10 key is turned and the lock is locked,
11 no burglar can get it open.

12 At least so the experts say, and
13 those experts ought to know. When
14 Harold finished inventing that lock he
15 got a jury together to pass judgment on ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~it~~
16 ~~it~~ ^{it}, and that jury consisted of the
17 assembled burglars in San Quentin prison.

18 Yes, sir, they know all about
19 locks. They went to work on Harold's
20 contraption and ^{they} couldn't do a thing with
21 it, and that just about makes it an
22 unpickable lock.

1 A story comes from Nevada
 2 of a bewhiskered, tattered beggar who
 3 stopped a business man on the street
 4 and begged for a dime for a cup of
 5 coffee. The business man took one look
 6 at the shabby tramp, and the two men
 7 recognized each other.

8 Thirty years ago in a Nevada gold
 9 camp a boy stood at a gambling table
 10 and lost every nickel he had. He looked
 11 pretty sad, ~~at~~ that kid who had played
 12 the part of a fool and his money. The
 13 gambler who operated the table was a hard
 14 old ~~character~~ ^{hombre} of the West. I suppose
 15 he had the heavy mustaches and the
 16 checkered vest and all.

17 "Is that your last dollar, kid?"
 18 ~~he said.~~ *asked the gambler.*

19 The boy ~~nodded~~.

20 "How much will it take to get
 21 you back where you came from?"

22 The boy answered the fare was
 23 \$7.50. The gambler handed him the
 24 money.

25 "I'll pay you back when I

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get home," the lad faltered.

"Never mind, kid", replied the gambler. "I don't need it. Plenty more where it came from."

Yes, indeed, as the gambler said, money was about the most plentiful thing of all in those old mining camps.

And now, thirty years later, comes the meeting of the beggar and the business man on the street in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"I owe you seven dollars and a half", said the business man to the tramp.

And a few minutes later the two men were in the best restaurant in the town, and the tramp was eating the biggest meal he had had in a long time. In his pocket now was Fifteen dollars, twice the sum he had given to the frightened youth thirty years before. Also the broken down old fellow has found a good friend, - at a time when he needs one.

1 The Associated Press wires
2 a fish story from Kinston, North Carolina.
3 A. Hobgood is a member of the Kinston
4 Nature Society, and is known as an
5 accurate and truthful observer of
6 nature. According to the Associated
7 Press wire he has a story from a friend
8 of his who has never been known to distort
9 a fact.

10 Anyway, the friend was out
11 fishing when he caught a twenty-four
12 pound fish. Upon opening it he
13 discovered a two pound chub inside. When
14 the chub was opened they found a perch
15 in its stomach. Inside of the perch was
16 the minnow which Mr. Hobgood's friend
17 used for bait.

18 Well, that story may be true.
19 The Kinston Nature Society is a highly
20 praiseworthy organization. However, it
21 has nothing on the Tall Story Club
22 from the archives of which I had extracted
23 another fish story, which also may be
24 true. It's tall, but the fact is that
25 there is really nothing impossible about

1 it. The story is sent in by James
2 A. ~~Wax~~ Weye of Indianapolis, who
3 informs us that Clint Ervin, of
4 Rochester, Indiana, a famous old fisher-
5 man in those parts, was fishing on Lake
6 Maniton. He was in a boat, and the
7 night was very dark. He was using live
8 frogs for bait and for a while the
9 fishing was not so good. Then he made
10 a splendid cast and the frog went
11 sailing into the black night. A moment
12 later there was a tremendous tug on the
13 line. Clint was nearly pulled out of
14 the boat. Then a profound astonishment
15 gripped Clint's soul. The line was not
16 running down or out. It was running
17 up, skyward. Although it was a case
18 of fishing, it was more like flying a
19 kite. Up that line went, with Clint
20 tugging at a fish in the sky. He
21 hadn't been drinking anything, and
22 wondered whether a flying fish had got
23 into that Indiana lake.

24 Finally he landed that fish-- and it
25 ~~It was~~ turned out to be an owl. The frog on the hook

must have climbed on to a lily pad and the owl must have swooped down and taken both frog and hook.

We are not told what sort of battle occurred when Clint got the owl into the boat.

END

A stream of letters have been pouring in asking me to say "so long until tomorrow" in various languages.

For example, Michael Incantalupo, of Long Island City, wants to me say it in Italian, and he tells me how. Even though my pronunciation may be a bit off here goes -- just as they do it in Sunny Italy: Arivederci Fina Domani.

In other words, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.