

1 GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

2 The biggest sensation in the
3 Lindbergh case since the discovery of
4 the baby's body came over the wire
5 from Trenton today.

6 (John Hughes Curtis, the Norfolk
7 boat builder, confessed today that his
8 story ^{in the Lindbergh case} was all a fake, that he was just
9 what we know in newspaper circles as
10 a publicity hound.)

11 Curtis made this confession at
12 four o'clock this morning. So
13 announces Colonel Schwarzkopf of the
14 New Jersey State police. According
15 to the New York Sun, the police have
16 been questioning Curtis for four days.

17 He sat down to a typewriter and
18 himself wrote a complete confession
19 concerning his activities in this case.
20 That is the gist of a bulletin issued
21 by the police this afternoon.

22 (He said the boat and all the
23 people to whom he had been referring
24 were creations of his imagination.
25 They don't exist at all.

1 Curtis, you may remember, had
2 told of a ship with kidnapers aboard.
3 ~~He described~~ ^{he described} ~~and told~~ in great detail ~~of~~ negotiations
4 he was making for the return of the
5 child. He had been using his imagination
6 for ~~a period of~~ weeks; ~~and~~ ^{just} kept stringing
7 it out, ~~and for a time at least~~, fooling
8 the entire country as well as the
9 parents of the child. ¶ This was the
10 second of the cruel hoaxes of which
11 Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh have been the
12 ~~ix~~ victims. (The other Norfolk citizens,
13 including Admiral Burrage, who were
14 involved with Curtis in this prodigious
15 fake, were innocent parties according to
16 Curtis's ~~own~~ confession.) ¶ The worst of
17 it was that reputable citizens and
18 officials had frequently told Colonel
19 Lindbergh that Curtis was a responsible
20 person ~~and his~~ ^{whose} word could be depended
21 upon.

22 ¶ According to one published story ^{this}
23 ~~ship builder~~ ^{Curtis} had been in financial
24 difficulties and apparently was carrying
25 on this deception for the sake of the

1 publicity in the hope of using that
2 publicity to mend his fortunes.

3 ~~According to~~ The police ^{say he has} ~~Curtis~~ admitted
4 this. ~~and~~ ^{They say he has} confessed that he hoped to
5 cash in on the ^{vast} publicity. ~~that he'd~~
6 ~~built up for himself.~~

7 The widespread activity of the
8 United States Coast Guard and other
9 Federal agencies was due entirely to
10 Curtis' story about this mysterious
11 boat. A detailed description of the
12 boat was even broadcast all over the
13 world and the ships of all countries
14 were being asked to look for her. It
15 was due also to this story that Colonel
16 Lindbergh was kept away from his home
17 for so great a part of the last few
18 weeks -- chasing x phoney clues instead
19 of being on the spot during important
20 phases of the case.

21 The news of Curtis' confession
22 came over the wire while the papers
23 were still full of the announcement that
24 service ships had been ordered to follow
25 the mysterious ~~xx~~ boat to Europe if

1 necessary.

2 Nobody knows what punishment if
3 any can be inflicted upon Curtis for his
4 hoax. The United States Attorney's
5 office in New York announced that the
6 details would have to be studied
7 carefully before any prosecution can be
8 started, ~~the~~ But officials ~~is~~ intimate
9 that they ~~might~~^{may} be able to prosecute
10 him for using the mails to attempt
11 extortion.

12 ~~Curtis was a leading social figure~~
13 ~~of Norfolk, according to one account.~~

1 There is a marked difference of
2 opinion in Washington on the troublesome
3 subject of providing relief for the
4 jobless.

5 There are several different plans,
6 ~~and~~ The sums the different parties propose
7 to spend, though all tremendous, vary
8 in size. ^{They range from} ~~from~~ the two-billion-three-hundred
9 million ^{dollar-} bond-scheme of Senator Robinson,
10 the Democratic leader, to the five and
11 a half billion public works bill of
12 Senator LaFollette.

13 On top of all this Senator Borah today
14 threw some oil on the fire when he told
15 the Senate that all these sums ~~would have been~~ ^{would have}
16 ^{become} insufficient before the year is over. ~~and~~
17 ~~that~~ President Hoover's relief plan ~~was~~ ^{is}
18 inadequate, ^{he added.}

19 "This is war", exclaimed Senator
20 Borah. It's a contest to preserve
21 government and the moral and physical
22 well-being of an entire population."

23 When it comes to the final statement
24 of what shall be done for the unemployed
25 the Senate will have at least four

1 projects to choose from.

2 On top of this the second attempt
3 to slap the sky-scraper income tax rates
4 of 1922 on us once more was defeated in
5 the Senate today. Several Senators have
6 been clamoring for these ^{high} war-time taxes.
7 ~~This is the second time this measure failed~~
8 ~~to pass, and that's good news.~~

9 At the same time it looks as though
10 Congress would be in session this summer.
11 Mr. Garner, ~~the~~ Speaker of the House,
12 declared that he did not believe the
13 Senate ~~would~~ ^{will} be able to clear its calendar
14 even by the time the National ^{Conventions} ~~Conference~~
15 ~~is supposed to~~ meet in Chicago next month.

1 Congressman LaGuardia of New York
2 frequently contributes to the entertainment
3 of not only the House but the country
4 at large. One of his latest bits of
5 comedy was to make the charge that
6 Federal Judges are using Government
7 expense accounts to take joy-rides across
8 the country.

9 He named 29 of these Federal Judges
10 who had turned in expense accounts for
11 trips to sit on the bench in the Southern
12 New York district.

13 Another Representative declared that
14 there was a long waiting list of eminent
15 ~~jurors~~^{jurists} who were trying to get that
16 assignment so as to make the round of the
17 New York theaters. Indignant denials
18 from several of the Judges ~~so accused~~
19 are burning the wires. *Taint so, they wail.*

20 But that wasn't Mr. LaGuardia's only
21 contribution to the gaiety of nations.
22 In the course of another debate he
23 declared that Uncle Sam's army was going
24 in for undignified advertising stunts.

25 It seems that not long ago there was a

1 hotel banquet in New York and the principal
2 feature was the appearance of an artillery
3 caisson and six horses. The horses were
4 taken up in the hotel elevator to the
5 ballroom on the roof, just to ~~add~~ do
6 honor to the President of ~~the Westchester~~^{the Westchester}
7 Racing Association.

8 "It is not conducive to patriotism
9 for the Army to be represented in an act
10 along with cabaret singers", protested
11 the Congressman.

12 He doesn't say what the horses thought
13 about it. *But I imagine those artillery*
14 *steeds are saying "neigh, neigh."*

1 Even with all the significant
2 happenings of the last couple of days,
3 an important feature of all the newspapers
4 in America today has been the comments on
5 the extraordinary career of Captain
6 Robert Dollar who ^{has just} died ~~yesterday~~ at the
7 age of 88. He was undoubtedly the grand
8 old man of American shipping.

9 "The tough and lanky figure of
10 Captain Robert Dollar -- complete
11 with the old-fashioned chin beard, the
12 keen trading sense and the two-fisted
13 ~~XXXX~~ piety which once graced the
14 quarterdecks of Yankee tea-clippers --
15 had a symbolic interest". So declared the
16 New York Herald Tribune today.

17 ~~He never was a shipmaster at all,~~
18 ~~and he never even owned a vessel until~~
19 ~~he was nearly fifty years old. He was~~
20 ~~born in Scotland, and first established~~
21 ~~himself as a lumber man, but~~ eventually
22 he became one of the largest operators
23 of ocean vessels in the world. And
24 everybody agrees that he did more for
25 American shipping than any other one man.
And he looked like the traditional figure
of Uncle Sam.

1 I think we are soon going to have
2 a new member of the Tall Story Club.
3 It will probably be the youngest member
4 of the Club. His name is John Carveth
5 Wells, and he's the son of my old friend
6 Carveth Wells, explorer and naturalist,
7 you know, the man who discovered the
8 tree-climbing fish *that winks at you.*

9 The young man is only 20 years old.
10 A couple of years ago his father put
11 him on an allowance of 10 bucks a week and
12 told him to get out and see life. That's
13 quite a tall order on 10 bucks a week but
14 he did it. He has been all over France,
15 Italy, Africa, from Alexandria to Capetown,
16 and many curious and remote points East
17 of Suez.

18 His allowance was enough to pay only
19 a small portion of his expenses. *
20 According to a story in the New York
21 Herald Tribune he ^{is the only man who ever} ~~earned the rest writing~~
22 ~~for newspapers, selling photographs,~~
23 ~~giving radio talks and even giving concerts.~~
24 ~~He also is one of the few men in life who~~
25 got money out of George Bernard Shaw - ^{i.e.} $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ by

1 selling him his autograph. He sold it
2 to George twice, once in Cairo and a year
3 later in Capetown, which is quite a
4 distance.

5 On one occasion when he reached
6 Spezia on the Italian coast, not far from
7 Genoa, he was feeling rather rich with all
8 of twelve dollars in his pocket. But a
9 pickpocket got the twelve ~~dollars~~ so
10 he made a tour of cafes with his
11 phonograph and collected enough money to
12 go on.

13 One of his stunts was to climb Mount
14 Kenya for a cost of \$15.00, which is
15 several thousand dollars less than it
16 cost his father to make the same climb.
17 As a matter of fact it cost the Duke of
18 Abruzzi eighty thousand dollars for an
19 expedition to the same spot.

20 When last heard from young Carveth
21 Wells was in the wilds of Newark, New
22 Jersey. I shall be anxious to ^{hear} ~~see~~ some of
23 the Tall Stories this young man has
24 collected. If he can beat his father,
25 he is good.

Ever since the World War the position of the great Baltic seaport of Danzig has been uncertain. Just now Danzig is a free city. Several nations are vitally interested in Danzig. One is Germany and another is Poland.

There is a fascinating article on Danzig in the current issue of the Literary Digest. It tells about that raid which the Poles planned for May 1st, to seize Danzig. Well, I've a famous traveler sitting at my elbow tonight who is just back from that corner of troubled Europe. For twenty years he has been a New York newspaperman, feature writer, and author of books on political subjects. He still is; and he's also Managing Editor of the American Monthly. His name is Paul Maerker-Branden. Mr. Maerker-Branden speaks with a somewhat foreign accent as you will notice in a moment, but that doesn't alter the fact that he has been a New York newspaperman for more than a score of years. But then, many folks

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RETAKE

Paul ~~Atto~~
Maerker - Branken.

Newsman.
Managing
Editor, "American
Monthly."

May 17, 1932 -
p. 12.

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25 score of years. But then, many folks

1 say that New York isn't America. Be
2 that as it may, what about that Danzig
3 panic, Mr. Branden?

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1 The situation in Danzig is
2 important to us here in America. Why?
3 Well, the whole problem of world peace
4 is involved. Right now I call Danzig
5 the sorest of all the sore spots of
6 Europe. And what this week's Literary
7 Digest tells us about the Danzig
8 problem is absolutely correct. And it's
9 important.

10 Just imagine for instance, that
11 for some reason or other, Canada obtained
12 a "Corridor," a strip of land right
13 across the states of Vermont, New
14 Hampshire and Massachusetts, - with the
15 seaport of Boston becoming a "free ^{city} ~~state~~."
16 Such a "corridor" would cut off the
17 state of Maine from the rest of the
18 United States, *Just as East Prussia is now cut*
19 *off from ~~the~~ Germany.*

20 Well, if Canada had control of the
21 city of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and
22 sent all its commerce through Plymouth,
23 Boston would be doomed. That's what's
24 happening with the Polish corridor and the
25 free city of Danzig. The Poles have
built a new seaport within a few miles

1 OF Danzig on their own soil, and it
2 looks as though Danzig were doomed.

3 Now Danzig is inhabited mainly
4 by Germans so the ~~ax~~ whole problem
5 becomes a complicated racial one,
6 ~~almost like~~ ^{just as} Alsace-Lorraine used to be.

7 The new German-Polish border is
8 now drawn in such eccentric fashion that
9 there are many open wounds and gashes.
10 The result is that peace is jeopardized.
11 And that affects all of us.

JAPAN Well, Mr. Brandon, here Page 16
is another sore spot.

1 The disorder in Tokio threatens
2 to bring about a new form of rule in
3 Japan. In fact, as William Simms,
4 foreign editor of the Scripps-Howard
5 papers wires from Washington, it may
6 ~~xxxxxx~~ revise the entire map of Asia.

7 ~~"The Japanese terror is hardly~~
8 ~~over. It may have the effect of~~
9 ~~radically altering the form of government~~
10 ~~in the Mikado's empire."~~

11 ~~As affairs stand at present,~~
12 ~~the military party are trying to~~
13 ~~dictate the formation of the cabinet.~~
14 ~~The politicians received today what~~
15 ~~amounted to an ultimatum from the army.~~
16 ~~The military Big Whigs announced that~~
17 ~~they would not support any cabinet formed~~
18 ~~on political party lines. What they~~
19 ~~say they want is a national cabinet.~~

20 The Mikado's dynasty, however,
21 does not appear to be in danger.
22 Reverence for the emperor is part of
23 the national religion in Japan. The
24 cry of the dead premier's murderers was:
25 "Up with the emperor, down with the

1 financial oligarchy ^{and} ~~of~~ the privileged
 2 classes."

3 Japanese politics seem to be weirdly
 4 ~~very mixed up~~ ^{confused according} to our notion. The young
 5 military jingos appear to be ~~with the~~
 6 ~~same breath~~ ^{one minute} Communists ^{the next.} and imperialists.

7 But Japan's crisis runs far too
 8 deep to be settled by an assassination,
 9 declares the New York World Telegram.
 10 The depression there has lasted not
 11 two years, but twelve. Just think of it,
 12 twelve years. And this has raised Cain
 13 with the middle and lower classes. One
 14 complaint of the young Japanese is that
 15 ~~xxx~~ six big banks are running Japan and
 16 running it for their own benefit with no
 17 regard for anybody else.

18 Well, this looks like a
 19 ~~lot of~~ trouble ahead, for Japan.

1 The latest from India is that
 2 the rioting which started in Bombay
 3 ~~xxxxxx~~ Saturday night has now spread
 4 to Calcutta. Hindus and Moslems ~~there~~ *too have*
 5 *been* attacking each other with ferocity.

6 In Calcutta so far only thirty-
 7 five have been injured, as compared
 8 with the tremendous total in Bombay.
 9 Twelve of these were policemen, one
 10 of whom was an assistant commissioner.

11 ~~One of the important features~~
 12 ~~of the Bombay riot was an attack by~~
 13 ~~a Hindu mob on a house occupied by~~
 14 ~~Moslems. The inhabitants of the house~~
 15 ~~were ~~xxxxxxx~~ accused of having thrown~~
 16 ~~stones ~~xxxxx~~ at a Hindu procession.~~
 17 ~~The police had to fire on the crowd~~
 18 ~~seven times.~~

19 ~~Meanwhile~~ The ~~disorder~~ ^{fighting is} still
 20 going on in Bombay. ~~The later details~~
 21 ~~of this are still lacking.~~

22 ~~There the total number of dead~~
 23 ~~it was announced today, had run as high~~
 24 ~~as eighty, while not less than 950 were~~
 25 ~~injured. Today's casualties, in spite~~

1 The burning of that vessel in the
2 Gulf of Aden will turn out to have been
3 one of the greatest sea disasters in
4 modern times. That's how it looks ~~xxx~~
5 according to a United Press dispatch from
6 London to the Boston Traveller.

7 At least a hundred persons are
8 missing so far. This news was conveyed
9 to the London Evening Standard by Captain
10 Owen, of the British ship, which rescued
11 75 of the passengers on the burning
12 liner. There are even reports that
13 the fire was caused by a bomb. According
14 to a French newspaper the owners of the
15 liner were threatened. She was supposed
16 to be carrying war munitions for Japan.

17 The rescuing of the passengers must
18 have been an exciting affair. Some of the
19 lifeboats were on fire as the passengers
20 fled from the ship.

21 Captain Owen reported "I have ~~got~~
22 wives without husbands, children without
23 parents; all frightfully anxious. Some
24 of the passengers are Russian, and I can't
25 make them understand either English or
French."

1 According to another report many
2 first class passengers were trapped in
3 their cabins by the fire.

4 It was the ^{French} liner's maiden trip to the
5 Far East.

1 Here's a U.P. story in the Buffalo Times that has an
2 odd turn. A gentleman out in San Diego died. In his will he left
3 a five dollar bequest to his daughter. But there was a string to
4 it. Coupled with the gift was the suggestion that she buy a copy
5 of the book of etiquette to learn the duty and obligation of a
6 daughter to her father.
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9 The moral is that if the lady had only bought the Book
10 of Etiquette a few years ago, she might now have a handsome fortune.
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12 Well, one of the important rules in Emily Post's Book of
13 Etiquette is that a man should not overstay his welcome, which leads
14 me to say --
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16 SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.
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