

Sat. Jan. 3rd.
Lowell Thomas

Page 1

1
2
3
4 I'm sorry to have to tell you
5 that there is no news from
6 the TRADE WIND, that plane
7 which started out for Bermuda
8 so bravely this morning, on ~~its~~
9 ~~the~~ way to Europe.

10 Both the United Press and
11 the International News service
12 report that the plane has
13 not arrived at Bermuda. It
14 was due there between one and
15 two this afternoon.

16 Grave anxiety is felt for
17 the two courageous flyers, Capt.
18 MacLaren and ~~xxx~~ Mrs. Beryl
19 Hart. Let's hope that, if they
20 have been forced down at sea,
21 some passing ship may have picked
22 them up.
23
24
25

I scarcely have to tell you this next news -- the Republic of France is in deep mourning. For Marshal Joffre is dead.

All France is paying him tribute. There will be a solemn funeral and after that the hero of the Marne will pass into history, a vivid, striking figure for future generations to study and admire.

And what a figure. I always thought his pictures failed to do him justice, and made him seem smaller than he was. I know that when I met him for a brief talk not long after we had gone into the war, I was surprised at what a magnificent type of soldier was this man who turned the Germans back from the very gates of Paris.

For a Frenchman he looked like a giant. With his shaggy grey eyebrows, his flaring white mustache, his blue uniform, his cap circled with wavy bands of gold, and his rows and rows of medals, he was as magnificent a figure as appeared on the stage of life in our time.

Well, this great Marshal of France has gone,

but for long, long years to come he will remain vivid in the minds of all who remember those unbelievably dramatic days when the great German bid for swift and overwhelming victory seemed as though it must surely drive through to success.

The Battle of the Marne and the defeat of the colossal German war machine seemed like a miracle, and there stood the miracle worker Joffre.

Those millions of men in the A. E. F. will remember Joffre perhaps better than any of the other French war leaders, because Joffre as the grand old man, was seen the most, at reviews, at parades, at the presentation of decorations.

Countless young Americans in those mad days saw in the majestic old warrior a personification of the ancient marshal spirit of France.

When the end came this morning shortly after eight o'clock, Brother Ferdinand, a monk who had nursed Joffre, said that "death came like the sand in an hour glass - none saw the actual passing of life." Thus passed a great soldier who had never lost a battle - Marshal Joseph Joffre, hero of the Marne.

NICARAGUA

On this side of the Atlantic, in Nicaragua the Marines are still fighting with Sandino's rebels. Two attacks were made on the marine barracks, and both were beaten off, and, according to the United Press, a detachment of 27 marines were attacked by 35 bandits. The bandits were beaten and six were killed. The International News Service reports that two marines have lost their lives in the Nicaraguan bush and Washington has confirmed this.

1 Here's the ^{next} ~~latest~~ war bulletin -
2 all quiet on the Canal Zone front.

3 ~~That is,~~ the new revolutionary government
4 is in complete control of the Republic
5 of Panama, and Dr. Alfaro, Panamanian
6 Minister to Washington, has been asked
7 to return home and become ~~the~~ president.

In the meantime
8 ^{Dr. Arias,} who led ~~the~~ revolt which was
9 so sudden and successful yesterday,
10 ^{is acting as} ~~has been made~~ provisional president.

11 The International News Service
12 informs us that the revolutionists
13 claim that the ^{deposed} president and his first,
14 second and third vice presidents came
15 into office illegally; and that the
16 presidency ^{therefore} should go to the first
17 vice president ^{of} ~~in~~ the preceding ~~ad~~
18 administration. Well, Dr. Alfaro, now
19 at Washington, was the first vice
20 president in that preceding administration;
21 and that is why he has been invited to
22 become president now.

23 The deposed president and his
24 family have been given living quarters
25 in a hotel and are being treated with
every courtesy.

DIGEST

By the way, and talking about Central America, do you chew gum? Well, if you do, here's a story, by gum, that will make you wiggle your jaws.

There's a little republic nestling among the palm trees of Central America called Guatemala. Guatemala is famous for two things: First she grows most of the chicle which eventually ends up as chewing gum on the sidewalks of North America. And, second, when little old Guatemala sticks her wad of gum under the kitchen chair and starts on a rampage, she can change rulers quicker than a magician can pull a white rabbit out of a silk hat.

Most of the republics of Latin America manage to worry along on a revolution a year, or thereabouts. But not Guatemala. She recently had three presidents in one week.

And according to an article in this week's Literary Digest, Uncle Sam is a bit embarrassed as a result. Why? Well, thereby hangs a tale. It's a romantic story, one of many interesting yarns that you will enjoy if you turn to your current issue of the Literary Digest.

MINE

There was an explosion out in Ohio, today. Gases blew up and tore the top right off a mine near Dennison. The explosion was so violent that a roof was also blown off a building three miles away. According to the International News Service five men are trapped in the mine. They are imprisoned behind a barricade of fallen soil and rock which has closed up the shaft. The work of rescue was immediately begun. Fifteen of the rescuers were driven off by gases. Engineers flew by plane to direct the work of digging out the entombed men,

AKERSON

It was announced in Washington today that

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

~~Down in Washington,~~ President

Hoover is losing one of his secretaries.
George Akerson who has been associated
with Mr. Hoover for some time has
accepted a position with a big movie
concern. The New York World ~~says~~ *states*
that his salary will be \$35,000 a year.

1 Out at Cleveland the Association
2 for the Advancement of Science closed its
3 meeting today, and awarded a prize of
4 \$1,000 to Professor M. A. Truve of the
5 Carnegie Institute, and two of his
6 assistants. The International News
7 Service informs us that ~~Professor Truve~~^{they}
8 ~~and his assistants~~ were rewarded for
9 their work in creating a kind of ray almost
10 as powerful as ~~the X-rays~~^{radium}
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 The 31st annual New York auto
2 show got under way this afternoon. It
3 opened with the bugling of conchas, as
4 they say in the Orient, and with vast
5 crowds surging around some three hundred
6 new models of cars.

7 The rather sombre shades that
8 have been the vogue in recent years seem
9 to be giving way this season to more
10 vivid colors.

11 Also the optimism of the
12 executives of the automobile industry
13 seems to be as bright as the new pastel
14 ^{colors} ~~shades~~ used on the rakish looking bodies
15 of the vehicles that will ^{soon be} whisk^{ing} the
16 American people up and down the continent.
17 ~~this year~~. The Nabobs and Moguls x
18 of motordom declare that Mr. John Q.
19 Public and his wife are going to purchase
20 at least three and a half million new
21 cars in 1931, maybe four million, and it
22 is a comfort to know that when we do
23 buy them we can ^{step} ~~save~~ on the gas a little
24 more than we used to. They are all
25 geared up for higher and snappier speeds.

1 had ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ cut in two and then
 2 attached with special hinges.

3 ~~well~~ ^{So} the automobile show is
 4 ~~now~~ on and they say it's the most
 5 spectacular ever.

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 Well, after automobiles, let's
2 go to horse blankets. I suppose one
3 could stage quite an argument about
4 who the best dressed people in the
5 world are, but there's no doubt about
6 where the best dressed horses used to
7 be found. It was in Russia, and the
8 best dressed horses in the world were
9 the magnificent steeds of the czar.

10 There's to be an exposition
11 in New York of a collection of treasures
12 from the Hermitage palace in old St.
13 Petersburg, the palace where the
14 czars once held their splendid court.

15 In the New York Evening Post today there
16 is a feature article by the Post's
17 roving reporter. He's my old friend ^{and one time Denver newspaper}

18 ^{colleague,} Louis Sherwin, and Louis tells of
19 having looked through that collection
20 of Russian Imperial ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ treasures.
21 What hit him the hardest were the horse
22 blankets. He saw dozens of marvelous
23 saddle cloths of the richest silks
24 and chromatic velvets. They are so rich
25 heavily encrusted with gold and silver

HORSE BLANKETS - 2

that they weigh almost as much as medieval armor.

One was sent by the Emir of Bokhara to the coronation of the unhappy czar Nicholas. It is made of a mulberry velvet.

Louis says that these fabulous horse blankets are mostly from the province of Uzbekistan - that is the country of the Uzbeks.

The Uzbeks are semi-nomadic peoples of Russian Turkistan and northern Afghanistan. A few years ago while a guest at the Court of the Amir of Afghanistan one of the sights that impressed me the most was these same Uzbeks, swaggering half Mongol horsemen from the depths of Central Asia. And I can understand why the czars got their horse blankets from the Uzbeks. I never stopped admiring the magnificent trappings ~~decorated~~ with which those horses - their superb saddles and ornate bridles and their blankets of exquisite weave, encrusted with gold and silver.

1 A wild, strange ~~a~~ scene ~~has~~ been
2 enacted over on the border of Soviet
3 Russia and Rumania. The Soviets decreed
4 that the cathedral at Tiraspol should
5 be destroyed. ~~And,~~ according to the
6 Associated Press, soldiers of the Red
7 Army began the work of wrecking the old
8 building. Nearby a crowd was gathered,
9 a crowd of people faithful to the old
10 religion. They knelt in the snow and
11 chanted prayers as the work of destroying
12 the cathedral went on. Then the
13 Bolshevik soldiers built a big bonfire.
14 They built it of holy icons and the
15 holy wafers of the sacrament. When the
16 people kneeling in the snow saw the
17 sacrilege they rushed to the fire to
18 save the sacred objects.

19 The Soviet authorities had
20 expected something like that, and they
21 had a force of cavalry waiting. The
22 horsemen charged into the crowd, laying
23 about them with the flat of their sabres.
24 There was a wild fight. It was on the
25 bank of the Dnieper River, ^{at a place where} ~~and that is~~

the Dniéper farms

1 [^]the boundary between Russia and Rumania.

2 Across the river hundreds of
3 Rumanians were watching. They saw the
4 blaze of the holy objects. They saw the
5 fight between the cavalry and the people.
6 And they themselves broke out in wild
7 excitement, shouting and protesting.
8 Finally the fight died down, the people
9 were driven away, and the tearing down
10 of the old cathedral went on.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

NEWS ITEM

My news item of the day was picked for me by James Montgomery Flagg, the famous artist. Monte Flagg as his friends call him, drew my attention to a story announcing that what is undoubtedly the world's most famous mystery seems to have been solved at last.

The United Press sends in the yarn and it tells us that they have just found out who the man in the iron mask was. We've all heard about the man in the iron mask. Dumas wrote a novel about him, and there have been countless stories and rumors about who he was. He was a mysterious prisoner during the reign of Louis XIV. He was kept in a prison on a little island off the French Mediterranean Coast. Then he was held in the Bastille. They said he wore an iron mask over his face, but that is known to have been an exaggeration. It was really a black velvet mask. He kept his face hidden and nobody ever knew who he was. Voltaire circulated a wild melodramatic story, saying that the man in the iron mask was a twin brother of King Louis XIV,

1 who was kept hidden away so ~~that~~
2 there might be no dispute about who
3 should be king.

4 But now comes word from the
5 island fortress on the Ile. St. Margarete
6 where the man in the iron mask once
7 spent years of imprisonment. They say
8 they have discovered a message scratched
9 on the wall of a deep dungeon and this
10 message states that the name of the
11 man in the iron mask was Mattioli.

12 Well, this Mattioli was an Italian
13 who betrayed the confidence of King
14 Louis XIV. He was arrested on May
15 2, 1679. They say the king kept
16 Mattioli a secret prisoner and compelled
17 him to wear that mask on his face so
18 ~~that~~ his identity might not be known.

19 Well, if they have really discovered
20 the secret of the man in the iron mask,
21 James Montgomery Flagg certainly is right
22 in saying that the world's most romantic
23 mystery has been solved at last.

24

25

1 I am going to close tonight ~~s~~
2 ~~broadcast of the news~~ with a few words
3 out of the book of ~~xx~~ etiquette for
4 ~~cops~~ policemen.

5 The United Press informs us that
6 at Gloucester, New Jersey, the town
7 authorities have ^{cooked up} ~~got up~~ a set of rules
8 for the local police force. Here are
9 several of them and they certainly
10 ought to improve the Gloucester cops.
11 For example, ~~the~~ police officer should
12 not go to sleep on his beat. Nor should
13 he display a lack of energy. He should
14 not talk rough, or even loudly. The
15 Gloucester cops have got to speak in ~~x~~
16 well modulated tones and give burglars
17 and traffic violaters ~~the~~ the soft
18 answer that turneth away wrath. The
19 authorities at Gloucester also say that
20 Gloucester cops must not take bribes.
21 They must not visit gambling houses, and
22 they must show up ~~on the job~~ ten minutes
23 early every day.

24 ~~Well, I think those are good~~ ^{tip top}
25 rules, but it occurs to me that if there

are rules for a Gloucester, New Jersey, cop, there might also be rules for the radio voice of the Literary Digest.

For instance, the radio voice of the Literary Digest should not go to sleep on his beat. He should not talk rough, or shout loudly, nor should he make a practice of visiting gambling houses - at least if he wants to hold on to his money, and there's no doubt but that the radio voice of the Literary Digest ought to be on the job ten minutes early. Of course, every once in a while I come rushing in waving the latest news flash, with hardly a second to spare, just in time to jump to the microphone, with the second hand sliding nearer and nearer my 6:45 deadline.

Well, news has a way of coming in at the last moment. But there is one respect in which a Gloucester, N. J. cop is different

from the radio voice of the Literary Digest.

If one of those policemen out in Gloucester were to take it into his head to work ten minutes overtime, they would probably pin a medal on him. But a radio voice is certainly not supposed to work ten minutes or even one minute overtime. As a matter of fact, the time has come for me to start for the country, where I go into hiding each Sunday. So long everybody,
SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.