

# LAME DUCKS

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast Page  
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45  
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Good Evening, Everybody!

1 Well, folks, it looks as if the  
2 Lame Ducks were just going to keep on  
3 limping. They may be limping around down  
4 in Washington a hundred years from now,  
5 for all anybody can tell.

6 The efforts in the Senate and the  
7 House of Representatives to <sup>put an end once and for all to</sup> ~~end the~~ Lame  
8 Duck session<sup>s</sup> has ended in a fiasco.  
9 Senator Norris, of Nebraska, has been  
10 trying to put through an amendment to the  
11 Constitution to abolish those limping  
12 canvas-backs. He wants to put an end to <sup>the</sup>  
13 ~~a~~ system whereby Senators and Congressmen  
14 just keep on legislating for months after  
15 they've been defeated in the November  
16 elections. In other words, the idea would  
17 be to have the <sup>newly elected</sup> lawmakers take their  
18 predecessors' places right after the  
19 elections.

20 Both the Senate and the House of  
21 Representatives agree that something ought  
22 to be done, and each appointed a committee  
23 to hold conferences on the subject. The  
24 trouble is that when the two committees  
25 got together they couldn't agree.

The International News Service informs us that the committees reported today that they couldn't arrive at any harmonious understanding, a-tall, or at-all at-all if you prefer. Senator Norris himself admits there's no chance of his proposal making any further progress in the present session of Congress.

And so the Lame Ducks are just going to waddle along, limping and quacking in the same old way.

## GAS WELL

Out in Pennsylvania they're tackling a big job over the weekend. They're making a real hefty attempt to tame that wild gas well at Wellsboro. That old gusher on its rampage is now shooting off 150,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day. It busted loose a week ago with a daily flow of a million cubic feet. Then it quickly ran up to 40,000,000 and has been increasing ever since.

According to the International News Service, a corps of workmen, wearing gasmasks, are sinking 50 tons of casing and 2 tons of fittings into that wild well.

And if everything goes right, they ought to have it under control by Monday. Meanwhile, the whold countryside is filled with the roar of that unleashed gusher. It's in a beautiful section of Pennsylvania, a region called the Endless Mountains, a favorite haunt for tourists. But none of the motorists out that way will get anywhere near that gusher. No Siree. State troopers are patrolling the highways to keep everybody away, while the dangerous work of capping the well goes on.

BUSINESS

Now, let's see. This next item might as well begin something like this:

"What'll you have, ma'am?"

"Why, I want two heads of cabbage, Mr. Valente."

Or, "What'll you have, sir?"

"Well, I need a pair of ear muffs, Mr. Holmes."

Just multiply that sort of thing a few million or billion times, and you'll have a huge lot of retail trade. In fact, the retail trade of the country adds up to a staggering figure.

According to the International News Service, the Department of Commerce estimates the retail trade of the United States, for one year, at 45 billion dollars, and the goods bought for that money will make one vast mountain of cabbage, ear muffs - and so on.

# BAD BILLS

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1 In Hartford, Connecticut, somebody  
2 had a bright idea for collecting bills.  
3 But that bright idea isn't working any  
4 more--it <sup>has faded right</sup> out of the picture.

5 A collection agency got a <sup>glaring, jaundice</sup> ~~bright~~  
6 yellow automobile which was called the  
7 Bad Bill Car. They sent it around to  
8 the houses of people who owed bills  
9 and wouldn't pay up. It was a dramatic  
10 way of advertising that Mr. So and So  
11 hadn't paid for his electric washing  
12 machine or new suit of clothes.

13 The collection agency ~~■■■■■~~  
14 warned people that if they didn't <sup>cough</sup> ~~pay~~ up,  
15 ~~up~~, that flaming yellow Bad-Bill Car  
16 would draw up to their doors. I don't  
17 know how successful the idea was in  
18 getting the money, but the United  
19 Press informs us that it did arouse  
20 considerable indignation. And so the  
21 Hartford police stepped in. The head  
22 of the collection agency was arrested  
23 and had to pay a fine.

24 And that's the end of the Bad  
25 Bill Car.— but bad bills, I suppose,  
will be with us forever.

1 Step up girls! And gaze upon  
2 a perfect man - that is, he's a perfect  
3 man as a model for masculine tailoring -  
4 in other words, a clothes horse.

5 The Clothing Designers Executive  
6 Association is in ~~xxxx~~ session now in  
7 New York. The clothing designers set  
8 out to seek a model who would best  
9 display coat, vest, trousers, and  
10 overcoat. They were very particular  
11 about the kind of Adonis they needed.  
12 In fact they gave minute specifications  
13 for a perfect man. The New York World-  
14 Telegram gives them as follows:

15 A perfect man must be five  
16 feet eight inches tall. He must weigh  
17 140 pounds, chest 36 inches, waist  
18 31 inches, hips 37 inches. His leg  
19 must be 32 inches long, and his sleeve  
20 dimension must be 17½ inches.

21 If any of you men who are  
22 listening fit those dimensions, you are  
23 entitled to tell your wife or sweetheart  
24 that you are a perfect man. If your  
25 ~~xxx~~ height is below five feet seven,

1 you are classified as a short. If  
 2 you are <sup>more</sup> ~~less~~ than five feet ten in  
 3 height, ~~why~~ you are a long. To be in  
 4 the perfect class your waist must be  
 5 five inches smaller than your chest.  
 6 If it is within two inches of your  
 7 chest you are a "split stout" - I wonder  
 8 where they get the "split" from? If  
 9 you are as big around at the ~~neck~~  
 10 waist as you are at the chest you are  
 11 a stout, and if your waist spills over  
 12 the edge you are a corpulent, in other  
 13 words, <sup>you're</sup> fat, ~~Mister~~, you're fat.

14 Well, five hundred men presented  
 15 themselves before the Clothing Designers  
 16 Executive Association as perfect men.  
 17 The Clothing Designers say that the  
 18 trouble was that there was ~~so~~ much  
 19 perfection among them. They could have  
 20 picked a dozen that were really super-  
 21 perfect. As it was they picked one.  
 22 He fits the measurements to a T. He  
 23 wears a handkerchief in his breast  
 24 pocket and carries a stick. He is  
 25 described as being grave of feature. — ~~and~~  
 probably ~~Well, I am glad they didn't~~  
~~pick anybody frivolous.~~ <sup>is as solemn as an owl.</sup>

1 Here's a curious turn of affairs  
2 down in Cuba. An aide de camp of  
3 President Machado has been arrested and  
4 is accused of being implicated in the  
5 recent attempt to bomb the President.

6 The plotters planned to lower  
7 a bomb through a ventilating opening  
8 and drop it into the bathroom while  
9 President Machado was bathing. The  
10 bomb got stuck in the ventilating shaft  
11 and exploded. It did a good deal of  
12 damage to the bathroom but didn't  
13 hurt the President.

14 According to the Associated  
15 Press, the soldier who lowered the bomb  
16 was arrested and he states that he was  
17 hired to do it by the President's aide  
18 de camp, Commander Manuel Espinosa.

19 The aide de camp is a brother-  
20 in-law of the man who until last  
21 Tuesday was the Mayor of Havana, and  
22 who has been regarded as a political  
23 enemy of President Machado. Five  
24 others are involved in the plot and they  
25 are to be court-martialed. *Yes, that's  
a strange tale.*



1 Word from Rome today ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> what  
2 everybody expected. The Italians have  
3 O.K.d the British proposal on the subject  
4 of how big <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ fleet <sup>of</sup> France and Italy  
5 should <sup>be</sup> ~~have respectively~~ and the  
6 Associated Press states that this means  
7 that the two Mediterranean countries  
8 are joining Great Britain, the United  
9 States, and Japan as parties to the  
10 London Naval Treaty. <sup>So</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> three-power  
11 treaty will now become a five-power  
12 treaty.

13 Of course France will still have  
14 to O.K. the British agreement with Italy,  
15 but as Great Britain and France have  
16 already made an agreement on this same  
17 subject between themselves, it's expected  
18 that the government at Paris will fall  
19 automatically in line. *It's just a formality.*

20 The terms of the agreement at  
21 Rome are being kept secret. The delegates  
22 met yesterday afternoon, <sup>and</sup> Arthur  
23 Henderson, Foreign Minister of Great  
24 Britain, and A. V. Alexander, First Lord  
25 of the Admiralty, were on one side, <sup>while</sup>

1 Mussolini and several of his ministers  
2 were on the other. The proceedings  
3 ended with an O.K. from everybody. The  
4 news, however, was not given out just  
5 then. According to the International  
6 News Service, it was kept back over  
7 night and was released only today.

8 And so that thorny question of  
9 naval rivalry between France and Italy  
10 is out of the way until 1936. When the  
11 whole question of naval armament of the  
12 five big naval powers will be thrashed  
13 out again.

1 Now comes one of the weirdest  
2 stories I've run across in a long <sup>long</sup> time.  
3 It's about a society of 48 people who  
4 gather at night with fantastic rites  
5 to worship in the mausoleum of the  
6 greatest tenor of our time, Enrico  
7 Caruso.

8 They say that one of the ceremonies  
9 which the 48 adorers perform is to change  
10 the graveclothes which the famous tenor  
11 wears in his last sleep. Matters have  
12 gone so far, that, according to the  
13 Associated Press, Mrs. Caruso and the  
14 other heirs of the tenor of the golden  
15 voice have ordered the tomb ~~to be~~ sealed  
16 and a stone wall ~~has been~~ built across  
17 the entrance.

18 Caruso's body was embalmed by  
19 Neapolitan undertakers according to what  
20 they <sup>claim</sup> ~~claim~~ is a secret method modeled  
21 ~~on~~ on the embalming <sup>formula</sup> ~~methods~~ of the  
22 ancient Egyptians. Mrs. Caruso, who  
23 was an American society girl, is said  
24 to have had this done so that her  
25 daughter, Gloria Caruso, might see the

1 body of her famous father when she  
2 grew up.

3 A mausoleum was built and in it  
4 a glass coffin, and in this glass coffin  
5 Caruso lies. Thousands of visitors  
6 go to see the body of the tenor who for  
7 so many years enchanted audiences at  
8 New York's Metropolitan Opera House.

(H)

9 But now that <sup>weird</sup> society of 48 worshippers  
10 ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> caused a change. And the tomb of  
11 Caruso has been walled up. <sup>But</sup> A door is  
12 still left through which visitors will  
13 be admitted only under strict  
14 supervision.

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CHAPLIN

Well, three cheers for dear old Piccadilly.

If you have ever seen the English in their native habitat, in London or elsewhere, you will know that they seldom shout and wave their monocles no matter how excited they get.

But last night British reserve went by the boards and Londoners threw their topers in the air, waved their jolly old walking sticks and went wild with enthusiasm.

For what? For one of her poor boys from the London slums. A lad who migrated to America some twenty years ago and who since then has made himself one of the most widely known man who ever lived - I mean, of course, the little man who has made this old planet rock with laughter. I mean Charlie Chaplin.

Last night, the elite of London, peers and peeresses, authors, artists, statesmen and nearly all the big wigs of England turned out in ermine and boiled

1 shirts to witness the first showing  
2 of Charlie's new film. Chaplin himself  
3 was in the audience sitting in the  
4 dress circle ~~xxx~~ between Bernard Shaw  
5 and Lady Astor.

6 For hours before the doors  
7 opened, crowds began collecting in the  
8 streets. By eight o'clock the jam  
9 stretched for blocks. The police were  
10 helpless. Nothing could drive the  
11 people away -- not even a cold winter  
12 rain that fell in a steady downpour.

13 Nothing less than an earthquake  
14 could have shaken the determination of  
15 that crowd to get one glimpse of the  
16 world's most famous clown.

17 According to the United Press,  
18 London had not witnessed such a  
19 demonstration since Armistice Night,  
20 thirteen years ago. And first nighters  
21 who had seen most of the town's openings  
22 for the last thirty-five years, they say,  
23 could remember nothing to approach  
24 last night's enthusiasm.

25 At the close of the film

1 Chaplin walked out on the empty stage,  
2 alone.

3 ~~"It would be silly of me" he~~  
4 ~~said, "to say how much I feel all this~~  
5 ~~emotion."~~ <sup>He said:</sup> "This has been a wonderful —  
6 ~~for me,~~ coming home to my own country  
7 like this."

8 One of the <sup>principal</sup> feature stories  
9 in this week's Literary Digest, tells  
10 how Charlie defied the talkies, how  
11 he had the courage to spend two years  
12 making this silent film when all the big  
13 theatres in the world were demanding  
14 sound productions. This Literary Digest  
15 article goes on to analyze the reasons  
16 for his success and to show the methods  
17 employed by Charlie Chaplin to convulse  
18 his audience with laughter one moment  
19 and ~~to~~ touch their tears the next.

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1 I have a letter of correction here  
2 in which the boys at the ~~Greensboro~~ Fire  
3 Station say I'm all wrong. Not long ago,  
4 I told how a man took a fire to the fire  
5 station. His car started to blaze and he  
6 drove the conflagration around to the  
7 nearest fire house to be put out.

8 Well, the facts are all right but  
9 where I seem to have gone wrong was to  
10 refer to the incident as being <sup>anything</sup> ~~exceedingly~~  
11 unusual. And that is where the boys at  
12 the Fire Station jump on me with both  
13 feet.

14 T. T. Gaulden who is a fireman at  
15 Greensboro, North Carolina, writes to  
16 tell me that in Greensboro the rule is  
17 that if the fire-wagon has to go out of  
18 the city limits to put out a fire, the  
19 proud possessor of that fire has to pay  
20 \$50.

21 Naturally, there are a lot of people  
22 who don't enjoy paying \$50 -- me for  
23 example. And these thrifty folks,  
24 whenever they can, take their fires into  
25 Greensboro. Some of them are considerate



1 enough to transport smoke and flames  
2 right to the Fire Station.

3 "It is nothing new" writes Fireman  
4 Gaulden, to have fires brought to our  
5 station down here. Fifty bucks is fifty  
6 bucks. On one occasion we had a call to  
7 go to the Davey and Elm Street crossing  
8 and found that the railroad had brought  
9 us a fire ~~over a distance~~ <sup>from</sup> of four miles <sup>away</sup>.  
10 It was a car that had started to blaze.

11 Fireman Gaulden goes on to tell me  
12 that when the boys in the Fire Station  
13 at Greensboro heard me imply that the  
14 taking of a fire to the fire station was  
15 something unusual -- they just said:

16 "Shucks, there's nothing new about that."

17 Well, I think I'll mention something  
18 else now that isn't new, in fact, I've  
19 said it many times before. It may not be a  
20 <sup>novelty,</sup> ~~new~~ but I can tell from my stop watch  
21 that it's necessary. And it goes like  
22 this:- So long until Monday.

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