

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

MONDAY, JULY 13, 1931

GERMANY

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Well, indications are this evening that Germany and France will get together and arrange the big loan that Germany needs. News comes tonight that the International Bank in Switzerland is going to advance Germany the necessary money. The reports on Saturday night were that France was demanding terms to which Germany would not yield. But since then things have been happening in Germany.

One of the biggest banks in the country, -- the fourth largest -- has gone to the wall. There have been runs on other banks and a general financial collapse seems to be threatening. And the possibility of revolution is raising its ugly head.

The United Press phrases it this way: THE RUMBLE OF REVOLUTIONARY DISCONTENT IS INCREASINGLY AUDIBLE AMONG THE PANICKY IMPOVERISHED MASSES.

And then in telling of the run on the banks the United Press goes on to say that the excited depositors almost without exception were discussing the chances of a communist uprising.

1 And now come the latest reports
 2 that in the face of menacing disaster
 3 the German Government is willing to
 4 yield to the demands of France. The
 5 French will not agree to advance the
 6 hundreds of millions that Germany needs
 7 unless Germany will make certain *concessions.*
 8 ~~guarantee~~ They want the Germans to
 9 renounce that Customs Union with Austria
 10 and they demand that the Germans go easy
 11 on armament.

12 The International News Service
 13 tells us that in London this evening the
 14 feeling is ~~more~~ optimistic because the
 15 rumor is circulated that Germany has
 16 decided to agree to give up that
 17 Customs Union and also to call off her
 18 plans for a fleet of those "pocket-battle-
 19 ships", which are the sensation among
 20 navy men all over the world.

21 Well, it may come hard for Fritz
 22 ~~tax~~ to make up his mind to accept
 23 these sacrifices--but ^{we all} you know ^{— or most of us do —} how it is
 24 when ^{we} you simply have ~~got~~ to have the cash.
 25 ~~money~~ But tonight's news indicates
 that a solution is going to be found at once.

AIRPLANES

The two aviators who started out from New York, this morning, for a non-stop flight to Mexico City were forced down. The International News Service reports that they crashed on the shore of the Gulf of Mexico near the town of Soto la Marina.

Two Mexican airplanes took off from Tampico and took Seth Yerrington and Edward Maloney, the two flyers to Tampico.

Meanwhile, the latest report on the two French flyers who started out on a non-stop flight to Tokyo, is that they have been sighted over Russia. The United Press informs us that they were seen flying high over Moscow. If they get to Tokyo in one hop, they may try to make it on around the world in four hops. And then there are two Hungarian flyers who left Roosevelt Field on Long Island this afternoon. They took off for Newfoundland and expect to fly on across the Atlantic, all the way to Hungary.

1 To me the most vivid idea in this
2 next bit of news is not what really
3 happened -- but the thing that didn't
4 happen. Suppose that big dirigible
5 balloon had been filled with hydrogen
6 instead of helium. We are all familiar
7 with what aeronautical experts have been
8 saying about helium versus hydrogen --
9 that helium won't burn and a balloon
10 filled with helium can't explode;
11 while a hydrogen-filled balloon will
12 blow up like a titanic cloth-covered
13 bomb.

14 At Kansas City a 140-foot
15 dirigible named the Mayflower, whose
16 home port is Akron, Ohio, was tied up to
17 a mooring mast. A storm started to
18 blow, and the wind ~~was~~ whipped along so
19 furiously that the Captain of the
20 dirigible was afraid the mooring mast
21 would break. He ordered the crew to
22 cast loose so that the big cigar-shaped
23 vessel of the sky could drift along
24 with the storm and ride it out. But
25 before the order could be ^{put into effect} ~~carried out~~ a

1 ~~and~~ sudden violent gust of wind caught
 2 the airship, and the mooring mast was
 3 torn loose. The ship drifted wildly
 4 in the tempest, hitting buildings here
 5 and there.

6 The catastrophe came when the big
 7 balloon drifted against some high-
 8 tension wires nearby. ^{There was} ~~and~~ a sputter
 9 and flash of electric flames. The gas
 10 tanks of the airship had already been
 11 broken by a crash against an Army
 12 hangar. And loose gasoline was flowing,
 13 ready to be set afire.

14 The flare of ~~the electric fire~~
 15 from the high-tension wires was
 16 succeeded by a more violent burst of
 17 flames as the gasoline ^{went up,} ~~flared~~. In an
 18 instant the whole ship was afire. The
 19 gondola ^{was turned into an inferno,} ~~burned~~, and the fabric of the
 20 balloon burned. Helium is non-ⁱⁿflammable
 21 ~~inflammable~~ all right, and the cloth
 22 covering just burned off, allowing the
 23 gas to escape.

24 The Associated Press tells ^{how} ~~us that~~
 25 Captain Charles E. Brannigan, the pilot

1 of the Mayflower, was badly burned.
2 The others of the crew jumped out of the
3 blazing ship. Not one of them was
4 seriously hurt. But just imagine what
5 would have happened if that ~~that~~ airship
6 had been filled with hydrogen. There
7 would have been one vast sheet of flame,
8 and ^{probably none of the crew would} ~~scarcely a man would~~ have escaped
9 alive.

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DIGEST

Now for a baseball story. I found it in the middle of a lively article in the Literary Digest on baseball signals. You know the familiar picture of the runner tearing around the bases and the coach at third doing some wild gymnastics with his arms. No, those gymnastics are not just enthusiasm -- they're signals. They may mean: STOP, THE SECOND-BASEMAN HAS THE BALL. Or on the other hand --TEAR FOR HOME, SLIDE FOR YOUR LIFE THE BALL IS ALMOST ON TOP OF YOU.

And many of us who were boys a few years ago can remember how slick and smart the whole team felt when we got to the point where the catcher signaled to the pitcher with maybe one finger slapped in the mitt, or maybe two fingers, -- meaning an out or an in, or a fast one.

The Literary Digest quotes from an article in the Baseball Magazine and tells us a whole raft of interesting

1 things about signals. And the Digest
2 editors, as usual, liven things up with
3 an ~~snappy~~ anecdote.

4 It's about Tim Hurst, the hard-
5 boiled old umpire of a few years ago.
6 Tim, as every baseball man knows, was a
7 tartar when he got riled up.

8 Well, Tim was umpiring a hot game.
9 "Wild Bill" Donovan, the crack pitcher
10 of the old Detroit Tigers was out there
11 in the box buzzing ~~them~~ across. Dutch
12 Schmidt was catching, and he was one
13 wise leather-neck Dutchman. In other
14 words, it was hard-boiled baseball all
15 around.

16 Donovan had two strikes on the
17 batter, and then Schmidt slapped a few
18 fingers in the catcher's mitt and gave the
19 signal for a "pitch out" -- that is, a *wild*
20 ball thrown nowhere near the plate.

21 Out there in the pitcher's box "Wild
22 Bill" Donovan was puzzled. You know what
23 a pitch-out is for. Suppose there's a
24 runner on first ~~base~~ and they have an
25 idea the next time the pitcher throws the

ball that runner is going to make a break and steal second. That's when the catcher sometimes signals the pitcher to throw the ball side. The idea is that the batter won't get a chance to take a crack at the ball and the catcher will grab it quickly and paste it to second and head off the runner. Well, of course I don't have to explain these baseball technicalities to you ball players, but I'm trying to give the ladies a break - admit them to the esoteric circle as it were.

Well, nobody was on base and so "Wild Bill" Donovan was puzzled about why Dutch Schmidt kept signaling for a pitch-out - a wild throw. Donovan went so far as to turn around and point to the bases to indicate that there was no danger of anybody stealing anything.

Schmidt called time for a moment and went out and talked to the pitcher.

"What do you want a pitch-out for?" demanded Donovan in a low voice.

"Listen," replied Schmidt, "that bird at the plate has been giying the old umpire an argument, and you know how Tim is.

He's all riled up, and he told that baby at bat that for being so fresh he was going to call the next ball that comes across a strike. Tim is going to call a strike on that bird no matter where the ball goes. So you just give me a wild one and let's see what happens."

Well, that was highly illuminating. Donovan took a windup and threw the ball 2 feet to the outside of the plate.

"Strike three," yelled Tim, "you're out."

And then pandemonium broke loose in the stands.

Everybody could see that the ball was no strike. But hard-boiled old Tim had said it was going to be strike three -- and strike three it was.

1 A curious turn of affairs is
2 reported in the famous old opera house
3 in Vienna.

4 As long as anybody can remember,
5 the Vienna opera house has had a large
6 and noisy claque. In fact, pretty nearly
7 every opera house has a claque - that is,
8 a band of professional handclappers and
9 applause makers. It is a common thing
10 to hear opera goers complaining about
11 the nuisance of the claque, how the
12 paid cheering section is obnoxious with
13 its impudent drumming up of applause.

14 In Vienna ^{the} ~~a~~ claque ~~has~~ become
15 so bad that the management of the Opera
16 House ~~has~~ issued a drastic order
17 intending to put the hired hand clappers
18 out of business. A rule was passed
19 that anybody who starts ^{S.} ~~to~~ beating his
20 palms together or yelling bravo at
21 any time during an opera except at the
22 end of an act, ^{well - he would} ~~could~~ be put out ^{on his ear -} ~~and~~
23 chucked into the street.

24 The International News Service
25 tells us that this new order ^{has just been} ~~was recently~~

(b²)

1 put into effect. The people in the
2 audience were warned not to applaud
3 until the end of an act. And the order
4 was obeyed. If any members of the
5 clique were there they kept silent.
6 There was not a single handclap or a
7 single shout of bravo - bravosimo - that
8 is, until the end of the act. Then
9 the audience broke into a storm of
10 applause. The performance had been good
11 and the people blistered their palms
12 and ~~xx~~ cheered their heads off.

13 And now is when the curious
14 thing developed. The audience howled
15 for the singers to appear before the
16 curtain and take their bows, but no
17 singers showed up. They absolutely
18 refused to make an appearance.

19 The orders of the management
20 about applause had been obeyed. The
21 clique had been squelched, but now it
22 was the singers that kicked over the
23 applecart. Apparently they were in
24 revolt against the abolition of the
25 applause which customarily followed each

1 aria. You know how singers love their applause.

2 Well, the professional applauders
3 in an opera house are a curious problem.
4 I heard a funny story once told by
5 Fortune Gallo, who was the impresario
6 of the San Carlo Opera Company
7 which toured the country from coast to
8 coast. ~~xxxxxx~~ Gallo is a whimsical
9 story teller and he relates how the
10 paid applause-makers used to travel around
11 ~~the~~ ^{with} his company. At each town the claque
12 would be on the job to give the singers
13 a hand. Of course, the singers had to
14 pay the bill. The claque in fact ^{was there} ~~used~~ to
15 shake them down.

16 Finally in Boston I think it was,
17 the claque demanded so much money ~~of the~~
18 ~~singers~~ that the singers got together and
19 decided they'd do without a claque. They
20 agreed that they would simply refuse to
21 put up any more money and would trust
22 to the enthusiasm of the audience for
23 the applause.

24 But the members of the claque
25 were wise and shrewd. They got together

1 on their own account and planned a
2 campaign. The singers were afraid that
3 the claque might hiss them, give them
4 the raspberries, but nothing like that
5 happened.

6 At the next performance the claque
7 drummed up an ovation for an obscure ~~by~~
8 small-part-tenor who had about six notes^s
9 to sing, who never was slated to get any
10 applause and who never paid the claque.
11 The professional handclappers raised the
12 ~~roof~~ ^{roof} every time he sang ~~xxx~~ a note and
13 whipped up the enthusiasm of the audience
14 until that small part ~~singer~~ ^{tenor} was the hit
15 of the show.

16 The principal singers were
17 given to understand that ~~xxx~~ if they did
18 not kick in the claque would make every
19 performance an ovation for that small
20 part ~~tenor~~, and he would eclipse them
21 all.

22 ~~Yes~~ ^{So} the singers ^{meekly} opened their
23 pocket books and went on shelling out
24 money ~~for~~ ^{to} the claque as usual. They were
25 licked.

FAMILY

I suppose I ought to tell this next bit of news with words that run in alphabetical order -- that is a word beginning with "A", followed by a word beginning with "B", followed by a word beginning with "C", and so on, just as in those four red books the Literary Digest is presenting to its subscribers.

Thus, I might say: ALPHABET BABIES CONSTITUTE DOTING ENTIRE FAMILY, but that gets to be a little difficult. To put it in more simple language:- Mr. and Mrs. John R. Ginn, of Bowman, Georgia, have 16 children; and they've named their sixteen hopefuls not Bill and Jim and Susie. No they've named them according to an alphabetical system. The letters beginning the names of the successive sixteen go right along in accordance with the succession of the alphabet, with the exception of "A". The first of the Ginn children has a name beginning with "B", and then the 16 go right on down the alphabet.

The Associated Press lists their names as BRODIE, CORBIN, DORCAS, ELMIRA, FEZZAN, GREGOR, HASSIE, ITHMAR, JESSIE, KESTER, LISBON, MANSON, NELSON, ORNICE, PASCAL AND QUAYER. Evidently

Quaver, the sixteenth, just barely made the grade.

Mr. and Mrs. Ginn declare that even with sixteen children you won't get confused about their names or ages if their names go right down the alphabet. Well, that sounds like a noble idea. If I ever have sixteen maybe I'll try it.

1 This next brevity is about ~~names~~ *also*.
 2 ~~well, what shall I say?~~ Frank
 3 Peddilina, or ^{maybe it's} Albert Peddilina? I can't
 4 be sure which it is -- Frank or Albert.
 5 Pa says it's Frank, but Ma says it's
 6 Albert -- and that's how the fight began.

7 The Associated Press conveys the
 8 information that the Peddilina family has
 9 appeared in court at Belleville, New
 10 Jersey. Mrs. Peddilina charges that
 11 Mr. Peddilina was both rude and violent.
 12 They had a spat about what name they
 13 should give their young son. Mr.
 14 Peddilina said the boy should be called
 15 Frank, and Mrs. Peddilina held out for
 16 Albert. And they demanded that the
 17 recorder of the court should decide, but
 18 he passed the buck and said it was all the
 19 same to him.

20 Well, Frank is a good name. And
 21 as for Albert -- well, a lot of fellows
 22 are called Al and get along all right --
 23 including ~~St.~~ ^{ex-governor} Smith, ^{and King Albert of the Belgians.} But of course if Mr.
 24 and Mrs. Peddilina can't agree, they
 25 might compromise and call the boy Egbert
 or Athanasius.

END

One of my colleagues at the Literary Digest, a head of one of the Funk and Wagnalls departments, handed me a clipping this afternoon from a periodical called "Postage and the Mail Bag." The clipping gives us a nifty line. It tells us what the little chorus girl said to the millionaire as they shook hands in parting.

"So long," she twittered girlishly, "I'll sue you tomorrow."

As for me, a simple guileless chap --all I can say is -
SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.