

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1931

BUTLER

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Now keep calm, folks, at least keep as calm as you can. You're going to need all your poise and coolness of mind when you hear this one.

It's a loud and trumpet-like announcement from General Smedley D. Butler. That doughty Marine has often said somewhat startling things, but this new pronouncement of his seems to be the most startling of all. He declares that he has lined up fourteen multi-millionaires who possess a total of five billion dollars, and they stand ready to back General Smedley D. Butler in a plan of his to establish a dictatorship in these United States.

General Butler declares that these fourteen multi-millionaires, worth five billion skin-plasters, as Dr. Vizatelly would say, are willing to contribute half of their wealth for the altruistic purpose of putting through the great idea. And that great and inspiring idea is nothing less than to relieve poverty and unemployment in this country.

1 Well, how does the former General
2 of Marines intend to relieve poverty
3 and unemployment?

4 The Associated Press tells ^{the story.} ~~that~~
5 He wants to have the government build
6 between fifty and sixty thousand ~~trade~~
7 schools, ~~these~~ trade schools ~~are~~ intended
8 to educate the youth of the land in ways
9 scientific and technical. The General
10 points out that to build and equip between
11 fifty and sixty thousand trade schools
12 would employ a lot of labor and use up
13 a lot of material. That would ease up
14 unemployment and boom business.

15 Well, that's the General's plan.
16 He declares that we ^{may} ~~must~~ have to have a
17 dictatorship to put it through. The
18 United Press quotes Butler as describing
19 his proposed dictatorship as an extra
20 governmental agency headed by a man
21 without capitalistic or partisan ties,
22 and one in whom the people have complete
23 confidence. That's the way the country
24 is going to be saved.

25 *Gen. Smedley* Butler's fourteen multi-

millionaires worth five billion dollars, stand ready to kick in with half of their fortunes - only the General doesn't mention who they are.

Some of today's papers remark that General Smedley Butler seems to be going Mussolini since his retirement from the Marines this week.

1 And now we come to another
2 Lindbergh thriller. The celebrated
3 aviator and his wife have certainly been
4 having a few bits of excitement on their
5 visit to the Far East.

6 The Colonel made a take-off today
7 for another proposed flight over the
8 flood regions in the Yangtse Valley. But,
9 as the Associated Press reports, that
10 take-off didn't work out just right. In
11 fact, it turned into a swift flash of
12 violent action and danger.

13 The Lindbergh plane has been
14 using as its base of operations the
15 British airplane carrier, Hermes. The
16 large, broad-decked vessel is lying in
17 the Yangtse River. She had the Lindbergh
18 bus aboard, and today they lowered the
19 plane into the murky waters of the Yangtse.
20 Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh ^{and a Chinese physician} were in the
21 cockpit, all set to steer through the
22 sky over those vast stretches of country
23 where the flood waters lie muddy and
24 sullen.

25 The plane lay on the surface of

1 the river, bobbing up and down with the
2 swell of the current. The Colonel
3 started the motor and off they roared,
4 taxiing along to get up enough speed for
5 a take-off.

6 As the United Press gives the
7 story, the plane had risen a few feet
8 above the water and was rushing along at
9 a hundred miles an hour when the motor
10 began to go wrong. It started to
11 sputter and miss, and then suddenly it
12 stopped. The nose of the plane took a
13 dip. It was still only a short distance
14 above the water. It took a dive --
15 SPLASH, BANG. A geyser of water shot
16 into the air. As the plane hit she
17 turned over and lay on her back.

18 The International News Service
19 relates that the men aboard the airplane
20 carrier, the Hermes, saw the accident,
21 which took place only a short distance
22 away. All they could see was the big
23 splash and the clouds of spray. They
24 didn't know what had happened to the
25 Lindberghs. They swiftly tumbled into

1 a boat and pulled over to the capsized
2 airplane. ^{Three} ~~Two~~ figures were in the water,
3 swimming strongly. They were the Colonel
4 and Mrs. Lindbergh, ^{and their Chinese companion.} They had had an
5 almost miraculous escape. As the plane
6 hit and turned turtle, they were thrown
7 clear of the wreck. They were pitched
8 head-first out into the water.

9 Well, the British Jack-tars in
10 the boat hauled the soaked and bedraggled
11 young couple ^{and the doctor} aboard. They were O.K. All
12 they needed was a change of dry clothing.

13 The Lindbergh airplane is
14 considerably damaged. The ^{fuselage} ~~cockpit~~ is
15 smashed. It will take quite a bit of
16 repairing. And so far as that plane is
17 concerned, the Lindbergh flights are off
18 for a while.

1 It does seem as if the Fates ^{and the dragons} are
2 angry with poor old China this year. New
3 floods ^{are} ~~were~~ reported in a part of the
4 country which until now has not been in
5 the flood news. This is the southern-
6 most part of the Chinese Republic, the
7 province of Yunan.

8 The Associated Press passes along
9 a telegram from R. L. Pond, who is at
10 Shanghai working for the Chinese
11 International Famine Relief Commission.
12 The telegram declares that 25,000 people
13 have perished, and 5,000 square miles of
14 territory have been inundated in the
15 Yentsing district of the Yunan province.

16 There's no mention of any
17 particular river breaking over its banks.
18 The floods seem to be simply a matter of
19 continual rains. The flood-gates of the
20 Heavens have been opened over there in
21 southern China. It has been pouring
22 day after day, and the country has been
23 ~~flooded~~ ^{inundated}.

1 Well, somewhere in the sky is
2 the Paradise where good sailors go. Yes, ^{and}
3 the shades of the great ship captains and
4 the hardy old salts of former times are
5 greeting a new arrival tonight. He's a
6 sturdy old fellow with a white mustache
7 and a goatee, a fine, hale, sea-faring
8 fellow.

9 Yes, Sir Thomas Lipton is dead.
10 He passed away this afternoon at the age
11 of 81. For 10 days he has been ill. And
12 today the end came.

13 In some former time in a different
14 and more adventurous world he might
15 surely have been a great captain of
16 nautical adventures. He had in him the
17 stuff of the men who make great voyages
18 at sea. As it was, he was a sailor as a
19 hobby, a sportsman on the sea.

20 The International News Service
21 calls him the most gallant sportsman of
22 them all.

23 He was born in Glasgow, Scotland,
24 of Irish parents. He achieved a fortune
25 in the world of commerce. He ~~was~~

1 became the great tea magnate. He was the
2 first man to introduce modern high-
3 pressure advertising methods in the
4 British isles -- that was the secret of
5 his success. But once his business
6 success was made, he turned to the sea.
7 The man who might have been a famous
8 captain in the brave old days made a
9 world-wide reputation as a yachtsman.

10 We all remember how year after
11 year brave old Sir Thomas tried to win
12 the cup and take it back to England.
13 Failure after failure beset him. His
14 yachts could never sail quite as fast as
15 the American, ^{yachts.} But that didn't matter --
16 he was such a fine old sportsman he didn't
17 have to win. Loser always, he remained
18 the greatest figure in the world of
19 yachting.

1 There have been wild doings over
2 in Scotland. Riots have been raging
3 in the streets of the city of Glasgow.
4 And tonight a number of the trouble
5 makers are in a jail including a
6 member of parliament. He is James
7 McGovern, a Labor M.P. who last
8 July was suspended from the House of
9 Commons, after a rough and tumble fight
10 which considerably upset the dignity
11 of parliament. McGovern took a lively
12 hand in the street fighting in Glasgow
13 today.

14 The trouble got going in a
15 violent way last night. The Associated
16 Press reports that fifty thousand men
17 put up a vicious fight before the
18 police could disperse them.

19 And then the disturbance broke
20 out anew today when the crowd started
21 to loot the stores. They broke in the
22 shops and took everything they could
23 lay their hands on. When the police
24 came along the men of the mob fought
25 with clubs, hammers, hatchets and

1 crowbars. The mounted police
2 charged. People in second story
3 windows bombarded the ^{horsesmen} ~~police~~ with a
4 shower of broken furniture.

5 The Glasgow mobs have been
6 protesting against the cut in the
7 dole and now they have broken out in
8 food riots. The looting was done
9 principally in food stores. Sometimes
10 the police would surprise a group
11 plundering a shop. And then the mob
12 would turn on the Bobbies and bombard
13 them with a shower of canned goods,
14 jars of jam, eggs, boxes and what not.

15 Meanwhile, tonight Ramsay
16 MacDonald is in his native Scottish
17 town of Seaham Harbor. The British
18 Prime Minister is pleading his cause
19 before his own home town voters.
20 After the fall of the Labor Government
21 the Labor Party ~~at~~ at Seaham Harbor
22 expelled MacDonald and now he is
23 explaining his actions and trying to
24 win back the support of his old
25 comrades.

1 That ugly bugaboo of unemployment
2 has been getting a good kick in the ribs
3 at Springfield, Massachusetts.

4 This week's Literary Digest tells
5 us that the citizens of Springfield have
6 got together and are tackling the
7 unemployment problem in a big and
8 systematic way.

9 A committee was formed to line up
10 the folks and pledge them to give jobs to
11 the jobless. The people who had a bit of
12 work to be done were mobilized, and they
13 went on record with promises to employ a
14 certain number of workers.

15 The Literary Digest quotes the *Methodist*
16 Zion Herald as explaining that the
17 committee listed 100 kinds of jobs.
18 Eight hundred citizens were signed up to
19 employ men and women on as many of these
20 jobs as they could. As a result, more
21 than 2,500 persons have received work,
22 including nearly 1,000 women.

23 Well, it's the right co-operative
24 spirit, and it certainly has worked at
25 Springfield, Massachusetts.

1 And now, Senorita, how are you
2 going to vote?

3 That question is quite appropriate
4 nowadays, because over in romantic Spain
5 the Senoritas with the flaring skirts,
6 and the high, wide and handsome combs,
7 and the coy, flirtatious mantillas --
8 why, they're going to engage in the
9 UNromantic pastime of voting.

10 The Associated Press announces
11 that the Spanish government today enacted
12 a constitutional measure that gives the
13 women the right to vote. All the girls
14 above 23 are entitled to go to the polling
15 places and cast their ballots. This
16 enfranchises 5 million Spanish women.

17 Some of the prominent women
18 leaders of Spain were vigorously behind
19 this equal suffrage bill. But other
20 women, equally prominent, were strongly
21 opposed to it.

22 Many people expect that as a
23 result of woman suffrage in Spain the
24 Clerical party will be helped a lot. The
25 Spanish women are ~~now~~ said to be

1 interested in Church matters and it is
2 believed that they will support the
3 Church in its controversy with the new
4 Republican government.

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1 A ^{short time} ~~little while~~ ago I told ~~you~~
2 how in Mexico City they are cleaning
3 things up, with the police giving
4 compulsory baths to people who seem to
5 need them.

6 Now, The United Press tells of a crisis
7 which has just occurred in the enforcement
8 of that sanitary law.

9 Jose Maria Velasquez is a man
10 who has a mind of his own. He declared
11 he didn't want a bath. The police said
12 he needed a bath. In high indignation
13 Jose proceeded to produce a certificate
14 to show that he had been given an official
15 bath last December. "Him need a bathX
16 when he had one only nine months ago?
17 No, Senor, that was just plain madness."

18 The sanitary police, however,
19 told the Senor that two baths in nine
20 months was by no means excessive and
21 that he would have to come along and
22 get washed up. And that's when the
23 fight began.

24 Jose resisted that bath with
25 all the vigor of a man who feels his

most sacred rights are invaded. They had to get a squad of sanitary police to subdue him, and then he was carted away to the bath tub still roaring his protests. His roars turned into a violent sputtering when they proceeded to apply the soap and water to him and give him a thorough scrubbing.

And now Jose, somewhat cleaner than before, is making dire threats. He declares that the two baths in nine months will probably injure his health, and if he finds that his strong constitution has been weakened, why he's going to sue the government for damages.

BASEBALL

Well, it's even Stepen now - I mean in the World Series. Cornelius McGillicuddy's Philadelphia equanimity is a bit disturbed tonight, by the way that other Gael, Hallihan applied the whitewash brush. Hallihan was on the mound for the Cards and he shut out the Ahtletics two to nothing. And now whose world series is it going to be?

RADIO

And, now the subject of Baseball takes us to Rochester, New York.

Rochester is an up-to-date city. Among other things it is fighting crime in an up-to-date way. The Rochester police is a great crime suppressing organization, and it has gone in for radio. It has a number of scout cars and detective bureau cruisers and these go scouting around the city suppressing crime. Each one is equipped with a short wave radio outfit and each is constantly instructed by headquarters what to do. The moment a new crime is committed, word is flashed to those police cars and they immediately speed to the scene.

It appears that a bunch of boys have been playing baseball on a vacant lot in a fine residential section of the town. The dignified people around there object to the way the boys bat the ball around, and the police have been trying to break up that baseball game. Every so often those police cars come tearing along and the cops jump out and grab the boys.

Those police cars and their baseball suppressing activities are directed ny the radio.

But now, says the Associated Press, the boys have been getting in a little scientific work of their own. They have rigged up a radio receiving set themselves and whenever police headquarters sends out a flash to the crime chasing automobiles saying:- "Go to such and such a place and arrest those arch-criminals and fiends-incarnate who are playing baseball" why, that same command comes roaring through the loud speaker of the boys' radio set, which is placed just behind home plate. Whereupon the lads have ample warning and they grab their bats and balls and gloves and make a quick skidoo.

That, by the way, is a timely expression, even if it has whiskers. I mean "quick skidoo". Because it' what I'll have to do right now. And,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.