

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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BALLOON -- INTRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

What seemed like black tragedy last night has turned into brilliant triumph tonight. Those two adventurous scientists, Piccard and Kipfer, have come safe and sound back to the land of the living, - and after it seemed as if they had met with a weird disastrous end.

And it appears that they have performed a marvelous schievement. They ascended to a height of 51,000 feet - 10 miles into the strange and little-known outer fringe of the world's atmosphere -- the stratosphere.

The International News Service reminds us that this 50,000-foot climb breaks the altitude record by more than 12,000 feet. Two miles higher than human beings have ever been before.

The two men were aloft for nearly 20 hours. They had carried oxygen for only little more than 7 hours. And that was why it was thought that they had perished in their daring ascent.

The Associated Press received one

1 dispatch after another telling how the  
2 missing balloon had been sighted here  
3 and there. What really happened was  
4 that the big gas bag came down on a  
5 glacier in the Tyrolean Alps. The two  
6 adventurers were safe and sound, and they  
7 simply walked down to the nearest village.

8 *T* They tell a story of an extraordinary  
9 experience. Their balloon worked  
10 perfectly -- air-tight aluminum gondola,  
11 oxygen apparatus, and all. They were  
12 never in any difficulty. They had a  
13 prodigious view from way up there in  
14 the stratosphere, and made a number of  
15 remarkable observations.

16 The United Press reminds us that  
17 the two explorers of the upper atmosphere  
18 had promised that they would descend  
19 to earth by sunset. The reason why they  
20 did not do so, the reason why the world  
21 was kept in suspense, was that the two  
22 men found that their balloon had too  
23 much bouyancy. They could not easily  
24 make it come down during the day. So  
25 they waited for night to cool off the

1 gas in the bag and make it less  
2 bouyant.

3 They descended on the glacier  
4 deliberately. The smooth surface was  
5 an excellent <sup>night time</sup> landing place for a free  
6 balloon. Then quite calmly they struck  
7 out for the nearest village. Yes,  
8 they were safe and sound -- only  
9 desperately hungry.

10 And so I suppose we can say that  
11 they struck out for the nearest hot-  
12 dog stand. They had a good meal and  
13 told their story -- one of the most  
14 remarkable adventure stories of our  
15 time *the full details of which will be*  
16 *blazoned far and wide in the newspapers*  
17 *tomorrow morning.*



1 *And* - Another airplane record has been  
2 shattered - the non-refueling endurance  
3 record.

4           Walter Lees and Frederick Brossy  
5 of Detroit, took off on Monday evening  
6 and just kept on flying. Without  
7 refueling in the air they have stayed  
8 aloft for seventy-six hours and twenty-  
9 three minutes.

10           The old record, according to  
11 information from the Associated Press,  
12 was seventy-five hours and twenty-three  
13 minutes. It was made recently by a  
14 couple of Frenchmen in North Africa.  
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1 Now comes something that  
2 certainly seemed <sup>S</sup> like the real thing.  
3 After those great sky maneuvers of  
4 the United States Army Air Forces, *after*  
5 the maneuvers against an imaginary  
6 aerial enemy, *and after* those sham battles in  
7 the sky, the real thing certainly  
8 seemed to hit New York last night.

9 A big plane swooped down  
10 through the darkness over the Hudson  
11 River. There was a blinding flash of  
12 light and a thundering detonation. The  
13 plane swung around and there was a  
14 second outburst of fireworks.

15 Houses trembled. Window-panes  
16 fell crashing into the streets. People  
17 were nearly scared out of their skins.

18 And now today high army  
19 authorities are on the trail of a  
20 couple of aviators who did a bit of  
21 experimenting somewhat too near a <sup>certain well-known</sup> large  
22 city.

23 The New York Evening Post  
24 gives the explanation that <sup>the famous</sup> Captain A. W.  
25 Stephens, <sup>wizard aerial cameraman,</sup> and Lieutenant John Corkville, <sup>his</sup>

pilot, were trying out a new photographic device. They did -  
and how.

The two explosions that startled the natives were  
huge flashlight bombs going off. The two army officers had been  
ordered to make the experiment, but they hadn't been told to  
touch off their high explosive flashlight charges so near  
anybody's house. And so two very able flying officers may have  
to listen to a few gentle but firm words from a general or two.

# BOND ISSUE

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1           It was reported today that the  
2 United States Treasury has under  
3 consideration a large bond issue.  
4 Government bonds will be sold to provide  
5 the treasury with money to meet the  
6 deficit.

7           The Associated Press gives the  
8 figure of the deficit which Uncle Sam  
9 is facing as more than a billion dollars.

10           Well, old Uncle Sam/<sup>simply</sup>has to  
11 raise money, and so they say he is  
12 going to put out a few bonds - or  
13 rather a whole lot of bonds.

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1 I spent a couple of minutes this  
2 afternoon looking at a cartoon. It  
3 shows a man sitting, ~~and~~ dreaming. He's  
4 an American business man and the problem  
5 before him is the present business  
6 situation. But he's not thinking about  
7 that. At least not directly.

8 The cartoon shows him seeing a  
9 vision, a vision of a covered wagon  
10 drawn by oxen passing over a mountain  
11 trail - American pioneers on their way,  
12 breaking the trail to new countries.

13 And the business man who is  
14 seeing this vision is <sup>saying</sup> ~~saying~~:- "I wonder  
15 if we haven't lost the fighting spirit  
16 of our ancestors. Nothing could  
17 discourage them."

18 The cartoon is <sup>John</sup> by <sup>John</sup> McCutcheon  
19 of the Chicago Tribune, and ~~is~~ <sup>it's</sup>  
20 reproduced in the new Literary Digest -  
21 which is out today.

22 The picture is only one of  
23 a page of cartoons which the Digest  
24 devotes this week to the subject of  
25 bringing back prosperity. That's an

1 interesting idea - a page of witty  
2 drawings to illustrate a dominant  
3 problem of the day.

John

4           Anyway, that cartoon by <sup>John</sup> McCutcheon  
5 showing the American business man thinking  
6 of the heroism of the old pioneers, is  
7 a bracing tonic for any of us, and so  
8 are the other cartoons on that page in  
9 the Digest. *Those cartoons alone are*  
10 *worth the price of the magazine.*

1 Yes, Charlie, you were quite  
2 right. You just shifted that ~~dark~~ *dinky*  
3 derby on your head and took a dab at  
4 that funny mustache of yours, and you  
5 gave the right answer.

6 The London Daily Sketch says  
7 today that Charlie Chaplin and the  
8 British Government are negotiating  
9 on the subject of a big talking picture.  
10 The British Government, it appears, wants  
11 Charlie to make a British talkie which,  
12 they say, will have national significance.  
13 Charlie Chaplin hasn't done a real  
14 talkie before and it has been said that  
15 he preferred the older, non-talking  
16 medium.

17 Also, Charlie provoked a bit  
18 of unfavorable comment in the London  
19 newspapers when he refused to take part  
20 in what was described as a command  
21 performance, ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~appeared~~ before King  
22 George.

23 But just the same he is said  
24 to be working hand and glove with the  
25 British Government - the idea being a



1 talking picture. But <sup>here's</sup> the point on which  
2 Charlie Chaplin spoke up and said  
3 exactly the right thing. ~~is this~~

4 The Associated Press ~~says~~ <sup>has told how</sup>  
5 ~~along the word that~~ it was suggested  
6 that the subject for this proposed talkie  
7 should be the Pilgrim Fathers, the  
8 landing of the Mayflower, the ~~max~~ epoch  
9 of the founding of New England.

10 In other words, the <sup>British</sup> ~~we~~ wanted to make <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~  
11 Charlie Chaplin picture based on the  
12 Pilgrim Fathers, and that's where  
13 Charlie said no, nix. He declared the  
14 subject wasn't suitable for him at all.

15 Yes, Charlie, you're right.  
16 Charlie Chaplin with his baggy pants,  
17 his absurd derby, and his ridiculous  
18 mustache, would certainly not look  
19 anything like a Pilgrim Father. Charlie  
20 Chaplin, as one of those grim and  
21 stony-faced old founders of New England -  
22 well, that would be too funny even for  
23 Charlie.

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1 Hello, here's Spain again.

2 Now Spain is a beautiful country  
3 -- romantic and all that. But just the  
4 same some of us are liable to get a bit  
5 tired hearing night after night -- no,  
6 not about castles in Spain, but about  
7 troubles in Spain.

8 But it's all in the day's news,  
9 and I guess we'll have to go on and see  
10 what the tidings are from Spain. ~~tonight~~

11 ~~Well, let's see,~~ Spain has had  
12 the revolution, and various kinds of  
13 riots, but this time it seems that the  
14 country of caballeros and senoritas is  
15 threatened with a financial panic. And  
16 that expression, FINANCIAL PANIC, seems  
17 to have a familiar sound too.

18 ~~The International News Service~~  
19 ~~has informed us before this that~~ the  
20 peseta has been going down, decreasing  
21 in value. Recently the new Republican  
22 government has increased the circulation  
23 of paper money to 6 billion pesetas --  
24 and that's a whole lot of pesetas in  
25 Spain or anywhere else. The difficulty



1 is, of course, that the more paper  
2 money you print, the less it's worth.

3 But Spain has been suffering not  
4 only from an increase of paper money but  
5 also from a decrease of gold. Gold has  
6 been flowing out of Spain of late.

7 The government has been trying to  
8 check the exodus of gold. A law has  
9 been enforced prohibiting any  
10 individual from taking more than 5,000  
11 ~~worth of~~ <sup>worth of real money</sup> pesetas across the border.

12 But the enforcement of that law has not  
13 been strict enough. People have been  
14 taking gold out of the country in large  
15 quantities.

16 The Republican government blames  
17 it on -- guess who? Yes, it's the same  
18 old story in the same old way. They  
19 blame it on the monarchists, <sup>and on Alfonso.</sup>

20 The Republican officials accuse  
21 the monarchists of sneaking their money  
22 out of Spain. Maybe the monarchists  
23 want to put their mazuma away some place  
24 where it will be safe.

25 But the Spanish republicans say



1 it's a plot. They declare that the  
2 supporters of King Alphonso are trying  
3 to bring on a financial panic, figuring  
4 that ~~and~~ if the money situation gets  
5 bad enough, why, it ~~would~~<sup>will</sup> influence  
6 the people to vote against the Republican  
7 government in the coming June elections.  
8 The idea seems to be that while the  
9 people may be devoted to Republican  
10 principles, they <sup>would</sup> prefer King Alphonso  
11 and good times to a Republic and bad  
12 times.

13           Anyway, the financial situation  
14 is said to be serious, and the government  
15 is planning to put strict regulations  
16 into force to stop the flow of gold  
17 which is pouring out of Spain, ~~and keep~~  
18 ~~the yellow metal in the country.~~

1 I have a letter here from Joseph  
2 Hook, of Clifton, New Jersey, who raises  
3 a peculiar question, a real brain  
4 twister that I, for one, am unable to  
5 answer.

6 Mr. Hook encloses a clipping from  
7 a Clifton newspaper which asks that same  
8 question.

9 Mr. Hook has recently had an  
10 addition to his family. The boy was  
11 born at 12:45 a.m. daylight saving time  
12 on May 12th.

13 But according to ~~the natural~~ *normal*  
14 Eastern standard time, the child was born  
15 an hour earlier -- at 11:45 -- which  
16 makes the date May 11th.

17 In other words, young Joseph J.  
18 Hook's birthday is May 12th, according  
19 to daylight saving time, and ~~June~~ *May* 11th  
20 according to Eastern standard time.

21 Now suppose the lad goes to a state  
22 where daylight saving time is not in  
23 force. Does that change his birth date?  
24 Won't the authorities there claim that  
25 he was really born at 11:45 p.m. on May 11th?



1 Well, you <sup>can't</sup> ~~couldn't~~ prove it by  
2 me, and I'll just leave it to some of  
3 you legal and mathematical sharks to  
4 answer.

5 Anyway, Tom Moore wasn't ~~not~~  
6 bothered by any such question. The  
7 subject of birthdays brings the famous  
8 Irish poet to mind, because today is  
9 the anniversary of his birth. He was  
10 born on May 28th, 1779.

11 A couple of lines he wrote are  
12 running through my head. I always did  
13 like the lilting, sentimental and  
14 sometimes mocking verse of Tom Moore.

15 Anyway, here are the two lines  
16 I'm thinking about:-

17 My only books  
18 Were women's looks,  
19 And folly's all they've taught me.

20 And by a strange contrast, today  
21 also was the birthday of Doctor  
22 Guillotin, the inventor of that sinister  
23 mechanism, the guillotine.

24 And then there was another eminent  
25 and very different kind of personality



1 who ~~was~~ was born on May 28th --  
2 William Pitt, the famous British Prime  
3 Minister and enemy of Napoleon. He  
4 was a son of the Earl of Chatham, who  
5 was a great friend of the American  
6 colonists during the Revolutionary War.

7 Well, today is the anniversary  
8 of many other famous things that have  
9 happened in the long panorama of  
10 history. But that puzzle about  
11 ~~xxx~~ birthdays and daylight saving  
12 time caused my eyes to light principally  
13 on birthdays.

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1 I am happy to <sup>advise</sup> ~~inform~~ you folks  
2 of a great reform that is approaching,  
3 a reform that positively bewilders  
4 me & it's needed <sup>so</sup> ~~that~~ badly. <sup>Yes,</sup> It's  
5 a wonderful crusade.

6 From June 2nd to June 5th the  
7 National Conference on Weights and  
8 Measures will hold its annual sessions,  
9 and that conference is going to take  
10 up the subject of those penny-in-the-  
11 slot scales which one sees nearly  
12 everywhere. And that's where the great  
13 reform comes in. The conference is  
14 going to start a movement to see that  
15 those ~~xxx~~ penny-in-the-slot scales  
16 are correct.

17 The International News Service  
18 reminds us - and even if it didn't  
19 remind us we'd know it anyway - that  
20 for one penny you ~~can~~ find you weigh  
21 160 pounds, and then for another penny  
22 you discover you weigh 185 <sup>lbs.</sup> A slim  
23 110 pound girl has been known to faint when  
24 ~~on getting on~~ <sup>getting aboard</sup> one of those scales she  
25 ~~only to~~ find<sup>s</sup> she has suddenly gained



fifteen pounds.

Ah, but all that is going to be a thing of the past. The National Conference on Weights and Measures is inspired by real crusading zeal, and the boys are determined to achieve that sublime reform. They are going to see that all those penny-in-the-slot scales work the same. If you weigh 120 pounds on one you'll weigh just 120 on the next.

It seems too good to be true. But the world is improving all the time, and even those penny-in-the-slot scales are going to improve too. And thus civilization takes another big step toward the millenium, and the moment has arrived for me to take a big step-no, not toward the millenium, but down the hall - and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.