

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR LITERARY DIGEST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1931

INDIA

Good Evening, Everybody:

( Over in London the Round Table Conference on India came to an end today. The conference died a gloomy death, with open admissions of flat failure. ) The representatives of Great Britain and India said they were unable to reach an understanding. They failed to formulate a plan for the independence of India, - I mean a plan satisfactory to both sides.

Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister of Great Britain, closed the proceedings with as much hopefulness and cheer as he could muster. The United Press quotes him as declaring that while the conference could not achieve any satisfactory results, its work must nevertheless continue. There have been two Round Table Conferences on India to date, and the Prime Minister looks forward to a third. He even offered to go out to India to attend another confabulation. His words were friendly

1 though a bit subdued.

2 (The Associated Press describes  
3 Mahatma Gandhi as speaking friendly  
4 words also, but they were uncompromising.  
5 He declared that he and the British  
6 government had finally reached a parting  
7 of the ways.) He implicated that the  
8 struggle <sup>of</sup> India for independence had  
9 arrived at a new phase, a most  
10 unpromising, a dark phase.

11 And so came to an end that  
12 Round Table Conference which weeks ago  
13 opened with high hopes and loud blaring  
14 trumpets. The next act of the drama  
15 will be played in India.

16 And during the next few weeks the  
17 eyes of the world will be ~~x~~ focused  
18 on the great tropical peninsula of  
19 Hindustan.

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1           The Council of the League of  
2 Nations today rounded out its plan to  
3 settle the trouble in Manchuria. All the  
4 members of the Council, except the  
5 Japanese and Chinese delegates, voted to  
6 put the scheme through. Its terms have  
7 been told before. The Japanese are to  
8 withdraw their troops from Manchuria,  
9 and a neutral commission will study the  
10 situation and try to work out an  
11 agreement.

12           The United Press makes the comment  
13 that one feature in the plan may meet  
14 with the opposition of Japan. The  
15 authorities of the Mikado want to  
16 reserve the right to send troops into  
17 the neutral part of Manchuria for the  
18 purpose of suppressing bandits. This  
19 the League of Nations does not want to  
20 allow.

21           From Tokyo come a few emphatic words  
22 from the Japanese war-office. The  
23 military leaders of Japan ~~have come out~~  
24 ~~and~~ tell the world that the withdrawal  
25 of Japanese troops from the neighborhood

1 of the Chinese city of Chinchow was not  
2 a result of pressure by the United  
3 States, or of any outside pressure  
4 whatever. It is declared that General  
5 Honjo, the Japanese commander, ordered  
6 his troops to withdraw for strategic  
7 reasons only. He issued the order 12  
8 hours before the protests by the United  
9 States had been received.

10 The International News Service  
11 quotes the spokesman for the war-office  
12 in Tokyo as making the further statement  
13 that the Japanese army cannot be  
14 influenced by outside nations. It is  
15 under the command of the Emperor and  
16 obeys only the imperial command.

17 Meanwhile, various skirmishes are  
18 reported in Manchuria. In one case a  
19 force of Chinese cavalry drove back a  
20 Japanese detachment. I suppose they'll  
21 go on scrapping until peace has finally  
22 been made.

## MEXICO

There is a bit of new light this evening on one of the perplexing problems with which scientists and scholars are wrestling - perhaps instead of new light I should say new darkness.

It's a case where some mighty interesting things are disclosed, but they seem only to make the puzzle more puzzling.

A wire to the New York Evening Post from Mexico City tells of various objects that have been dug up among the ~~ruins~~ ruins of Aztec buildings, ruins that pre-date those spectacular years when Cortez and his small band of fighting men conquered the vast empire.

Among those Aztec ruins were found figures modeled of clay. They were heads of animals, and among those animals were the camel and the hippopotamus. So far as is known, none of these ever flourished in the Western Hemisphere. Both are old world creatures. The hippopotamus is distinctly

1 African. And so the inference is that  
2 the people who modeled these heads of  
3 the camel and the hippopotamus must  
4 have been from Africa.

5 There are many theories that  
6 try to explain those strange great  
7 civilizations that flourished in Mexico,  
8 Central America, and Peru. There  
9 seems to be no real light on the subject.  
10 The discovery of the head of the camel  
11 and the hippopotamus in the heart of  
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13 ~~factor~~ factor to an already perplexing riddle.

1       The United States Senators <sup>2</sup>~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> going  
2 to have at least one husky gentleman in  
3 its ranks with whom it won't be wise to  
4 pick a scrap. He is the new Senator  
5 from New Jersey.

6       Governor Larsen today appointed W.  
7 Warren Barbour, a wealthy thread  
8 manufacturer, to take the senatorial  
9 seat left ~~in~~ vacant by the death of  
10 Senator Morrow.

11       Well, a few years ago Warren Barbour  
12 was quite well known in the world of  
13 pugilism, although not in a  
14 professional way.

15       The International News Service  
16 reminds us that he was boxing champion  
17 of Princeton during his college years,  
18 and later on was amateur heavyweight  
19 champion of the world. He was a good  
20 boxer and a hard hitter, and they say  
21 the society pugilist would have given  
22 many a professional a stiff battle.

23       Of course, in the Upper House of  
24 Congress, the new Senator's pugilism  
25 is less important than his politics. Mr.



1 Barbour is a Republican. His  
2 appointment bears out expectations.  
3 New Jersey recently elected a Democratic  
4 governor, but it was up to the present  
5 Republican governor during the remainder  
6 of his term, to appoint a law-maker to  
7 succeed Senator Morrow. It was only  
8 natural that he should appoint a  
9 Republican, and ~~this is~~ <sup>that was</sup> what he ~~has done.~~ <sup>did.</sup>

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MOONEY

Well, Jimmie Walker spoke his piece in San Francisco today. He made his plea for Tom Mooney. New York's jaunty mayor is still suffering from a cold, but they say he made the most brilliant and dramatic talk of his whole career.

The International News Service describes a scene of a packed courtroom in San Francisco, with the Governor of California presiding. Mooney's senior counsellor spoke, and then Jimmie Walker arose, and made his defense of the man who is serving a life term in prison for that Preparedness Day bombing explosion in San Francisco years ago.

Among other telling phrases, Mayor Walker of New York declared that no man with an understanding of tragedy could bring himself to plead the case of Tom Mooney, knowing he was guilty, without making himself, for the rest of his life, an unhappy person.

And thus did the dapper Jimmy eloquently defend the convict at San Quentin who's case he has crossed the continent to plead.

1 And now for that football game on <sup>#4</sup>  
2 Thanksgiving Day between Holy Cross and  
3 Boston College, which has attracted so  
4 much comment.

5 I have a telegram here from John P.  
6 Curley, graduate manager of athletics at  
7 Boston College. Mr. Curley presents some  
8 facts ~~in~~ briefly and <sup>suchly succinctly.</sup> succinctly. The  
9 football game was played, <sup>for the unemployed, it seems,</sup> at the request  
10 of the Mayor of Boston. Through the  
11 Kindness of President Lowell of Harvard,  
12 the Boston football classic was  
13 transferred from Fenway Park, where it  
14 is usually played, to Harvard Stadium,  
15 which holds many more spectators. It is  
16 perfectly well known that this game is a  
17 steady, yearly box-office feature. And  
18 it was believed that with the greater  
19 seating capacity at Harvard Stadium, it  
20 would draw a lot more than usual. And  
21 the idea was to donate to the unemployed  
22 the excess gate receipts that were  
23 expected this year.

24 This was the arrangement. But things  
25 didn't work out as ~~had been~~ expected. ★

letter printed in today's New York Evening Post seems to indicate that it was just a case of showmanship gone wrong. We are told that the whole plan was engineered by the Mayor of Boston. It was at his suggestion that the game was played on Thanksgiving Day. He believed that Harvard Stadium would be packed, and that there would be plenty of excess gate receipts for the unemployed.

However, it would seem that in Boston the only people you can get to a football game on Thanksgiving Day are the alumni of the colleges that are playing.

The editorial page of the New York Evening Post, which I quoted in my original account of the affair, makes the comment that the letter gives a fair statement of the situation, and that the original editorial was based on incomplete information. The whole plan was outlined in the Boston Herald before the game was played, and, as I said before, the only mistake in the matter seems to be one of showmanship that didn't work out as the colleges and mayor had figured.

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Lowell Bayles, of Springfield, Mass., the young aviator who shot into the limelight last summer by breaking a few speed

records, zipped into the headlines again today. The Associated Press tells of his ~~xxxxxx~~ setting a new world speed record for land planes at Detroit. Over a three kilometer course he averaged 284.72 miles per hour.

Captain Frank Hawks had both tough luck and good luck this afternoon. At nine A.M. this morning he took off from Vancouver, B. C. on a flight to Mexico. But this afternoon he landed in a cow pasture near Grenada, California, tumbled from his plane and fell unconscious. The International News Service states that a passing motorist picked him up and carried him to town where he was revived. The doctor who attended him declared that Captain Hawks was simply suffering from exposure and fatigue.

1           And now let's have a few jokes.  
2 But please be quite serious, because  
3 these jokes are not intended merely for  
4 laughter, but are designed to illustrate  
5 a few psychological, sociological, and  
6 other kinds of logical <sup>and illogical</sup> points. It's a  
7 case of a German writer analyzing  
8 American humor, and figuring out why the  
9 Americans laugh at those jokes -- and  
10 why Germans don't.

11           The subject is treated to a  
12 hilarious analysis in this week's  
13 Literary Digest, which goes all the way  
14 over to Germany to give us the German  
15 ~~in~~ viewpoint. It's the important German  
16 newspaper, the Vossische Zeitung, which  
17 tackles the thorny subject of American  
18 humor. And Fraulein Helene Levinger is  
19 the profound psychologist who figures  
20 out those American jokes. For example,  
21 take this one:-

22           Jonathan Brown wanted to put out  
23 the fire in the fireplace. But he made  
24 a mistake and <sup>grabbed</sup> ~~took~~ a can of benzine.  
25 His clothes fit his widow's second

1 husband beautifully.

2         The German lady psychologist tells  
3 that one, and then proceeds to draw a  
4 diagram of it for the benefit of German  
5 readers. She explains that American  
6 humor largely takes the form of  
7 suppressing the main facts and telling  
8 them by inference. Thus nothing is told  
9 of what happened when Mr. Brown poured  
10 the benzine on the fire. In fact,  
11 there's no statement of the frightful  
12 explosion, the melancholy end of the  
13 absent-minded Mr. Brown, and the  
14 re-marriage of his widow. All these  
15 events are contained in the statement  
16 that the unfortunate Mr. Brown's clothes  
17 fit his successor admirably.

18         And then the Digest gives us a ■■  
19 second sample of humor which Fraulein  
20 Levinger takes up. It's from  
21 "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

22         The beautiful dumb-bell tells how  
23 she invited her friends to an  
24 intellectual party, and the next day  
25 she wondered how long it would take to

1 have the chandeliers hung again.

2 In this case/<sup>also</sup>the author tells by  
3 inference what kind of party it was and  
4 the <sup>prolissome</sup> events that took place.

5 The next analysis of a joke in  
6 that humorous article in the Literary  
7 Digest tells us the German viewpoint  
8 about still another American joke.

9 It's the case of a man who says:-  
10 "I'll find out if good old Bill is at  
11 home. If he is at home I'll ask him for  
12 that money he owes me."

13 And in the next picture you see  
14 the unfortunate chap lying on the  
15 sidewalk with a couple of black eyes and  
16 his hat bashed in. The text below the  
17 picture reads:- "Yes, Bill was at home."

18 Once more we don't have any  
19 description of what happened when the  
20 unfortunate victim asked "good old Bill"  
21 to pay that money back. We don't even  
22 see a picture of Bill.

23 "But," remarks the German  
24 analyst, "the result attains an  
25 unsurpassed unity of effect, and a reader



gains a profounder impression of Bill than any pictorial treatment of his features could afford."

And, speaking American, I'll say he does.

1 Yes, the curfew tolls the knell  
2 of parting day, and the Elegy was written  
3 in ~~xxxxxxx~~ a country churchyard - but  
4 it was in a different country churchyard.  
5 At least, so says the London Daily  
6 Express today.

7 It has always been supposed  
8 that the poet Gray wrote his famous  
9 Elegy in the ancient churchyard at  
10 Stoke Poges, a quiet ivy-clad village  
11 of old England. The venerable churchyard  
12 has long been a favorite place for  
13 American tourists to visit. Most  
14 Americans who go to England include in  
15 their sightseeing a visit to the romantic  
16 place where the melancholy poet heard  
17 the curfew toll the knell of parting  
18 day.

19 But now word comes from London  
20 that it's all wrong. The International  
21 News Service cables that the London  
22 Daily Express, after considerable  
23 research, has found that <sup>Gray's</sup> ~~the~~ Elegy could  
24 not have been written at Stoke Poges.  
25 It must have been written in the

neighboring village of Upton-cum-chalvey. (I wonder who owns real estate in that village?)

One of the reasons is that the curfew which tolled the knell of parting day could not have been heard at Stoke Poges. The curfew referred to by the poet rang at Windsor Castle. It still does. Stoke Poges is too far away for the tolling sound to be audible, but it can be clearly heard at Upton.

Then there's the ivy mantled tower referred to in the poem. It could not have been the tower at Stoke Poges which in the time of Poet Gray was not covered with ivy. It is not old enough to have been covered with ivy then. On the contrary the tower at Upton is of sufficiently ancient date. And it was covered with ivy when Gray wrote his verses.

And so now it seems as if the curfew were tolling ~~and~~ the knell of the parting legend that Gray's Elegy was written in the Churchyard at Stoke Poges.

Also, the curfew tolls the knell of this evening's news.  
The knell tolls ding-dong, and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.