LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1931

POLITICS

Good Evening, Everybody:

A telegram was received in Washington today. "It was in answer to an inquiry.

Senator Patten of Texas, observes the Associated Press asked a question of Attorney General James V. Allred of Texas.

When can a new Congressman be elected to take the place of Representative Wurzbach? That was the inquiry.

The recent election left a line up in Congress of
217 Democrats, 215 Republicans, and one Farmer Laborite, and the
point was made on all sides that this proportion of forces would
probably be changed by death or illness among the Congressmen.

And right on top of that, as the United Press, reminds us, the
has come the death of Congressman Wurzbach, the one lonely
Republican among the delegation which the great State of Texas
sends to the lower house. That cut the Republican Congressional
forces down by one.

Of course, a good deal depends upon when Texas can elect a Congressman to take the place of Pepresentative Wurzbach.

If Texas does not choose a new Congressman by the time Congress meets, then the Republicans will simply be short that one vote.

This morning there was considerable doubt about when an election could be held in Texas, and that gives all sorts of interest to the inquiry sent from Washington to the Attorney General of Texas.

Well, the Attorney General has replied. He declares reports the International News Service that Texas can elect a new Congressman within a period of their thirty days.

Well, of course, that opens possibilities. If Texas should select a Republican, why that would rim cut down the Democratic majority. But on the other hand, if the folks along the Rio Grande should pick a Democrat to succeed its one Republican Congressman, why then that would only swell the Democratic majority.

The Democrats claim that Congressman Wurzbach was elected to office several times simply on account of his great personal popularity in spite of the fact that he is a Republican.

Well, all these matters are just making more and more dramatic that political situation which will come to a head when Congress meets early in December.

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An interesting idea for a small bit of unemployment relief comes from Cleveland.

Sheriff John Sulzman of that city, came out today with a plan to pick juries from among the unemployed. He suggests that people with jobs should not be called for jury duty. And that only the unemployed should be called upon to serve. He points out, the International News Service, that jurymen get three dollars a day which would be a welcome income for many an unemployed person. While, on the other hand, people with jobs are usually glad enough to be excused from jury duty.

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I suppose this next story had to come along sooner or later. It tells of something that one might have expected.

In London there's a whole gorgeous troop of potentates from India who are attending the Round Table Conference. They're in London blazing with an glory -- colors and silks and jewels a fabulous fortune in jewels.

London is known to have some mighty slick crooks who might but be expected to cast a shrewd and hungry eye on the diamonds and sapphires and pigeon-blood rubies with which those Maharajahs of India bedecked themselves.

That's why it's no great surprise to read this United Press dispatch which relates that 60,000 dollars worth of jems have been stolen from the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga. He is a young Prince of India who has been one of the most glittering figures at the Round Table Conference. He occupies a luxurious suite on a floor of the Savoy Hotel, known as the millionaire's floor.

And there he had his horde of jewels.

Some slick crook got to work and the

60,000 dollars worth of Hindustani

treasure has disappeared.

Scotland Yard men are working on the crime, and they say the robbery was the work of an internationally-known criminal who is believed to have escaped to the continent. They believe he got into the Maharajah's suite by climbing the fireescape.

The Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga is one of the wealthy soverigns of Hindustan, that land of wealthy soverigns. He has vast hereditary estates and treasure vaults of jewels, amassed by his ancestors during the old days when India was when was a land of war and plunder.

ancestone horde is in the hands of some slick European crook who is somehwere on the continent -- with the proverbial keen-eyed detectives of Scotland Yard on his trail.

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Word of a large financial transaction 2 comes across the cables from Berlin. They say the Soviet government of Russia wants to buy 9,000 freight cars and other railroad material. The order, if placed, will come to 50 mm million dollars.

The New York Evening Post passes along the report that the Soviets tried to place this same large order with American firms. They wanted to kxx buy all that railway material in the in United States. The manufacture But the minum de minum de al fell through. The Americans wanted 50 per cent cash in advance, and the remainder on short-term credits.

The Russians, however, wanted more time in which to pay the money, so they turned from the United States to Germany.

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There were big celebrations in Russia today. All over the Soviet Union demonstrations were held to celebrate the 14th anniversary of the founding of the Bolshevik regime. Russia. They call it RED OCTOBER, in honor of that October revolution in 1917 which turned Russia over to the Communist experiment.

The United Press explains that an important part of the jubilation consists of loud cheers for the progress that Soviet Russia has made.

The Soviet newspaper Pravda points out that two giant steel plants were put into operation today. One of them is that Kuznetstroi, which six months ago was an empty steppe -- while today it is a busy hive with four blast furnaces ready to roar into action.

The Pravda remarks that the first metal furnace at Gary, Indiana, took two years to complete, the inference being that the Bolsheviks work faster. Of course, that furnace at Gary was the first one, which alters the case somewhat.

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In Moscow huge life-sized models of the great steel plants have been set up. One of them stands 60 feet high, and man is a vivid piece of stage managing to dramatize the industrial ambitions of the Bolsheviks.

The International News Service remarks that Moscow's particular big show will begin tomorrow. Thousands of yards of red bunting have already been draped on public buildings in preparation for the celebration of Red October.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party did a bit of festive merry-making today in the form of a blast against the Capitalist nations. The proclamation takes up the subject of the trouble between the Japanese and Chinese in Manchuria, and declares that the Japanese aggression is not merely directed against the Chinese. It's really directed against the Soviets. declares the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

And that isn't all. We are told in loud and oratorical declamation that the

Japanese war in China is just the beginning of a World War in which the Capitalist nations will try to crush the Red regime in Russia.

Sounds like ringing a change on that old gag about a gigantic international conspiracy against the Soviets, doesn't to?

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* The fighting in Manchuria seems to have taken a turn, a turn for the better for the Japanese, a turn for the worse for the army of China.

(The Associated Press reports that the Chinese military forces opposing the Japanese have been crushed, after a 8 three day battle. The fighting has been along the Nonni River, in Northcentral 10 Manchuria.) The Japanese have been driving northward. One contingent of Japanese troops forced their way across the river and then were pressed hard by the Chinese.

The Associated Press reports that Japanese airplanes discovered a force of four thousand Chinese cavalry with thirty pieces of artillery, and these were out-flanking that hard fighting detachment of the Mikado's troops. which was battling desporately to hold its position.

The turn in the battle came when two battalions of Japanese infantry forced their way across the Nonni River

and came to the relief of their companions. Japanese bombing planes dropped their charges of high explosives on the Chinese lines with deadly effect, and tonight, says the United Press, the Chinese army is in full retreat.

Meanwhile in Washington the
Japanese ambassador explains that the
big battle on the Nonni River is just a
misunderstanding. I suppose one
might be tempted to say that it seems to
have been a considerable misunderstanding.

The Mikado's ambassador is quoted by the United Press as declaring that all the Japanese have been trying to do is repair a bridge. The work was to interrupted by the Chinese, so the regiments att of Nippon had to clear the Chinese military forces away from the immediate vicinity.

But it was just a misunderstanding, and that seems to be a new name for a battle.

Edward Tomlinson. traveler + writer, esp. in South America. Nov. 6, 1931 p. 14

In my previous incarnation, I mean 1 2 a year ago before I started living the 3 life of a news broadcaster, I spent con-4 siderable time sprinting around over the 5 continent, making speeches, lecturing, and so on. Of course, I crossed the 7 trail of every other chap doing the same 8 thing. and made friends with most of them. 9 And one of the most agreeable of them all 10 an American traveler and writer named 11 Edward Tomlinson. Mr. Tomlinson has been 12 a globe-trotter for some 15 years. But 13 for 10 years his specialty has been South 14 America. Each year he goes there and 15 covers it from Devil's Island to Cape Horn. 16 He was is just back from his last 17 jaunt south and in a few days will be off 18 again on another transcontinental lecture 19 tour, telling audiences everywhere about

the fascinating continent to the South of us, concerning which we North Americans know less than we know about Europe, Asia

know less than we know about Europe, Asia

and Africa.

He has striking gray hair, laughing blue eyes, a somewhat round and moon-like

face, he stands about six feet three. and is a handsome, debonair, cosmopolitan gentleman who you could tell at a glance.

I am going to interrupt my summary of the evening's news just long enough to ask him what's new in South America.

How about it Brother Tomlinson;
where have you been and what have you
seen this time?

I mean to the South of Uncle Sam's realm. And this time I did about 10,000 miles by air. One unusual experience was a flight over the Andes with the first regular passenger plane of the Pan American Grace Airways ever to make the journey right across the continent of South American from East to West. So far as I know it's the highest passenger airplane service in the world. At one point the planes sometimes go up to about 22,000 and occasionally 23,000 feet. But the curious thing about it is that you don't notice the altitude at all. You see oxygen tubes are provided for the passengers. You feel just like a condor.

Some of my time on this trip to South America was spent in interviewing the new presidents of various countries, of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and my old friend Sauchez Cerro of Peru.

In years gone by Old King Coffee has been the ruler of Brazil. But I found that he had abdicated.

Brazil seems to be flourishing internally. There's no unemployment. The Salvation Army tried to start soup kitchens

but got no customers.

Argentina is flourishing too. The recent advance in the price of wheat has brought great joy to the inhabitants of that nation.

Chile and Peru seem to be in rather a bad way partly because copper and nitrate are way down.

While in Peru I witnessed one of the strangest sights in the history of South America. It was an election in which every eligible voter went to the polls. This was compulsory. They voted by secret ballot. For the first time since Pizarro and his Conquistadores looted the Incas the election was absolutely fair. There was xxx no broken place, and not a broken head from Talare in the North to Tacnse in the South.

Well, Mr. Tomlinson, those celebrities you saw in South America brins me to this next item.

It tells us of a test made in Chicago. A list of 125 names was given to a huge number of people who were asked to identify the celebrities on the list.

Well, it was amusing to find out how little some of those folks knew about some world-famous people.

The best known of the celebrities were the movie ectors and gangsters. The curious thing was that a number of foreigners were much better known than Americans. Names such as Gandhi, Mussolini, and Ramsay MacDonald made a much better score than Americans like Charles Evans Hughes, Arthur Brisbane, and William Jennings Bryan.

The Literary Digest gives us a list of some of the bulls. The test, by the way, was made by the theatrical magazine Variety.

One Chicagoan thought that Aimee Semple MacPherson was a carnival ballyhooer. Another one said "Oh, it's some Scotchman."

And still another thought she was an aviatrix.

Sinclair Lewis was taken for a radio broadcaster, an orchestra leader, a financier, an oil magnate, a film director, and a Senator.

Albert Einstein was thought to be a violinist, an Englishman, a film director. As a matter of fact he does play the fiddle a little bit.

Yehudi Menuhin, the boy prodigy violinist, was set down as an Indian Prince, the oldest man in the world, a rabbi, a clairvoyant, and a Jewish actor.

Three people thought Bobby Jones was a tennis player.

William von Hohenzollern was taken to be an aviator, the President of Germany, and a German manufacturer.

And here's the record for the Mayo Brothers. Those famous surgeons were taken for circus performers, circus owners, gangsters, and comedians.

And Chase and Sanborn? They're down as actors in one case, and a couple of comedians in another. Well they do sound something xx like a vaudeville team at that.

Yes, and those are only a few of the funny ones in that list of bulls which the Literary Digest gives us.

And I'll be making a bull, unless I make a bolt and hurry and say -

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.