

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1930

INTRO

The wires have been crowded with news today. Stories tumbling on the heels of each other. Lots of news. News from Washington. Something about baseball. A bombing or two. A tale of a sultan of Beggars down in Mexico City. A pitched battle with pirates in China. Buried treasure. Spies in Roumanis. Another answer to the ~~xx~~ old question, "Who's the richest man in the world?" And so on.

1 President Hoover today said he ~~did~~  
2 ~~not~~ want <sup>only a</sup> ~~any more than~~ \$150,000,000 for un-  
3 employment relief. Some senators and con-  
4 gressmen think it ought to be more, but acc-  
5 ording to the United Press, the President  
6 declared himself <sup>very forcefully</sup> ~~with a bang~~. He said  
7 prosperity cannot be restored by raids on  
8 the public treasury and he added that some  
9 of the talk about increasing the amount of  
10 money to be spent is just playing politics  
11 at the expense of human misery.

12 The President points out that he has  
13 told Congress just how much money the gov-  
14 ernment intends to spend for all purposes.  
15 And he doesn't <sup>propose</sup> ~~intend~~ to spend any more.  
16 On the other hand, enough proposals for  
17 spending have been made in Congress to run  
18 up a total of \$4,500,000,000.

19 Those strong words the President  
20 uttered were followed by quick action in  
21 Congress. According to the United Press,  
22 the House of Representatives passed the  
23 first one of the bills that the President  
24 has asked for. It provides for \$110,000,000  
25 to be used for unemployment relief.

1 There's a rumor of a change in the  
2 Naval Building program. The idea has  
3 been all along that we ought to have 6-  
4 inch gun cruisers instead of the 8-inch  
5 gun type. <sup>At any rate,</sup> ~~and~~ the Navy Department has been  
6 arguing that way. But now rumor says that  
7 the idea is changed, and we are going to  
8 lay off those 6-inch gun war-boats. Fur-  
9 thermore, we must wait until the next Naval  
10 Conference in 1936 and then have the treaty  
11 ~~amended~~ amended to provide for <sup>ships with</sup> ~~the~~ 8-inch guns,  
12 ~~ships~~. The government has <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~ made any  
13 announcement of this, but the International  
14 News Service states it has the information  
15 on the authority of leaders in Congress.

16 And talking about naval matters, ~~xx~~  
17 here's one about a lady who <sup>believed</sup> ~~in~~ beating  
18 corset steels into battleships. She is  
19 Alice <sup>(Rose)</sup> ~~Roose~~velt Longworth and it happened  
20 during the war. The corset manufacturers  
21 were using iron enough ~~per~~ year to build  
22 two battleships, and they were using it  
23 for corset ~~stays~~. The matter came up be-  
24 fore the director of steel supplies of the  
25 war industries, and he wanted to know

1 whether all that steel was being used in  
2 an essential industry. So, according to  
3 the Associated Press, he telephone<sup>d</sup> Mrs.  
4 Longworth and asked her. <sup>Princess Alice</sup> She said that <sup>Making</sup>  
5 corset steels were not an essential indu-  
6 stry. So the corset manufacturers got  
7 no more steel.

8 Mrs. Hoover today christened the  
9 biggest merchant ship ever built in the  
10 United States. She named it the "President  
11 Hoover". The International News Service  
12 reports that Mrs. Hoover broke a bottle of  
13 water across the ship's bow with becoming  
14 dignity-and-grace, and the great vessel <sup>successfully</sup>  
15 sped down ~~into~~ the ~~waters~~ ways. She goes  
16 on the around-the-world run and will  
17 touch parts where Mr. Hoover's name  
18 was a by-word long before he became  
19 President of the United States.

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Out in California the Padre-of-the-  
2 Rains is dead. He was Father Ricard, a  
3 Jesuit astronomer, ~~and he was~~ <sup>He was a famous scientist and the</sup> head of the  
4 ~~Astronomical University~~ <sup>observatory</sup> of the University  
5 of Santa Clara for a number of years.

6 According to the Associated Press, he had  
7 a theory that you could ~~xxxxxxx~~ prophesy  
8 the weather by observing the sun spots.

9 Many scientists disagreed with his ideas  
10 but he kept on watching the sun spots and  
11 made <sup>daily</sup> weather forecasts that were so cor-  
12 rect that the people out there called him  
13 the Padre-of-the-Rains.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

## BASEBALL

Well, with the football season officially closed the sports writers are beginning to uncover the skeleton of old Man Baseball. The Big League magnates opened their Annual meeting in New York today. The United Press informs us that they are talking about the Draft; in other words, the way the Major Leagues draw players from the Minor Leagues. Yes, and they are again arguing about the old home-run menace - the annual wail, you know. Some baseball magnates think home-runs are too easily hit. There's a lot of palaver about trading players too - one manager trying to trade a dozen of his players and a stack of jack for a Babe Ruth and all that sort of thing. And then one ball club is starting an argument with Judge Landis that may provide a few fireworks soon. Well, talk about baseball brings thoughts of Spring, and most of us don't object to that.

1 ~~They have had~~ <sup>There has been</sup> another bomb outpage  
2 here in Chicago. A charge of powerful ~~xx~~  
3 explosives was thrown against the front  
4 of the Furniture Mart, ~~Building~~, the second  
5 largest building in the world. Windows  
6 were shattered and there was a terrific  
7 commotion.

8 According to the United Press,  
9 police believe the bomb was tossed from a  
10 passing car. But nobody seems to know why.  
11 Just one more ~~Chicago~~ mystery during this  
12 era of the racketeer.

13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

## CRIME LABORATORY

I visited a peculiar laboratory here in Chicago this afternoon, a laboratory for the study of crime founded by Burt Massee, one of ~~the~~ Chicago's prominent citizens. In that crime lab there's a microscope with which you can tell in an instant whether a bullet has been fired from a particular gun. Tell-tale marks are left on a ~~xx~~ bullet when it passes through a gun barrel, and these marks can be read like finger prints.

For instance, a policeman was bumped off by a criminal over in the State of Michigan. He escaped but in his room they found a machine gun. A bullet was fired through the machine gun, and the microscope showed the same markings on it as were on the bullets in the famous Chicago Valentine Day garage affair. That machine gun had been used in the garage massacre. The police now know the identity of the man who owned the gun, and he is being hunted far and wide.

There is a lot of strange information coming ~~xx~~ out about the reign of the racketeer, in all parts of the country. And some things are surprising. For example, St. Louis has been



the scene of a big kidnaping racket. That fact is brought out in the leading article of this week's Literary Digest, the one or two copies of which are still on the news stands.

Investigations of racketeering are being held in many of the big cities of the country, and the Digest has gathered startling facts and put them together in a smashing article. According to the Digest story, New York seems to be outrunning Chicago in the race for racketeering dishonors. One month after the Legs Diamond shooting, 89 persons were put on the spot in New York City. The most of us see facts like these here and there, and then we forget about them. They don't mean much until they are carefully put together and analyzed. That is exactly what the editors of the Literary Digest have done for you. It's not a pleasant tonic. But it's an important one, vital to every American. I think you will agree with me if you turn to your Literary Digest and read the leading article.

1 In Michigan, they've discovered  
2 remains of some whales and these are est-  
3 imated to be between twenty and thirty  
4 thousand years old. In remote, pre-hist-  
5 oric ages, say the scientists, there were  
6 plenty of whales in what is now Michigan.  
7 But here's a letter from a radio listener  
8 who has another theory to account for those  
9 whale skeletons <sup>that were recently</sup> ~~which have been~~ found.  
10 He thinks they may date back <sup>only</sup> 50 years. ~~ago~~  
11 Because, about that time, when he was a  
12 young man, he saw two whales in Michigan.  
13 They were on <sup>railway</sup> ~~flat~~ cars and were shown by  
14 an enterprising promoter at so much per  
15 look. One of them was exhibited in Bay  
16 City, and it occupied the greater part of  
17 two flat cars. But finally the authorities  
18 forced the promoter to bury that whale.  
19 So maybe those whale skeletons <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ have  
20 been <sup>uncovered</sup> ~~discovered~~ are just the remains of  
21 ~~these~~ two whales <sup>that belonged to the</sup> ~~which were a sort of~~  
22 circus 50 years ago.

23

24

25

ROUMANIA

From Roumania comes a hint of a sinister drama of secret agents and spies. According to the Associated Press, an agent of the Roumanian secret police was shot, and before he died, he said the man who killed him was one of the heads of the Bolshevik Spy System in the Balkans. All Roumania is talking about it tonight.

ITALY

A report comes in from that same corner of Europe.

The Italians are said to be disarming the Slavs in the territory around Trieste. Discontented Jugo-Slavs in those parts have been making attacks on the Italian authorities. A special cable to the Chicago Daily News states that Mussolini has now ordered all Slavs to give up their weapons.

CHINESE PIRATES.

Away out in China there has been another pitched battle between police and pirates near the mouth of the Yanktse River. The priate band, according to the Associated Press, numbered one thousand desperados. A small army of police went out and then the fight was on with the bandits on the losers end. 30 were killed and the rest took to their heels.

1 Here's an old, old question cropping  
 2 again:- Who is the richest man in the  
 3 world? We always think of Rockefeller,  
 4 or Henry Ford. But now we are told that  
 5 the modern heir to the mantle of ~~Croesus~~<sup>see</sup>  
 6 is His Exalted Highness, the Nizam of  
 7 Hyderabad. The Nizam is the ruler of  
 8 India's wealthiest state. British India  
 9 officials at the London Round Table ~~Conference~~  
 10 ~~conference~~<sup>affair</sup> have revealed staggering facts  
 11 about his fortune.

12 According to the United Press, the  
 13 Nizam has \$500,000,000. worth of gold  
 14 stored in his treasure-house. An English-  
 15 man has spent three years looking over the  
 16 Nizam's jewelry and he values it at  
 17 \$2,000,000,000. This is only personal  
 18 jewelry and does not include the State  
 19 jewels of Hyderabad. And mind you, this  
 20 is ~~only~~<sup>merely</sup> part of the Nizam's fortune.

21 Most enormously ~~wealthy~~<sup>rich</sup> men count  
 22 their ~~fortunes~~<sup>wealth</sup> in millions. The Nizam  
 23 counts his in billions.

24 I once visited this ~~Nizam~~<sup>picturesque potentate</sup>. He rules  
 25 over a vast land in South Central India.

1 Most of his realm is on the Deccan Plat-  
2 eau of the Peninsula of Hindustan. He  
3 has his own mercenary army made up of wild  
4 Arabs, from Hadramount, a little known  
5 section of <sup>South</sup> Arabia. When I was there he  
6 was reputed to have about a hundred wives  
7 and handmaidens in his harem. The Nizam  
8 is not a Hindu. He is a Mussalman. ~~He~~  
9 ~~part of~~ His domain includes the ancient  
10 kingdom of Golconda.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Here's my News Item <sup>far to-</sup> ~~of the~~ day. It  
2 was picked for me by a prominent Chicagoan  
3 my old friend, Neil Ward. "Doc" Ward is  
4 a rare soul, full of poetry, music and  
5 love of imaginative things. Doc is a  
6 great traveller and the item he chose is  
7 a marvelous story about digging for  
8 treasure. And what a glamorous back-  
9 ground of romance is woven about it.

10 1941 years ago in the Roman city  
11 of Pompeii, a lady was arranging her  
12 jewelry on her dressing table. She had  
13 a magnificent display of golden ornaments  
14 and precious gems. Suddenly she heard  
15 a wild commotion. She must have gone  
16 out to see what all the row was about.  
17 What she found was, that old Mount Vesuvius  
18 was erupting. Yes, and it was the  
19 eruption that buried Pompeii. She didn't  
20 go back for her jewels -- I guess she  
21 just ran with the rest.

22 Anyway, Italian archeologists who  
23 are excavating ~~the~~ buried ruins of that  
24 gay city which was Pompeii, have dug  
25 their way into that Roman lady's house  
and on that table they have found her



1 jewelry, just as she left it 2,000 years  
2 ago.

3           According to the Associated Press,  
4 the jewelry at ordinary commercial rates  
5 is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.  
6 with the historic interest that goes with  
7 it, its value would be hard to estimate -  
8 but it certainly would be fabulous.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1           On my way in to Chicago this  
2 morning from Rockford, Illinois, I took  
3 a final look at this week's Literary  
4 Digest and here are a few breezy lines  
5 I marked, <sup>thinking they</sup> ~~that~~ might give you a gentle  
6 tickle in the ribs. The Digest quotes  
7 these lines from the Pathfinder. Here  
8 they are:-

9           The more cheek a girl has the  
10 less blushing she does.

11           Nothing disturbs a woman's poise  
12 like advoirdupois.

13           ~~Many folks who think they're~~  
14 ~~aboard the elevator for heaven will never~~  
15 ~~get past the mezzanine floor.~~

16           Misery loves company, but it is  
17 better to have rheumatism in one leg than  
18 in both.

19           You'll find a lot more like that  
20 if you turn to your Literary Digest.

21

22

23

24

25

SPICE

And the Spice of Life page in the Digest prints an odd paragraph. It's a typographical error. Evidently some type got rather badly balled up. The paragraph/taken from a pamphlet put out by a Brooklyn charity organization, and here is the way it reads:

Do you know what it is to sit down of an evening with a book in your hand, your faithful dog in your mouth and your good pipe at your feet?

Now, how's that for a great idea? As for me I think I'll put my overcoat on my head now, and get into my muffler, and wrap my hat around my neck - and take a stroll in the breezes along windy Michigan Boulevard. So,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.