

# CITIES

Lowell Thomas broadcast for the  
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Page \_\_\_\_\_

Good Evening, Everybody:

1 Step up, ladies and gentlemen, and  
2 gaze at these magnificent cities. What  
3 am I offered for them? What am I offered  
4 for the greatest capitals in the world?

5 Well, suppose the auctioneer were  
6 speaking his raucous piece and putting  
7 the capital cities of the world under the  
8 hammer. How much could he get for them?

9 That's a question they seem to be  
10 figuring out over in Berlin. The New  
11 York Evening Post <sup>correspondent</sup> cables that the work  
12 of the Reparations Commission in trying  
13 to figure out the ~~amount of~~ national  
14 wealth ~~in~~ Germany, has inspired a number  
15 of Berliners who have a turn for  
16 figures. They started out ~~by figuring~~ <sup>to calculate</sup>  
17 how much money Berlin was worth. If you  
18 sold the city outright, how much cash  
19 could you get for it? Then they went  
20 ahead and made the same calculations for  
21 New York, London, and Paris.

22 According to these mathematicians  
23 along Potsdammerstrasse, the most  
24 valuable city in the world is London.  
25 They claim that if the auctioneer put

1 London under the hammer, he could get  
2 25 billion dollars for it. New York  
3 comes next. They say it is worth 20  
4 billion dollars in cold cash.

5 Third on the list comes Berlin, which  
6 is estimated as being worth just half *as much*  
7 ~~of the value of~~ New York. They figure  
8 that Berlin would bring 10 billion.

9 It is at this point that Handsome  
10 Adolf Hitler *hits off a bit of Hitlerish*  
11 ~~contributes a bit of~~ humor.  
12 He was discussing the reparations question  
13 with a group of foreign correspondents  
14 when he referred to the value placed on  
15 Berlin. He said that if the French  
16 wanted reparations so badly, they could  
17 come and take Berlin, if they could find  
18 out what to do with it, ~~when they had it.~~

19 Many Berliners are said to be  
20 disappointed because the calculations of  
21 city values show that Paris is worth  
22 almost as much as Berlin. Paris is a  
23 good deal smaller than the German capital,  
24 and hasn't so much modern development,  
25 but they say its value is a mere trifle  
less. The explanation is -- art



1 treasures. Artistically, Paris is way  
2 ahead of Berlin. The experts add that  
3 so far as art treasures are concerned,  
4 the German capital does not begin to  
5 compare with any one of several old  
6 Italian cities. From that point of  
7 view, I suppose it would be ~~quite~~  
8 hopeless ~~to~~ try<sup>ing</sup> to figure the value of  
9 Rome in terms of dollars and cents.

1                    *now look at this. It*  
2       Well, ~~it would~~ seems that times are  
3       pretty good -- that is, by comparison.  
4       You might say we haven't any depression  
5       at all -- by comparison.

6       The new Literary Digest prints an  
7       article which calls to mind the old  
8       philosophic principle of sizing up the  
9       present by comparing it with the past.  
10      Take the year of 1893. *I don't remember it because I was only a year old.*  
11      Well, our own  
12      present difficulties look like a positive  
13      boom when put alongside the conditions  
14      that followed the panic of 1893. That  
15      depression period witnessed a complete  
16      paralysis of American trade. The United  
17      States government was on the brink of  
18      bankruptcy. It was saved by the margin  
19      of a day. One-fourth of the railway  
20      mileage of the country went into the  
21      hands of the receivers. There were  
22      ~~country~~ *nation* wide strikes, sometimes amounting  
23      to actual insurrections. The banking  
24      system was flat on its back, and Wall  
25      Street was saying: ~~that~~ -- "America has  
no financial future."

*the one that comes out tomorrow,*  
Then the Literary Digest, quoting



1 the New York Times, goes back to the years  
2 that followed 1873, <sup>20 years earlier still,</sup> when an acute  
3 depression lasted four or five years.  
4 Railway properties right and left were  
5 sold by foreclosure. The largest New  
6 York banks failed. And labor troubles  
7 reached the stage of actual bloodshed.

8 Well, to read that bit of financial  
9 history which the Literary Digest gives  
10 us is enough to make a fellow say -- "We  
11 ought to be thanking our lucky stars  
12 that Old Man Depression has let us off so  
13 easy."  
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1           The news dispatches about the  
2 trouble today in Shanghai give a picture  
3 of one disturbance following right after  
4 another. There was wild rioting in the  
5 city with mobs storming against the  
6 Chinese--mobs of Japanese who live in  
7 Shanghai.

8           They killed two Chinese  
9 policemen, one of whom belonged to the  
10 police force ~~maintained by~~<sup>of</sup> the  
11 International Settlement. In retaliation  
12 the police maintained by the foreign  
13 ~~community community~~<sup>organization</sup> opened fire on the mob and  
14 one Japanese was killed.

15           The United Press explains the  
16 outbreak by saying that recently five  
17 Japanese monks in Shanghai were attacked  
18 by Chinese. The Japanese ganged up<sup>in</sup> an  
19 ~~assault upon~~<sup>attack of</sup> the Chinese in retaliation.  
20 After the first rioting the Japanese  
21 staged a mass meeting to consider the  
22 situation, and try to stop the trouble.  
23 But this mass meeting, devoted to peace,  
24 merely led to further disturbances. The  
25 Japanese staged a demonstration



1 demanding that the Mikado should send  
2 more warships to Shanghai to protect his  
3 subjects there, and the demonstration  
4 was a wild one. Street-cars were stoned  
5 and the windows of shops were broken.

6 Business in the <sup>Shanghai</sup> International <sup>city along the</sup> ~~Settlement~~  
7 <sup>Bund</sup> was paralyzed until the police finally  
8 got the situation ~~in hand~~ under control.

In that same disturbed city of

~~Over in~~ Shanghai there are ten  
aviators -- mournful, sad and downcast.  
They haven't any planes with which to  
fly anywhere -- and, sad to say, they  
haven't any money. They're stranded.  
This is the ~~most~~ discouraging end of what  
began as a warlike adventure.

They are five American and five  
Canadian flying men. They went to China  
to take part in operations against  
Japan. They expected to be war-birds,  
darting through the sky, dropping bombs,  
fighting aerial battles. But that seems  
to be all off. The Chinese government  
says it isn't hiring aviators, and  
hasn't any jobs for war-birds.

The Associated Press quotes the *fliers*  
~~aviators~~ as declaring that they were  
persuaded to go to China by promises  
made by Chinese in the United States and  
Canada. They say that at Pacific Coast  
airports posters appeared advertising  
for aviators to <sup>proceed to the Far East</sup> ~~go to China~~ and that in  
Canada a Chinese society recruited flying  
~~men~~ <sup>men</sup> and told them that they would receive



1 jobs from the Chinese government the  
2 moment they landed at Shanghai. The *would-be*  
3 ~~war birds~~ ~~flying men~~ declare that they were  
4 enlisted and signed up, but when they got  
5 to China they found no jobs, no warlike  
6 ~~opportunities,~~ ~~operations~~ and no money. And so they're  
7 looking for a way to get back to the  
8 Western hemisphere. — by air, or by sea  
9 or on a bicycle.

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1 It seems that we have a good  
2 deal of Shanghai tonight because here's  
3 another dispatch from that city on the  
4 China coast, which tells of a retired  
5 American Army Captain being held for a  
6 \$200,000 ransom. He is Captain Charles  
7 Baker, <sup>who</sup> in commander of a lighter belonging  
8 to ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> American Steamship Company.

9 The lighter was drifting along  
10 in the Yangtze River in a section infested  
11 by bandits and pirates. A gang of  
12 bandits attacked the lighter and captured  
13 the ~~Qixia~~ Captain and his Chinese crew.

14 This evening, relates the New  
15 York Sun, word came from the bandit gang  
16 demanding a \$200,000 ransom. They  
17 threatened to kill Captain Baker if  
18 soldiers are sent in pursuit of ~~xxxxxx~~  
19 them, and they want the ransom to be paid  
20 within twenty days.  
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1 I don't want to be a kill-joy  
2 or anything like that, but the rumor is going  
3 around that this is leap year, and I suppose  
4 the girls should be encouraged to do  
5 the proposing. But it doesn't seem  
6 to work. At any rate, so says Michael  
7 J. Cruise, who has performed countless  
8 marriage ceremonies at New York's  
9 municipal building.

10 Well, <sup>like the marrier</sup> ~~Cruise~~ is quoted by the  
11 New York Sun as declaring that leap year  
12 has never added any perceptible increase  
13 to the number of marriage licenses  
14 issued. So far as the <sup>cold</sup> figures go,  
15 leap year is just ~~like any~~ <sup>an</sup> other year.

16 "It's my observation",  
17 <sup>the Honorable Michael</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Cruise, "that the girls  
18 do all the arranging in these matters  
19 anyhow. The men usually have a stunned  
20 look when they come in here."

21 Things don't look any too  
22 good in the marriage market just now.  
23 The number of weddings has decidedly  
24 fallen off. They are blaming it on the  
25 depression. The makers and sellers of

1 wedding rings are wearing sour faces  
2 these days. They say that Cupid used  
3 to be a fine business partner, but he  
4 seems to have <sup>skipped</sup> ~~left~~ the country.

5 Well, this is leap year, but it  
6 would seem that if the girls are going  
7 to help the marriage business along,  
8 they'll have to do it in the same old  
9 way by hooking the <sup>gent</sup> ~~guy~~ gently, ~~xxx~~  
10 giving him a skilful come-on, and not by  
11 ~~be~~ popping the question with a loud <sup>leap year</sup>  
12 abruptness. ~~and trying to black-jack him~~  
13 ~~by main force.~~

14 Ah, but who am I to advise  
15 the girls on these matters?  
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Let's go along to a question which the Associated Press propounds. What do the ladies in Congress talk about? What do the women who represent various constituencies in the Legislative Halls at Washington chat about when they get together. Do they talk about their children?

No, they do not. They don't tell about the cute things that little Johnnie and Mary did. <sup>They don't talk</sup> ~~And yet the~~ <sup>about their children</sup> ~~Congress women do indulge in a bit of bragging. It's~~ about their grandchildren!

~~That~~ This was admitted by Mrs. Florence Kahn, Representative from California, and she straightway started in <sup>telling</sup> ~~to talk~~ about her new grandchild. Mrs. Jack Garner, ~~the~~ wife of the Speaker of the House <sup>chimed in with a line</sup> ~~happened to be present, and she started in too. She told~~ about her own grandchild, and then up spoke Ruth Bryan Owen, Congress woman from Florida. She boasted about her three grandchildren. Then Congress woman Ruth ~~er~~ Baker Pratt of New York won the competition when she spoke up and <sup>told about her</sup> ~~said she had~~ six grandchildren. <sup>So Grandmas in Congress it seems.</sup> ~~So that's what the ladies in Congress talk about---~~ their grandchildren.

1 Now comes that two letter word  
2 meaning negative. Secretary of State  
3 Stimson today said "no." He refused to  
4 make public a <sup>certain</sup> telegram in the archives of  
5 the State Department.

6 The telegram concerns negotiations  
7 for a loan to the Republic of Colombia,  
8 a loan that was floated in the United  
9 States.

10 The Associated Press reminds us  
11 that the Senate Finance Committee has  
12 been investigating foreign loans,  
13 especially the connection between loans  
14 and oil concessions in South America.  
15 *And* The Senators <sup>particularly</sup> want to see that ~~particular~~  
16 telegram which was sent from the  
17 American Legation at Bogota to the State  
18 Department. Secretary Stimson in  
19 repeating his refusal told the Senators  
20 that they could see the telegram in  
21 private session but he would not allow  
22 it to become a part of the public  
23 proceedings. He explained that making  
24 diplomatic documents public was against  
25 the policy of the State Department.



1 In the House of Representatives  
2 the session today of the House Naval  
3 Affairs Committee was livened up by a  
4 bitter attack on the naval economy  
5 policy of the administration. The  
6 United Press quotes Admiral Upham as  
7 declaring that the President's policy  
8 might in an emergency wreck the nation.

9 The Admiral was a witness before  
10 the Naval Affairs Committee and he  
11 declared that for us to cut our navy  
12 down as far as is proposed <sup>would be</sup> ~~was~~ all  
13 wrong and ~~might be~~ dangerous.  
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1           There seems to be an Archduke  
2 who may have to fight a few duels. He  
3 has been challenged to four affairs on  
4 the field of honor.

5           Well, the cause for all this  
6 dueling is to be discovered in a matter  
7 of clothing. It seems to be a question  
8 of what the well-dressed man should  
9 wear. It is admitted that the Archduke's  
10 costume was okay, correct in every detail.  
11 The medals and high decorations he wore  
12 were also okay. But the costume and  
13 the medals didn't fit ~~right~~ together.

14           The United Press tells the story  
15 of how the Archduke Leopold of Austria,  
16 member of the ancient family of Hapsburg,  
17 walked into a fashionable resort of  
18 Vienna. He was dressed in the traditional  
19 hunting costume of the Austrian hills,  
20 green shorts and a green jacket. heavy  
21 woolen stockings and hobnail boots, and a  
22 feather in his hat.  
23 On his chest he had pinned several high  
24 military decorations, and also the Order  
25 of the Golden Fleece, the most treasured  
decoration granted by the old Emperors



1 of Austria.

2 In the resort were four noblemen  
3 who had been great figures in the old  
4 days of the Empire. They instantly  
5 protested. They declared that the green  
6 hunting costume, and especially the shorts,  
7 did not fit in with the majesty of the  
8 Imperial decorations, especially the  
9 Order of the Golden Fleece. They  
10 declared that the Archduke Leopold, by  
11 wearing the medals along with the shorts,  
12 was casting reflection on the honor of  
13 the Empire and making the Order of the  
14 Golden Fleece ridiculous.

15 The four noblemen felt so strongly  
16 about the matter that they promptly  
17 challenged the Archduke to a duel. A  
18 Court of Honor is now being formed to  
19 decide how, when, where and if the  
20 duels shall be held.

21 Will it be pistols, ~~and~~ rapiers  
22 or sabres?  
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And now

1 ~~Now~~, boys, you can't open ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> safe  
2 by throwing rocks at it.

3 This is meant for a bunch of kids  
4 who live near a vacant lot in Brooklyn  
5 ~~which~~ <sup>that</sup> is a common dumping ground for  
6 tin cans and ~~all sorts of junk~~ <sup>so on.</sup>

7 The New York Evening Post tells how  
8 a policeman today heard a tremendous  
9 uproar in that vacant lot. It was BIFF,  
10 BANG, CRASH. He saw ~~that~~ a gang of  
11 neighborhood boys ~~were~~ bombarding an iron  
12 safe. They were peppering it with a  
13 furious barrage of stones and bricks.

14 The cop chased the kids and found  
15 that the iron safe belonged to a grocery  
16 store, which had been robbed. It would  
17 appear that the thieves carried off the  
18 small <sup>sturdy</sup> safe, and then ~~had~~ <sup>couldn't</sup> failed  
19 to open it. Disgusted, they had ~~then~~  
20 dumped it among the tin cans in the  
21 vacant lot. The kids ~~found~~ <sup>discovered</sup> it ~~there~~ and  
22 decided to find out what was inside. ~~is~~  
23 But they soon learned that you can't open  
24 a safe by throwing ~~bricks and stones at it~~ <sup>rocks at it.</sup>

25 And all that happens when you do  
that is biff, bang, crash — and  
s - l - u - t - o - m -