

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR LITERARY DIGEST

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1931

GERMANY

Good Evening, Everybody:

Well, I'll bet there's one fellow over in Germany who, right this minute, is banging a stein on the table and roaring "prosit"!

He is Handsome Adolph Hitler, the leader of Germany's wild and wooly Fascist movement. You see Handsome Adolph has just won what looks like a significant victory in the Province of Oldenburg, in northwestern Germany.

Political wiseacres have been saying that the fire-eating Hitler and his fire-eating Fascists have been eating fire in such a foolish way of late that they are losing ground in Germany. But those Oldenburg elections give the picture a different look.

The voters picked members for the local diet which governs the province. The Fascists entered the election with five members in the diet. According to the New York Evening Post, they come out of it with 19 - a gain of 14 members.

Their deadly enemies, the Communists also made a gain,

but a gain only of one seat.

Well, it looks as if that swing against Handsome Adolph and his high jinks isn't materializing. The Oldenburg voters apparently think Adolph is a handsome fellow indeed.

At last
~~guess~~

1 ~~guess~~ we can sing goodbye -
 2 no, not forever - but at least goodbye
 3 for a while, to that troublesome
 4 question of the Customs Union which
 5 Germany and Austria have formed.

6 At the meeting of the council
 7 of the League of Nations today Germany,
 8 Austria, England, France and Italy
 9 agreed to pass the matter on to the
 10 world court at The Hague.

11 It will be
 12 up to the world court to decide *whether*
 13 ~~that~~ the Austria-Germany Customs Union
 14 violates the treaties that were made
 15 at the end of the world war.

16 The International News Service
 17 tells us that a resolution to that
 18 effect was introduced by Arthur
 19 Hen derson, the British Foreign Minister.
 20 France and Italy were in favor of the
 21 resolution and when Austria and Germany
 22 put their O. K. on it, it was all over
 23 but the shouting - and there wasn't
 24 much of that.

25 The Associated Press tells us
 that the World ~~Council~~ ^{Court} will go into

1 session sometime during the summer, and
2 until then we won't have to worry
3 about what's happening to that trouble-
4 making Central-European Customs Union.

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1 ^Q
2 ~~That~~ two letter word meaning
3 denial is being uttered with considerable
4 fervor in Havana, ^{just at present.} The government says
5 "no," the leaders of the Nationalist party
6 in ~~the~~ Santa Clara Province have not
7 started the rebellion, ~~and~~ the Nationalist
8 party in Havana also says, "No, we have
9 no rebellions."

10 ~~ARE~~ But just the same,
11 according to the Associated Press
12 persistent reports continue to float
13 around that there has been a rebellion
14 in the ^{Cuban} ~~Santa Clara~~ Province, ^{of Santa Clara} where the
15 Nationalist leaders have risen in arms.

16 Thirteen persons are said to
17 have been arrested ~~by the military~~
18 ~~forces of the government,~~ and are
19 being held on charges of insurrection.

20 So it seems to be the old
21 answer of "yes" and "no" with Havana saying
22 "no" and the rumors from outlying provinces
23 saying "yes".
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PORTUGAL

Today's political disturbances include another bomb outrage, It was at Lisbon. Three bombs were exploded.

A big crowd had gathered today to celebrate the achievements of General Carmona, President of Portugal. A bomb was thrown into the middle of the crowd and thirteen people were wounded. The infuriated citizens chased a man who was supposed to have thrown the infernal machine but he got away. Just then another bomb went off, and it was followed by a third.

The crowd, wild with anger, attacked the newspaper Republica which is an anti-government journal. According to the Associated Press, doors were battered down and piles of newspapers were set afire. The Lisbon police are said to be hot on the trail of the bombers tonight.

1 I don't suppose any of us are
 2 looking for trouble, but we can't help
 3 finding a good deal of it in the news.
 4 In Egypt too there have been ~~disturbances~~
 5 disturbances.

6 It was a wild weekend over in the
 7 ancient land of the Pharaohs. The
 8 Egyptians are holding elections. The
 9 voters are picking delegates who will
 10 get together and elect members for the
 11 next Egyptian parliament.

12 ~~At Mitgama~~, In lower Egypt, a
 13 police official was killed. Troops
 14 fired on the mob and there were a number
 15 of casualties^s.

16 In Cairo, according to the Associated
 17 Press, a British subject was killed. A
 18 crowd stoned the police, and the police
 19 ~~shot~~^{fired} at the crowd.

20 I suppose the strange and solemn
 21 shadows of ~~Sesostris and the great~~ ^{Thotmes}
 22 Rameses and the other ^{great} Pharaohs were
 23 looking on. And in some ways it must
 24 have been a familiar scene. The ancient
 25 ~~monuments~~ monuments, with their long lines of

1 hieroglyphics, tell of turmoil ~~from~~ in
2 the land of Egypt, and the turmoil has
3 been going on ever since.

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CHINA

Tonight's trail of trouble leads across Asia to the Pacific shores of southern China. Open revolution has been declared at Canton, where so many revolutionary movements in China have begun.

According to the Associated Press, the leaders in Canton who are opposing the nationalist government have declared their plan to establish an opposition regime.

The fighting began when the leaders of the revolt tried to disarm a force of nationalist soldiers. The rebels and the soldiers staged a lively battle, and there were 200 casualties among the government supporters.

This is the trouble in southern China which a few days ago is supposed to have caused the nationalist government to declare a censorship on all foreign dispatches.

1 A big prison riot occurred
2 today down in Brazil. The riot took
3 place at the penitentiary in the state
4 of Parana. The convicts started trouble
5 right after meal time and it wound up
6 in a pitched battle between the
7 prisoners and the guards, in which
8 ten prisoners were killed, fifteen
9 wounded and ten escaped.

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Out East they're talking this evening about a strange affair. It's ~~is~~ the death of one of the men who twice took part in the heroic efforts to conquer the invincible ^{monarch of the Himalayas,} ~~mountain,~~ Mt. Everest. He was Colonel Morshead, a prominent British traveler and adventurer.

They found his body today after an extensive search. Yesterday a horse without a rider wandered into the town of Maymo, in the hills of ^{near Mandalay.} central Burma. Maymo is the summer capital of the land of pagodas. The horse belonged to the man who twice had braved the terrors that guard the summit of Everest. With that the search was begun.

According to the Associated Press, the dispatches from Burma do not give the details of whatever accident may have befallen Colonel Morshead. *So far it's just another oriental mystery.*

DIGEST

I read a thrilling story today, a story that gives us a good slant -- no, not on the dangers of big game hunting, but on the lack of danger. It helps to debunk the sport of killing big game.

Deep in the jungles of South America, Julian Duguid, author and traveler, was with a party of explorers. They were trying to get pictures of wild life. They wanted something full of action and excitement, and in an open plain they came upon a big boa constrictor slithering along through the grass. It was a contented, well-fed boa constrictor and just kept on its peaceable way until it was within twenty yards of Duguid. The camera man, a camera monomaniac, was roaring for a picture.

"Get in there, boy, so I can get a shot of you tackling that snake!"

And that's where the action began. Duguid has written the story in a book recently published, and this week's Literary Digest tells of how he put on a wrestling bout with the giant boa constrictor.

"I walked up to the snake," the author tells, "and

grabbed it by the back of the neck. The small, dark eyes went black with fear and fury, and it lashed its huge tail like a whip. My feet were planted wide apart and I held the giant anaconda with what might be called a half-Nelson. My left hand clutched the snake by the neck and my right, after passing under the throat, held onto my left wrist. With that hold around the huge, thick neck, I was able to shut off the snake's wind, and half strangle it."

The reptilian giant writhed and lashed about in mad fury.

Then Duguid goes on: "I could feel, rather than see, the blind frenzy of the tail which was searching for a tree trunk."

But there was no tree trunk handy for the Boa to seize with its tail. And that was the trick of the whole situation.

The episode of the man wrestling with the boa constrictor might seem like a tall story, if it were not for the fact that the Boa of the jungle, in order to constrict, must have hold of something with its tail. Then it is able to crush a deer in its coils. But without any purchase for the tail, the great reptile

is helpless.

Meanwhile, the camera monomaniac was getting his lenses focused. Then he ground away, making a motion picture of the struggle.

"Don't look at the camera!" he howled. "Make it seem natural! Shift your head there! Make the old boy open his jaws!"

And so it went on, with Duguid clamping that half-Nelson around the boa constrictor's neck, and making the snake cut all sorts of capers. Finally, when the picture was made, he released his hold. And away went Mr. Boa heading for the nearest underbrush.

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BOULDER DAM

Well, let's turn from jungle romance to the entanglements of the law.

The Supreme Court of the United States handed down an important decision today. It removed the last obstacle in the way of going ahead with the gigantic Boulder Dam project.

~~According to the International News Service,~~ the State of Arizona appealed to the courts against the big plan to develop Boulder Dam. The Arizonans complain that they are not getting a fair break.

The decision today ends the matter. Arizona lost the case. And the \$165,000,000 project is ready to get under way in full swing.

CHAIN STORE

And the Supreme Court handed down another important decision today, - a decision that is a blow at the chain stores.

The highest court in the land upheld an Indiana state law which imposes heavy license fees on chain stores.

The Indiana legislature passed that law in 1929. One angle, of course, was to protect the corner grocer against the powerful competition of the chain stores. The law was violently attacked on the score that the number of stores operated by a concern was no ground for slapping on taxes.

According to the Associated Press, a majority of the Supreme Court justices took the view that it is not up to the Supreme Court to meddle with the right of the state to classify property for the purpose of taxation.

GOLF

It looks as if an American had a good chance of winning the British amateur golf cup, and thus become a successor to Bobbie Jones who won the cup last year. The big match is on at Westward Ho, in Devon, on the South Coast of England.

Most of the American competitors were quickly eliminated by their British rivals. One of these was Douglas Fairbanks, yes, Doug himself. He seems to be a whiz at everything in the athletic line. Although he was put out of the running in the first round he gave his British opponent a real battle. His play surprised the spectators.

George Voigt of New York, was the one American to win much glory. He has won two victories, and this afternoon, according to the International News Service he won the second round and thus advanced to the third round by defeating the British golfer, Francis Francis.

So tonight Voigt is the one American who has a chance to win the British Amateur Championship crown.

1 Well, it looks bad for Jake the
2 Barber. The cops are after him and so
3 are the gangs.

4 This is a sensational crime story
5 which comes along in the varied stream
6 of the day's news. *Both morning and evening*
papers have been featuring it today.

7 The United Press tells us that
8 the police of two continents are
9 searching for Jake the Barber, who may
10 be abroad or who may not. They say
11 he is guilty of swindles running into
12 the millions.

13 Also, the gangs of three
14 American cities are after Jake the
15 Barber.

16 The police say that Jake will
17 probably surrender rather than ~~xxxx~~
18 take a chance of being killed by Legs
19 Diamond, or by a gang in the Middlewest.

20 Legs and Jake are said to
21 have been friends once, but are enemies
22 now and have been looking for each
23 other. One bit of information says
24 that Jake refused to divide some of the
25 swag with Legs and that Legs' trip to

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1 Europe was for the purpose of getting
2 Jake.

3 Since then there have been two
4 attempts to kill Legs and he was badly
5 shot up both times.

6 *All of* This may be a bit of inside
7 information, or again it may be nothing
8 more than an underworld rumor.

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1 And now let's jump into this next
2 item, although I can't possible jump
3 as far as the jumping frog.

4 California's widely publicized
5 frog-jumping competition was held at
6 Angels Camp today. Angels Camp is a
7 mining village, and ^{the name} ~~it~~ probably isn't
8 any too accurate. Dead Man's Gulch
9 sounds more natural for a mining town.

10 At any rate, the frog jumping
11 competition was held while 20,000 wildly
12 excited spectators looked on. The
13 winner was a long-legged frog named
14 "Budweiser", entered by Louis Fisher, of
15 Stockton, California. According to the
16 Associated Press, Budweiser defeated
17 the 150 other entries.

18 It was a come-back for Budweiser.
19 Three years ago he won the annual frog
20 jumping event. And ^{this year} Budweiser had to
21 stretch his legs plenty to win, because
22 he had a noble competitor in Puddle
23 Jumper.

24 Puddle Jumper is a leaping
25 amphibian owned by John Decchenino, of

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1 Oakdale, California. ~~Eleven~~ feet and one
2 inch was Puddle Jumper's distance, and
3 ordinarily that's enough to win any
4 frog jumping contest. But Budweiser
5 jumped ~~11~~^{eleven} feet and 5 inches, and won the
6 tournament. *I wonder how they make 'em jump.*

7 A sad ^{frog jumping} story comes in the defeat
8 of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Calaveras
9 Fire Department. The ladies entered a
10 promising amphibian named Sally. Sally
11 made a remarkable jump. It had plenty
12 of distance. But, unfortunately, Sally
13 jumped backwards. And tonight there's
14 many a handkerchief being dabbed to a
15 weeping eye among the Fire Department
16 ladies of Calaveras, California.

1 Well, Dorothy is only 19 years
2 old, but she looped-the-loop 62 times.
3 And that breaks the women's world
4 record for outside loops.

5 And so tonight we'll have to
6 call Dorothy Hester, of Portland,
7 Oregon, the ^{outside} loop-the-loop champion
8 among the ladies.

9 According to the Associated Press,
10 Dorothy came within 16 loops of tying
11 the men's record, which is ~~78~~ and is
12 held by Tex Rankin, her instructor, who did
13 ^{78 outside loops.}

14 And with that, I think I'll ~~to~~
loop-the-loop right out ~~of~~ here--so,
15 So long until tomorrow.