

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1931

JAPAN

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Exciting and peculiar political doing are reported from Japan today. One of the parties opposed to the Government staged a demonstration, and it turned into a riot. The police had a fight on their hands. Eleven of the rioters were hurt and several policemen were bruised up a bit.

Also, the Japanese Parliament resumed its session today, that is after it had made peace with the official stenographers. Yesterday some of the members accused the stenographers of not taking the speeches down as they were spoken -- in other words, of falsifying the records. The members were so hot under the collar about it they attacked the stenographers and gave them a sound beating.

The stenographers naturally were indignant and went on strike. But, according to the Associated Press their bruises are healed up a bit today, and their feelings assuaged, and so they went back to work.

1 Well, I had always thought of
2 the profession of stenography as one of
3 the most peaceable in the world, but
4 writing shorthand seems to have its thrills
5 ^{and adventures} ~~excitements~~, too -- ^{that is} ~~at least~~ in Japan!

1 Ah, I say, I say there, Hawkins!
2 Hawkins, old chap! How are you feeling
3 today, my fine fellow?

4 You must imagine that the
5 exceedingly aristocratic and snobbish
6 Viscount ~~Cholmondley~~ (Cholmondley) is addressing his
7 butler. The Viscount is very condescending,
8 which he seldom is. ^{You see,} ~~But~~ things are a bit
9 different just now.

10 An Associated Press dispatch
11 from London tells about the political
12 crisis in England and states that the
13 existence of ^{the} Labor Government ~~just now~~ ^{at present}
14 depends upon which way the members of the
15 Liberal Party vote. The dispatch goes
16 on to tell us about a red-hot political
17 campaign that is being fought in the
18 fashionable Mayfair district of London.
19 Two candidates are conducting a whirlwind
20 campaign.

21 Now there is one thing peculiar
22 to that social ~~paradise~~ ^{center} of Mayfair -- the
23 servants who live in the exclusive houses
24 of the aristocracy are considerably more
25 numerous than their masters and mistresses.

1 and the servants have a vote.

2 Consequently, the servants are
3 the dominating political element and their
4 vote will decide the bitter fight that is
5 going on in Mayfair. ~~now~~ And so the
6 Lords and Ladies of Mayfair are taking a
7 peculiar interest in ^{Hawkins, Squigg, and Potts} ~~their servants~~ just
8 now. They are holding political rallies
9 in their drawing-rooms and the servants
10 are attending. ~~them~~. The candidates make
11 their electioneering speeches and are
12 especially polite to the butlers, the
13 maids, the footmen and the kitchen help.

14 Viscount Cholmondley is
15 supporting one candidate, and so he is
16 particularly polite to his butler, Hawkins.
17 It is a case of a Cholmondley chumming
18 with the butler -- ^{a thing} ~~and that's~~ never ~~been~~
19 heard of before. At the same time, Lady
20 Cynthia Bolingbroke is supporting the
21 other candidate and she, too, wants to
22 win Hawkins' vote.

23 So its, "I say, Hawkins, my
24 fine fellow", and "Look here, Hawkins, old
25 thing". And "Awkins -- as he calls himself,

1 is the object of the blandishments of
2 his titled betters.

3 I suppose that when they are
4 below-stairs, Hawkins tells the kitchen
5 maid, "Hi s'y, but they're talking a
6 h'orful lot of 'umbug! *#these dies!*"

7 ~~Well, politics do stand a lot~~
8 ~~of things on their heads in this political~~
9 ~~world!~~

10 was thrown into the Tower, where he died.

11 The body was brought to light

12 after all these years at the request of

13 Pope Pius X. There is a move ^{made in France} to

14 beatify Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel.

15 Beatification is the first step in the

16 canonization of a saint.

17 There was some question about

18 the death of the Earl. He was condemned

19 to death, but died before the execution

20 could take place. At least that is what

21 the records state.

22 Well, exhumation of the body

23 took place in the presence of high

24 ecclesiastics and also the Duke of Norfolk.

25 The range first among the Catholics was

1 * Both the morning and evening
2 papers today carried the story of how
3 they have dug up the body of the British
4 Earl of Arundel, who died more than
5 four hundred years ago. He was Philip
6 Howard, ~~the~~ first Earl of Arundel.

7 He was a Catholic during the
8 reign of Queen Elizabeth and because of
9 his supposed connection with ~~the~~^a Plot, he
10 was thrown into the Tower, where he died.

11 The body was brought to light
12 after all these years at the request of
13 Pope Pius XI. There is a move^{ment on foot} ~~off~~ to
14 beatify Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel. *And*

15 Beatification is the first step in the
16 canonization of a saint.

17 There was some question about
18 the death of the Earl. He was condemned
19 to ~~death~~^{the block,}, but died before the execution
20 could take place. At least that is what
21 the records state.

22 Well, exhumation of the body
23 took place in the presence of high
24 ecclesiastics and also ^{in the presence of} the Duke of Norfolk,
25 who ranks ~~is~~^{has} first among the Catholics ~~is~~ of

present day

1 England. He is of that same ancient
2 and most aristocratic Howard family ~~of~~ to
3 which the Earl of Arundel belonged. When
4 the ancient coffin was opened, the
5 skeleton was found to be complete, and
6 it was to be seen that the Earl of Arundel
7 had not been beheaded way back in 1595,
8 but had died a natural death. *So another*
9 *historic mystery has been solved.*

1 The world of aviation has lost one
2 of its important and striking personali-
3 ties. Colonel Maddelena, Italy's fore-
4 most aviator, was killed in a crash today.
5 ~~and~~ With him perished two other ~~aviators~~,
6 one of whom was Maddelena's inseparable
7 companion, Captain ^{Checkson} Cecconi.

8 According to the United Press,
9 Maddelena was testing a big seaplane, in
10 which he intended to make a flight from
11 Rome to the Panama Canal. With his two
12 companions he was winging his way along
13 the Italian Coast near the city of Pisa,
14 along one of the most beautiful stretches
15 of rocky shore line in the world.

16 Suddenly one wing crumpled. The
17 aviators must have seen that the plane
18 was a goner. All three jumped, but their
19 parachutes failed to open. Probably they
20 were so near the ground the chutes didn't
21 have a chance to billow out.

22 The United Press recalls some of
23 the exploits of Colonel Maddelena. Here
24 they are.

1 He was the first flyer to sight the
2 survivors of the g tragic Nobile
3 dirigible flight to the North Pole.
4 Then he and Ceconi made a notable
5 endurance flight record.

6 Maddelena was also the second in
7 command of the great formation flight
8 which the Italians recently made from
9 Rome to South America.

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11 And from out in the Philippine
12 Islands word comes of an aviator who is
13 missing. Glenn Brophy set out on a
14 flight from Shanghai to Manila. He made
15 a stop at the Portugese port, ^{of} Macao, on
16 the China coast, and then started out
17 across the China Sea. According to the
18 International News Service he is long
19 overdue now, and it is feared that he
20 was forced down at sea.

21 ~~According to~~ ^{tells us that} the United Press, the
22 powerful wireless station at Sayville,
23 New York, reports that it ~~has~~ picked up
24 a call for help from the pilot of that
25 plane away over there on the other side
of the world.

1 The pilot said his plane was disabled.
2 He said he was somewhere between Hong
3 Kong and Manila. This message came
4 through very faintly, and then died out
5 and there was silence. Undoubtedly the
6 message was from Brophy's plane.

7 And then, according to the
8 Associated Press, down off Panama, where
9 the American fleet is holding maneuvers,
10 a plane is missing.

11 Chief Aviation Pilot Harshman took
12 off from the U.S.S. Langley. The plane
13 rose from the deck of the ship and
14 headed out over the jungles of Panama.
15 It failed to return; and today two
16 hundred Army and Navy planes have been
17 scouting over the tropical wilderness
18 in search of the missing aviator.

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1 There has been another earth-
2 quake. This time it was out in the
3 South Pacific and it was felt all up
4 and down the entire Philippine
5 Archipelago.

6 According to the Associated
7 Press, there were two shocks and the
8 main island of Luzon got the worst of
9 it.

10 Many buildings collapsed, church
11 towers toppled over, and a number of
12 people were injured by falling debris.

1 Well, let's have a bit of ancient
2 history. It's a long time since the
3 World War was fought and won. But just
4 the same, new, odd ~~little~~ stories keep
5 coming to life, those human touches which
6 are so delightful.

7 Here's one which is told by the
8 FRANKFURTHER ZEITUNG, one of the best
9 known newspapers in Central Europe. --
10 ~~My German is a bit rusty. I haven't used~~
11 ~~it for a number of years. But I can~~
12 ~~still say YA and NEIN, and WIE GATES!~~

13 The tale is about one of the
14 sons of the great contralto, my old
15 friend Madam Schumannheink. Schumannheink,
16 as nearly everybody knows, was one of the
17 really tragic figures of the World War.
18 She had sons serving on both sides, in
19 the American army and in the German army,
20 and also in the German submarines--
21 brothers fighting brothers.

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1 One of the famous singer's sons,
2 who was an American lieutenant, ran across
3 a bunch of German prisoners one day. They
4 had just been brought in, and were in bad
5 shape -- wounded -- exhausted -- hungry --
6 covered with mud -- in tatters. One of
7 them turned to Schumannheink's son and
8 asked for a cigarette.

9 I HAVEN'T A CIGARETTE, replied
10 the American lieutenant, BUT PERHAPS YOU
11 WOULD LIKE A CIGAR; and he handed the woe-
12 begone German a first rate Havana that had
13 been sent from the States.

14 The German's eyes bulged as he
15 took the cigar. He started to smoke it,
16 and a radiant expression came over his
17 face.

18 The wartime cigars in Germany
19 were something frightful -- usually
20 cabbage, or something of the sort.

21 The prisoner, as he smoked away,
22 pulled a handsome watch out of his pocket
23 and handed it to the son of Schumannheink,
24 turned, and quickly got under way with the
25 other prisoners.

1 Years passed. Schumannheinck's
2 son became a second officer on a ship, and
3 one day he was strolling along the streets
4 of Hamburg. A man dashed up to him; it
5 was that same prisoner.

6 HAVE YOU STILL GOT MY WATCH? he
7 exclaimed.

8 YES. HERE IT IS.

9 The German took the watch,
10 looked at it, almost fondled it. That
11 time-piece had been a precious keepsake
12 for him. Schumannheinck's son wanted to
13 give it back to him.

14 NO, cried the German. I MERELY
15 WANT TO LOOK AT IT ONCE MORE. IT IS YOURS
16 NOW--FAIR EXCHANGE; THAT CIGAR WAS WORTH
17 MORE THAN A WAGON LOAD OF WATCHES.

18 He handed the watch back, turned
19 on his heel, and darted away in the crowd.

20 This unusual story is one of the
21 many interesting articles in this week's
22 Literary Digest -- the new Digest that
23 came out today.

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1 This evening's principal sporting
2 item concerns a series of important
3 athletic events to be held on the Pacific
4 Coast. So far North Carolina, California
5 and Florida have entered teams, and their
6 athletes are busy getting into condition.
7 That is, they are hopping about in ponds
8 -- and croaking merrily. They are also
9 being fed with a choice diet of insects.

10 Who are these unusual athletes?
11 They are FROGS! And the great athletic
12 event is the International Frog Jumping
13 Competition. It's to be held in
14 Calavaris County, California.

15 According to the United Press,
16 North Carolina is jumping into the frog
17 jumping contest with great gusto. The
18 Kiwanis Club, of Kingston, North Carolina,
19 is selecting a team to represent the great
20 state of North Carolina, and that team
21 will consist of the jumpingest frogs that
22 ever did a hop skip and a jump over the
23 historic hills and dales of old North
24 Carolina.

24 - Well, it will be JUMP, FROG, JUMP,
25 and now for a long running jump right into
the middle of the next news item.

1 The guns of gangdom roared out
2 in Chicago today. William J. Rooney, a
3 powerful labor leader who was connected
4 with the Sheet Metal Workers Union, was
5 shot and killed on a Chicago street.

6 According to the Chicago Daily
7 Times, Rooney was walking along when a
8 car drove up, and from it a shotgun
9 flashed with deadly fire.

10 Some time ago Rooney was tried
11 for the murder of a rival labor leader,
12 but was acquitted. It is believed that
13 the shooting today was just another case
14 of the "Racket".

1 A group of Chicagoans called on
2 me today and ^{solemnly} told me that before leaving
3 this fair city it was my pious duty to
4 visit the Cook County chapter of the
5 TALL STORY CLUB. I discovered that
6 telling tall stories is an old Chicago
7 custom, and that the local Tall Story
8 tellers specialize in lofty yarns about
9 the glories of Chicago.

10 The grandmaster of the Cook County
11 Chapter is my old friend, Burt Masseur,
12 director of the Geographical Society and
13 charter member of the famous Skeeters
14 Club, of Chicago, to which many big
15 business men, jurists and editors belong.
16 Mr. Masseur is an enthusiastic booster
17 for Chicago, and you should hear him
18 ~~xxx~~ and his associates tell about the
19 wonders of the Windy City.

20 He was telling me about the speed
21 ^{to} ~~with~~ which things ^{are geared} run in Chicago. For
22 instance, there is ^a ~~is one~~ big executive
23 who works ^{at such a terrific clip} ~~so fast~~ that his office catches
24 fire. This occurs so often that the Fire
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Department keeps an engine stationed right around the corner in readiness.

This hustling business-man just goes right on working with the smoke and flames drifting around his ears, and even when the firemen play the fire hose on the great executive, he just keeps on dictating and shouting to his stenographers:-

"Take another letter!"

Some Chicago offices equip their employees with roller skates, and in one live-wire concern they use skis, and their floors are covered with snow so the stenographers can ski around with the utmost rapidity. In fact, they have a small ski-jump so they can come sweeping down to the chief executive's ~~office~~ desk like old Ty Cobb bound for the home plate.

On one occasion a book-keeper took it on the run, but forgetting to put on the brakes when he approached the great executive's desk he just went right through the wall and on out across Michigan Boulevard.

END

Well, after those tall stories of Chicago's speed I feel about as slow as, as a tortoise. I guess I had better speed up a bit. I have one more item here, and I suppose I ought to tell it with a bit of Chicago speed:- Here goes!

Over in Russia they had a race between dog sleds, and those dog sleds traveled fifteen hundred miles. The Chicago Daily News informs us that while they were on their way the dogs caught a wolf and ate it. As they trotted along the snow covered streets of Moscow, a big crowd gathered. In the crowd were a few dogs -- just dogs, common dogs, pet dogs. The racing dogs caught one of the pets and immediately devoured it.

Well, that leaves me a bit breathless. In fact with just enough breath to say:-

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.