

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1931

INTRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The microphone here is near a window and as I look out I get a magnificent view of the old Boston Common and the Charles River with its handsome bridges, right across the way is Cambridge - and in the distance the historic old town of Charlestown. No, I'M not dreaming or anything like that. I just happen to be in Boston.

I've been wanting to visit New England for some time. I think it's a good thing to get a slant on the news-of-the-day from the viewpoint of people in various parts of the country, to listen to what folks in different sections are saying about the events of the day, and get the contrasting ideas of the newspapers. The news policy of a paper in one town is often very different from the news policy in another. Boston, of course is the home of some famous dailies.

So I decided to get the New England slant for a bit and fill my lungs with the brisk salt air of the North East Coast.

My Literary Digest colleagues thought it a good idea. So I've come to spend a week in Boston.

And this in a way is the ideal week to be here. This is one of the principal New England holidays and celebrations -- one I have long wanted to see - I mean Patriots Day - or Patriots Day as we used to say.

In New England this day is given over to the annual celebration of historic events which began the War of the Revolution:- Paul Revere's ride, the battles of Lexington and Concord, the shot that was heard around the world - and the beginning of American independence and so on.

I'm here with a party of associates -- six of us. But in coming over from New York we split into three parts. We traveled to Boston by various means of transportation, rail, car and through the sky.

A voyage through the air from New York to Boston is always great fun. Flying at 4,000 feet on a sparkling sunny day over New England is -- well, it's a sight to make your eyes pop out. I've made it several times in Army planes. You shoot into the sky

at Newark. Then you wing your way over five states - New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. You look down on scores of cities - New York, of course, up the Hudson, inland over the hills north of New Haven, with Meriden and Waterbury right below. Then onto Hartford, Providence and Boston. The country between these cities at this season is a maze of color - green forests fields and pastures, scores of rivers and lakes; in the distance the jagged shore line, Narragansett Bay, famous islands like Martha's Vineyard and old Nantucket; and finally Boston airport- one of the finest airports in the world, on made land -- and made by some of my old friends of the Army Air Service -- men like Lieutenant Bob Brown who helped organize man's first flight around the world back in 1924.

This morning I had a decidedly New England experience. That is, I emulated Paul Revere -- by auto, not by horse. Each year, up this way, a horseman dressed in the costume of a century and a half ago takes the part of the immortal Paul Revere. He rides over that ancient route from Charlestown to Lexington. Yes, and he even called out the alarm: "The British are coming -- the British are coming" - or something like that. Yes, calls it out to

folks who live in pretty much the same houses to which Paul Revere galloped on his steed on that memorable morn in 1775.

Well, a cavalryman from the local army post usually does the ride nowadays. Sometimes he doesn't do it quite correctly. He gets bawled up. He loses his way and calls out the alarm at the wrong places and in general provides that touch of comedy with out which no solemn occasion is quite complete.

I was taken in tow this morning by two distinguished Yankees. One, Harry Wheeler, of the town of Lexington. Harry Wheeler is an authority on those historic events when the Red Coats tried to destroy the military stores of the Patriots and capture those two arch-conspirators, Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

The other gentleman was Colonel William Barron of the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Col. Barron has done so much to make the White Mountains one of the favorite vacation regions of America.

The ideal thing would have been if we could have loafed along, that is trailed after the modern Paul Revere. It ~~walks~~ would have been ideal to have followed the old-time hero and kept

right behind the flying heels of his galloping horse. We couldn't do that, though -- the crowds were too great. There were countless thousands lining the way to watch the modern version of the colonial hero. And our car got tangled up in the maze.

So I can't say now:

"Listen, my children and you shall hear of the midday ride of the 1931 Paul Revere." As a matter of fact, we were ahead of him. But anyway, I saw the historic North Church on which the signal lantern was hung - that "one-if-by-land-and-two-if-by-sea" lantern we learned about in school.

Then on we went to Lexington, to the house where Samuel Adams and John Hancock ran to the window in their night shirts when Paul galloped up.

The house is a museum now. It is filled with relics of the revolution. We saw the drum that called the Minute Men. Then we sped on to Concord where the Red Coats met the Minute Men. We visited the place where that shot was fired that was heard round the world.

Well, Patriots Day is a great day. But it's a glorious, inspiring experience to visit these historic places at any season! It makes the blood course through ones veins a bit faster.

HONDURAS

Now for news of the day from other parts of the world.

The State Department at Washington received a cable today from the American Minister at Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. The American Minister states that in his opinion the revolution in Honduras will soon fizzle out. It doesn't amount to much. In fact, we have heard little about trouble in Honduras in recent times.

The rumpus is in the northern part of the country. The uprising flared suddenly, and the insurgents are threatening a number of towns along the coast. The Associated Press cables that three American cruisers are speeding to protect American lives and property.

The American forces will confine their activities to the coast. The United Press says indications are that no matter what happens in Honduras, the Washington administration will follow its new policy of not sending Marines into the interior of the Central American republics.

The view of the situation given by earlier dispatches made it look as if the trouble was serious, and ~~if~~ as if Honduras

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

7

might be going the way of Nicaragua and other revolution torn republics. But now comes this reassuring cable from the American Minister at Teguciagalpa which, the International News Service informs us, goes on to say that it's only a minor-league revolution.

The cable adds that no important political leaders have been identified with the insurgents, and the rebels are characterized as--unemployed, Communists, criminals, and the riffraff of northern Honduras. And along comes the president of Honduras, who states that his government has the situation well in hand and that there's no real danger of Honduras going the way of so many Latin republics.

Well, maybe so. But any kind of uprising looks dangerous in Central America just now.

1 Things are quieter this evening
2 on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua.
3 There's peace and order along the stretch
4 of shore dominated by the guns of
5 warships and rifles of landing parties
6 of ^{Uncle Sam's} ~~the~~ Marines.

7 According to the International News
8 Service, the port at Blue Fields is
9 safe. ~~It~~ ^{It} has been threatened ^{recently} by large
10 forces of Sandino's rebels. But now 150
11 Marines have been landed from the cruiser
12 Rochester to defend the town, which had
13 been garrisoned by a small force of
14 Nicaraguan soldiers and devil dog ~~officers~~.
15 Wherever the American naval forces are
16 near, the rebels and bandits are quiet.
17 But ~~further along~~ ^{deeper} in the interior,
18 bandit raids are still going on.

PORTUGAL

The government of Portugal seems to be getting out of its difficulties. The rebellion in the Azores is just about over. Ponta del Grada, the principal town of the Azores, is in the hands of loyal troops today. The rebels have surrendered. Other strongholds of the revolting troops in the islands had already surrendered to warships and soldiers sent from Lisbon.

According to the International News Service, the Portuguese government - having suppressed the disturbance in the Azores, will now send its forces against those other islands off the west coast of Africa, the Madeiras. The revolt, which might be termed the revolt of the islands, began at the Madeiras. War vessels are now blocking the harbor of Funchal, capital of the Madeiras. And now the blockading force will be joined by the government ships and troops from the Azores.

So this is a day of celebration and jubilation among the patriots of Portugal, as well as among the Patriots of New England,

1 In Washington a big convention got
2 under way today. It's the 40th Annual
3 Congress of the Daughters of the
4 American Revolution.

5 Mrs. Lowell Fletcher Hobart, the
6 President-General of the D.A.R., made
7 an address in which she roundly denounced
8 Communism. She said the Soviets of
9 Russia are preparing for ^{world} war. And,
10 according to the International News
11 Service, she declared that Communism
12 within the United States is a dangerous
13 menace to the peace and well-being of
14 the country.

15 Meanwhile, the Bolshevik government
16 of Russia has put an embargo on goods
17 from Canada. According to the ^{Assoc. Press} ~~Christian~~
18 ~~Science Monitor~~, no Canadian goods will
19 be allowed to enter Russia.

20 This is a reprisal against an
21 embargo which Canada has placed on
22 Russian products. The Canadians say--
23 we won't let any Soviet stuff come in.
24 And the Soviets say--well, we won't let
25 any Canadian stuff come to our country.
~~And so it's fit for tat.~~

ARBITRATION

1 And now up pops the dove of
2 peace, chirping merrily.

3 The governments of Great Britain
4 and France have agreed to the
5 arbitration pact proposed by the League
6 of Nations. The International News
7 Service tells us that this agreement
8 provides that the nations will settle
9 their disputes by submitting them to
10 arbitration in a reasonable and
11 peaceable way.

BOULDER DAM

1 A big contract was signed today
2 in Washington. Uncle Sam has put his
3 name on the line and awarded the work
4 of ~~building~~^{handling} the gigantic Boulder Dam *project*
5 to a concern called the ~~Big Six~~ *Companies*
6 Corporation.

7 According to the International
8 News Service, the figure which old
9 Uncle ^{Sam} will pay for the job is
10 \$48,890,999. I wonder what they're
11 doing with the extra dollar!

1 They've just had a spectacular
2 fire at Wilmington, Delaware. Four
3 ships were ablaze, and the harbor was
4 a picture of smoke and flames.

5 The passenger steamer, The City of
6 Washington, and the freight ship, The
7 West River, were burned to the waterline.
8 According to the Associated Press,
9 The State of Delaware passenger ship, and
10 a big barge were on fire too, but
11 they were only damaged. It all happened
12 in the harbor. No lives were lost, but
13 plenty of ships, timbers, and tonnage
14 went up in smoke.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 And talking about crowds, some
2 people seem to think that baseball is
3 on the wane. Just the same, the biggest
4 crowd that ever gathered to see a single
5 baseball game jammed the Yankee Stadium
6 in New York Yesterday. According to
7 the Associated Press, 80,403 saw the
8 Philadelphia Athletics give the New York
9 Yankees a trimming.

10 Back in 1928, there were more than
11 85,000 spectators jammed into a baseball
12 park. They were there, however, not ~~to~~
13 to see one game, but a doubleheader.
14 Yesterdays howling, yelling throng of
15 fans was the biggest on record for a
16 single game.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

END

Now let's see, folks. I started out tonight with Paul Revere's ride. And here comes another stretch of patriotic traveling. Paul had to do with the American war of independence. But this next item is concerned somewhat with that Greek war of independence 2500 years ago - the war that culminated in the battle of Marathon. Historians tell how the soldier Pheidippides ran from the battlefield of Marathon to the city of Athens with the news, just as Paul Revere rode from Charlestown to Lexington.

Well there is a big Marathon race run every year in Boston on Patriots' Day. It's a tremendously important sporting event for New England.

I was lucky enough to get a place near the finish where I had the thrill of seeing the first of the runners come in from the 26 mile grind.

The officials told me that 189 men started. The day was warm-almost hot-and the sun blazed down with enthusiasm - like June. That made it extra hard on the runners. Spectators lined the way. The United Press tells us that there were a million people lined the 26 mile route.

The 42-year-old veteran, Clarence De Marr, the printer, was the favorite. Although long past the age when runners are supposed to be good, De Marr has won one Marathon after another - seven in all. But he didn't win today. The man who won ~~xxx~~ this Marathon was Jimmie Hennigan. He's described as the Boston short distance runner, but Jimmie was a long distance runner today. Irish Jimmie Hennigan took the lead a little more than half way along, and held it to the end,

And Jimmie is no spring chicken, either. He's 38. And that's supposed to be old for a runner.

Second place was captured by Fred Ward, of New York. Karl Koski, of the New York Finnish Athletic Club, was third. Koski is a veteran old-timer too. DeMarr, the 42-year-old favorite, came in fifth.

Dozens of the runners who entered weren't able to finish. Their wind failed them, and their legs grew weak, and they had to drop out. A number had to be hauled in - in ambulances.

The men who came in first were, for the most part, the old boys -- that is, old according to the usual standards of

athletics. From what I can hear, the young lads were to a large extent the ones who dropped by the way. In other words, the old vets came in across the finishing line, and the stalwart youngsters were carried away in ambulances. Which will be good news for a lot of old-timers.

And that brings us to the end of today's sprint with the news. I'm crossing the finishing line with a hasty --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.