

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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REPARATIONS

Good Evening, Everybody:

It looks as if the next month or so is going to be a busy time for statesmen. It was announced today that the International Conference on Debts and Reparations is now definitely scheduled to meet on January 20th, at Lausanne, Switzerland.

The United Press reminds us that the League of Nations Council meets at Geneva on January 25th, and that the world Disarmament Conference is scheduled to begin on February 2nd.

Great Britain today took the first steps for summoning the Debts and Reparations conference.

The Associated Press cables that London today sent telegrams to British diplomatic representatives in various countries, instructing them to make formal proposals for the conference.

It is recognized on all sides in Europe that Uncle Sam holds the key to that problem of debts and reparations. But word comes tonight that Washington is not going to send a representative to the big pow-wow. And that will be a blow to the chancelleries of Europe.

1 Today in Mexico the new religious  
2 law went into effect, and it's a drastic  
3 law, <sup>indeed.</sup> It limits the number of Priests  
4 allowed to serve in the churches. In  
5 the Federal District of Mexico City only  
6 one priest is allowed for every 50,000  
7 people. That means that Mexico City  
8 will have to get along with 25 <sup>Catholic</sup> <sup>clergymen</sup>.  
9 That allows one priest to each of 25  
10 churches. Mexico City has more than 25  
11 churches, <sup>So</sup> ~~and~~ many will have to do without  
12 clergymen.

13 The United Press wires that the se  
14 churches will, <sup>nevertheless,</sup> be kept open. They will  
15 be in charge of committees appointed by the  
16 parish <sup>pastors.</sup> ~~pastors.~~

17 Mexican ecclesiastical leaders  
18 are protesting that the new law ~~xxx~~  
19 violates the agreement between the church  
20 and the Government and they say they  
21 will carry the case to the courts.  
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1 In Manchuria the regiments of  
2 China are retiring--plodding their way  
3 southward to the Great Wall. ~~of China~~

4 The United Press reports that the  
5 Japanese are driving toward Chinchow.  
6 ~~The~~ Skirmishing is <sup>still</sup> going on here and  
7 there. The Chinese are asking the  
8 question - "Why should the Japanese keep  
9 on fighting?"

10 The International News Service  
11 cables that these <sup>Chinese</sup> officials profess to  
12 be mystified. They say that their  
13 soldiers have been ordered to get out  
14 of Manchuria as fast as they can go.  
15 Why then, should the Japanese keep on  
16 waging war?

1       The big tax controversy is blazing  
2 fast and furious tonight. Political  
3 leaders are discussing the statement  
4 made by under-Secretary Mills of the  
5 Treasury Department, who is acting as  
6 mouthpiece for the administration.

7       Mr. Mills had a few sharp things  
8 to say about the Democratic tax  
9 program as outlined by Representative  
10 Rainey of Illinois, the Democratic  
11 leader in the Lower House.

12       The Associated Press quotes ~~the~~  
13 under-Secretary <sup>Mills</sup> as declaring that the  
14 ideas propounded by Mr. Rainey are  
15 wholly inadequate. Mr. Mills argues  
16 that there is little profit in soaking  
17 the rich, because the larger incomes  
18 are not there. He gives figures to show  
19 that a heavy tax on the higher incomes  
20 would not produce enough cash to be of  
21 any great help in paying up Uncle  
22 Sam's deficit.

23       On the other hand, it is pointed out  
24 that Representative Rainey's tax program  
25 is largely his own. The Democrats have



not arrived at any <sup>party</sup> decision.

Speaker Garner of the House declared today that nobody has been authorized to speak for the Democrats on the tax program. There IS no COMPLETE program yet, he added.

It all concerns the dramatic presidential campaign that we are now approaching. The Digest editors in canvassing the situation, give us the picture from many sources that President Hoover is sure to be renominated. Well, there's nothing new or startling about that. But the Literary Digest goes on with a glance at the forces inside the Republican party that are working against the President.

We are told that an anti-Hoover Republican organization has been set up in Washington. The head of the anti-Hoover organization is a person

1        It's always fun to get an inside  
2 slant on things, especially an inside  
3 slant into the great and peculiar game  
4 of politics.

5        The new Literary Digest, which  
6 comes out tomorrow, gives us a peak  
7 into one of those odd corners where  
8 wheels are turning, wheels about which  
9 most of us know little.

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11 presidential campaign that we are now  
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17 startling about that. ~~Idea~~ But the  
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19 at the forces inside the Republican  
20 party that are working against the  
21 President.

22       We are told that an anti-Hoover  
23 Republican organization has been set  
24 up in Washington. The head of the  
25 anti-Hoover organization is a personage



whom many of us will remember. No, we won't remember him as an anti-Hoover man. He is none other than Horace Mann of Tennessee, who was one of Mr. Hoover's doughty champions in 1928. He directed the successful Hoover campaign that broke the solid South. <sup>Of course,</sup> ~~well,~~ we all know how good friends are liable to fall out. Horace Mann, who battled for Hoover in the last campaign, is now one of the stalwarts of the anti-Hoover forces. He had a falling out with his chief. The friendship of 1928 has turned into an antagonism for 1932.

Some think that the former Hoover leader and the forces that he has lined up, will support Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania, or Senator Johnson of California, for the nomination. <sup>the Lit. Dig. quotes</sup> However, <sup>aa</sup> the <sup>ing</sup> Baltimore Sun <sup>^</sup> declares <sup>^</sup> that what the anti-Hoover forces really hope for is the nomination of either ~~Roosevelt~~ former President Coolidge, or Ambassador Dawes. Neither

1 N of these gentlemen, however, seem to  
2 be inclined to take any part in the  
3 movement to block the President. And  
4 the principal interest in the anti-Hoover  
5 movement in the Republican ranks is that  
6 it gives us a glimpse of some of the  
7 less known angles of the huge game  
8 of national politics.



Two bombs exploded today, at Easton, Pennsylvania. They went off with a terrific roar in the local postoffice. Two clerks were killed, three others were injured. The second exploded as it was being examined by an explosive expert from the Dupont Company. His hand was blown off and he is not expected to live. This is a result of what seems to be an anti-Fascist plot to kill half a dozen prominent Italians in this country.

The International News Service tells the story of how two young men walked into the postoffice at Easton, and passed six packages over the counter to be mailed. One of the packages was addressed to the Italian Consul in New York, another one to Gene Pope, a wealthy New York contractor and owner of several Italian-American newspapers. The third was addressed to Editor Falbo of the newspaper "Il Progresso." The others bore the names of other Italians.

After handing in the packages the two young men left the postoffice. A little later one of the clerks became suspicious and started to open one of the parcels. That was when the terrific explosion took place.

The other five pieces of mail are being examined

1 tonight. They too are believed to  
2 contain bombs.

3 ~~All this has brought on~~  
4 ~~Tonight there is~~ intense police  
5 activity. Officials of the Postoffice  
6 Department flew by airplane this evening  
7 from Washington to Easton. A widespread  
8 search is being conducted for the two  
9 men who mailed the packages.

10 ~~And~~ In New York <sup>city</sup> the police are  
11 guarding the men whose lives were  
12 threatened by the bomb plot.

13 The Associated Press declares that  
14 the authorities are <sup>acting</sup> ~~working~~ on the  
15 supposition that the outrage was the work  
16 of Anti-Fascist radicals. ~~who cooked up~~  
17 ~~the terrorist bomb plot.~~  
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1 Something of a ~~bomb-shell~~ <sup>sensation</sup> appeared on  
2 ~~thrown into~~ <sup>the</sup> New York political <sup>horizon</sup> today.

3 Samuel Seabury, counsel for the  
4 Hofstadter Committee, which is  
5 investigating political corruption in  
6 New York City, sent a message to  
7 Governor Roosevelt. This message  
8 contained formal charges against Thomas  
9 M. Farley, sheriff of New York, and four  
10 of his deputies.

11 Mr. Seabury declares that the charges  
12 are sufficient reason for the Governor  
13 to remove Sheriff Farley from office.

14 The United Press points out that  
15 the sheriff is one of the big men of  
16 Tammany Hall. Charges against him  
17 concern the amount of money he has made,  
18 and <sup>alleged</sup> ~~accusations that there has been~~  
19 ~~gambling in the political clubhouses,~~  
20 ~~that he runs.~~

There's one interesting point to be observed in the report on homicide presented before the American Association for the Advancement of Science today. Doctor Kenneth H. Barnhart, of Birmingham Southern College, offered a series of figures telling the amount of homicide in the various cities of the country.

Well that one interesting point ~~that~~ ~~referred to~~ is, that the amount of killing in the communities seems to vary with the rate of illiteracy. For example, the illiteracy rate in Birmingham, Alabama, has decreased, and right along with it the number of killings in the city has <sup>also</sup> decreased.

Otherwise, the report, as given by the Associated Press, confirms the old fact that it's not the big industrial cities of the North that are the most homicidal. New York and Chicago are way down on the list. Chicago ranks 40th. New York ranks 78th. The city with the highest homicide rate is Memphis,



1 Tennessee. Atlanta, Georgia, comes  
2 second.

3 If you take into consideration the  
4 population of the American cities,  
5 Chicago and New York, with their gangs  
6 and racketeers, have comparatively few  
7 murders, as compared with other  
8 communities in the country.

9 <sup>striking</sup>  
10 The ~~homicide~~ report does not paint  
11 a pretty picture. The United Press  
12 quotes <sup>the scientist from the South,</sup> ~~the~~ Doctor Barnhart, as declaring  
13 that the United States is the most  
14 murderous country in the world, <sup>more so</sup>  
15 <sup>even than the cannibal islands of the</sup>  
16 <sup>South Seas. And that's news we don't</sup>  
17 like to hear.

1 I hesitate to repeat these hard  
2 words said about the ladies today,  
3 but when two prominent people come out  
4 with solemn pronouncements about women  
5 on the same day, I suppose that's  
6 enough to break into anybody's news  
7 column, *whether we happen to agree or not.*

8 One of the celebrities is a man.  
9 He is William McFee, the author. He  
10 violates the tradition ~~for visiting~~  
11 ~~British authors~~ by not speaking sweet  
12 words about American women. He says  
13 they're like Rolls-Royces with Ford  
14 motors. They have beautiful bodies,  
15 but not so much horse power ~~in the~~ <sup>up</sup> head.

16 Of course, one could point out to  
17 the famous author that there are plenty  
18 of men who instead of having horse  
19 power in the head, have donkey power.

20 The other celebrity is  
21 ~~celebrated in~~ <sup>the</sup> almost legendary soprano,  
22 Madame Louisa Tetrazzini, <sup>she of the bird-like voice.</sup> She raised  
23 her ~~silvery~~ <sup>bird-like</sup> voice and uttered a few  
24 warnings to American women.

25 She said they were trying to



1 do too many things that are only  
2 suitable to men.

3 The United Press quotes her as  
4 declaring that women have their own  
5 particular fields of endeavor, and they  
6 shouldn't try to monkey around with  
7 such matters as big business, or law,  
8 or affairs of state.

9 I suppose she might have included  
10 weight lifting, wrestling, and prize  
11 fighting.

12 The smiling Tetrazzini said  
13 that women should limit themselves to  
14 two things, homes, husbands and domestic  
15 life, and such, and secondly, art.  
16 Her idea seems to be that <sup>a</sup>woman can be  
17 a great success at the game of love, and  
18 she can also be a great success in the  
19 arts. She points out that she herself <sup>has</sup>  
20 made five million dollars out of art,  
21 and that seems to be a pretty good  
22 argument.

3  
1 Let's take ourselves for a moment  
2 into a small, curious world, a world that  
3 seems like a place of shadows, where  
4 people live lives that no longer really  
5 exist. It is a famous home for old  
6 musicians and singers. And just how odd  
7 a place it is comes in a cable printed  
8 in the New York Sun.

9 When the composer, Verdi, died he  
10 left most of his money to the founding  
11 of a home for old musicians and singers.  
12 He endowed it with the royalties of some  
13 of his most famous operas, operas like  
14 Rigoletto, La Traviata, and Aida. In the  
15 years that have elapsed, these royalties  
16 have piled up. They now support a large  
17 institution over in Italy, an institution  
18 which gives shelter to what is probably  
19 the greatest gathering of operatic stars  
20 and musical celebrities the world has  
21 ever seen. They have all grown old; their  
22 day of glory is past. They range all the  
23 way from veteran fiddle or clarinet players  
24 in the orchestra to composers and singers  
25 who were acclaimed by many an audience.



1 And they all live in the past.  
2 They keep up the manner to which they  
3 were accustomed in their brighter days.  
4 The composer who wrote a couple of operas  
5 years ago will scarcely bow to the director  
6 of the orchestra who conducted those  
7 operas. The orchestra conductor himself  
8 ignores the trumpet player who played  
9 under his direction.

10 The prima donna of fifty years ago  
11 keeps her distance from the singer who  
12 merely sang small parts. And the small-  
13 part singer won't talk to the soprano  
14 who never did more than sing in the  
15 chorus. *even though they are all now in the*  
*same boat.*

16 The old artists maintain their rank  
17 with all the haughtiness of their  
18 brilliant youth. They still seem to  
19 think they are living their days of glory  
20 and are entitled to all the social respect  
21 and distinction they once enjoyed.  
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1 Let's take up a hot weather item.  
2 Yes, I know it's wintertime, and it's  
3 pretty chilly all over the country, but  
4 just the same there's a heat wave on in  
5 one particular locality. I mean it's  
6 pretty hot under the collars of the  
7 citizens of Miami, Florida. They are  
8 denouncing California. They claim that  
9 California has done them wrong.

10 The cause of the controversy concerns  
11 what some Californians had to say about  
12 the climate in Miami. The fair city  
13 of Miami is threatening to prosecute  
14 the Long Beach Press-Telegram out on the  
15 Pacific coast. It is charged that the  
16 California newspaper printed incorrect,  
17 false, foolish, absurd, and malicious  
18 information about the temperatures at  
19 Miami on December 23rd. In its weather  
20 report that day the Press-Telegram  
21 printed that Miami had a maximum of 44,  
22 and a minimum of 16. That minimum of 16  
23 does seem to be a bit chilly. *At any rate it's*  
24 *a frosty item to print.*  
25 Anyway, the folks at Miami are  
described by the United Press as being



hot under the collar. They say that for Miami temperatures to vary in one day from 44 to 16 is so Californian that it's highly absurd. I suppose some of them are muttering that California may be like that, but uh uh not Florida.

Perhaps it may be a part of my job to give my opinion in the controversy, but uh uh not me. When it's an argument that the respective merits of the Florida climate and the California climate, all I have to say is -

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.