

FESTIVAL

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast
for The Literary Digest. Page _____
Friday, May 8, 1931.

Good Evening, Everybody!

1 Well, it's apple blossom time--no,
2 not in Normandy--in Germantown, New York.

3 The big Hudson Valley Blossom
4 Festival began today. And, by heck,
5 it's a place for any of us farmers to be.
6 They're having all kinds of highjinks
7 for us country fellers. Yes sirree,
8 Silas, you can just bet your pet hayfork
9 the blossoms are on the apple trees, and
10 the blossom festival is on at Germantown.

11 They're having a baseball game
12 tomorrow. The New York Giants will play
13 the Hudson Valley stars. Some people
14 say them Giants is a pretty good team.
15 But this whole country knows that them
16 Hudson Valley stars sure can ^{belt the old apple too} ~~hit the ball~~.
17 And I'm betting those country fellers
18 will whale the tar out of McGraw's city
19 slickers.

20 And us agriculturists will have a
21 blossom queen. The last couple of weeks
22 Newburg, and Beacon, and other towns in
23 the valley have been picking their own
24 pet queens. And those gals are all
25 coming to Germantown where one of them is

going to be picked as the queen for the whole valley.

Yes, sir, there's a big crowd at Germantown. The population of the burg consists of 300 people, but 50,000 folks from all over America are there for the blossom festival. And that's a powerful big crowd for Germantown.

1 They had a jail break at Bridgeport,
2 Connecticut, today. Three prisoners
3 tried to get away, and two succeeded.
4 One was a man who claimed to have been
5 an aviator during the World War. But
6 that wasn't what got him in jail. He
7 is said to have passed a flood of bad
8 checks from coast to coast.

9 The three convicts held up a guard
10 with a gun. The gun had no firing pin
11 in it and couldn't possibly shoot any-
12 body. But the guard didn't know that.

13 *¶* They went to a window and gave the bars
14 a push. They had already prepared those
15 iron bars by cutting them. And, so the
16 bars fell right out. Just then another
17 prisoner, a trusty, came up and tried
18 to interfere, but the three convicts
19 threw red pepper in his face and blinded
20 him. Then, according to the Associated
21 Press, they climbed through the window.

22 *¶* The first two got through all right,
23 including the supposed-to-be war
24 aviator. But the third got caught in
25 the window and was hauled back. It all

has something of the character of a comedy, but just the same the two escaped prisoners are at large.

1 I suppose many of us are bewildered
2 by that big crime story of the day.

3 I mean the capture in New York of two
4 desperate ■ killers and a girl, after
5 one of the wildest battles the police
6 have ever fought.

7 One of the men was ■ mere youth,
8 but a cold-blooded assassin just the
9 same. The other is a thug who has
10 confessed that he is guilty of the
11 killing of the ten-cents-a-dance girl
12 which made such a stir in New York
13 not long ago.

14 The girl in the case is just ~~16~~
15 ~~but she's~~ a fantastic edition of a
16 crook's moll.

17 The police trapped the two men and
18 the girl in a top floor apartment.
19 And then the shooting began. The police
20 chopped holes through the roof above
21 the apartment and fired down. Tear gas
22 was used. And finally the three were
23 captured.

24 While the two gunmen were shooting
25 at the police, the girl carried on in
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1 the manner prescribed by cheap movies
2 and cheap magazines. She reloaded the
3 pistols of the two men and between times
4 sat down and wrote hysterical notes.
5 She wrote the weird sort of gush and
6 trash that you find in cheap movies
7 and cheap magazines.

8 She played her part according to
9 the standard of the crack-brained
10 heroines in the foolish storées she
11 was accustomed to read.

12 The whole ^{affair} ~~story~~ does give one a
13 sense of bewilderment. And it's hard
14 to get away from the old, ~~state~~ ^{rube-towns}
15 question:-what's this world coming to?
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L.T.
May 8th

1 It looks as if the big exploration
2 story of the day has taken an ironical
3 twist. The tortoise ~~has~~ won the race
4 from the hare; the dog team ~~has~~ beaten
5 the airplane.

6 The young scientist, Augustine
7 Courtauld, ^{as I have previously related,} was marooned up there on the
8 Greenland icepack. Six expeditions set
9 out to rescue him, ^{every sort} ~~all the way~~ from dog
10 team to airplane. And it was a dog
11 team that made the rescue.

12 The big airplane show was put on
13 by the spectacular Swedish flier,
14 Ahrenberg. With a plane equipped with
15 skis, he took off, flew far over the
16 Greenland ice, and located the cabin
17 of the missing man. Ahrenberg landed
18 his plane, but found that his man had
19 gone.

20 The Associated Press tells us that
21 a few hours before the daring aviator
22 reached his goal, the dog team got there
23 and started away with Courtauld on the
24 road back to civilization.

25 Yes, ~~sir~~ the dog team, the ~~old~~ ^{old} ~~trusty~~ ^{trusty}
dog team, the old traditional conveyance
of the north, beat the swift, modern airplane

1 It looks as if a famous painting or
2 two might be on its way to the United
3 States.

4 The London Daily Herald states today
5 that the Soviet government of Russia
6 has secretly sold several priceless old
7 masters. These valuable pictures were
8 part of the art treasures of the famous
9 Hermitage Museum in Leningrad, part of
10 the ~~immense~~ immense collection of art
11 treasures gathered by the czars.

12 The paintings are said to include a
13 portrait ~~Painted~~ by Van Dyke; a work by
14 Velasquez; ^{Keth} several Rembrandts; and
15 Botticelli's painting, "Epiphany".

16 The International News Service
17 cables that the London Herald has
18 information that one of the pictures is ^{now}
19 in the possession of an American ~~millionaire~~
20 millionaire.
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DIGEST -- INDIA

Now for a bit of luxury and splendor -- that is, some striking information about the people who live the most luxurious and glamorous lives in the world. And who are they? Why, the great princes and maharajahs of India.

As a traveler who has wandered around a good deal in India, all the way from the Malabar Coast to the lofty Himalayas, I have had occasion to observe the magnificence of the glittering potentates of Hindustan. I remember the case of the Maharajah of Kapurthala, who gave a house party. He invited 2,000 guests to that house party. Most of them lived in Europe, and the Maharajah paid their traveling expenses to India and back, and elephants to ride upon while they were there.

There wasn't quite enough room in his palace for the 2,000. So he had magnificent tents and pavillions set up in his palace grounds; tents equipped with the most sumptuous magnificence, priceless rugs, Oriental tapestries -- and each tent had a modern, up to date bath.

Well, this week's issue of the

1 Literary Digest has an article entitled--
2 INDIA'S PRODIGAL PRINCES. It tells some
3 amazing things about the fabulous
4 extravagance of those Oriental
5 maharajahs. "The world's greatest
6 spenders," the Digest calls them.

7 These strange tales are quoted from
8 a book by the Indian writer, Kanhayalal
9 Ganga, who writes with a scathing pen.

10 What interested me particularly was
11 a set of ~~the~~ figures which shows how far
12 the native rulers of India rank above
13 the kings of Europe--so far as money is
14 concerned. For example, take the income
15 of the King of England. For every \$1600
16 of the national revenue, King George
17 receives \$1.00. The King of Belgium
18 gets a little more, ^{proportionally.} He receives \$1.00
19 for every thousand dollars of the national
20 revenue *of his kingdom.*

21 The King of Italy gets \$1.00 out of
22 every ~~the~~ \$500. The Digest gives ~~the~~
23 a whole set of figures to show how much
24 the monarchs of the principal nations
25 of the world receive.

The Emperor of Japan gets \$1.00 in every \$400. The King of Denmark tops the list. He receives \$1.00 for every \$300. of the national revenue of his kingdom.

Well, those kings are in proportion just poor men compared with the potentates of India. The Maharanee of Travancore takes \$1.00 out of every \$17.00. The Maharajah of Mysore gets \$1.00 out of every \$14.00.

And the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Gaekwar of Baroda take \$1.00 out of every \$13.00. And even at that they don't get as much as the Maharajahs of Kashmir and Bikanir. For every \$5.00 of the national revenue of their principalities, these mighty lords take \$1.00.

And more astonishing still, there are other princes in India who take one dollar out of every two! In other words, their income is one-half of the national revenue of their little kingdoms.

Well, with figures like that, it's no wonder that a maharajah of India is able to throw a party now and then, and it's no wonder the princes of Hindustan are loyal to the British crown.

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RUSSIA

From Russia comes word of an earthquake in Russian Armenia. According to the International News Service, 900 people were killed and 2,000 injured.

There has also been a big flood in Soviet Russia. The waters of the Dnieper River rushed down the valley and flooded the city of Kremenchug, - there's a good one to look up in the Literary Digest Atlas. Well, in Kremenchug the flood carried away homes and battered everything in its path with its terrific force. 60,000 people are said to be marooned.

To these calamities of nature in Russia, we can also add another earthquake in New Zealand. According to the Associated Press, repeated shocks were felt today in the neighborhood of the town of Gisborne. And more than a hundred separate shocks occurred in the township of Tiniroto. People were panic-stricken and fled from their homes. Some damage has been reported, but not a great deal.

1 It looks this evening as though
2 the troubles of the Portuguese government
3 were over--at least so far as ^{her} colonies
4 are concerned.

5 The International News Service
6 cables that the rebels have surrendered
7 at Bolama, in Portuguese Guinea, on the
8 west coast of Africa.

9 And that seems to end the ^{contagious} flare
10 of revolution ^{that has swept through} in the Portuguese colonies.
11 The government had to put down uprisings
12 in the Azores, and the Madeiras, and,
13 lastly, in Guinea.

14 And ^{tonight} all is quiet on the west
15 African coast--except the *buzzing of mosquitoes.*

5
16 But things are not too quiet and
17 serene back at home in Lisbon. The
18 United Press informs us that the
19 Portuguese government has uncovered a
20 revolutionary plot, and seized ^{large assortment} a ~~quantity~~
21 of bombs, ~~which had been intended to~~
22 ~~blow things up a bit~~

1 The word from Rumania tonight
2 is NO -- No, Queen Helen was NOT asked
3 to leave.

4 The Associated Press informs us
5 ~~that~~ the story was that the Queen was
6 looking after her son, the Crown Prince
7 of Rumania, who has been sick. At 10
8 p.m. King Carol called upon her. The
9 couple have been on bad terms for some
10 time. In fact, they are divorced. The
11 King is said to have asked the Queen
12 to leave Rumania at once. And the Queen
13 did. She took the midnight train for
14 the neighboring kindgom of Yugo-Slavia.

15 But as I said before, the latest
16 report from Bucharest is an emphatic NO.

17 According to the International
18 News Service, ^{it is stated} the Queen left Bucharest
19 because she received an urgent telephone
20 call from the Queen of Yugo-Slavia
21 asking her to come over for a visit.
22 The statement continues that Queen
23 Helen expected ^S~~ed~~ to return from that
24 visit in a few days and make her
25 appearance in Bucharest once more.

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1 In spite of the denial, the
2 rumor still persists that Queen Helen
3 was asked to leave. And the reason is
4 said to be a question of etiquette.

5 An important wedding will take
6 place soon when Princess Ileana of
7 Rumania walks to the altar with Arch-
8 Duke Anton of Austria. Queen Marie
9 will be there, and the report is that
10 they don't want Queen Helen present also
11 because that would result in a battle
12 of etiquette, with everything hinging
13 on the question of which Queen should
14 enjoy the greater honor, Queen Helen,
15 the ex-wife of King Carol, or Dowager
16 Queen Marie, the King's mother.

17 Meanwhile, Queen Marie puts in a
18 word or two. She declares that King
19 Carol owes Queen Helen no matrimonial
20 obligations because they have been
21 divorced. Then she takes up the subject
22 of Madame Lupescu, who has figured
23 prominently in Rumanian affairs as
24 King Carol's romantic idol. Queen
25 Marie denies that the King will marry

1 the charming Madame Lupescu.

2 Well, it all sounds like an
3 exceedingly complicated family situation,
4 even for the Balkans, where things are generally
5 complicated.

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1 Recently I attended a most unusual
2 luncheon, in a dining car -- a dining
3 car that isn't on wheels. It was in the
4 Long Island yards of the Pennsylvania
5 Railroad. This particular dining car is
6 a model of its kind. In fact it's a
7 school for dining car chefs and waiters.

8 My host was Mr. A.H. Shaw, Passenger
9 Traffic Manager of the Pennsylvania. It
10 was a picturesque luncheon. And I saw
11 just how the boys are taught to turn out
12 those marvelous meals in such tight
13 quarters. In fact, I've never had a
14 better luncheon.

15 Well, this afternoon I met my host
16 Mr. Shaw and I inveigled him into picking
17 my News-Item-of-the-Day.

18 He suggested a story printed in the
19 New York Sun -- a ~~picturesque~~ story about
20 -- not a chef, but a butcher, a butcher
21 from Newark, New Jersey, who has received
22 an invitation from a King. Yes sir, the
23 King of Abyssinia has invited him to pay
24 a visit to the far-off African Kingdom
25 and live as a royal guest in the palace

NEWS ITEM - (extra)

at Addis Ababa.

How come this singular honor to the butcher in Newark? Well, thereby hangs a tale:-

The man is Giuseppe Adonnizio. He is an old man now, but 36 years ago he was a young, dashing Corporal-Major in the Italian Army. Italy

(2)

1 was then at war with Abyssinia and the
2 young Corporal-Major was fighting his
3 bravest against the army of the country
4 to which he is now invited as an honored
5 guest.

6 The day came when that same Corporal-
7 Major, with a squad of men, had a wild
8 encounter with some of the great tribal
9 leaders of Abyssinia. He drove them
10 off in flight and then pursued them
11 relentlessly into the jungles and swamps.
12 Well, the Abyssinians admire courage.
13 They admire a brave enemy and a record
14 of the deeds of the Italian Corporal-
15 Major was put into the Abyssinian
16 archives. And they were forgotten.
17 That is, until recently.

18 The new King of Abyssinia has been
19 going through the archives of his
20 ~~kingdom~~ ^{realm}. He discovered that long-forgotten
21 account of the heroism of the young
22 Italian. He inquired further and found
23 that the dashing Corporal-Major of
24 thirty-six years ago, now an old man, --
25 was a butcher in Newark, New Jersey, and

1 that's how the invitation comes to
2 Giuseppe Adonnizio to pay a visit to
3 Abyssinia, ^{to the romantic city of Addis Ababa,} as a royal guest. And I
4 suppose if Giuseppe goes the King will
5 have some of the old-time warriors of
6 that war with Italy, and they will talk
7 over old adventures and fights and
8 marches, with Giuseppe. — and maybe
9 they'll tell a Tall Story or two.

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1 I think I'll close tonight with a
2 few inspired lines sent in ~~X~~ by John
3 H. Peterson, of Medford, Massachusetts.
4 John has dashed off a stirring poem
5 entitled "The Tall Story Club," and it
6 goes like this:-

7 "Strange tales are told
8 By explorers bold
9 And the men who sail the seas.
10 They've seen their share
11 Of wonders rare
12 And come home and tell of these.

13 But the strangest tales
14 Are told by males
15 With minds which show great promise,
16 Out in their barns
17 They think up yarns
18 To send to Lowell Thomas."

19 Well, I guess that just about makes
20 John the poet-laureate of The Tall Story
21 Club, and after crowning him with a
22 suitable wreath of laurel I guess I'd
23 better say --

24 SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.
25