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Lowell Thomas Broadcast for Literary Digest
Friday, November 7, 1930.

Intro.

The news tonight is like a Persian rug full of variety and full of color. There isn't much that's startling and there isn't much that's tragic. But after all that's good news. And there are interesting items from all over the world, too, with a few comic touches thrown in: A big celebration in Soviet Russia, a story about the amount of paint the ladies are using on their faces, a train hold-up, the coming of the King of Siam, more about the election uncertainty, and an argument the French are having over grapefruit.

Let's start our evening's news bill-o-fare with Russian caviar and end on the Parisian grapefruit.

Russia

This is Soviet Russia's thirteenth birthday. Just thirteen years ago Lenin and his lieutenants engineered the spectacular uprising that swept them into power. Many thought the Soviet government wouldn't last so very long. But it's still there. And they are celebrating their thirteenth birthday in a big way. According to the Associated Press there was an enormous parade in Moscow today, Stalin and other Communist Moguls reviewed the parade in Red Square before the walls of the Kremlin. Tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians paraded by, and squadrons of aeroplanes swept overhead. One of the big events was the public opening of Lenin's new tomb, built of ten thousand tons of granite, and one of the most imposing structures in Moscow. Until now Lenin has rested in a temporary tomb, the inner walls of which were covered with

flaming red drapes, and the floor was carpeted in the same bright red. I visited it several years ago and it was the most theatrical tomb I ever saw.

Jews

Here's a flash from the International News Service on the Palestine situation. The British have lifted their recently announced ban on the immigration of Jews into Palestine, i. e. partly but not entirely. But under the new order, 1500 permits for Jewish labor immigrants have been approved for the next six months.

Hoover

A story on President Hoover's annual Thanksgiving Proclamation was sent out today by the United Press. The President states that the country has suffered far less than other nations this year. He also

adds a cheerful and timely reminder that we have been free from discord. Peace has been strengthened and progress made, for which we can indeed be thankful.

Politics

Well, as you know, there were 433 congressmen elected last Tuesday, but the curious thing about the election is that only twenty or so will take their seats at the coming session of Congress. The other four hundred and thirteen must wait until a whole year goes by. And of the newly elected senators only five will take their posts during the coming December term. The coming term will be just another of those so-called lame duck sessions of congress.

Meanwhile there is still uncertainty as to who will control Congress, and as a result thousands of Washington clerks are feeling a bit nervous. Naturally they're

just as eager to know who is elected as the candidates themselves. After all their jobs depend on what party controls Congress. And a United Press dispatch from the capitol says they may have a long wait, maybe until Congress convenes in December a year from now whether or not they will have a job. [Even though the Republicans have apparently won control of the House by two votes, that slight Republican advantage may all be changed by death or resignation before the new Congress meets.

Siam

The United States has a lot of new officials. It also has a new official glad-hander, and the first job that comes along for him is a big one. C. Lamotte Belin is his name, and he has a real high-sounding title. He is Chief of the State Department's Division of Protocol and

International Conferences and Supervisor of White House Social Functions. Mr. Belin is to be to the whole U.S.A. what Grover Whalen and his high hat and tail coat and spats are to New York.

His first big job will be to receive His Majesty, King Prajadhipok, King of Siam and his Queen, and their Siamese Majesties are to be received with pomp and circumstance.

Let me give you an idea of just how difficult Mr. Belin's glad-handing job is going to be. Not long ago the President-elect of Brazil was received in Washington, I mean the man who never had a chance to be president on account of the revolution. But during his visit in Washington the distinguished Brazilian guest complained that there were not enough facilities for pressing the suits of clothes that he had brought along. So official Washington informed the president-elect that if he

merely sent his suits to the butler they would be taken care of. A little later the butler phoned for help. Mr. Prestes of Brazil had sent him 41 suits! Among other things Mr. Belin will have to untangle problems like that.

Another royal note follows that one.

Sweden

Patrick McGill, the former librarian of Windsor Castle, tells us what the members of the British royal family like to read. Only, according to Patrick and the Evening Telegram, they don't like to read much of anything. Nobody ever goes to the library of Windsor Castle except American tourists, he says.

The King of Sweden, on the other hand, knows a good deal about cards. The Associated Press says the King was inspecting a fort, when he found four soldiers --

supposedly on duty -- busy over a game of bridge. The soldiers were paralyzed when they looked up and saw the King. But King Gustav strolled over to the bridge table, took a look at the hands, and turned to the player who had the bid. "My dear fellow," he said, "Your clubs are too weak for that bid." And with that he continued on his inspection tour. The King of Sweden evidently has a fine sense of humor, which some other people have not. The next item will explain what I mean.

Sinclair Lewis

The award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Sinclair Lewis has had an amusing kick-back. Lewis, in formally accepting indulged in a bit of humor. He said he was going to use the \$46,350. that goes with the prize, "to support a well known young American author and his family." Meaning himself. That statement was relayed over to

Germany, and you know folks in other countries don't always understand our American jokes. And they took Sinclair Lewis' remark literally. The German papers printed long admiring articles about his wonderful generosity and public spirit in devoting the Nobel Prize money to the support of some poor American author. They hope he will select one who is thoroughly deserving. I suppose Sinclair Lewis thinks that's exactly what he did.

Hitler

Here's another little joke. Adolph Hitler wants to talk over the radio, but the German government says "nix Adolph." The broadcasting stations in Germany are under government control, and up to now Hitler has not been able to send his fiery denunciations over the air. He is protesting bitterly, says the New York Evening Post. He points

out that Professor Einstein broadcast a speech from London last week about the plight of the Jews. Hitler says he wants to tell the world about the plight of the Germans. Here's a line I found among the "Topics in Brief" in the new Literary Digest. The Digest quotes the Arkansas Gazette as saying, "Hitler's ideas may be Mussolini's, but his mustache is Charlie Chaplin's."

California

Now for a train robbery. It occurred out in California today. That sounds like going back to the Wild and Woolly West of half a century ago, doesn't it? Five bandits held up a Southern Pacific train two miles from Berkeley. The

International News Service says they were armed with machine guns, automatic pistols, sawed off shot guns, and dynamite bombs. That sounds more like the introduction to a story about revolt in Russia than about California. Well, the train was bound from Okaland to Stockton, and was carrying several large pay rolls and considerable currency. The bandits made off with about \$100,000.

Roosevelt

Governor Roosevelt, of New York, issued a statement this afternoon denying in that he is/any way interested in a Roosevelt-for-President boom.

Halifax

From out at sea comes a story of danger.

Three men in a thirty-foot motor

boat are battling a southwest gale off Nova Scotia today on their way across the Atlantic. The International News Service says they started from Michigan, came through the Great Lakes and the New York Barge Canal. They are now on their way to Germany, and hope to get there by Christmas.

Life Saving

That reminds me that our Coast Guard service made a wonderful record last year. The Coast Guard boys saved more than 6000 lives along all our coasts. This information was given out today by Admiral Billard, head of the Coast Guard, and appears tonight in Scripps-Howard newspapers across America.

R-101

They are still investigating the R-101 disaster over in London, and today

a bomb shell was thrown into the investigation. It came in the form of some startling testimony from one of the official airship inspectors. According to the International News Service, this inspector said it was known before the ship started for India that it had structural weaknesses and defects. He said the manner in which the ship's gas cells were placed caused them to rub constantly against the steel structure of the dirigible. Then he explained that the steady rubbing at thousands of points resulted in holes being worn in the fabric of the gas cells. This would allow the highly explosive hydrogen gas to escape.

Robots

But in spite of disasters, aviation goes on progressing. Just listen to this. A Washington dispatch to the New York Evening Journal states that the Eastern Air Transport Line is equipping its planes with robot pilots, and, beginning with this winter, these mechanical aviators will do the flying - that is, most of it. Each plane will have a human pilot, too, but he will merely do the taking off and the landing. Once in the air, the automaton will take the controls. It will fly through fogs and storms with greater accuracy than any man can do, and will hold the plane absolutely level and straight on its course.

Cosmetics

Here's some good cheer. It's a news item about an industry that says

times are great. The people who manufacture and sell rouge, lipstick, and all sorts of cosmetics, say they did a record business this year. According to the New York Evening World it totalled over two hundred million dollars, and of this American women spent twelve million for pink cheeks, twenty-one million for perfumes, and twenty-two million for face powder.

Business leaders all over America are telling us that we can help bring back good times by buying things now. The New York Evening Telegram carries an article which says that the "BUY NOW" slogan hasn't any meaning and should not be heeded unless we have a real reason for buying. This week's Literary Digest discusses the "Buy Now" idea thoroughly and shows just how the

campaign is being conducted over America to persuade people to put money into circulation. One of the interesting things about the article is that it tells how business is really booming in some localities. But it also contains a few warning notes which suggest that if we do buy now we must buy wisely.

Horse

A horse out in Montana lived in a cistern for 30 days without any food. The horse strayed away from a ranch, and its owner gave it up for lost. A month later, according to the United Press, he discovered the animal at the bottom of a 16-foot cistern, still alive but awfully skinny and wobbly. The owner got him out by digging a trench, a runway clear to the bottom of the cistern.

Parrot

The other evening I told about a parrot that prayed and sang hymns. Miss Barnette of Cleveland, writes that she has a still more accomplished parrot that sings two songs at the same time - the two songs being: "Hail Columbia Happy Land" and "Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here." He sings one line of one and then a line of the other and so on. Some parrot!

End

And then about grapefruit.

The French Academy insists it isn't grapefruit. It's pamplemousse. They're revising the French dictionary, says the Paris correspondent of the New York Sun, and they've come to the word "grapefruit". That's what most Frenchmen call it, but the French Academy is always cantankerous about letting foreign words into the

French language. One learned scholar argued that grapefruit is really a French word, but the majority decided that pamplemousse is still more French and is correct. And that's what you will have to call it if you want your grapefruit the next time you go to Paris.

This scholarly item from France ends our evening's spin around the globe. So what do you say we all go out and order up some pamplemousse for dinner? But grapefruit or pamplemousse, or whatever you call it, I'll bet it will squirt in your eye just the same.

Goodnight.