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LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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INTRO

I'm standing here shuffling my day's sheaf of news dispatches, and they certainly are a grand assortment. Lots about football of course; more startling news about those head hunters in Formosa; a rumpus in Scotland over golf; a fight in Mexico, one hundred men against one; oil excitement in Oklahoma; America has jumped ahead of all the world in commercial aviation; and a picturesque coronation story from Africa.

Let's see - here's that \$25,000,000 vehicular tunnel under the Detroit River. It was opened today. The International News Service says that President Hoover sat in the wire room of the White House and touched a telegraph key that threw open this new tunnel between Detroit and Windsor, Canada.

1 That oil well I told you about last
2 night, the one that has been on a rampage
3 down in Oklahoma City, is still running
4 wild. The International News Service
5 says ^{that} if it can't be muzzled, the existence
6 of the whole city is threatened. ~~Twenty-five~~
7 ^{thousand to a} 100,000 barrels of crude oil a day are
8 shrieking and roaring into the air and
9 spraying the City. Over an area of
10 50 blocks, no fire can be started, no
11 meals cooked, not even a match lighted.
12 A single spark would be enough to start
13 a wild conflagration that would wipe out
14 the city. And Oklahoma City, according
15 to the new Literary Digest Atlas, has a
16 population of ^{about} 185,000 people. It's the
17 largest city in the state, with Tulsa
18 running it a close second. Even the
19 trench helmets worn by the oil company
20 workers to protect their heads from
21 falling rock--even those helmets are fire
22 hazards, for the friction of a bit of
23 rock on the metal could strike off a
24 spark. The best oil experts in the
25 Southwest are trying to put a giant cover

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OIL - 2

over the well and get the gusher under control, but

believe me -- it's going to be some job.

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story from the Far East.

1 Here is a startling [^] ~~bit of news.~~
2 According to the United Press, 108
3 women have committed suicide in one tiny
4 village ~~out~~ on the Island of Formosa.
5 They are members of that tribe of head
6 hunting Aborigines who have been in
7 revolt against the Japanese and who
8 massacred Japanese settlers, [^] men, women
9 and children. Japanese soldiers are
10 now sweeping down on ^{the aborigines'} ~~their~~ [^] villages and
11 strongholds. The head hunters ~~x~~ have
12 abandoned all hope. They know they can't
13 win. So their women have committed
14 suicide and the men have resolved to fight
15 it out with the Japs until the last head-
16 hunter is dead.

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And

~~What ho!~~ Here is a modern Horatius at the bridge. Down in Mexico, according to an Associated Press dispatch, Nicholas Bernal has been fighting 100 men single handed. This lone ~~by~~ warrior barricaded himself in a Municipal building and waged a bloody battle for 29 hours. Yes, and he wounded 30 of his pursuers before a bomb blew him to bits. The fighting occurred because Bernal, a commander of ~~the~~ Militia, ordered the people of ~~xxx~~ the town of San Pedro to surrender their firearms.

*Over in Ireland there's wailing
and there's sure to be a grand wake.*

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IRELAND

The International News Service tells us that the greatest Irishman in Ireland is dead- the O'Mahoney of Kerry, the O'Mahoney we'd call him, the head of the oldest clan in old Erin. O'Mahoney was 80 years old; and to the end of his days he wore the Irish kilt, and never did he forget that he was a direct descendant of a long line of Irish kings.

In London, on the other hand, it's a wedding we have to tell about.

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REBECCA WEST

Rebecca West is married. Miss West is one of the most brilliant woman novelists in Europe. She was very much in the headlines of the newspapers of the world not so long ago when she came out with a hot blast to the effect that a British husband was a blooming nuisance. According to the New York Evening Post, after remaining a spinster for 37 years she has slipped and married a London banker. So now Rebecca West has a nuisance of her own.

Now, in Scotland --

1 Hoot Mon! A wave of excite-
2 ment is sweeping like a Scotch mist
3 over the links of the Royal and Ancient
4 Club of Saint Andrews. According to
5 the International News Service the
6 members of ~~xxx~~ this famous Scottish
7 golf club are so excited that they are
8 forgetting their oatmeal and their
9 evening's evening. The trouble is this:
10 a number of British amateurs have
11 accepted invitations to play in golf
12 tournaments in the United States during
13 the coming months. In spite of all the
14 Scotch jokes, they are going to dig
15 down into their own kilts and pay for
16 their steamship and railroad fares; but
17 when they land here, some of them expect
18 to have buckwheat cakes and sausages
19 at a friend's house occasionally.

20 British golfers in the past, and
21 that of course includes Scottish, have
22 competed as members of teams, and had
23 their traveling and hotel expenses paid
24 by the clubs they represent. That's
25 all right, says the Royal and Ancient

Club. But now it is a matter of an unattached golfer competing as an individual, and the question is raised: Can an amateur accept private hospitality, and still be an amateur? So this old question of when is an amateur not an amateur is causing lots of excitement in the British Isles.

Well, let's follow that one with a note about automobiles. Isn't there a story about a Scotchman who bought a car?

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AUTOMOBILES

Anyway, dispatches from Detroit say that automobile manufacturers will feature three principal innovations in their 1931 models. According to the New York Evening World, these are the front drive, the midget car, and the multiple cylinder engine. The coming season will find not one or two, but several sixteen-cylinder cars on the market, while two companies are ~~be~~ bringing out twelve-cylinder models. Now we can all take our choice - we can go to either extreme -- something snappy in a dozen cylinders or so -- or a neat little bus that can be parked alongside a baby carriage. Well, I guess those little ones won't hit the pedestrian as hard as the big ones.

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FOOTBALL

Last night I mentioned that there were just eleven undefeated big football teams left in the country. But tonight, ah well, some of those eleven got banged in the nose this afternoon. Of the eleven undefeated, Cornell is off the list. Columbia gave her a licking today. Dartmouth is off because she only tied Yale. In the South those fighting Georgia bulldogs were held to a tie by Florida. But the biggest rumpus down that way was the game between Alabama and Kentucky. Both had clean slates. But Alabama won and that puts the Kentucky colonels off our list.

Among middle western champions, Kansas got walloped by Pennsylvania, Notre Dame trounced Indiana, and Northwestern walked all over Minnesota.

In the Far West, Washington State and Oregon were last week's only survivors and their scores are not in.

So the undefeated teams tonight are Fordham in the East. Alabama in the South. Notre Dame and Northwestern in the Middle West and the scores from the Far West are not in.

Four survivors out of eleven so far.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Here's encouragement in a dispatch from the International News Service. A big soap manufacturing firm has informed Colonel Arthur Woods, head of President Hoover's unemployment committee, that it will furnish employment the year around for 10,000 employees in the ~~ninth~~ eight manufacturing plants in America and Canada. That means steady income for about 50,000 people.

Yes, that's encouraging, and so is this:

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TOKUGAWA

There is one man who refuses to become alarmed about the status of this dizzy old world. He is a distinguished Japanese nobleman, Prince Tokugawa, president of the House of Peers of Japan. Next to the Japanese Emperor himself Prince Tokugawa is the most important man in Japan. He has just arrived in America, bound for Washington to see President Hoover, whom he knew years ago in the Far East. "Of course things are not so good all over the world," said the Prince, "but why get excited about it? It will be taken care of. It has happened before, you know -- after all, the world is not coming to an end, not just yet awhile."

There's an article in this week's issue of the Literary Digest which is about one angle of business and finance, and it certainly tackles an important

1 question. You'll hear people saying,
2 "I bought this stock as an investment."
3 Well, that Digest article tells you
4 just what the difference is between
5 investment and speculation. It is a
6 keen analysis, the sort of an article
7 that all will want to read who have
8 money to invest. It expresses the hope
9 that many saddened gamblers will become
10 sound investors - and then tells how they
11 can make that change.

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There's big news in far away Abyssinia, All day the tribesmen have been gathering, stalwart black men, decked out in barbaric finery. And right now in a strange old cathedral in the capital city of Addis Ababa, the successor to the throne of Solomon is kneeling at prayer. He and his queen will pray all night. Then, at dawn, he will be anointed with oil brought specially from the Garden of Gethsemane in the Holy Land. And Ras Tafari and his wife, Waizeru, will take their places on a throne of gold, and they will be crowned with dazzling crowns of gold, diamonds, emeralds and sapphires. Ras Tafari, the new Emperor of Ethiopia, is a small, dark man, and the queen is a large dark woman. Amid barbaric and imposing pomp, he will become King of Abyssinia, Lion of Judah, and King of Kings. How's that for a title? The Abyssinians claim to be an ancient semitic people, and the king traces his descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Yes sir, it's

big news in Africa tonight.

Yesterday, however, while magnificent preliminary ceremonies were going on, a sad event took place, a melancholy downfall out in Abyssinia. I am picking it as the News Item of the Day.

The royal court was out at the flying field. Ras Tafari has an air force consisting of one plane. And it was to take a big part in the coronation ceremonies tomorrow. An aviator was also among those present. And what an aviator! He is Colonel Hubert Fautleroy Julian, the Black Eagle. Well, the Black Eagle is a Harlem negro. He was the dark horse in the trans-Atlantic race, which Lindbergh won. He took off from the East River, and fell into the mud flats of Flushing Bay. Then he planned a flight from New York to Africa, which never took place. The Black Eagle flew planes, and made parachute jumps, and ~~cut~~ cut a grand aviating figure among the colored folks of Harlem. Recently the Black Eagle went to Abyssinia to show the

8 dusky Ras Tafari what a colored man
9 could do in the air. And did he show
10 them? I'll say he did. He made parachute
11 jumps to the intense astonishment of
12 everybody. Once he hopped out and landed
13 right at Ras Tafari's feet. Naturally
14 he became a mighty hero with both royalty
15 and populace. That ^{there} black boy jest
16 naturally waltzed right into the hearts
17 of everybody in Abyssinia.

18 Well, yesterday Ras Tafari and his
19 dignitaries ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ were at the flying field,
20 and thousands of tribesmen were gathered
21 around. Over there stood the Abyssinian
22 air force of one plane. The Black Eagle
23 was seized with an inspiration. Now was
24 the time to do something spectacular.
25 Did he hesitate? Uh-uh. Not he. Without
asking permission, he jumped into the
plane, gave her the gun, and took off.
He got up a hundred feet or so, and then
the plane began to wobble. Down it
came like a rocket. Crash! Bang! Presto!
What had been the Abyssinian air force
was now just kindling wood and old iron.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

From out of the debris crawled the Black Eagle, uninjured, grinning from ear to ear.

Was Ras Tafari, Emperor of Ethiopia, Lion of Judah, and King of Kings, mad? He was. He was hopping mad. And he ordered the Black Eagle ignominiously clapped into the Addis Ababa jail. Then he thought of the expense it would take to feed that big boy from Harlem. He ordered the Black Eagle into instant exile. But the Black Eagle was stoney broke. He didn't even have enough loose change to start a little game of Ethiopian dominoes. Americans at the coronation raised enough jack among them to get him away, and he was led to the railroad. The Black Eagle departed with his wings clipped, claiming it was all the result of the jealousy of a French flying officer in Ras Tafari's service.

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CONCLUSION

Bobbed manners are the order of the day in American society. Emily Post, who has gained fame by writing a best seller on the subject of etiquette tells us that we are just as polite today as we ever were even if our manners are bobbed. In an International News Service interview Mrs. Post says, "we just haven't time for those long, tiresome formalities. Anyway", she adds, "it's every bit as polite to say a simple goodnight as it is to make a long, affected speech or stand in the doorway for half an hour hat in hand." Now, that's a real relief to me. When I dash into your home with the evening's news I usually find there is so much to tell that I haven't much time left. But along comes Mrs. Post to my rescue with information that bobbed manners are O. K.

So, goodnight.