

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1930

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

There's so much news tonight that I'm going to have a lot of trouble squeezing it all in. President Hoover discourses on child welfare, Mussolini does some broadcasting, The Man of a Thousand Mysteries is ill in London. Gypsies are becoming respectable citizens. The rumpus in Spain has quieted down. Germany's Foreign Minister makes some rather ominous remarks. In Hungary they celebrated the birthday of the young pretender. India's fabulously rich Maharajahs are dazzling London, and the President of Brazil goes into exile.

Let's stay at home for a moment.

HOOVER

Three thousand people are holding a conference in Washington on child welfare. President Hoover called the meeting at the White House. In his opening speech, according to the United Press, the President says that human progress marches only when children excel their parents. He calls upon every American to do something for the 10,000,000 unfortunate and defective children in this country, to keep them from becoming criminals and public charges. "One community nurse now will save a dozen policemen in the future," said the President.

Mr. Hoover is a grandfather as well as a father, you know, and the three children of his oldest son are living at the White House. "Children are the most wholesome part of the human race," he says, "because they are fresher from the hands of God."

RAILWAYS

There's another conference on - this time its a railroad conference. The International News Service says that officials representing 90 per cent of the railway lines of America are in New York. Today they pledged themselves to employ the greatest possible number of men throughout the coming winter -- in other words - provide jobs for thousands who they might otherwise be laid off.

CHICAGO U.

The President of the University of Chicago announces his intention of introducing a new and rather startling system of education. The New York Telegram says he is going to make it possible for students who are geniuses to finish the usual four year college work in six months. Those whose minds are not geared up for speed can take six years to cover the same field if they like. His idea is to base graduation upon ability rather than upon time spent.

There'll be some controversy about this next one too.

1 Herr Curtius, Germany's Foreign
2 Minister, stated today that there is no
3 way of knowing at what moment Germany
4 may be forced to take steps to throw
5 off the burden of her reparation payments.
6 He said Germany has never guaranteed
7 that she will be able to carry out the
8 terms of the Young plan. But he added that
9 he does not favor making the Versailles
10 treaty a scrap of paper, as fire-eater
11 Hitler advocates. The International
12 News Servicexcables this important
13 news which has a meaning for all of us.

14 We've been hearing a lot about
15 how they're tackling the unemployment
16 problem in our own country, but here's
17 a novel item about what is happening
18 in Europe. They have a lot of unemploy-
19 ment over there, and the Germans are now
20 planning their first big drive for relief.
21 That new Literary Digest, which is on
22 the stands today, tell us that in Prussia
23 the school ^{age} is to be raised one year.
24 Children will go to school one year
25 longer. This will help the unemployment

1 situation by keeping a lot of boys in
2 school and out of the employment market.
3 During the coming year 225,000
4 prospective young workmen will stick to
5 their studies instead of going out and
6 competing for jobs.

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1 *And*, Here's Mussolini in the headlines
2 again. In an interview with a United
3 Press correspondent, he utters the old
4 platitude that "The best way to prevent
5 war is to be prepared to defend peace."
6 But, he sagely goes on to say that
7 Fascist Italy would much rather build
8 houses than battleships, and he adds
9 that Italy is ready to disarm if other
10 nations will.

11 That is a picture of Mussolini, the
12 fighter and statesman. The New York
13 ~~Evening~~ Sun gives another picture of
14 him today--the picture of Mussolini the
15 father. The Sun says that the stern-
16 faced dictator of Italy throws off the
17 cares of state when he is with his
18 children. Then he swims and rides and
19 plays games and laughs. In short, *he's*
20 pretty much like other fathers.
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HUNGARY

Prince Otto of Hungary celebrated his 18th birthday today, but he didn't become king. If the world War hadn't come along and turned things upside down, this would have been a momentous day for young Otto, for he would have ascended the throne as emperor of Austria-Hungary, and reigning monarch of the oldest ruling dynasty in Europe. But the World War wrecked all that, and today was celebrated only by those Austrian and Hungarian aristocrats who still hope to see Hungary ruled by a king. Officially, Budapest paid little attention to the event except to arrest 27 people who got into a fist-fight during the ~~18th~~ celebration. Young Otto himself, says the International News Service is at school in Belgium, where his family is in exile. He is just another king without a country.

And here's a president without a country.

1 Washington Luis, ex-President of
2 ~~the~~ Brazil, sailed from Rio today. He'll
3 probably be away for rather a long
4 holiday. They say he's going for his
5 health. And that's one way of describing
6 it. I suppose they mean he is sailing
7 for healthier parts.
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1 In London the Man of a Thousand
2 Secrets is seriously ill. He is Sir
3 Basil Zaharoff. They call him the
4 Mystery Man of Europe. He is said to
5 be worth a hundred million dollars, but
6 how he made it is not known. He once
7 owned Monte Carlo, but it is said he
8 never gambled. He married a Spanish
9 Duchess, after waiting for her for
10 forty years. She died two years after
11 the marriage. For years Sir Basil
12 Zaharoff has been a powerful figure in
13 the world's statecraft--but in just what
14 way nobody knows. He is the man of a
15 thousand secrets. He put the thousand
16 secrets into a diary. Then he burned
17 it. Britain made him a Knight of the
18 Grand Cross of the Bath. That was his
19 reward for important services to the
20 British Government, although he was a
21 Greek. Just what these services were
22 was never made public. ~~Now, according~~
23 ~~to the Associated Press, he is eighty~~
24 ~~years old, is seriously ill, and has~~
25 ~~gone to London for medical treatment.~~

INDIA

Out in India, near the great British army base at Poona, they're being awfully nice to a man in jail.. He's a little brown man who wears a loin cloth. They call him Mahatma Ghandi. He's the leader of India's resistance to British rule. According to the Associated Press, his British jailers are doing everything to make him comfortable. He has three cells and a bath, and a flower garden. Sounds like Park Avenue. His food is cooked by a high caste Brahmin, and they have a special herd of goats to provide milk for the Mahatma.

A special dispatch to the New York Evening World tells of the splendors of the Indian princes at the Round Table Conference in London. There's the Maharaja of Kashmir, who is spoken of as the richest man in the

1 world and who has a jewel-studded robe
2 worth fifteen million dollars. And
3 there's the Maharaja of Dholpur, who
4 travels around his oriental dominions
5 with a retinue of gold and jewel
6 bedecked elephants. Then there is
7 the Maharaja of Rewa who has among his
8 officials a Lord High Executioner who
9 struts about with his jeweled-beheading
10 sword. And the Maharaja of Patiala with
11 his pearl necklace worth five million
12 ~~dollars.~~

13 Well, those Maharajas make a dazz-
14 ling display at the Round Table Conference,
15 but none of them mean as much to the
16 future of India as that little brown man
17 in the loin cloth who squats on the floor
18 in the jail at Poona and who is not at
19 the Round Table Conference.
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SPAIN

1 Spain, after all her recent
2 labor unrest and disorders, is quieting
3 down. The Associated Press reports that
4 the government is meeting violence with
5 an iron hand and that ^{King Alfonso} ~~the monarch~~ is
6 not likely to be overthrown just at
7 present.

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NEWS ITEM

A few minutes ago, I phoned Mr. Keats Speed, Managing Editor of the New York Sun. I asked him to pick the News Item of the Day for me. He did, and the story he selected is a piece that appeared in the Sun about gypsies. Well, Gypsies are always romantic, but there's a sad note about this, because apparently the Gypsies are not going to be romantic any longer. That is, they're going to hold an International Gypsy Conference at Warsaw, Poland, and they say the plan is to modernize the Gypsy and take the romance out of this ancient race of nomads and rogues.

There's a Gypsy Royal family. It's the Kwiek dynasty - k w i e k - Kwiek. Its members rule the Gypsies in various lands. In Poland the high and mighty Kwiek is his Bohemian Royal Highness Michael II, King of the Polish Gypsies.

Mike has called this Congress to modernize the Gypsies.

Before the War the Gypsies in Eastern and Central Europe had a fine roving life. True, they did a bit of cheating

RETAKE

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Before the War the Gypsies in Eastern and Central Europe had a fine roving life. True, they did a bit of cheating

and stealing, but that was overlooked. Life was dull for land owners and peasants on the great plains, and the wandering tribes of Gypsies were entertaining. The men did marvelous magic tricks, and the women told fortunes. Then there were the Gypsy bands, and the people ~~in~~ of those parts could not live without Gypsy music.

But that's all changed. Since the War, times have been hard on the Steppes. The landowners are poor. The people have no time for amusement. And when the Gypsy does a bit of stealing, the people can't afford the loss. So the Gypsies are welcome no longer. In fact, there have been pitched battles between the peasants and the nomad tribes. More recently, the talking pictures have been putting the Gypsy bands out of business.

And so His Bohemian Royal Highness, King Mike, believes that the Gypsies will have to give up their old wandering lives. They must settle down. And now the King of the Polish Gypsies has called this International Gypsy

Conference to turn the world's most famous nomads into
ordinary citizens by abolishing their romantic wandering
life.

COOLIDGE

That history of the United States in five hundred words, the one that Calvin Coolidge wrote, well, it's not going to be engraved in stone. At least, not in Gutzon Borglum's stone. Borglum, you know, is the sculptor who is carving a whole mountain out in the Black Hills in South Dakota.

He wants to engrave on the face of a huge cliff a brief history of the United States. Five hundred words was to be the limit.

Ex-President Coolidge of course is renowned as the man of few words. He was asked to write that history in five hundred words, which Mr. Coolidge did.

But now that history is out. Borglum thought it wasn't right, so he made changes. And Mr. Coolidge says he won't stand for the changes. And so the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission is in session out in Chicago, trying to pick a new historian to write those five hundred words.

SHORTS -

A dispatch from Paris tells of a druggist who was an aviator during the World War and who now has invented what is said to be the smallest airplane in the world. It is only thirty feet long, but the poor inventor has been arrested because he flew his tiny plane without bothering to get a license.

Out in San Francisco they are getting ready to build the longest single suspension bridge in the world. It will be swung across the Golden Gate. The big Central span is to be a little more than 4,000 feet long and 220 feet above the water. The bridge will be suspended on steel cables from towers 740 feet high. The towers will be surmounted by aerial beacons and observation platforms from which it will be possible to get a magnificent view of San Francisco Bay on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other.

This has been an unusual day for brevities in the news. The dispatches are full of interesting short paragraphs. For instance, the Associated Press wires an item from

Washington telling us that the War Department has found it pays to pay bills promptly. And here's how. Last year the War Department, by paying bills as quickly as they came in, saved nearly \$400,000 on discounts. In ten years these prompt payments have saved them over a million.

SINFUL

An aged negro woman in Louisiana, a former slave, named Martha Harrison, is 111 years old, says the United Press. And she told the reporter that she considers this modern world very, very sinful.

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Montana's first official gavel has been presented to the State Historical Society, says the Associated Press. That gavel is an old fashioned six-shooter.

1 I saw a whole collection of sparkling
2 lines in the new Literary Digest. They
3 are on the Topics in Brief page, and are
4 culled from newspapers all over the
5 country. Here are just a few of them:--

6 Take this one from the Florence
7 Herald: Many autoists seem to think
8 warning signs at railroad crossings are
9 merely intended for the locomotive
10 engineer.

11 And here's one that's appropriate for
12 the football season. Our American
13 educational system, remarks the San
14 Diego News, may have its defects, but
15 nobody can deny that it has developed a
16 high order of punting and passing.

17 And here is an item from the Jackson
18 News about royalty: Concerning the
19 report that Queen Mary of England is
20 going in for antiques, one is prompted
21 to ask how conspicuous a place her hats
22 are given in the collection.

23 A survey, says the Chatanooga Times,
24 is planned to discover in which state
25 women have the most rights. Speaking
offhand, we'd say the State of Matrimony.

PIE

Somebody put an iron bolt in Michael Sheehan's piece of pie. Anyway, Michael started to eat the pie, and broke several teeth on that iron bolt. According to the New York Evening World, the judge ordered the pie bakery to pay \$200.00 damages to Michael.

In concluding this evening's resume of the news, may I express the hope that you will not find any iron bolts, screws, hammers, or other hardware, or even any oriental tiger's whiskers in your pumpkin pie!

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.