

AMERICAN LEGION

Lowell Thomas Broadcast
For Literary Digest

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East Evening Magazine: Reader, July 7, 1931

1 Today the American Legion signed up
2 its millionth member. The number of
3 Legionnaires has been mounting steadily
4 and now it has reached its first million.

5 The millionth member is an
6 interesting personality. He is Colonel
7 Charles E. Stanton, now ~~the~~ commissioner
8 of public works in San Francisco. During
9 the World War he made history by
10 ~~saying~~ ^{uttering} a famous phrase. No, that
11 phrase didn't make the Colonel famous.
12 Few people know that he said it. That
13 immortal saying is usually attributed
14 to General Pershing, but Pershing
15 never spoke those words at all.

16 It was Colonel Stanton who visited
17 Lafayette's tomb in ~~France~~ ^{France} on July 4th,
18 1917. He stood before the monument of
19 the French lover of liberty, and said:
20 LAFAYETTE, WE ARE HERE.

21 Sometime or other, those words were
22 generally attributed to General Pershing
23 but they were really spoken by the man
24 who now becomes the millionth member of
25 the American Legion.

1 The United States Government
2 has a real problem on its hands, because
3 apparently it's going to be a hard job
4 to make one particular soldier stay
5 dead.

6 The Associated Press relates
7 that William R. Eba of Los Angeles, has
8 retained a lawyer in an effort to prove
9 that he is still alive. The Government
10 has had him dead as a ~~door~~^{door} nail three
11 times and in three different ways.

12 Eba claims that in August
13 of 1918 his mother was notified by the
14 government that he had been killed in
15 the battle of Chateau ~~xxxxxxx~~ Thierry.

16 Later on his mother received
17 word from the War Department that her
18 son had been killed in the San Mihiel
19 drive.

20 But the son showed up in
21 the due course of things, and now he has
22 applied for his wartime bonus loan.
23 In reply he got a letter informing
24 him that he had died at San Antonio,
25 Texas, on March 11, 1930.

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There seems to be a slight
confusion, but you^{we} got to admit the
government has done its best when
it has had Bill Eba dead and buried
three distinct and separate times.

1 Now that the big show is over --
2 I mean the putting through of the Hoover
3 Plan -- let's see what the world has to say
4 about it.

Press reports that Pres. Von Hindenburg of Germany

5 Over in Germany there's nothing
6 much except loud applause. The Associated
7 ~~Press~~ immediately sent a cable to
8 President Hoover ~~in which the German~~
9 ~~President~~ *saying:-* said "I DESIRE TO GIVE
10 EXPRESSION TO THE GRATITUDE OF THE
11 GERMAN PEOPLE TO YOU AND THE AMERICAN
12 PEOPLE".

13 The International News Service
14 tells us that the German Government *has*
15 ~~immediately~~ announced that the money
16 which it is saving under the Hoover Plan
17 will be applied to economic
18 rehabilitation. All that cash will
19 not be used for Government expenses or
20 for armament but will be applied to
21 the work of building up German industries
22 in a strong effort to get Germany on
23 her feet economically and financially.

24 In the Town of Zehlendorf, a
25 suburb of Berlin, a baby boy was born

1 last night and was instantly
2 christened "Hoover". He will be
3 called "Hoover Schmidt" or "Hoover
4 Schmalz", or whatever it may be. The
5 enthusiastic father announced that if
6 the baby had been a girl he would have
7 called her "Mellona" in honor of
8 Secretary of the Treasury Mellon.

9 In France there is plenty of
10 hand-clapping, too. The French held
11 out against President Hoover's
12 proposal for the suspension of payments
13 on international debts. They did a bit
14 of bargaining and finally came to a
15 compromise. They won their point that
16 Germany should not be relieved of all
17 reparations payments for one year. ^{However,} ~~but~~
18 the payments that Germany will have to
19 make are not real cash, ^{and that's the kind of}
20 ^{payments we'd all like to make.}
Germany merely goes through the
21 gesture of paying. And it looks as
22 if what the French wanted was to avoid
23 establishing a precedent whereby Germany
24 could call off her reparations payments
25 at some future time.

1 The New York Evening Post says
2 that the French reaction to yesterday's
3 agreement is one of relief. It is
4 as if a load had been lifted from
5 their minds.

6 England is thoroughly pleased
7 with the fact that the Hoover Plan has
8 finally gone through and as for Italy
9 why Mussolini's government has been
10 cheering President Hoover's proposal
11 from the start.

12 The President himself is delighted.
13 Mr. Hoover feels that he has scored a
14 victory in the broad field of ~~xxxx~~
15 international politics and most people
16 heartily agree with him.

17 There are only a few dissenting
18 voices who are singing sour notes,
19 although of course there are a few.

20 One small financial detail of
21 that huge financial arrangement comes
22 in a United Press statement which tells
23 us that the Hoover Plan has cost the
24 American Government \$7,000. in telephone
25 calls. There were many telephone calls

S O M E T I M E S

1
2 sometimes several a day in the course
3 of the complicated negotiations
4 between Washington and Paris and those
5 telephone calls were made at the rate
6 of 10 bucks per minute--total
7 7000 simoleons, or as Dr. Vizetelly
8 would say 7000 shinplasters.
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1 To tell you the truth, I didn't
2 know that there was any particular kind
3 of revolution and trouble under way
4 in Peru just now, but here comes the
5 Peruvian government announcing that
6 loyal troops have captured the city of
7 Cuzco where a revolution has been
8 under way for the past couple of weeks.

9 Cuzco is an important city
10 in Southern Peru, and if rebels have
11 been in control down there, it looks
12 as though there ~~might~~^{must} have been an
13 important disturbance.

14 The Associated Press
15 passes along the detail that one of the
16 important exploits in the campaign
17 against the ^{Peruvian} rebellion was a forced
18 march lasting eight days, in which a
19 cavalry regiment crossed the rugged,
20 dizzy ranges of the Andes, and that's
21 quite a forced march for cavalry.

22 As my friend Commander
23 Harold Grow tells me the up-to-date thing
24 in Peru is to fly airplanes across those
25 craggy ranges of the Andes. But cavalry, ^{making} that
forced marches thru those lofty passes, well that
takes us back to the days of the crossing of the
Alps by Hannibal or by Napoleon.

MEND YOUR SPEECH

I read a good joke today, a humorous line that gave me a laugh. And you'd never guess where.

Well, I was going through a small red book with a red binding, and the title of that book is - Mend Your Speech. It's by Dr. Vizetelly, the eminent lexicographer who has turned out this snappy volume to help us remedy the defects of our conversation and talk better English. It is one of a set of four similar books in red binding, which have just been announced by Funk & Wagnalls, by the Literary Digest, and are going to give plenty of valuable assistance to thousands of us.

I was beginning at the beginning of the book and was going through the letter "A". Words and phrases are listed alphabetically to point out errors and tip us off to the correct use of words and grammatical constructions.

Under the heading "A" I discovered the word, adore, and along with it the synonyms - reverence, veneration, worship. Well, those are noble and solemn words. Of course,

1 ~~noble and solemn words. Of course,~~
2 they are frequently uttered into the
3 lovely ears of charming ladies, but
4 even then they are uttered in a somewhat
5 solemn way.

6 I discovered the origin and correct
7 meaning of those words - adore, reverence,
8 veneration, worship, and there are
9 quotations from the great poets to show
10 us just how we should use these words.

11 Dr. Vizetelly tells us that the
12 term "worship" has an exceedingly
13 interesting origin. I'll bet you'll ~~x~~
14 never guess the original Anglo Saxon
15 word from which it is derived. But,
16 anyway, it's in connection with the
17 grave and ~~x~~ serious word "worship" that the
18 learned Doctor makes a neat wisecrack.
19 After explaining the meaning of the
20 word, he gravely informs us that it need
21 not be assumed that the young bride
22 worships her husband "because she
23 places burnt offerings before him
24 three times a day."

25 Well, that connection between

1 burnt offerings as a biblical
2 sacrifice and burnt offerings as
3 describing the meals served up by a
4 young bride, well that ~~did~~ give me *my day's*
5 *beat* laugh.

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1 There seems to be some difference
2 of opinion among the star gazers. Some
3 of the astronomers who study the heavenly
4 bodies at night are saying: "Sure, it's
5 the absolute truth," -- while other
6 astronomers reply: "Impossible! There
7 ain't no such planet."

8 The International News Service
9 informs us that Japanese scientists of
10 the Kyoto Astronomical Observatory
11 announced today the discovery of a new
12 planet. They say that this hitherto
13 unknown sister of the earth is 11,000
14 miles in diameter and is located south
15 of the Snake Charmer constellations.
16 By the way, that's a nifty name -- the
17 Snake Charmer constellations.

18 Somebody immediately broke the
19 news to the astronomers at Harvard, and
20 they are said to be the highest American
21 authorities on the subject of planets.
22 The boys at Harvard just shook their *learned*
23 heads. They pointed out that a planet
24 of a diameter of 11,000 miles would be
25 bigger than the earth, which has a

1 diameter of 8,000 miles. They declare
2 that according to the description the
3 Japanese astronomers give, the new
4 planet would be visible to the naked eye
5 and could not hitherto have escaped the
6 attention of the star gazers at the
7 telescopes.

8 The Harvard experts think that
9 what the Japanese observers really saw
10 was an ~~asteroid~~ asteroid, one of those
11 small wandering heavenly bodies that pop
12 into sight every so often and then
13 disappear.

14 Briefly, their comment is, "No,
15 it's impossible!"
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1 I spent a few minutes this
2 afternoon memorizing a bit of verse.
3 That bit of verse is printed in this
4 week's ~~xxxx~~ Literary Digest. No,
5 I wasn't motivated by any esthetic
6 sentiment or poetic exaltation. Of
7 course, that bit of verse is neatly
8 turned, but on the other hand it's
9 exceedingly useful.

10 The Literary Digest reminds us
11 that ~~x~~ over in England they have
12 daylight saving time, just as we do, and
13 over there some folks get a bit twisted
14 and tangled up on the subject of ~~x~~ just
15 how daylight saving time works. And
16 so do some folks over here. *I'm one.*

17 Well, the Literary Digest,
18 quoting the Boston Transcript, tells us
19 that a London ~~weekly~~ periodical decided
20 to do something to help people keep
21 their minds clear about setting the
22 clock an hour forward/~~or~~ ^{or} backward. It
23 offered a prize for the best ~~set of~~
24 verses that would enable people to
25 memorize the change of the hour in

1 daylight saving time.

2 Well, the bit of verse that won
3 the prize is really helpful. Here's
4 the way it reads:

5 When April comes with sun and shower
6 You move your clock along an hour
7 But when October's skies grow black
8 You give that borrowed hour back.

3 Who said Shakespeare was dead? But seriously
9 ~~Well,~~ It's worth one's while

10 to take a copy of the Digest and
11 memorize that bit of verse as a guide
12 to daylight saving time.

1 There are a couple of odd
2 accidents in the news this evening.
3 At Barnhill, Ohio, Daniel James, a
4 farmer, was walking barefoot in his
5 house at night when he suddenly said,
6 **OUCH!**

7 "Holy Smoke," grumbled Dan. "I'm
8 always stepping on nails around this
9 place."

10 Then he noticed something
11 different, a slithering form, a snake
12 -- it was a big copperhead. No, Dan
13 hadn't spiked his big toe on a nail
14 as he thought -- the copperhead had
15 bitten him.

16 He killed the snake, and the
17 United Press dispatch which tells of
18 the incident indicates that Dan has
19 recovered from the snake bite O.K.

20 And then at Chicago, Matthias
21 Stieren was walking along last Saturday,
22 the 4th of July, when he felt something
23 bump him on the neck. He didn't pay any
24 attention to it, but then for a couple
25 of days he had a headache. He went to a

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doctor, and the doctor found a bullet in his neck.

Some 4th of July celebrater had been shooting more or less at random and the bullet had hit Stieren in the neck. Strange enough, he didn't realize that he had been shot, and I don't suppose he was thoroughly convinced until they took him to a hospital and extracted the bullet.

1 Now comes a story with a moral
2 for newspaper men and also, I suppose,
3 for those of us who reel off the news of
4 the day into the microphone.

5 A bandit walked into a hotel in
6 Chicago and held up the clerk at the
7 desk. The clerk recognized him as the
8 same robber who held him up two weeks
9 ago. And that burglar was angry. He
10 was annoyed .

11 "Now listen, ^{big} boy," he grumbled,
12 "~~that last~~ ^{other} time I was ~~in~~ here, I took \$50
13 from you. Remember, just 50 bucks. And
14 the next day the newspapers said I ~~had~~
15 got 200."

16 And that burglar was telling the
17 honest truth. He had got \$50 on his
18 previous burglarious visit to the hotel,
19 and the newspapers had got it wrong and
20 said it was 200.

21 "Now listen, feller, that wasn't
22 right," the burglar went on, "It got me
23 into plenty of trouble. When I went
24 home I told my wife the honest truth
25 and said I got 50 dollars, and the next

1 day she read in the newspaper that I got
2 200, and there ain't nothing I can say
3 that will make her believe any different.
4 She thinks I lost the rest of the money
5 in a crap game, and she's been bawling
6 me out ever since.

7 "And so I'm telling you, I want you
8 to be sure the newspaper reporters get
9 the story right this time, because my
10 wife will be reading the papers and I
11 don't want her to think I'm holding out
12 on her."

13 The hotel clerk had just \$5 in the
14 till. The bandit took it and departed,
15 with the final injunction: "Remember,
16 this is only 15 bucks, and don't you
17 have the reporters saying 25 or 150."

18 Yes sir, it's just a salutary
19 lesson that we must be careful to get the
20 news straight or we'll be getting robbers
21 and bandits in trouble with their wives.

22 And there's a warning - something
23 for me to ponder over as I say

24 Solong until tomorrow.
25