

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR LITERARY DIGEST

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1931

SAILING SHIP

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Now comes a champion, the world's champion sailing ship. She is the Finnish four masted bark Herzogin Cecile. She just put into harbor at Falmouth after winning a long race from South Australia to England, in which she outsailed a fleet of seven other windjammers.

According to the New York Sun this is no fluke victory for the Finnish bark. Four times in the last five years she has beaten all her rivals in the run around the globe from Australia to British waters.

This time the swift four-masted put out of Wallaroo, Australia, with a cargo of wheat, and she made the run to England in forty days.

One day the speedy bark ran 360 miles in twenty-four hours. During one hour she sailed $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles, much faster even than the average steamship.

That day's run is better than the record of the famous old clipper ship Cutty Sark, that greyhound of the old

1 era of canvas ^{and} ~~in the~~ wind.

2 On the best day the Cutty_Sark
3 ever sailed she made 353 miles in twenty-
4 four hours.

5 Well, three cheers for that four
6 masted Finnish bark Herzogin_Cecile.
7 She brings back the magnificent old days
8 of the sailing ship and the roaring
9 life of old Jack Tar. May her tall
10 masts stand ever straight and firm, and
11 may the good ship ever have a brisk
12 fair wind *abeam.*

1 Great Britain may soon have a
2 new member in the House of Lords, and
3 a curious peer of the realm he ~~will~~^{will}
4 make. He is Philip Snowden, Chancellor
5 of the Ex-chequer in the Labor Government
6 of Great Britain. Snowden, ^{as you probably know,} is a radical
7 Socialist and only recently aroused the
8 bitterness of the landed gentry of
9 England by professing to take from them
10 a certain percentage of their land
11 values as taxes.

12 The Daily Express states that
13 Snowden intends to resign his post in
14 the Labor Cabinet and if he does Prime
15 Minister McDonald will probably ask
16 King George to make him a peer.

17 Snowden's wife denies that he
18 will give up his job as chancellor of
19 the Ex^h-chequer.

20 The Associated Press, however,
21 cables ~~the~~ word that the Chancellor's
22 feeble state of health may bring about
23 his resignation, and **I**t is pointed out
24 that ordinarily Snowden's exceedingly
25 socialistic views would not permit him to

1 accept a peerage, but in this case
2 the Labor party wants to increase its
3 representation in the House of Lords,
4 ~~and then~~ In the interests of his party
5 Snowden might consent to become ~~the~~ a
6 peer of the realm, *and that would indeed*
7 *be a strange climax to his socialistic*
8 *career.*

1 A copious bit of debate was heard
2 in the city of Geneva today. The
3 debaters were Foreign Minister Kurtius
4 of Germany and Foreign Minister Briand
5 of France. The subject was that Austro-
6 German customs union -- which the Germans
7 defended and the French attacked.

8 Doctor Kurtius said that the
9 agreement which Germany and Austria has
10 made to abolish tariffs does not conflict
11 with international relations. He added
12 that Germany was willing to establish
13 tariff agreements not only with Austria
14 but with any other country.

15 ~~According to the Associated Press,~~
16 Briand replied by saying that France
17 and Belgium wanted at one time to have
18 a customs union. ~~between themselves.~~ But
19 ~~that~~ the European powers opposed it --
20 and France decided that she had no right
21 to do anything that might be harmful to
22 Europe. And so the proposed Franco-
23 Belgian customs union was called off.

24 And now, Briand went on, France
25 cannot permit other nations to enter

1 into customs unions which would be harm-
2 ful to the whole of Europe -- and by
3 that he meant ^{this much debated} ~~an~~ agreement between
4 Germany and Austria.

5 The debate took place at a session
6 of the European Federation Commission.
7 And you can bet there'll be a lot more
8 debating before the matter is ~~settled.~~
9 thrashed out.

1 Well, it looks like ~~some~~ more
2 of the same old trouble for Portugal.
3 Another Portuguese island has revolted.
4 This time it is San Thome, a bit of
5 land off the west coast of Africa.

6 According to the United Press
7 the native police have rebelled.
8 They have deported the Portuguese
9 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Governor. They grabbed him,
10 and just ^{hauled him aboard} ~~put him on~~ a steamship and
11 told him to head for Lisbon. ~~XXX~~

12 ^{And} That makes about the fourth
13 rebellion Portugal has had in her
14 colonies. It seems to be a ^{regular} epidemic.

15 ^{The} Lisbon Government has sent a gun-
16 boat from Angola in Portuguese West
17 Africa to put down the rebellion on
18 the island of San Thome.

SPAIN

Yes and more trouble has flared up in Spain - in the country districts this time. Four men have been killed and ten injured near the village of Atarfe. A convent nearby had been attacked by radicals and set afire, and the peasants of the neighboring village believed the church burners were coming their way. So they armed themselves to protect their own little church.

According to the Associated Press, an automobile with a number of men in it came along the road. Peasants tried to stop it. The men in the car opened fire. There was an exchange of shots. Three of the peasants were killed, the car hit a wall, and the chauffeur was killed in the crash.

The police arrested several of the occupants of the car, who claim that they are not church burners, but just the same the authorities are holding them for examination.

The church burning riots in the cities are said to have stirred up the bitter anger of the country folk who are gathering weapons and preparing to defend their churches.

Meanwhile all of Spain is anxiously awaiting the reply of the new Republican government to the protest which the Vatican

has made against the destruction of religious property. According to the International News Service, the general opinion seems to be that either the Republican authorities will apologize to the Pope or they'll have to break relations with the Vatican. It seems to be a case of either one or the other, and the Spaniards are wondering which it will be.

MADAME BUTTERFLY

And now for a moment let's just imagine - let's imagine we're hearing a bit of the music of Madame Butterfly, because here comes the true story of Madame Butterfly. And it's almost exactly like the tale in the story and in the opera.

In Tokyo there is an American missionary, Mrs. Irvin Correll. She is a sister of John Luther Long, who wrote the original story of the Japanese heroine, upon which the composer Puccini based his opera.

According to the Associated Press, Mrs. Correll at a luncheon of the Pan-Pacific Club in Tokyo, told about the real Madame Butterfly. And yes, that was her name too - Cho San in Japanese - which means butterfly. Her lover, however, was not an American naval officer, but a Russian.

Little Cho San lived near the missionary station. "She was as pretty as a picture," Mrs. Correll tells, "and everyone liked her. One day we heard that she had had a lover and expected soon to become a mother. The lover had gone promising to return. He said he would signal from the ship when he came back.

We missionaries knew" adds Mrs. Correll, "that little Cho San was always at her window which overlooked the sea, gazing far out over the ocean, waiting for the signal - the signal that never came."

On a trip to America the missionary told her brother about the little Japanese girl named Butterfly. Whereupon he sat down and wrote the story, and from his ~~taxy~~ story, of the beautiful Japanese girl was written the opera that is now world famous.

1 My! What a big boy! ^{But} No! the boy
2 turns out to be Aunt Henrietta. ^{And} That
3 apparently is what things are coming to
4 -- because an Associated Press dispatch
5 from Paris tells us about a new fashion
6 which the matrons abroad are said to
7 be taking up this summer. They are
8 wearing clothes of a cut ordinarily
9 designed for small boys. ~~That~~ That is, the
10 same kind of clothes little Johnnie is
11 wearing also decorates the ample form
12 of Aunt Henrietta.

13 The new suits which the matrons
14 are ~~wearing~~ wearing are said to
15 consist of a Buster Brown jacket, ^{and} knee-
16 length shorts under a ~~wrap-around~~ wrap-around
17 skirt. Yes, that seems to be something
18 like little Johnnie's outfit -- although
19 not exactly.
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1 I'll bet not many of you folks
2 have heard of a left handed tree -
3 no, not a left handed monkey wrench, - *but*
4 a left handed tree.

5 It appears that trees, like
6 human beings, are mostly right handed,
7 with a few lefties among them. Often
8 the grain of a tree *twists* and when it ~~is~~
9 ~~done~~ it ~~is~~ usually ^{does so} to the right. That
10 is, the grain slants upward to the right.

11 ~~But~~ The magazine Current Science
12 informs us that an expert of the United
13 States Geological Survey has looked into
14 the matter of left handed trees. In
15 one forest he made a count. 384 trees
16 were twisted to the right, 16 were
17 left handed, 13 ^{of these} were ~~xxx~~ slightly
18 twisted to the ~~right~~ ^{left}. Three were
19 violently left handed, as left handed as a
20 ^{port-side} pitcher buzzing them over to a
21 baseball team that's weak against left
22 handers.

23 This week's Literary Digest
24 goes into that matter of left handed
25 trees and prints a picture with the

1 caption - Can you find the leftie
2 among these trees?

3 Yes, ^{it is} ~~it's~~ interesting to
4 study that picture, ^{It's interesting to try} and pick out the
5 tree ~~x~~ with the grain growing upward
6 and to the left.

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COP

And now for a quiet peaceful picture - a picture of a policeman off duty walking along a Brooklyn Street with his wife and two children. The wife has the baby in her arms and the other youngster, a six year old, toddles alongside.

Yes, that makes an ordinary every day family party.

Ah, but then things began to happen. The policeman, Patrolman William F. O'Brien, out of the corner of his eye saw three men with drawn guns walk into a drugstore, a short distance off. Yes, a hold-up. The cop's wife stood there with the two children, while her husband drew his own pistol and dashed into the drug-store. As he entered the door one of the robbers shot at him but missed. Patrolman O'Brien returned the fire and shot the bandit down. The other two threw up their hands and surrendered.

After the arrests were duly made, the cop rejoined his wife and children, and continued his stroll home - just all in the day's work.

MUSTACHE

1 At Seattle, Washington, Mrs. D. D.
2 Ringer made a big mistake -- or was it
3 Mr. Ringer who made a mistake?

4 The United Press informs us that
5 upon returning home ~~from~~ from a bridge
6 party Mrs. Ringer walked into the bedroom
7 and saw a man asleep on the bed. She
8 ran out of the house and called the
9 police -- saying that a strange man
10 was sleeping in the house and that he
11 must be a burglar.

12 The police arrived and laid violent
13 hands on the man sleeping on the bed.
14 The man jumped up roaring with
15 indignation; "WHAT'S THE IDEA? CAN'T A
16 MAN TAKE A NAP IN HIS OWN HOME?" Then
17 Mrs. Ringer recognized him. He was Mr.
18 Ringer, who had just been to a barber-
19 shop and had his mustache shaved off. It
20 must have been quite an impressive
21 mustache, because, with it absent from
22 his face, Mr. Ringer wasn't recognized --
23 even by his own wife.
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SUICIDE

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1 At Chickapee, Massachusetts,
2 Michael Lacek decided to end it all. He
3 jumped from a bridge into the Connecticut
4 River.

5 The United Press tells us that
6 just then, along the bank below the bridge,
7 sixteen Springfield College students were
8 gathered while a teacher was giving them
9 instructions in the art of life saving.
10 The teacher was just explaining how to
11 pull a drowning man out when they all
12 saw Lacek hit the water. ^{well} They couldn't
13 miss a chance like that for a practical
14 demonstration. And so, using the most
15 perfect form in life saving, they fished
16 Lacek out.

17 He had picked ^{just} about the worse place
18 in the world for jumping into a river to
19 end it all.

1 No, this next item is no contri-
2 bution from the Tall Story Club. It's
3 all literally true. I suppose it
4 belongs to the archives of the Dull
5 Facts Club.

6 The United Press informs us that
7 Henry Hollenbeck, a veteran airplane
8 pilot of the National Parks Airways, was
9 flying along between Ogden, (Utah), and
10 Pog^{Idaho,}atella, when something hit him on
11 the head and nearly knocked him out.

12 When he came to he saw a large
13 mallard duck lying in the cockpit beside
14 him, quite dead. The bird had passed
15 through the whirring propellers, crashed
16 through the windshield, and cracked ~~the~~
17 pilot ^{Hollenbeck's right} on the head.
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TALL STORY

One of my colleagues of the Literary Digest, Mr. W. B. Hadley, has applied for membership to the Tall Story Club.

I don't want to seem to play any favorites, and so I am passing the application on to the other learned brethren who are devoted to the Great American whopper.

Mr. Hadley tells a story of a bad man of a regiment of United States Infantry that was stationed at Fort Yuma, Arizona, and Yuma as you know is one of the hottest places on earth. Well, this bird was the oneriest, toughest customer in that man's army, and one day he got into row and was killed.

Mr. Hadley states that there was no doubt in the minds of the regiment as to his destination in the next world, either.

You will therefore imagine the astonishment of a sentry at Sally Port several nights later when the ghost of the bad man appeared.

"Who goes there?" The sentry challenged.

"It's me", responded the bad man's shade.

The sentry expected the ghost to go on with some story about the awful hot weather he was encountering in the other world,

TALL STORY - 2

but instead the ghost piped up:

"Say, Buddy, "I've come back for my blankets. The place where Saint Peter has sent me isn't half as hot as Yuma!"

This narration is a little bit out of the vein of most tall stories, but I would suggest that we give Brother Hadley a full fledged membership just the same.

KENTUCKY DERBY

Well, today as you know was the big day of the year in Kentucky, the day of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs, near Louisville. A crowd of over 50,000 saw Twenty Grand win the big event - with Sweep All, second and Mate, third. But the race was described by radio right from the track so you've probably heard all about it.

There was a gay, carefree throng, with the women in summery costumes, carrying bright parasols. As for the men, they say it was one great panorama of Panama hats.

According to the International News Service, Equipoise, one of the favorites, was scratched, suffering from a stone bruise of some sort.

At any rate this year's derby has passed into the realm of racing history.

Oh yes, and here's

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~~And now we come to~~ a telegram
from Paul Gerrier, of Somerville,
Massachusetts. Mr. Gerrier reminds me
that on Saturday I customarily say --
"so long until Monday". He suggests
it ~~would~~ ^{might} be snappier if I said -- "so
long until day after tomorrow.

Well, maybe it would. Anyway--
so long until day after tomorrow.