

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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EDISON

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

There was one bit of news last evening that I didn't mention. It was the will of Thomas Alva Edison. I read through the various accounts that came in and one thing particularly interested me, and I looked for it. It was -- HOW MUCH DID THE GREAT INVENTOR LEAVE? HOW MUCH OF A FORTUNE HAD BEEN ACCUMULATED BY THE MAN WHOSE INVENTIONS HAD MADE BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS IN WEALTH? But that was a piece of information which I couldn't find. Not last night.

Edison left the bulk of his estate to two sons. He left nothing to his wife, because, as the will stated, she was already amply provided for.

The amount that the Miracle Man of Modern Invention left to sons Charles and Theodore comes to 12 million dollars -- but that doesn't tell the story, because Edison had already turned over the bulk of his fortune to his wife.

I have an International News Service dispatch here which relates that Mrs. Edison's wealth is now estimated at between 25 and forty million dollars. She received

1 most of it from her husband in the form  
2 of gifts during their 46 years of married  
3 life. Each week Edison received royalty  
4 checks on his many great inventions, and  
5 part of these sums he turned over to Mrs.  
6 Edison.

7 During a period of 14 years, his  
8 royalty checks are said to have averaged  
9 25,000 dollars a week -- or an annual  
10 income of one million, 300,000 dollars.  
11 In addition, Edison had holdings in many  
12 companies which paid him large dividends.  
13 ~~Edison~~<sup>He</sup> is said to have held a complete  
14 monopoly of the phonograph and the motion  
15 picture during the life of the patents  
16 on these two great inventions, ~~of his~~.  
17 The patents ran for 17 years.

18 All in all, it appears that the man called  
19 greatest of <sup>all</sup> inventors <sup>since primitive man first invented the stone hatchet,</sup> earned and amassed  
20 a large fortune -- although, of course,  
21 it was only a mere pittance ~~of the~~ <sup>compared with</sup>  
22 <sup>the</sup> fabulous wealth created by the Edison  
23 inventions. And the inventor himself wore baggy  
24 trousers, slept in his clothes in his laboratory and  
25 paid mighty little attention to money.

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## MINERS

Two men were taken out of a living grave today. They had been buried alive for six days.

Last Saturday there was an explosion in a coal mine at Mocanaqua, Pennsylvania. There was a roar far under the earth. Tons and tons of coal and rock crashed down. Six men were buried. Two of them were killed outright by the explosion; two more were victims of the dreaded gases; the two remaining miners were trapped. They were alive all right but they were almost without hope. Rescuers worked for six days and today, says the Associated Press, the two men were taken out alive.

The doctors say they will recover all right. A few days of rest and they will be themselves again, after those six days of black nightmare.

1           At Lawrence, Massachusetts, a man  
2 has disappeared, and they believe he has  
3 been kidnapped.

4           A textile strike is on at  
5 Lawrence, and one of the leaders of the  
6 strike has been Mitchell Schulman, a  
7 Philadelphia labor organizer. They call  
8 him Red Mike.

9           Well, Red Mike led a  
10 demonstration in front of one of the  
11 textile mills last night and when it was  
12 over three men in an automobile offered  
13 to drive him to labor headquarters. He  
14 accepted, and he hasn't been seen since.  
15 He had an appointment with a room-mate,  
16 but didn't show up.

17           They've been hunting ~~x~~ for <sup>Red Mike,</sup> ~~him~~  
18 but haven't been able to find him. The  
19 Associated Press reports that nobody  
20 can guess where he has gone, so the  
21 strikers and the police have an idea that  
22 Red Mike Schulman was kidnapped.

23

24

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1 This afternoon a revolution in  
2 Brazil came to a quick end. In the  
3 city of Pernambuco government troops  
4 opened fire on the mutineers, and that  
5 had prompt results.

6 The United Press tells us that the  
7 revolutionary movement broke out  
8 suddenly. Part of the 21st Battalion  
9 of Cavalry revolted. The rebel troops  
10 killed their commanding officer, and  
11 also a major, and took the rest of the  
12 officers prisoners.

13 Then government troops marched  
14 against the insurgents and surrounded  
15 them in their headquarters. The  
16 International News Service relates that  
17 soon after the shooting began the  
18 rebels ran up the white flag and  
19 surrendered.

20 Just another revolution to add to  
21 the history of Latin America.  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 We now come to the subject of  
2 General Ma - you spell it M-A - Ma. He  
3 is a Chinese military leader. I suppose  
4 General Ma has the army <sup>on the left flank of</sup> ~~next to~~ the one  
5 commanded by General Pa.

6 All of this fine family spirit  
7 comes in connection with the argument  
8 between Japan and Soviet Russia. <sup>As we heard yesterday</sup> ~~The~~  
9 ~~the~~ Mikado's government charged the Bolsheviks  
10 with sending arms <sup>S</sup> ~~and~~ and ammunition to  
11 the Chinese forces. ~~that are fighting~~  
12 ~~against the Japanese.~~ The Soviets came  
13 back, as the Associated Press reminds  
14 us, with the statement that it wasn't  
15 so. It was all a rumor started by  
16 irresponsible persons. <sup>H</sup> What do you mean,  
17 irresponsible persons?

18 <sup>↳</sup> That, in effect, is what  
19 the Japanese ambassador to Moscow <sup>retorts.</sup> ~~said.~~  
20 And then he told plain out where the  
21 Japanese got the information. They got  
22 it from General Ma.

23 No, it wasn't what General Ma  
24 said to General Pa. The maternal General  
25 simply made a general report on what the

1 Russians have been doing. He declares that  
2 he has an agreement with them according  
3 to which he receives military airplanes,  
4 aviators, and anti-aircraft guns. General  
5 Ma also adds that he has in his army  
6 Soviet officers who are drilling his  
7 troops.

8 That's the way the Japanese  
9 ambassador put it up to the Soviet  
10 Commissar of Foreign Affairs, on the  
11 authority of General Ma.

12 The authorities at Moscow <sup>today</sup> replied  
13 by saying that General Ma was talking  
14 through his maternal hat. They ~~merely~~  
15 state definitely and positively that they  
16 have been rendering no assistance either  
17 to ~~General~~ Ma or ~~General~~ Pa or any other  
18 Chinese general.

19 The Japanese are <sup>now</sup> warning the  
20 Russians against sending any more troops  
21 into the zone of the Chinese Eastern  
22 Railway. Part of that railway is under  
23 Soviet jurisdiction. But the Japs say  
24 they don't want any more of the Red Army  
25 marching in. The Japanese point out



that if this should happen they would feel compelled to expand their own military activities. They'd have to take a still larger slice of Manchuria under their control.

## NAVY

The row between the Washington administration and the advocates of a big navy is blowing into a regular gale. Secretary -of-state Stimson today came to the defense of President Hoover in his controversy with the head of the Navy League. The Secretary is quoted by the New York Evening Post as being emphatic in denying two particular things that the head of the Navy League has stated.

One of the charges against the President is that he made a secret agreement with Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald of Great Britain at the time the Prime Minister visited the President at Rapidan Camp. Secretary Stimson says that it isn't so. It's a false charge.

The second accusation is that the State Department refused to give the Senate Foreign Relations Committee important information about the London Naval Treaty. Secretary Stimson says that isn't so either. False again.

Meanwhile, President Hoover has declared that he will organize a

1 committee to investigate the charges of  
2 the Navy League, and prove that they  
3 are all wrong. The statement from the  
4 White House declares that the objects  
5 of the inquiry are to call attention  
6 to the tissue of falsehoods spread by  
7 Mr. Gardner of the Navy League, and  
8 secondly, to show the <sup>true, under cover</sup> ~~purpose~~ purpose  
9 of the falsehoods and the people who are  
10 interested in them.

11 They say that the matter will, <sup>indeed</sup> be  
12 taken into Congress.

13 While all this is going on, the Navy  
14 League, <sup>which is an unofficial civilian body,</sup> is sticking to its contention that  
15 by cutting down naval expenditures the  
16 President is dangerously weakening the  
17 power of the United States on the seas.  
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1 With all ~~this~~ <sup>they</sup> going the rounds these days  
2 standard, gold reserves, and so on, it  
3 seems quite appropriate to have a few  
4 interesting facts <sup>this yellow pay dirt called</sup> about gold -- facts  
5 that do not concern the financial  
6 situation.

7 We are reminded that gold, while  
8 so important in the affairs of the world,  
9 is really one of the most useless of  
10 metals. It is so useless that even the  
11 men of the Stone Age couldn't find  
12 anything to do with it, except make  
13 ornaments.

14 This week's Literary Digest quotes  
15 an article by Doctor Frank Thone, writing  
16 for Science Service, in which we are told  
17 that gold was one of the first metals <sup>known to</sup>  
18 -- perhaps the very first.

19 In the relics of the Stone Age that  
20 have come down to us are some interesting  
21 bits of gold ornament. In the dim  
22 ancient past of Egypt and Babylonia, the  
23 yellow metal was <sup>elaborately</sup> used for decoration.

24 Yes, that Literary Digest article  
25 tells us that men worked with gold long

1 before they knew anything about iron.

2 But those early craftsmen of  
3 pre-historic humanity never did succeed  
4 in finding any practical use to which  
5 gold could be put. It wasn't hard enough  
6 to be of any <sup>real</sup> service, ~~either~~ in making  
7 tools or weapons.

8 It wasn't until modern times that  
9 some small use could be found for the  
10 precious metal <sup>— gold</sup>. Its valuable qualities  
11 are that it doesn't tarnish, and acids  
12 don't affect it. But even so, the only  
13 service to which it is put is in certain  
14 chemical processes. And even in these  
15 gold doesn't do the job as well as  
16 platinum.

17 It seems as if <sup>after</sup> all the thousands of  
18 years of civilization, the verdict on  
19 gold remains the same -- beautiful, <sup>lovely</sup> but  
20 useless. And yet this beautiful but  
21 useless stuff forms a center around which  
22 the financial and economic affairs of our  
23 world revolve.

24 What man want do — for gold.  
25

1           The night before last we had  
2 word that prosperity was returning to  
3 the Pacific coast, and tonight the good  
4 word comes from the South.

5           Textile factories are showing  
6 an encouraging increase of activity.  
7 In New Orleans, says the Associated  
8 Press, 178 new business concerns have  
9 started operations since the first of  
10 the year, and 193 old ones have  
11 expanded their activities. Customs  
12 collections ~~this year~~ are running  
13 thirty per cent over last year.

14           In other parts of Louisiana  
15 we find a huge sulphur plant being built  
16 in one section. A two hundred thousand  
17 dollar cotton warehouse in another,  
18 and also a large clothing company that  
19 has just ~~xxxxxxx~~ tripled its operations.

20           Ship building shows a boom  
21 at Newport News, Virginia. A number  
22 of ships have been built including two  
23 liners at a cost of eight million  
24 dollars each.

25           In Tennessee the business in

1 electric power is away ahead of last  
2 year. And in Memphis the sale of  
3 natural gas has jumped to twenty-five  
4 million cubic feet a day.

5 Three years ago the figure was  
6 five million cubic feet.

7 In east Tennessee a new three  
8 million dollar aluminum plant has started  
9 up again.

10 In Florida the oranges and  
11 grapefruit industry is taking on  
12 additional help, while in Savanna,  
13 Georgia, a large paper manufacturing  
14 company has just completed plans to  
15 enlarge its plant at a cost of one  
16 hundred thousand dollars.

17 These dry industrial facts have  
18 the sound of sweet music from ~~the land,~~  
19 down where the cotton blossoms grow.

20 The ~~xxxx~~ National Association  
21 of Manufacturers, <sup>reports the U. P.,</sup> had its annual meeting  
22 today in New York, and proceeded to give  
23 out figures which show a substantial  
24 increase in various kinds of business,  
25 all along the line. — all over the country.

## JAPAN

Here's another from the Far East. At Shanghai today there was a meeting of the Institute of Pacific Relations. Pacific in this case applies to the ocean, but it also is intended to signify peaceful.

Things weren't so peaceful in today's session. In fact, there was a loud and uproarious row, and the reason was that one grave oriental gentleman called another grave ~~oriental~~ oriental gentleman an exceedingly oriental name. He called him a dog-faced dwarf, and possibly also a son of a dog-faced dwarf.

The Institute of Pacific Relations, says the International News Service, was debating the question of whether or not the Russians are interfering in the quarrel between the Chinese and the Japanese. The debate grew warm and turned into an exchange of dog-faced compliments between the Chinese and the Japanese delegates. One of the leading Chinese delegates was L. T. Chen who is the executive secretary for the Institute of Pacific Relations in China.

Mr. Chen is a Yale man. He also studied at Harvard.

In the course of his American scholastic ~~xx~~ career he distinguished



himself as an orator.

Well, he distinguished himself today as an orator, because it was he who in the solemn debate, turned to one of the Japanese delegates and called him a dog-faced dwarf !

Now, I wonder where he learned that - at Yale or at Harvard?

Anyway, there was an instant uproar. There was roaring and shouting and the chairman had to adjourn the session to keep the delegates from coming to blows, just as I am now compelled to adjourn to keep from coming to blows with announcer, Alvin Bach, and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.