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Lowell Thomas Broadcast for the Literary Digest, Tuesday, May 26th, 1931

Page

Good Evening, Everybody!

This first dispatch is summarized in one brief sentence. President Hoover didn't hold his usual Tuesday conference with the newspaper men today. Instead, he sent out a statement consisting of that one sentence. It read:

"The President and his advisers have been going over the economic situation, and have found many factors that are favorable."

The United Press points out that this is the first direct word that 19 Mr. Hoover has given the press, 20 concerning business conditions, for several months. 22

4-9-31-5M

BEES

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A pitched battle was fought near Hoquiam, Washington, between railroad workers and a huge swarm of ferocious beestoday.

Page 2

Men were at work in the railroad yards when the swarm of bees swooped down. on them. For a while it was no contest. The men fled, and the bees remained in **possession** of the yards.

Then**m**, according to the United Press, a train crew held a long council of war and then returned to the charge with sections of hose connected up with live steam. Using the jets of steam as a weapon, they charged against the bees. The insects found the steam was a little too hot for them, and they were driven out.

And so tonight the railroad company is once more in possession of its own yards.

AIRPLANES

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Better late than never, I guess. The army air force staged its real demonstration over New York today. Last Saturday's big show was skimped a bit on account of bad weather. And the huge armada of the air didn't put on any real fighting maneuvers.

Page 3

Today, however, according to the United Press, sky squadrons sailed down from the north and cut across New York State. Thousands of people in the towns and on the farms saw five hundred edd airplanes pass overhead. At New York City According to the International

7 According to the International News Service, antrodomondon and a grand fighting maneuver was staged off the southern end of Manhattan Island. The planes flew in close formation. The Then the smaller combat planes climbed high above the big bombers.

The swarms of hornets above ranged themselves in fighting order as if protecting the flock of larger eagles below against the attack of some imaginary enemy. It was a highly impressive maneuver, and millions were watching.

2-1-31-5M

AUTOMOBILE

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Page 4

Well, here's one fellow with whom I certainly can sympathize. And there's many a one of you folks who can sympathize with him too.

Lynn Hilliker, of Owens-Mouth, California, has a car--even as you and 1. And sometimes Lynn's car won't start--even as your car and mine.

Well, according to the Associated Press. Lynn was trying to get the old 10 bus to go somewhere today, and it 11 wouldn't move. He kept working at the starter, until the battery was worn out, but it manadaminant didn't do any good. Then he tried cranking. He wore his arm out cranking, and that didn't do any good.

You couldn't blame Lynn for being mad. First he threw the crank through the windshield. Then he pounded a few holes in the hood. And finally he got some gasoline-soaked rags and set the darn thing an afire, and burned it up. The police are looking into the

matter. But if I were the Judge, and

AUTOMOBILE - 2

Lynn Hilliker were brought before me -- 1'd just say, "Not

of a new working the their west should be a subscription of the

the second second the second second second second second second second second

Gulty!"

AMERICA

Of course, it's an old story that the man who wrote Hamlet was not Shakespeare, but somebody else, and the man who discovered America was not Columbus, but somebody else.

But now comes the theory that America was not named after Amerigo Vespucci, but after somebody else.

History tells us that the new world was named after the comparatively obscured Italian who had something to do with explorations in South America. But tonight the New York Evening Post prints a dispatch from London which states that a new theory has been formed that America was named after an Englishman named Ameryk, Richard Ameryk, Sheriff of Bristol.

It has been discovered that John Cabot was helped by this same Sheriff Ameryk. John Cabot was, of course, the Genoese navigator who made his great explorations under the patronage of the King of England. Sheriff Ameryk was instrumental in getting for Cabot a pension from the British Crown as a reward for his discoveries. At least so the story goes, and the inference is that John Cabot named America after his friend, Sheriff Ameryk.

Well, maybe so. At any rate, it's something that sounds

brand new.

FINLAND

At Helsingfors, Finland, the authorities today spent a bit of time reading through a sharply worded document.

According to the Associated Press, Soviet Russia has sent a diplomatic note to the government at Finland, accusing the Finns of interfering in Soviet affairs. This Russian note is an answer to a previous Finnish note which accused the Soviets of mistreating Finns who lived in Russia. The fact of the matter is that a number of Finns live in Russia, and they are supposed to be protected by a treaty which the Soviet authorities made with the Republic of Finland.

However, in their recent drive to stamp out the class not of land owning peasants the Bolsheviks have, been any too gentle with some of the peasants who are Finns. Hence the dispute with the Government of Finland accusing the Bolsheviks of violating the treaty, and the Bolsheviks accusing the Government of Finland of meddling in Russian affairs and trying to protect the hated Hulaks, that is, the peasants in Russia who don't want to give up their land,

SPAIN

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A sharp command exhoes from Spain this evening, a command of -"demobilize, muster out, go home."

Page

The Republican government of Spain today or dered an immediate big reduction of its military forces. The Spanish army is being slashed right and left. Seventy regiments are being abolished; Thirty-seven infantry regiments, seventeen cavalry and sixteen outfits of other branches of the service.

According to the International News Service the Spanish Government is determined to cut the army down to half,--from sixteen divisions to eight divisions.

Three hundred officers have resigned. The government offered them inducements and told them they could have a pension of full pay for life if they would step out of the army.

The military reductions are 23 partly for economy and will result 24 in the saving of twenty million

SPAIN - 2

dollars a year. The government also claims that the smaller army will be made more efficient.

Innocent bystanders point out also that the Spanish army is a possible source of trouble for the Republican regime, and that it may be good policy for the government to reduce the strength of the military forces.

In any case there are a lot of Spanish soldiers who'll soon be singing: It's Home Boys, Home.

The Associated Press has received a cable from Madrid stating that forces of soldiers and civil guards have been sent to the Province of Andalusia today where labor distrubances are under way.

Military detachments are also on their way to San Sebastian, where disorders among the working men are threatening. CHINA

Page 12

A big cloud of gloom seems to 1 be hanging over China - and China has 2 has plenty to be gloomy about of late. 3 The Associated Press informs 4 us that competent political observers 5 in the flowery kingdom are predicting 6 another big civil war. There have been 7 plenty signs of trouble of late, but the 8 latestand most ominous indication is 9 seen in a statement issued by President 10 Chiang Kai Shek, head of the Nationalist 11 12 government. He states that the mix 13 discontented elements of southern China are Communists. He declares that they 14 demanded that he resign and when he 15 refused they decided to overthrow his 16 government. The Nationalist President 17 declares that he has been compelled to 18 choose between communism and war, which 19 means that he will choose war. 20 Some very prominent Chinese 21 leaders are directing the new 22 revolutionary movement at Canton. One 23

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of them is a son of the late Dr.

²⁵ Sun Yat-Sen, the founder of the Chinese

CHINA - 2

Page 13

Republic. The National president himself
is married to a daughter of Ur. Sun Xxx
Yat-Sen, which makes him a brother-inplaw
of the man who is stirring up the trouble
in Canton.

Military headquarters of the
Nationalist government announced that
sixty thousand troops are moving against
the rebels of Canton, while other
dispatches state that between fifty and
one hundred thousand more soldiers are
being held in reserve, ready to act when
needed.

Yes, it's a gloomy cloud that is hanging over China these days.

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Page_14

The Government of Peru has announced that the trouble in the Peruvian oilfields has been put down. This is the **trouble** that was reported yesterday.

According to the Associated Press, the workers in the oilfield have been discontented. The attacked the barracks of the police. Government forces were hurried to the scene. Some concessions were made to the scene. Some concessions were made to the discontented workmen and quiet was restored. So apparently it didn't develope into a real revolution. A loud holler comes from down in Mexico. The boys who are doing the hollering are a lot of gold miners.

According to the Associated Press, gold has been discovered in the State of Sinaloa, and prospectors immediately flocked to the scene.

The Government sent soldiers to guard the gold fields and protect the prospectors.

But the prospectors are wailing that something entirely different happened. They have made a formal complaint to the Government and their sad complaint is as follows:

That the soldiers on guard at the gold fields have driven the prospectors out and are mining the gold for themselves. The soldiers are busy digging the precious yellow metal and are shipping it to the United States to be sold. How's that for high comedy?

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Page 16

This week's issue of the Literary Digest raises an interesting question--HOW MUCH SPEED CAN WE STAND? How fast can a human being go and stand the strain?

The Digest article points out the terrific speeds at which human beings are travelling now-a-days. Take the mad rush through the sky of fast airplanes; or take those rocket-cars, that experimenters are developing, which work on the principal of a skyrocket and burn up space at a terrific rate.

The Digest quotes an article the form the Philadelphia Public Ledger which tells about what are called the "strains of flying". Aviators say that after flying at high speeds they are affected by/migm_strain and headaches. Then the tremendous rush of cold winds affects the ears. Sudden changes of speed and direction, and sudden changes, of atmospherecom pressure also

It has been found that flying at

DIGEST - 2.

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Page 17

altitudes above 5,000 feet is more exhausting than hitting it up nearer the ground, where the atmosphere is at a more normal density.

Well, how are these strains going to affect mankind in the long run? In other words, how much speed can we stand? The Digest puts the question in a way to make one stop and think.

As it happens, it didn't occur to the Digest editors to ask the Tall Story Club for an answer to that very important question. The boys who study the literature of the Great American Whopper can bring forward a good deal of evidence to bear mm upon the subject of speed.

Joseph H. Nettleton, of New Milford, 17 Connecticut, relates that a fisherman, 18 who was out in a boat on the Hoosatonic 19 River in Connecticut, get a tremendous 20 big mouthed bass. He didn't catch it 21 on a line. That gigantic bass swallowed 22 the big rock that the fisherman was 23 using for an anchor. And then the bass 24 started out to tow the boat. 25

EASHIONS

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Well, step up folks, and meet Miss 1931. Yes, that other girl there in the background is Miss 1930 - and doesn't she look old fash ioned.

Page 19

A nationwide fashion census has been held. Stores in 43 leading American cities have combined to create a picture of Miss 1931. Well, how does Miss 1931 compare with Miss 1930? This is answered in an article printed today in the New York Evening Journal.

Miss 1930 wore a coat with a cape coming well down the back and over the shoulders, a cape large enough to flutter in the wind. At least a majority of the fash ionably dressed women wore that kind of coat last year.

Miss 1931 wears a coat that has a neater look but is just as feminine. It has soft revers in the front. A rever to my untutored mind is a lapel that looks something like a flap.

Miss 1930 wore a turban that looked like a bonnet, but Miss 1931 wears a turban that is softly draped, for

EASHIONS - 3

which is the result of intricate design.

Well, I kept this fashion dispatch until last, because I figured it would bewilder me a bit. Bewilder is right. I am just plain rattled--

Page

So, So Long Until Tomorrow.

4-9-31-5M