

Lowell Thomas - November 4, 1938

Ex-King Alfonso is to be tried. That sounds startling.

It's this war:- The republican government of Spain is going to
King
put/Alfonso on trial - by proxy, not in the flesh. His ex-Haps-
burg majesty will not be present so the trial will be more or
less an academic affair. The charge will be: - the violation
of his oath as sovereign when he created a dictatorship and
made General Primo de Rivera the dictator, back in 1923, quite
a while ago.

But though his majesty won't be present two of his officers
who have just returned to Spain from the Philippines have been
arrested for taking part in that 1923 dictatorship business.
They will be sent to Madrid and put on trial along with the absent
king. That sounds like a new kind of mock trial so far as
Alfonso is concerned.

Here's good news for the farmers: Germany is proposing to buy twenty million bushels of corn from America. This information came today through the representative of Uncle Sam's department of Commerce in Hamburg.

BERLIN

There were barricades in the streets of Berlin today.

In several parts of the city the striking transit workers tore up pavements and erected barriers. Police-wired-cars were sent out to put down five separate outbreaks. Street car tracks were torn up. A number of street cars and busses were operated under heavy police guard, but in spite of the escort the mob attacked them.

The United States is not the only country facing general elections. They're going to hold them in Germany on Sunday. A dispatch from Washington to the Cleveland Press reports that next Sunday's balloting may see the beginning of the end of Adolf Hitler and perhaps even of his entire party. Political observers declare that if the Hitlerite party does not poll more votes than it received in July, it will be the equivalent of a defeat. According to this report Hitler is about to take the toboggan.

LONDON

(It looks as though the British authorities have definitely broken up the hunger marchers. A dispatch to the Toronto Star, today, reports that they are completely disorganized after the failure of their attempt to appeal to Parliament for an increase in the dole.) Today they were ~~xx~~ preparing by the thousands to go home by rail on cheap excursion rates instead of tramping back over muddy roads. The railway companies have agreed to take them home at a rate amounting to about one cent a mile.

(The long expected arrest of Samuel Insull took place today. The Athens police at the request of Uncle Sam took the former utilities baron of Chicago into custody) on a warrant issued by the president of the Board of Appeals of Greece. An ironic fact, as a dispatch to the Detroit News points out, is that his arrest takes place exactly three years from the day when he was at the height of his wealth, prestige, and power, for this is the third anniversary of the date on which Samuel Insull opened the magnificent twenty million dollar Chicago Civic Opera House. Three years ago Samuel Insull stood in his box at the huge opera house for whose building he had been chiefly responsible. With smiles he was acknowledging the cheers of the x richest and most powerful people in Chicago. And now -- today he is a bent, weeping, x ailing old man.

The director of police in Athens called on Mr. Insull at his hotel today to read him the warrant. He allowed the prisoner to have breakfast and dress before taking him formally into custody. After being taken to police headquarters and

registered, Mr. Insull was returned to his hotel. The government announced that he will be detained there a few hours until the authorities decide whether to have him taken to a hospital.

Meanwhile in Canada the officers of Cook county, Illinois, were making efforts to extradite Insull's brother, Martin. The proceedings were adjourned for two weeks. Martin Insull is still at liberty on fifty thousand dollars bail.

A sensational attempt at a jail delivery was made in Canada today. The convicts in the prison of St. Vincent de Paul, one of the largest and most modern in the province of Quebec, mutined this morning. They set fire to one part of the prison. When the guards attempted to put down the flames, the mutinous convicts rushed them. The fire was put out and the outbreak suppressed, but not until the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the fire department of Montreal had been called in to help the guards in the penitentiary.

The riot created quite a sensation and thousands of spectators looked on from the outside. Several guards were injured and it is reported that one convict was killed.

The motor vehicle commissioners of New Jersey and Pennsylvania were having a conference today trying to iron out the differences between the two states concerning the registration of trucks. It is not unlikely that this unprecedented truck war in which four sovereign states of the union are involved will reach the federal courts. An application for injunction was made today before the federal court in Camden, New Jersey. The hearing of this matter has been postponed until tomorrow.

A dispatch from New York to the Cincinnati Post declares that rumors have been current in New York that Owen D. Young, Chairman of the Board of General Electric may become a cabinet officer if Governor Roosevelt of New York happens to be elected president. These rumors were revived following Mr. Young's dramatic entrance into the campaign at the last moment when he made his speech at the Metropolitan Opera House last night. And of course there have been similar rumors regarding Newton D. Baker, John W. Davis, Al Smith, Jim Farley, Jim Reed, and a host of other Democratic leaders.

(The Chicago Daily News tonight features a story about President Hoover's campaign trip. It states that he made a series of fighting speeches today - speeches defending the Republican tariff and declaring the tide of depression has turned. He stated that men are returning to work at the rate of 500,000 a month.) He addressed 20,000 people at Gary, Indiana, another 5,000 at a junction on the south side of Chicago, 25,000 or more at Joliet, and then went on to a great reception at Ottawa, Illinois. Then he spoke to a great throng in Springfield, Illinois, and afterward left for St. Louis. The papers all speak of his being in fighting form.

The Earl and Countess of Reading were visitors of the Empire State Building in New York today. They were shown the sights of the city by Al Smith.

I'm sorry I wasn't there. Ten years ago when Lord Reading was Viceroy of India he was my host. On one occasion - memorable to me, we stood together on a barren mountain overlooking the western end of the Khyber Pass, the most strongly fortified mountain gorge on earth. We looked off across the desert, across the wilderness of Afghanistan, and in the distance he pointed out to me the dim peaks of the mighty Hindu Kush Mountains. I saw that view, one of the most impressive on earth, through his binoculars. And I would have liked today to have returned the compliment by showing him another of the most inspiring views in all the world - that view from my office in the tower of the tallest building on earth.

Lord Reading has had one of the most picturesque careers of all time. The first time he visited India it was as a cabin boy, shining brass on a ship. When he returned, many years later

he went there as His Britannic Majesty's viceroy, as the ruler of 320,000,000 people, as the ruler of one fifth of all the inhabitants of this planet - as the successor to the most colorful rulers in all history - the Magnificent Moguls of India. What a career! He is an elderly man now. He has seen life - from the bottom to the top. And, he has seen much of this globe. He surely can appreciate that tremendous panorama you get from the mooring mast above Manhattan Island.

FOOTBALL

One of the sensational gridiron games tomorrow ought to be that meeting between Brown and Holy Cross. It will be the fifth time this season that Brown meets another undefeated team. The boys from Brown have so far scored over Yale, Harvard, Tufts, and Springfield. After Holy Cross they will have to meet Columbia and Colgate, two teams of championship calibre. Another great game on Saturday afternoon ought to be that West-East battle between St. Mary's of California, and Fordham of New York. The St. Mary's boys arrived from the Coast yesterday, - thirty-three of them in top shape.

Then a dispatch from Philadelphia declares that while horse races are frequently won by a nose, the match between Penn and Pitt at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, tomorrow may be won by a toe. In such a case the story goes on, it will be the talented tow of a half back which decides the issue. The University of Pennsylvania boys are geared up to high speed for their encounter with the conquerors of Notre Dame.

BLIND

A twenty-two year old University student in Seattle, Washington, saw a football game the other day in unusual circumstances. He had just undergone the sixth operation on his eyes. He had been blind for fourteen years. The sixth operation finally restored his sight. He said his greatest thrill was watching his first football game. The young man said: "I got so excited at the color and the spectacle of it all, especially the rooting section that I guess people around me must have thought I was crazy."

The young man is naturally full of plans and ambitions. Motion pictures to him seem like magic. He wants to learn to drive a motorcar, he wants to go up in an airplane. He saw his first plane the other day. In fact, he wants to do all sorts of things now from which he has been barred for the last fourteen years.

BARTER

Here's a newspaper circulation manager with an unusual idea. The Daily Post Athenian of Athens, Tennessee, invites the farmers of Tennessee to swap their farm produce for subscriptions. The only things that the Post Athenian will not accept as barter are skunk hides and axe handles. Says this Tennessee paper: "We don't need any skunk hides; we won't use any axe handles, but we can and will take hickory nuts, black walnuts, chunk wood, wheat, corn sorghum, and good Irish or sweet potatoes."

LONG DISTANCE

I have an interesting letter here from a radio amateur in far off South Africa. Mr. E. W. Osborn of the Cape Province, South Africa, writes his appreciation of the programs radiated from station W3XAL which is at Boundbrook, New Jersey, at 6100 kilocycles. It may interest experts and amateurs that Mr. Osborn uses head phones on a regenerative detector, with two audio stages, whatever that is. At any rate he says he hears us nearly every evening way, way down there at the Cape of Good Hope, at the foot of Table Mountain, south of Zulu Land. And that certainly seems like a miracle to me.

BEAR

Now for a bear story from Quebec. Mr. Gaston Marquis and two other hunters from Quebec were out in the woods after moose near the Maine border. They left their camp for a walk, and the only fire-arm they carried was a revolver which hung from Marquis' hip. To their astonishment and no particular joy, a large able-bodied five hundred pound bear came galumphing around the bend in a trail.

Marquis, who was carrying the revolver, fired three shots at the animal. The first two slowed him up a bit, but he still kept coming. Marquis' two companions fainted. Then Marquis fired his last bullet and dropped the bear about two feet away from him.

COLLEGE

The President of a college made a statement the other day which, coming from a college president, you might call almost sensational. A dispatch to the Indianapolis Times relates that Dr. Hutchins made the announcement that sending college graduates into the world is like throwing naked babies into the Atlantic Ocean. Most of them, he asserted, are in no way fitted for experience with life. The time will eventually come when the majority of students will have no job of any kind, white collar, blue collar, or blue jeans. There's more hope, he said, in the young rebels of the classroom. They're rebelling, adds Dr. Hutchins, rebelling against bunk.

Well, be that as it may, here's something that worries me a lot more: -

COMET

Astronomers in Yurka's observatory in Williamsbay, Wisconsin, have got their eyes glued to the world's largest telescope looking for a lost comet, the famous comet called Temple. The comet was still lost today, and a dispatch to the Detroit News indicates that it may remain permanently lost. Mr. Temple's comet last appeared in 1866. Astronomers thought it had a thirty-three year orbit and would be seen again in 1899. But 1899 came and passed but no comet. The astronomers then decided it had a sixty-six year orbit and would make its appearance this month. To date, however, there have been no signs of Mr. Temple's comet. Somebody's simply got to find it. The astronomers are worried about it and so am I. So I think I'll join the celestial hunt now and say so long until Monday.