

Good evening, everybody.

Here's a dramatic and momentous
ry to start off with tonight. The
st formation flight across the ocean
been made!

The International News Service tells
that at fourteen minutes past two
8 this afternoon, six giant airplanes
9 appeared in the East and flew over the
10 little town of Natal on the eastern coast
11 of Brazil. They swung through the sky
12 in two formations of three planes each.
13 A black plane ~~was~~ in the van--the black
14 symbolizing the ^{Black Shirts} ~~Fascism~~ of Mussolini.
15 In it was General Italo Balbo, Italian
16 Minister of Aeronautics, ~~who was in~~
17 command^{er} of that first formation flight
18 across the sea.

The black plane swooped and landed
20 ~~on the water of~~ ⁱⁿ the harbor. The five
21 other planes followed. And now six planes
22 were riding on the ^{water} ~~sea~~. Then another came
23 climbing down out of the sky. Three more
24 of the great bombing planes were seen in
25 the distance, and soon they^{too} had landed.

INTRO.

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast
for The Literary Digest.
Tuesday, January 6th, 1931.

Page _____

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24 of the great bombing planes were seen in
25 the distance, and soon they ^{too} had landed.

RETAKE

1 And now 10 of the 12 airplanes that had
2 started out had reached their goal.

3 All of this took place to the sound
4 of wild cheering and the acclamations of
5 the crowd on shore.

6 Two planes were ^{still} to be accounted for.
7 According to the United Press, one of them
8 developed engine trouble and was forced ^{down}
9 ~~to land~~ near ~~the~~ St. Paul rocks, ~~which~~
10 ~~are islands~~ off the coast of Brazil. It
11 almost reached its destination. The men
12 in the plane were picked up by one of
13 the Italian warships that were scouting
14 the sea on the look-out for any of the
15 trans-Atlantic voyagers that might be
16 in trouble.

17 ^{Regarding} ~~About~~ the twelfth plane, ~~there seems~~
18 ~~to be some confusion.~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ United Press
19 ~~dispatch~~ states that it was forced down
20 at sea and the crew rescued. ~~The~~
21 ~~International News Service has a report~~
22 ~~that it was not in shape to make the hop~~
23 ~~across the sea and remained behind on~~
24 ~~the African coast.~~

25 Well, this flight is ^{indeed} ~~one~~ of those

Continuation of previous piece

1 epoch-making voyages, that arouse
2 man's enthusiasm. In fact it ^{is} may mark
3 the beginning of the era which we all
4 see near at hand - the era when great
5 squadrons of planes will fly across the
6 Seven Seas.

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These first days of the new year are what we might call inauguration days. All over the country governors are being sworn ~~into office~~.

This year 33 newly elected governors go into office. And the Associated Press reminds us that the cheer leader on most of these solemn occasions will be the well known Democratic Donkey, because the Democrats came out on top in most of the states, as you know.

Well, all those governors certainly comprise an interesting collection of men, - and they represent an interesting assortment of policies.

For instance, there's young Philip LaFollette, second son of the famous Bob LaFollette. He, of course, is the new governor of Wisconsin.

Then there's Charles W. Bryan, who goes into office out in Nebraska. Charlie is the brother of the late William Jennings Bryan.

Michigan's new governor is

1 Wilbur Brucker, a Republican, and he's
2 the youngest governor Michigan has had
3 in a century. He went in on a platform
4 of economy.

5 Out in California the new chief
6 executive is James Rolph, famous for his
7 high silk hats and spats and for 19
8 years the Beau Brummel ~~picturesque~~ mayor
9 of San Francisco.

10 Connecticut's new governor was
11 formerly a college professor, Dean Cross
12 of Yale.

13 And then there's "Alfalpa" Bill
14 Murray down in Oklahoma, an old-time
15 western character. "Alfalpa Bill's"
16 inauguration was a stem winder. It was
17 accompanied by feasting and dancing --
18 with "Alfalpa Bill" himself leading
19 the high jinks, by gum.

20 These are only a few of the 33
21 new governors, and there's something
22 mighty interesting to tell about each
23 of them. Perhaps later on I'll get a
24 chance to ~~say~~ ^{say a word} about the others.

1 I suppose I ought to start this
2 next one with a song:--"Yes, we have no
3 heavyweight champion"--at least in New
4 York State we haven't. The boxing moguls
5 have just told us so.

6 The New York Boxing Commission today
7 declared that Max Schmelling was no longer
8 heavyweight champion of the world. The
9 Commission decided to shove "Maxie"
10 right off the throne. Why? Well, because
11 they say "Maxie" has kept stalling and
12 refusing to fight Jack Sharkey. The
13 Associated Press, the International News
14 Service, and the United Press all tell
15 us that Schmelling has been suspended
16 and won't be allowed to fight in New York.
17 What's more, they even suspended his
18 manager.

19 That ousting of "Maxie" holds good
20 for New York State, all right enough. But
21 just how ^{will} the rest of the world will take
22 it? Aye, there's the rub.

23 Meanwhile, Schmelling's manager
24 states that he intends to accept the
25 match which Chicago promoters offer for

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the meeting of Schmelling and young
Stribling, the fight to take place in
the Windy City.

Here's a corker, one of those things that has a real snapper on ^{the end of it.} ~~it~~

E. F. Hutton of New York, is a banker and philanthropist. In a little

New York church he has established a place to distribute food to the needy.

~~He~~ ^{He} has financed it with \$50,000.

Today, according to the New York Telegram, Mr. Hutton went over to that little charitable institution of his. He went in a taxi and not wanting to be conspicuous he got out of the taxi a short distance down the street. Then he walked quietly into the church where the food was being passed out. The taxi driver watched him and then came running after him into the church. That taxi driver thought he was doing something noble. He hollered to the man in charge of the food distribution:

"HEY, DON'T GIVE THIS GUY ANYTHING."

~~Then~~ he pointed an accusing finger at Mr. Hutton ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{shouted:}

"WHY, HE CAME HERE IN A TAXI. HE'S GOT MONEY."

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1 I like this next item^{too.} It shows
2 how far we are from the hatreds that
3 flamed all over the world during the war.

4 The University of Delaware has a
5 splendid plan for foreign study. It has
6 been sending students to France and
7 recently, according to the New York Herald
8 Tribune, the University has been working
9 on a plan to enable its students to get
10 the benefit of scholastic training in
11 Germany.

12 Well, that plan was being discussed
13 ^{in New York} and among those who were listening was a
14 French professor of the Sorbonne. He
15 said that the extension of the University
16 of Delaware's plan to include Germany was
17 the best thing he had heard in a long
18 time.

19 Yes, things have indeed changed
20 since the days of the World War. And the
21 University of Delaware is to be
22 congratulated on the lead it is taking.
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VII

1 Just as I was about to start
2 up here to the broadcasting station a
3 ~~telegram~~^{wire} came in. It was from C. R.
4 MacLoon of the Pittsburgh Sun Telegram,
5 and it gives what he considers the prize
6 story of the day out Pittsburgh way.

7 It seems that burglars tried to
8 rob the post office and general store at
9 Bakerstown, Ohio, but they didn't know
10 that Postmaster Carl Heckert had the
11 place all beautifully wired up just to
12 welcome midnight prowlers. When the
13 robbers forced open the door they rang
14 a bell across the street beside the
15 Postmaster's bed.

16 When they tried to open a show
17 case ~~xxx~~ that rang another series of
18 bells. They tried the cash register and
19 more bells clanged.

20 The Postmaster and his wife
21 were listening to this midnight symphony
22 of bells. As he got his gun his wife
23 pressed a button which turned on a flood
24 of lights in the post office, and the
25 burglars almost jumped out of their clothes.

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In fact they were so startled that they dove right thru a window followed by a shower of bullets.

That's the way it's done in Bakerstown, Ohio.

1 Captain F. T. Evans, U. S. Navy,
2 retired, mentions what I had to say about
3 the banana - the bananas don't grow on
4 trees. They just grow on plants.

5 Captain Evans says that as he
6 understands it, the banana plant is of
7 the orchid family. I suppose that makes
8 it: "Yes, we have no orchids."

9 He also mentions those man-
10 eating ~~xxx~~ fresh water sharks over in
11 Malaya, and adds that it is an old story
12 that there are man-eating sharks in Lake
13 Nicaragua and that those sharks stage
14 tremendous battles with the alligators.

15 Captain Evans ends his letter
16 with a reflective note. Here's what he
17 says:

18 "Well, we all live and learn,
19 and as the old ~~xxxxxx~~ Darkie replied:
20 'Yes, then we dies and forgets it.'"
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VI

This afternoon I had a visitor at the Literary Digest office. And that visitor certainly is a man of whims and moods, a man of flaring, artistic temperament. He was good old Hal Phyfe. Well, I've known Hal for a long time, and I do admire ~~those~~ ^{the} aesthetic photographs he makes.

Hal Phyfe is a descendant of the great Duncan Phyfe, and Hal's specialty is photographing unusual people. I thought I'd give him something to do, so I said:

"COME ON HAL, LEND ME A HAND. LEND ME YOUR ARTISTIC MIND FOR A MOMENT. JUST GO THROUGH ALL THESE AFTERNOON PAPERS AND NEWS DISPATCHES AND PICK OUT WHAT YOU CONSIDER THE MOST INTERESTING STORY, ~~OF THE DAY.~~ *the news item of the day.*

Hal did, and here it is:

Today was celebrated one of the most curious and colorful feasts in the world. It was strange and romantic and full of the mood of far away places. It happened down in Florida, which of course

RETAKES

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21 Today was celebrated one of the
22 most curious and colorful feasts in the
23 world. It was strange and romantic and
24 full of the mood of far away places. It
25 happened down in Florida, which of course

1 isn't far away at all.

2 At Tarpon Springs, Florida,
3 there is a famous sponge fishing colony.
4 It has some 1500 members and today they
5 celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany.
6 The sponge divers were all home for the
7 Feast. You see, their daily task is
8 to grope around at the bottom of the
9 Gulf of Mexico and gather sponges. But
10 on Epiphany they all come in to Tarpon
11 Springs for the feast.

12 These divers are Greek-Catholics,
13 who have brought their religion and their
14 customs all the way from the old lands
15 of the Eastern Mediterranean.

16 According to the New York Sun
17 the ceremonies were bizarre and weird.
18 They included the solemn releasing of a
19 white dove. But the most dramatic event
20 of the day was the hurling of a golden
21 cross into the water. Down, down that
22 cross of gold flashed, glinting as it
23 sank deeper and deeper into the water.
24 Then the sponge divers went after it,
25 dozens of them. The one who recovered it

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IV

1 received a reward, and the reward was a
2 solemn blessing.

3 Well, it was a great day among
4 the sponge divers, and now with the
5 feast over they'll go back to their
6 old work of hunting around on the floor
7 of the Gulf of Mexico, searching and
8 groping for the humble but useful
9 sponge.

10 To artistic Hal Phylfe this
11 strange ^{item} ~~story~~ was the most interesting
12 story in today's news.

Sinister word comes North tonight from Central America. Sandino, leader of the Nicaraguans who are fighting the Marines, is quoted as saying that the only way to save Nicaragua is to destroy it. How? Well, the Associated Press tells us that a Nicaraguan in Mexico City has just received a letter from Sandino in which Sandino states that if the Americans insist on having Nicaragua, they'll get only ruins. Mere ashes. And Sandino adds that he has given orders to burn the cities of his country to the ground.

Well, that sounds bad. But let's hope Sandino is not as fierce as all that.

1 I had a few hearty laughs today.
2 I got them while reading the Topics in
3 Brief page of this week's Literary Digest.

4 The Digest quotes the Detroit
5 News as saying: A QUEER RACE OF PEOPLE,
6 THE PARISIANS. THEY THINK OF NOTRE DAME
7 AS A CATHEDRAL. (Incidentally I've
8 been getting lots of letters about the
9 pronunciation of that ^{name} Some folks think
10 the boys out at South Bend ought to
11 pronounce it like they do in Paris.)

12 The Digest also has a timely
13 line from the Ohio State Journal. Here
14 it is:

15 NOW THAT THE ENGINEERS HAVE
16 FIGURED OUT HOW TO LENGTHEN THE LIFE OF
17 AUTOS, MAYBE THEY'LL DO SOMETHING ALONG
18 THE SAME LINE FOR PEDESTRIANS.

19 And here is one that the Digest
20 quotes from the San Diego Union:

21 AN AMERICAN JAZZ ORCHESTRA,
22 WHICH SAILED THE OTHER DAY

1 FOR A TOUR OF SOUTH AMERICA, WILL BE
2 LUCKY IF IT ISN'T MISTAKEN FOR A
3 REVOLUTION.

4 And here's one that makes me
5 exclaim, "How true! how true!" It
6 reads: THE OTHER DAY A ~~SMALL~~ \$130,000,000
7 RAILROAD WAS AUCTIONED OFF FOR ONLY
8 \$23,000,000. AND THE MORAL OF THAT IS
9 THAT ANYBODY WITH \$23,000,000 CAN ALWAYS
10 FIND BARGAINS.

11

1 I was chatting with several
2 of the editors of the Literary Digest
3 today and the talk drifted to the New
4 York automobile show which ^{as you know} is in full
5 ~~blast~~ ^{swing} with all sorts of magnificent
6 ~~cars and fittings.~~ ~~and~~ One of the
7 Digest editors told me about a piece
8 he had seen in the New York Evening
9 Post.

10 *It seems that a certain*
11 ~~One big~~ automobile manufacturer
12 who has a splendid display at the
13 automobile show, offered a prize of
14 \$1,000,000. a year for life to the person
15 who would write in and give the best
16 reason for buying that particular
17 manufacturer's car. Well, the response
18 was astonishing. Half a million people
19 from all over this dizzy planet deluged
20 the automobile maker with replies.

21 In order to impress the
22 judges answers came painted on lamp
23 shades, on ship models, on illuminated
24 parchment. Some even embroidered their
25 messages on sofa cushions. One man
crocheted his reply. Another scratched

(I)

1 his on imperishable bronze. One
2 original bloke put his reason on a bit
3 of paper contained in a nutshell, a
4 coconut shell with hinges on it.

5 Well, I like doing things up
6 fancy ~~like that~~^{too}, and tomorrow evening
7 I think I'll pass the news on to you
8 in ~~somewhat the same~~^{real stylish} fashion - that is,
9 I'll imagine I'm doing it.

10 For instance, how would it be if
11 I sent you a Washington dispatch painted
12 on a lamp shade, an aviation bulletin
13 on illuminated parchment, our evening's
14 story about a South American revolution
15 embroidered on a sofa cushion, and a
16 drop-stitched hand crocheted romance
17 from China? What I'd like to do is find
18 a humorous story in the news, a story
19 so funny that it would deserve to be
20 engraved on imperishable bronze.

21 But if I don't find that sort
22 of dispatch to bring a ray of joy into
23 your homes I'll at least try to ~~bring~~^{give} you
24 all the latest news in a nutshell, even
25 if it isn't a coconut shell with hinges
on it. An way, so long until tomorrow.