

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

Monday, November 9, 1931

CHINA

Good Evening, Everybody:

Rumors of war have been flying thick and fast today, but it is denied tonight that China has declared war on Japan.

The Associated Press has word from a Japanese news agency to the effect that General Mah Chan-shan, Commander of the Chinese armies opposing the Japanese, has proclaimed a state of armed conflict. The Chinese General is said to have declared war. But this also has been denied.

The International News Service quotes the Japanese Consul General in New York as declaring that the reports of war were false. He points out that General Mah Chan-shan would have no authority to speak for his government, and proclaim a state of armed conflict with Japan. He characterizes the rumors as wild and untrue.

Well, whatever the declaration may be, there is actual war in Manchuria.

1 The Chinese under General Mah are
2 attacking the Japanese along the Nonni
3 River, and savage fighting is under
4 way.

5 (And there has been fighting and
6 cannon fire in the Chinese city of
7 Tientsin, one of the great treaty
8 ports on the China coast. Various
9 foreign nations have concessions there,
10 guarded quarters of their own. The
11 Japanese have one and troops in the
12 Japanese concession have bombarded the
13 Chinese districts of Tientsin. Forty
14 shells from Japanese guns have fallen
15 and burst ~~xxx~~ in the streets. The
16 reason for this was a night of wild
17 rioting. A mob of Chinese attacked the
18 Japanese concession and peppered it
19 with rifle fire.) Two Japanese soldiers
20 were killed and a woman was wounded. In
21 retaliation the soldiers of the Mikado
22 opened fire with artillery. The United
23 Press relates that soldiers are on guard
24 in the other foreign concessions. The
25 garrisons in the French and Italian

1 quarters stood at arms all night *and today.*

2 From Moscow comes ^a ~~the~~ United
3 Press dispatch which declares that the
4 Russians have reports that the Japanese
5 intend to seize the Chinese Eastern
6 Railway which is owned jointly by
7 Russia and China. The Soviet authorities
8 claim that the Japanese plan is to
9 seize the railway in order to force
10 a war with Soviet Russia.

11 (The League of Nations today
12 received a note from Japan, which
13 indicates that the Japanese intend to
14 prolong their occupation of Manchuria
15 indefinitely.) The Japanese claim that
16 the section of railroad which they have
17 recently seized really belongs to them.
18 They declare that they advanced money
19 to build it and the Chinese refused to
20 pay the money back. Therefore, they
21 are going to hold the railway. And that
22 does look as if Japan ^{does not} ~~intend~~
23 get out of Manchuria.

24 These in brief are the latest
25 developments in the Far East. Yes,

1 it is denied that China has declared
2 war on Japan, but it looks as if such
3 a declaration might ~~xx~~ come along ~~in~~ at
4 ~~the near future~~ any time,
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1 Today at the beautiful city of Nice
2 on the blue waters of the French Riviera,
3 the former sultan of Turkey received 200
4 thousand dollars in cash and one million
5 dollars in jewels from the Nizam of
6 Hyderabad. And on Thursday of this week
7 there will be a double wedding. A
8 daughter of the ex-Sultan will marry the
9 Nizam's oldest son. A niece of the
10 Sultan's will marry a younger son of the
11 Nizam's. And these are great events for
12 the far-flung world of Islam.

13 The Nizam of Hyderabad is said to
14 be the richest man ^{on earth} ~~in the world~~. People
15 say his wealth is greater than the
16 combined fortunes of the Rockefellers,
17 the Fords and the Morgans. He has
18 diamonds by the bushel. ~~It is said~~. And
19 incalculable quantities of gold. He
20 possesses a treasure piled up for
21 centuries by the old Moguls of India.
22 He is the absolute ruler of the largest
23 native principality of India, a rich and
24 popul^{ous}~~ous~~ kingdom in the south-central
25 part of the great peninsula of Hindustan.

1 His subjects number 15 million, and he is
2 said to have in his strong-box 500 million
3 dollars worth of gold alone.

4 On the other hand, Abdul Medjid
5 Effendi, the former Sultan of Turkey, ^{has been a} ~~is a~~
6 ^{But he certainly isn't now. In fact he has been living} ~~poor man.~~ [^] ~~In fact, he lives~~ [^] on charity.

7 When Mustapha Kemal's present government
8 drove him forth from the ancient
9 kingdom of the Ottomans, ^{was} he left with
10 scarcely a ^{penny, or maybe I should say, a piastre.} ~~penny~~ [^] But he still remains
11 in the eyes of millions of Moslems the
12 spiritual head of the Mohammedan
13 religion. And followers of the Prophet
14 all over the world have sent him sums to
15 enable him to live. The Nizam of
16 Hyderabad has been paying him 1500 dollars
17 a month, and now, on the eve of the
18 approaching wedding, ^{in jewels} has given the
19 former Sultan a million [^] and 200,000 ^{in gold.}
20 ~~dollars.~~

21 Well, it's a great occasion for
22 Islam when the two sons of one of the
23 greatest Mohammedan potentates in the
24 world marry ^{respectively,} ~~as~~ [^] the daughter and the
25 niece of the spiritual head of the Moslem

1 world, the successor of those commanders
2 of the Faithful who reigned in the Bagdad
3 of the Arabian Nights. And it may mean
4 a great deal for the future of the world.

5 The Associated Press comments that
6 the wedding will be held with unrivaled
7 oriental splendour at Nice, on the
8 Riviera. The ex-Sultan himself will per-
9 form the marriage ceremony. It will be
10 the first time that he, the Caliph, the
11 commander of the Faithful, has ever
12 officiated at a wedding.

1 A German newspaper, the Vossische
2 Zeitung, prints a brief dispatch today,
3 which comes under the heading of ART but
4 which is enough to stir the imagination
5 of the civilized world.

6 The United Press summarizes the
7 dispatch as saying that the Turkish
8 government has decided to uncover the
9 mosaics of the great mosque in
10 Constantinople, which was formerly the
11 Cathedral of Santa Sophia. The Turks
12 expect to recover an art treasure of
13 fabulous value in those ancient mosaics
14 that have been hidden from human sight
15 for nearly 500 years.

16 It was in the year 1453 that the
17 *commanded by an ancestor of that same exiled Sultan we have been*
18 Turks, captured Constantinople and brought
19 to an end the Eastern Roman Empire. And
20 the jewel of Constantinople was the great
21 Cathedral of Santa Sophia. This was one
22 of the oldest and most magnificent churches
23 of the Christian world. It had been built
24 in the sixth century at the command of the
25 great emperor Justinian, and its walls
were adorned with mosaics, the

talking about,

1 master-works of the greatest artists of
2 that ancient period.

3 The triumphant Moslems seized upon
4 the Cathedral for their own purposes.
5 It was the great glory of Islam to turn
6 one of the most gorgeous of Christian
7 edifices into a Mohammedan mosque.

8 But the religion of the Prophet
9 sternly forbids its followers to use
10 images in the worship of Allah. The
11 ~~gorgeous~~ beautiful mosaics of Santa
12 Sophia could not be tolerated by the
13 followers of the Prophet. ~~So~~ They were
14 covered with a thick coating of plaster,
15 so that the Cathedral might have the bare
16 walls appropriate to a mosque.

17 And there those ancient mosaics
18 have remained during the centuries that
19 have elapsed, hidden from the eyes of the
20 world.

21 But now, the report is that they will
22 ~~be~~ be uncovered, and once more the light
23 of day will shine on those sacred pictures
24 fashioned by artists 1400 years ago.
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1 I have a letter from Mr. Frank
2 A. Keenan, of Chicago, who writes that
3 he did not get all the details about the
4 Tall Story Contest. He is in some doubt
5 about it. And so I guess a little ~~x~~
6 further explanation is in order.

7 The idea is to pick out the Tall
8 Story Teller who contributed the funniest
9 and most shameless whopper in the book
10 "TALL STORIES". That book which is the
11 manual of the Tall Story Club is on sale
12 at the bookstores, or may be had by mail
13 from the publishers of the Literary
14 Digest,

15 All you do is ~~read the~~ ^{take that} book and pick
16 out the whopper you like best and drop
17 me a note about it. The contributor
18 whose whopper gets the most votes will
19 be crowned as Champion Tall Story Teller,
20 and will be invited to New York as my
21 guest to participate and tell his tall
22 one at the Grand Tall Story Jamboree on
23 the night of Tuesday, November 17th.

24 This will be a meeting of the
25 Interstate Tall Story Commission, at which

1 celebrities representing various states
2 will tell a hilarious assortment of
3 whoppers. The proceedings will be
4 broadcast by the National Broadcasting
5 Company on a national hook-up.

6 Be sure to mail your vote by the
7 night of Friday, November 13th, and then
8 listen in on the evening of the following
9 Tuesday, November 17th.

PANAMA

Down in the Panama Canal Zone the floods we heard about Saturday night are still raging.

Today there was a landslide which called a halt on all traffic through the canal. Thousands of tons of earth at the Gaillard Cut came tumbling down. There have been several other landslides along the length of the canal.

The tremendous downpour lasting for days has softened the earth, and so the muddy hillsides have simply started to slide down into the canal. Last reports are that a channel has been opened deep enough and wide enough for small vessels to get through. But large steamers will be ~~xxxx~~ held up for twenty-four hours more. Steamers have been held at Gatun Lake, a large body of water which is part of the canal system. The officials have been keeping the locks closed.

The International News Service reports that the water in the lake has risen fourteen feet, and it is feared that if they open the locks, why the pressure of the water will be so tremendous that it might be impossible to close them again.

They have spillways to safeguard the

lake, safety valves to let the water out. Twelve of these spillways have been open constantly for the last several days, and the water has been rushing out at the rate of 7 million square feet a minute. But just the same, the lake has continued to rise.

Yes, it's raining and storming down in Panama, with a terrific wind and a tropical deluge from the skies.

The Chagres River has risen more than twenty feet, and wide sections of land have been flooded.

Reports were received from the interior this morning. They told that the entire town of Santa Rosa, with its fifty houses, ~~has~~ has been swept away. And several houses floating down the Chagres River indicates that the town of San Juan also has been destroyed.

They seem to be having Noah's deluge down there where the great canal cuts through the isthmus of Panama.

1 From the Caribbean Sea tonight
2 comes a bit of news that has an old
3 sound. A familiar tale of shipwreck and
4 men in open boats.

5 An airplane of the Pan American
6 Airways reports that in flying across
7 the Caribbean it sighted a life-boat
8 drifting with ten men in it, and nearby
9 was a life raft, with one man.

10 That's all. The plane was too
11 heavily loaded with passengers and
12 freight to land. It sent out wireless
13 calls to ships summoning them to the
14 rescue. No doubt there was a shipwreck
15 and Heaven knows how long the men in
16 the life-boats and the life-raft
17 had been drifting.

18 But, as the International News Service
19 observes, ships are on their way tonight
20 running a race to rescue the castaways
21 adrift on the sea.

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1 Among the football games that
2 were played over the week-end was one
3 that didn't attract much attention
4 among fashionable folk. In fact, there's
5 a society item that never got anywhere
6 near the pages that recount doings of
7 aristocracy. That football game was
8 played on the banks of the Majestic
9 Hudson. It was what is called in
10 collegiate circles an intra-mural game,
11 meaning a game within the walls.

12 Yes, it was played within plenty
13 of walls. It took place at that great
14 institution of higher learning which has
15 the musical name. I mean Sing Sing.

16 The convicts at ^{the} New York State ~~the~~
17 prison are taking up football. They
18 played a game yesterday. One team was
19 white and the other team was colored.

20 The New York World-Telegram ~~xxx~~
21 prints an article by A. J. Liebling which
22 gives us a few of the high spots. It
23 appears that the Rah Rah boys at Sing Sing
24 go in for forward passes. Three times
25 the white team passed the ball, and each

time it was dropped. Then a pass was completed and it scored a touchdown. That won the game. The score was six to nothing.

But the dusky team refused to concede defeat. Sunshine Williams, their coach, explained that his two best and hardest running running back were locked up in their cells for something or other, and that wasn't fair. And how can you win a football game with your halfbacks in solitary confinement.

Red Hope who coached the winners, declares: "The boys are just learning. But let me tell you", said Red, "if they all stay here as long as I do they'll have plenty of time to develop some fine teamwork." And that got a laugh because Red is serving fifty years for kidnapping.

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DIGEST

There are reports of snow here and there in this part of the country -- no blizzards, just flurries. I've got to make a trip in the old boiler tonight, and I may run into a bit of snow, which reminds me of some wise and sensible words.

There's an article in this week's Literary Digest which tells us that now is the time for all good motorists to come to the aid of their long-suffering cars.

The Literary Digest quotes the American Automobile Association as saying that there are 18 million cars in those parts of the country that are constantly liable to have freezing temperatures, and millions of dollars can be saved this winter if automobile owners will not delay in adjusting their cars to cold weather.

(1)

~~bit of hard-headed, practical instruction.~~

~~The Digest~~
~~For example,~~ ^{it} quotes the New York

World-Telegram in saying that years of experience has shown that the most costly part of an automobile to neglect is the cooling system. Frozen radiators do more damage than anything else, meaning we should give some prompt and careful attention to the subject of anti-freeze.

The Digest quotes an article in the New York Times as pointing out that before any anti-freeze is added, the water of the cooling system should be drained, ~~out~~, and the radiator and pipes should be flushed with a solution of sal-soda and three or four gallons of water. The engine should be run and the solution be circulated thoroughly for about ten minutes. Then the cooling system should be drained again and flushed with clear water. Then you're all ready to put your supply of anti-freeze ^{solution} into action.

~~Well, all this hits me right on a sensitive nerve. I've been a bit neglectful and have had my radiator~~

I've read those practical hints in the Literary Digest with great care. I let my car freeze once and it cost me \$250. And this time I've checked - and so I don't give a hoot if it snows pink ink tonight, as I step on the gas and say,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.