

Lowell Thomas Broadcast for Literary Digest
Monday, October 27, 1930.

Navy Day

Wherever there is an American warship today -- whether she be riding at anchor or riding the seas -- the officers and gobs are celebrating. This is navy day, and by the way, navy day means Theodore Roosevelt's birthday. Our fighting ships observe this date every year in honor of Roosevelt and in commemoration of the part he played in building up our navy -- first when he was Assistant secretary of the Navy, and later as President. The New York Evening Post tells us they held open house at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and thousands of visitors were shown over the mighty dreadnaught, the Colorado and other fighting ships. The same thing was happening at Naval yards all over the country at Hampton Roads, out at

San Diego, at Mare Island and wherever Uncle Sam has a ship.

It is also interesting to note that yesterday, on the other side of the globe, the Japanese were holding the greatest naval maneuvers they have had for over twenty years. 165 warships, destroyers, and submarines, and 72 airplanes and dirigibles took part in the grand review before the Emperor of Japan at Kobe, according to a special dispatch to the New York Sun.

Well, no matter what they are doing out in Japan our own Navy Day reminds us that our Navy is in very much of a transitional stage. It is being shaped and transformed to fit the terms of the London Naval Treaty, and of course there is a lot of controversy and argument over the subject. It is one of the vital topics of the hour, and as usual the current Literary Digest sums up what both sides have to say. There is a startling conflict of ideas too. If you want to see what amazingly

different opinions people can have on the same subject, just get the Literary Digest and look for an article entitled "SLASHING OUR NAVY".

Fashion

There's a bustle tonight on Fifth Avenue and Michigan Boulevard. And I don't mean one of those old fashioned bustles either. I mean a bustle before a big event. The Metropolitan Opera season is opening in New York and the Civic Opera in Chicago. And all the music lovers who never miss an opening night are grooming themselves for the social spotlight. It is rumored that dresses are to be more décollete than ever, and the lines of m'lady's opera gown will be of the slinky type, unbroken from neckline to hem. That is, they'll be unbroken except by the undulations of the figure. The fabrics, the fashion page editors say, will consist mostly of metal cloths, heavy satin, transparent velvet and flat crepes, whatever they are. As for color, well, the

rumor is that the opening night at the opera will be a White Night. Gowns will nearly all be white.

From Paris comes a story that purple is to be the fashionable color this season - royal purple. Well, so far as I am concerned every woman is a queen whether she wears the purple of royalty or not.

Here's another operatic high note:

Texas

Gene Howe, a newspaper editor, of Amarillo, Texas, is going to give a tea for Mary Garden. That famous prima donna is going to sing at a concert down there in the Texas Panhandle. And Gene let it be known that his men guests would be expected to wear frock coats. But in that part of Texas, sombreros and chaps are more common in masculine wardrobes than top-hats and morning coats. Still, all the leading citizens

of Amarillo want to meet Mary Garden. They stormed the clothing stores, says the Associated Press, but there wasn't a gol-darned frock coat in the whole Panhandle. The leading clothing store of Amarillo sent a rush wire to Chicago, ordering 42 frock coats, assorted sizes. Amarillo is certainly going to do right by Mary, by gum.

Brazil

Fireworks are still going off down in Brazil. According to the International News Service several people were killed and many injured in street fighting in Rio. An unsuccessful attempt was made to start a counter revolution against the new military junta. Dame Rumor has it that Prestes, the man who was to have been inaugurated president on November 15th, is now planning a counter revolution, with strong support from the State of Sao Paulo.

If there's trouble in the tropics, there's a large hint of the same in the sub-

arctic.

Finland

Maybe there will be a finish fight in Finland. Anyway, a special cable to the New York Times says that secret mobilization has been started in the Skyddskaaren. In case you don't speak Finnish, that means the voluntary militia. And that voluntary militia has more members and just as good equipment as the regular Finnish army. The mobilization was ordered by the government, but nobody else knows why. It probably has something to do with a Finnish general who is in prison. He's there because he's been plotting to establish a military dictatorship in those little republics on the Baltic Sea. His idea was to line them up for a war against Russia. Anyway, everybody in Finland is wondering what the mobilization means.

Venezilos

With all the troubles and disturbances in various parts of the globe, it's good to come across peaceable and friendly news from the place where it's least expected--the Balkans. An article in the current issue of the Literary Digest tells of a conference at Athens of the representatives of six Balkan states. Their idea in meeting was to find causes that might lead to trouble and then remove them. Also, the old, old plan of a Balkan union came up. The Digest quotes an article from a Paris paper in which the presiding officer uttered these striking words: "If we could make vocal the souls of all those who have suffered and died in the long struggles for the national idea of their fatherland, they would say to us: Unite as one."

That Digest article strikes a pleasing note about a region long known as the Witches Cauldron where trouble is brewed. Today an

Associated Press dispatch brings us still more good news from the same place. The Greeks and Turks are old enemies, and Premier Venezilos of Greece has long been a particularly bitter antagonist of the Turks. But today in Constantinople, Venezilos was received with an ovation of cheering and the boom of salute guns. Venezilos is on his way to Angora to sign a Turko-Grecian treaty of commerce and amity.

But all is not amity and peaceful good fellowship in the world of football.

Booth

The sporting pages today are talking about what that Army football team did to Albie Booth, the Yale star. You will recall that in the Yale-Army game on Saturday, Booth had scarcely been shot into the game, when three army tacklers hit him so hard that he was carried off the field.

The New York Evening World prints the information that the young star has no more than a wrenched knee, and that he will probably play against Dartmouth next Saturday.

In the Evening Telegram, Charles E. Parker tells us what both the Army and the Yale men are saying.

The Army admits that Booth was tackled hard, but says it was merely an ordinary rough play, and not dirty football. The hubbub is all because Albie is a little fellow. If he had been a big husky, nobody would have said anything about those three Army giants diving at him. Yale opinion is different. The theory is that Albie was deliberately put on the spot, and that the Army threw a forward pass directly at him, just so three tacklers assigned to the job would have an excuse to drop him hard. The Yale bulldog is growling angrily, saying that one giant tackler downed Albie. Then, as the little fellow was getting up, another hit him. Then a third piled on.

Tad Jones, former Yale coach, writes in a syndicated article that in every game this season, Yale opponents have been laying for Booth.

Well, I saw Albie Booth give Army just about the neatest trimming that any powerful team ever took at the hands of one man. That was last year, when I was there rooting for my friend Biff Jones and his Westpoint outfit. And after what Booth did that day, I'm not surprised that three men tackled him Saturday. I'm surprised that the whole Army team didn't do it.

Westbrook Pegler, writing in the New York Evening Post, says it looked to him as if the whole West Point Cadet Corps tackled Booth at once. Pegler goes on to say: "I thought I even saw Major General William R. Smith, the Superintendent of West Point, somewhere in the pile yanking Albie by the leg, but that was an optical illusion."

They ought to get a few of those army tacklers to look into the case of Frank DeAngelis.

He loves to sleep.

Laziness

According to the N. Y. Daily News, DeAngelis fell asleep while smoking, and soon thereafter the mattress started to burn. DeAngelis' wife came to the rescue and dragged him to safety, but he was so mad at being awakened that he jumped up and hit her. That was her reward.

Sugar Bowl

All a would-be robber got out of a restaurant hold-up in the Bronx, says the New York Times, was a crack on the head from an earthenware sugar-bowl. The robber, whose name was Tony Gruliano, told the proprietor and three customers in the restaurant to "stick 'em up." And they did in a hurry. But when Gruliano advanced to the cash register -- pistol in hand -- the proprietor caught him off guard a moment and let fly with the sugar bowl. And you know the kind of sugar bowls they have in some

restaurants. Well, Tony Gruliano went down. Then the customers joined the battle. They laid down a barrage of mustard jars and catsup bottles. And before the police could take Tony Gruliano to jail they had to take him to a hospital and sew him up quite a bit.

Missing Banker

A strange disappearance is causing excitement out in the town of Galva, Illinois. Earl Yokum is Galva's richest citizen. And on Saturday night he was standing in his front yard after taking his two children to a movie. His wife saw two strange men approach him. They asked something, which Mrs. Yokum didn't hear. Her husband replied: "Right over there." Then they asked him if he would show them the way, and he replied, "sure". According to the United Press, Yokum went with the strangers--and then did not return.

Mrs. Yokum became nervous, and tried to telephone to friends. Then it was discovered that the telephone wires of the house had been cut. Yesterday afternoon a special delivery letter came for Mrs. Yokum but she refused to tell what was in it. Today the authorities questioned Mrs. Yokum again, but she still refuses to talk. It is believed that the banker was kidnapped and is being held for ransom, and that his wife has received the threat that he will be killed if she gives any information to the authorities.

Whitney

Newspapers from coast to coast are giving columns this afternoon to the unique career of Harry Payne Whitney, who died yesterday. He was a power in finance, with enormous interests in real estate, banks, and mining. His father, says the New York Evening World, left him twenty-four million. His brother, who died in 1927, left an estate of

\$191,000,000, the largest estate on record. His marriage to Gertrude Vanderbilt united two of America's largest fortunes.

But when we think of Harry Payne Whitney, two pictures come to mind: the race track and the polo field. All his life he was a racing enthusiast, and he owned one of the greatest stables in the history of the turf.

In polo he gained wide fame by organizing the team that first took the polo championship from England. He himself was one of the greatest players of his time.

Freight Cars

The financial page of the New York Herald Tribune had a bullish look today. It tells how buyers are crowding the stores of the large Western cities. A Wisconsin city started a "buy now" movement, that is spreading like wildfire. Stores are taking on additional help in large numbers. New

Orleans reports a gain in the demand for cotton, and there's a bumper apple crop in the State of Washington. I've got a bumper apple crop up at my farm in Dutchess County too--only I don't know where to sell 'em.

A commercial note from the Lawndale district in Chicago tells that the boys in that neighborhood, to the number of one thousand, have agreed not to play Hallowe'en pranks this year. They were persuaded to take this good resolve by the local merchants, who in former years have suffered from the Hallowe'en pranks. The inducement? Oh, yes, The merchants have agreed to furnish enough weiners, hamburgers, buns, and peanuts to give the boys a feast on Hallowe'en night.

Business may be getting bullish, but the financial reports are bearish - at least so far as women are concerned.

Women's Incomes

The farther removed a woman is from

marriage the higher her income is likely to be. That is, single women earn most, widows and divorcees next, and married ones least. This information was gathered from questionnaires submitted to the Bureau of Business Research of the University of Michigan.

According to the New York Evening World the average income of women is \$32. a week. Less than 7% of all working women earn \$50. a week.

And here's another investigation that pertains to married life.

Grouch

Father's morning grouch and mother's bridge-tea headache are going to be studied in a big way. The idea is to find out how they affect the children, especially the children's school grades. The Associated Press tells us that a national conference on Child Health will get under way on November 24th. First it will confer with the President at the White House, and

then it will take up the subject of
growling fathers and snappy mothers.

Well where's my hat. I'm going home
right now and tell my wife that if she'll
swear off bridge I'll swear off growling.
Let's all do that. Goodnight.