

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1931

INTRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Good news tonight! Word has just reached me that the country is saved. At least that's what Tom Marshall would say, if he were still with us. It's a familiar story and a good story - how Vice-President Marshall listened to a long and tiresome debate in the Senate when all the statesmen were telling what the country needed. He stood it about as long as he could, then got up and exclaimed:- "What the country needs is a good 5-cent cigar."

An article today in the Hartford Times tells us that this year the Connecticut tobacco farmers are specializing in growing tobacco for nickle cigars. Connecticut is one of our great tobacco growing states, and 75 per cent of the 1931 crop will be used in making smokes of the 5-cent variety.

Yes, the country is saved.

DAYLIGHT

But, let's not get so excited about that as to forget to set our clocks ahead tonight -- that is, those of us who live in a daylight saving zone.

Many of the small towns refuse to have anything to do with that new-fangled idea of tricking the old sun into giving us an extra hour of daylight. And they just go on with their clocks keeping normal time. But the larger cities insist on saving all the daylight they can.

Well, don't forget -- the time for changing is at two o'clock tomorrow morning - 2 A. M. I suppose we'll all be up at the stroke of two, stumbling sleepily along, candle in hand, to turn back the hands of the old Grandfathers Clock. Yes, we will!

1 Well, this time it looks as if
2 General Smedley ~~W.~~ Butler had crashed
3 through the lines for a touchdown. He
4 claims that he did capture Fort Riviere--
5 and apparently he's right.

6 The fiery General has ^{sent} ~~made~~ a
7 flaming complaint to the Navy Department
8 because of a statement said to have
9 been made by the ^{gentleman} ~~minister~~ who represents
10 the republic of Haiti ^{at} ~~in~~ Washington.
11 The Haitian minister is ^{quoted as}
12 saying that General Butler ^{was awarded} ~~got~~ one of
13 his two Congressional Medals for the
14 capture of Fort Riviere in Haiti, when
15 there was no such place as Fort Riviere.

16 General Butler complains that this
17 is a reflection on the Navy Department.
18 It certainly would be odd if a
19 Congressional Medal were granted for
20 the capture of a fort that didn't exist.
21 He asks if an ~~MMMMMM~~ American general
22 is not to be protected from misrepresen-
23 tations like that. His complaint has
24 been taken up by the Navy Department
25 and is being put through the usual

1 routine channels.

2 And apparently General Butler is
3 right about the existence of ^{that} Fort.

4 ~~Riviere~~. The United Press has looked
5 up the records, and finds full confirmation
6 of the capture of Fort Riviere on
7 November 17, 1915. The files of the
8 Navy Department contain a detailed
9 account of the battle.

10 General Butler charged through a
11 breach in the walls of the fort. He had
12 23 Marines with him. The General was
13 fighting at the head of his men. Two
14 ~~Marines~~ ^{Devil Dogs} entered the breach ahead of him.
15 They ~~Devil Dogs~~ dashed in front of him so
16 as to prevent the General from being the
17 first to receive the fire of the
18 defenders. The fort was captured and
19 General Butler got the Congressional
20 Medal. ~~for it~~.

21 And that isn't all. The Haitian
22 minister says that he was misquoted.
23 He declares that he didn't say that
24 there was no such place as Fort Riviere.
25 He claims that all he said was that

1 nobody in Haiti knew^s about the existence
 2 of the fort. And nobody ^{now know} ~~knew~~ where to
 3 find it--naturally, because General
 4 Butler himself says that after the fort
 5 was captured it was completely destroyed.
~~And that seems to clear up the~~

6 And that seems to clear up the
 7 latest controversy in which the
 8 impetuous General has ~~been~~ become involved.

1 This afternoon I read through a
2 list, a long list, but it was interesting.
3 This week's Literary Digest makes a wise
4 observation. It is to the effect that
5 when a storm is blowing you'll bet on your
6 ship pulling through -- if it's a good,
7 staunch one. Naturally there isn't much
8 use betting on a weak, leaky vessel when
9 there is a full gale blowing.

10 The list I ^{have} ~~have~~ been reading is a
11 long catalogue of firms that have been
12 advertising in the Literary Digest for
13 the last three months. The weather for
14 business has been stormy, as we all know.
15 The firms in that Literary Digest list of
16 advertisers have backed their products
17 with their money in spite of the rough
18 going. That must mean that those products
19 advertised in the Digest are like strong
20 ships. Their backers figured on
21 weathering the gale. They had faith in
22 their products -- faith enough to back
23 them no matter how fiercely the winds of
24 ~~adversity~~ blew.

25 So it was with considerable interest
that I scanned that list. And I imagine
that hundreds of thousands of readers of
the Literary Digest have been doing the
same as I have been doing.

1 From the wide open breezy plains
2 of Texas comes a breezy or even ^{blustery} ~~breezier~~
3 story about a Communist plot.

4 Captain Frank Hamer, of the Texas
5 Rangers, gives out a statment that
6 large quantities of explosives have
7 been stolen from the oil companies
8 of the Southwest. He explains that
9 these explosives have been stolen by
10 Communists who have been plotting to
11 blow up oilwells.

12 According to the International
13 News Service, he adds that a large
14 quantity of stolen nitroglycerin was
15 found hidden near Oklahoma City. And
16 he goes on to say that there have been
17 two explosions on oil properties in
18 Kansas.

19 The Texas Ranger claims that enough
20 explosive has been stolen by the
21 Communists to turn Pike's Peak into
22 a dimple--and that's a graphic phrase,
23 if nothing else.
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1 A solemn, simple ceremony was held
2 today at Duxbury, Massachusetts. A
3 small crowd of people gathered in the
4 old cemetery near the site of the first
5 Duxbury meeting house -- the meeting
6 house which the Puritans built 300
7 years or so ago. A coffin was ^{let down} ~~lowered~~
8 into a grave; and thus they lowered Capt.
9 Miles Standish to his last resting place.
10 Yes, it happened today.

11 Miles Standish, hero of those first
12 New England days, needed a new coffin.
13 He was buried three centuries ago in a
14 simple wooden box. Then ^{a number of years ago} ~~in 1899~~ he was
15 transferred to a new coffin, which again
16 was of wood. But now they have given
17 him an enduring metal casket and have
18 lowered it into a receptacle of massive
19 cement. The United Press adds that over
20 the grave they have placed a boulder
21 ~~which~~ weighs ^{ing} 3 tons ~~and~~ on which is
22 carved the name of Miles Standish.

23 It all brings back memories of that
24 famous romance of early American history
25 -- the one immortalized by Longfellow in

his poem "The Courtship of Miles Standish." The doughty captain loved the maid Priscilla, but like a rough soldier had no soft words for courtship. So he asked his literary friend John Alden to present to the maid a proposal of marriage from Miles Standish. Do you remember how John Alden secretly loved, Priscilla, but how he placed his loyalty to his friend Miles Standish before his own desire? How he spoke to Priscilla in flaming words, pleading the cause of his friend, Capt. Miles Stnadish? Perhaps you remember those well-known lines of Longfellow telling us what happened:-

Archly the maiden smiled, and with eyes overrunning
with laughter,

Said, in a tremulous voice, "Why don't you speak
for yourself, John?"

And thus it was that John Alden courted Priscilla for
Miles Standish, but won her for himself.

That long-vanished romance was recalled vividly today
in the simple ceremony at Duxbury, Where they lowered Capt. Miles
Standish to his final rest.

1 There's a new Bob Fitzsimmons in
2 the world today--that is, there's a
3 boxer who has equalled Ruby Bob's
4 record of having held three championships.
5 The great Cornishman, ^{from Australia,} as all followers
6 of boxing know, was the Middle Weight
7 Champion, then the Light Heavyweight
8 Champion, and then he wore the Heavyweight
9 crown.

10 Well, the new Bob Fitzsimmons is Tony
11 Canzoneri, who was the Featherweight
12 Champion and then became the Lightweight
13 Champ.~~ion~~ *And now he has won a third title.*

14 Last night he knocked out Jack
15 "Kid" Berg, of England, in a unique
16 bout--unique because two titles were at
17 stake. Canzoneri risked his own
18 Lightweight crown. Berg held the Junior
19 Welterweight title, which Canzoneri now
20 has won--thereby adding it to the two
21 other crowns which have graced his
22 swarthy brow.

23 The International News Service tells
24 us that the Italian won his fight with
25 one perfect ~~blow~~ punch. He set himself

(6)

1 for a supreme effort as the pride of
2 the London Ghetto rushed him. Berg
3 came in with a left poke to the head
4 which Canzoneri countered with a short
5 inside right to the jaw. Berg went down
6 like the proverbial ton of ^{brick.} ~~rock~~. It
7 was a clean, ~~and~~ decisive knockout ~~to~~
8 ~~be~~ scored to the credit of the new
9 Bob Fitzsimmons.

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HERMANN

Baseball has lost another one of its colorful and prominent personalities. August Hermann died today in Cincinnati, at the age of 71. He was commonly known as Garry Hermann, and was one of the owners of the Cincinnati team of the National League.

For years he directed the baseball destiny of the Cincinnati Reds. He also was head of the National Commission which ruled over baseball until Judge Landis became the czar of the game. He was a prominent Elk too. Garry Hermann's pithy, racy sayings were known far and wide and he was famous for his generosity.

FOX

I want to take my hat off this evening to old Reynard, the Fox. At Richmond, Virginia, a big red fox was traveling ~~and~~ fast across the country -- hounds and hunters on horseback were after him. In his wild flight old Mister Fox passed by a farmer's barnyard. He saw a big fat hen. He just couldn't resist the temptation. He killed the hen and then, according to the United Press, got away safely. He dodged the hounds and the hunters and escaped to a safe retreat in the mountains with the hen. How's that for a scrambled situation?

1 Well, I seem to hear an echo of
2 music; ~~the tune~~ ^{the echo} of a sentimental song--
3 "the kiss you gave me". ^{And} The echo comes
4 from the noble State of Maine. But the
5 boys up there are singing--"the mountain
6 you gave me". Yes, ~~sin~~ somebody gave
7 them a mountain.

8 Well, a mountain is an interesting
9 gift. It's what you might call a large
10 gift; ~~its~~ a gift that comes high.

11 Ex-Governor Percival Baxter, of
12 Maine, is the man who has given away a
13 mountain. It's Mount Katahdin, the
14 highest summit in Maine. He's presented
15 the peak to his fellow citizens as a
16 public park.

17 This new present, which the State
18 of Maine has received, is described as
19 the most mountainous mountain in New
20 England, because of its steep trails,
21 its rocky slopes, and dizzy cliffs.

22 And so the boys are singing--"the
23 most mountainous mountain you gave me."
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RADIO

Time out for a minute now while I fold forth on a subject that interests me just as it seems to interest William S. Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore is the managing editor of the famous Detroit News.

That interesting daily newspaper the Christian Science Monitor of Boston, tells us tonight of the discussions yesterday at the Conference on the Press, held at Princeton. Mr. Gilmore told the Conference that the relations between the Press and the Radio were essentially co-operative and not competitive. In giving the news, although the radio has the important power of being able to spread some news items far and wide, only the newspaper has the space to give the full details and the why and wherefore of the events of the day.

Three cheers for that idea, say I. I have always felt that what I for example do is merely give you a flash of the news, with a bit of my personal slant. My hope has been that I might simply lure you into wanting to read the full detailed account with the why and the wherefore in your favorite morning or evening paper.

And then Mr. Gilmore had another interesting thing to say. He declares that radio advertising holds the best results when followed up by advertising in printed periodicals- newspapers and magazines.

And that's true too. Suppose the voice from the loud speaker tells us about a product and then we see that product ~~and~~ displayed in a handsome advertisement. That's the kind of advertising that strikes home.

1 ~~Now for that rumor of Last night we~~
2 ~~had a rumor to the effect that the troublesome~~
3 ~~which stated that the pestilential~~
4 Sandino^o had captured the ^{important town} ~~town~~ of Gracius
5 Adios. Apparently he hasn't captured
6 the town, ^{at all.} Because here's an
7 International News Service dispatch
8 which states that Sandino's bandits
9 are attacking the forces of the ~~ministry~~
10 Nicaraguan government in the
neighborhood of Gracius Adios.

11 American airplanes flew over the
12 battlefield, but didn't interfere
13 with the fighting. While off the
14 coast were American warships standing
15 in ~~a~~ readiness to take aboard American
16 refugees.
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LETTER

I have a letter here from Rueben Sawyer of Topsham, Sagadahoc County, Maine, and Rueben just tells me that I ain't been nowhere.

He writes:-

DEAR LOWELL: I AM JUST WRITIN' TO YOU, SEEING AS HOW YOU BEEN SAYIN' YOU BEEN TO A LOT OF PLACES ALL OVER THE WORLD. WELL, MAYBE SO. BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU IF YOU ARE HANKERING AFTER A LOT OF TRAVELIN' YOU CAN SEE LOTS OF NATIONS AND LOTS OF FURRIN CITIES OF EUROPE, ASIA AND AFRICA IF YOU JUST COME UP HERE TO MAINE.

WE GOT A TOWN NAMED NORWAY, AND WE GOT A TOWN NAMED SWEDEN, ALSO DENMARK. AND IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE ANDES MOUNTAINS WE GOT A BERG NAMED PERU. MAYBE YOU LIKE ASIA -- WELL, WE GOT A TOWN NAMED CHINA.

MAYBE YOU LIKE HISTORY. THEN YOU OUGHT TO COME UP TO MAINE AND GO TO THE BURG OF ATHENS, OR CARTHAGE, ROME OR TROY. WE ALSO GOT TOWNS NAMED BELFAST, BELGRADE, PARIS AND CALAIS, or Callus -- AS WE CALL IT UP HERE. THERE'S DRESDEN, MAINE; VIENNA, MAINE; LISBON AND PALERMO, MAINE. HOW'S THAT FER A RECORD? WE OLD FELLERS UP HERE IN SAGADAHOC COUNTY SWEARS AS HOW THERE'S

MORE FURRIN CITIES IN MAINE THAN IN ANY OTHER GOLDARNED STATE
IN THIS HERE MAN'S COUNTRY. AND LISTEN, LOWELL, I BEEN HEARIN'
YOU TELL ABOUT THAT TALL STORY CLUB, BUT UNTIL YOU HEAR OUR TALL
STORIES UP HERE IN SAGADAHOC COUNTY, YOU AIN'T HEERD NOTHIN'.

DID YOU EVER HEAR ABOUT JONATHAN SPIGLEY UP HERE WHO
CAUGHT A BIG BLACK BEAR AND TRAINED HIM TO DIG POST HOLES? YOU
SHOULD JUST SEE THAT ANIMILE OUT THERE IN JONATHAN'S FRONT YARD
STANDIN' AND TURNIN' THE AUGUR AND DIGGIN' A POST HOLE.

ONE DAY ONE OF JONATHAN'S COWS WAS LYIN' DOWN IN THE
PASTURE AND THAT THERE BEAR MADE A MISTAKE. HE TOOK THE SIDE OF
THE COW FOR A PIECE OF GROUND. HE STARTED IN AND DUG A POST HOLE
RIGHT THROUGH THE COW. AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT YOU CAN JUST
GO UP TO JONANTHAN'S FARM AND HAVE A LOOK FER YERSELF. YOU SURE
ENOUGH CAN SEE DAYLIGHT RIGHT THROUGH THAT THERE HOLE IN THE COW'S
SIDE AS SHE'S GRAZIN' IN THE PASTURE.

AND LISTEN, LOWELL, WHEN YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE COMES UP
HERE TO MAINE, THERE'S ONE THING YOU'LL HEAR. IT'S WHEN A
VISITOR IS LEAVIN'. WE JUST SAY --"COME AGIN, FOLKS." AND IT'S
GOT A REAL YANKEE TWANG--"COME AGIN, FOLKS."

LETTER - 3

Well, that's Reuben's letter - even if my synthetic, phony Yankee dialect doesn't do it justice.

And it reminds me that this is my last day in New England for a while. On Monday I'll be back in New York reeling off the news as usual. New England hospitality has been great. And as I leave I somehow feel that I hear a friendly Yankee echo saying -- "Come agin, folks."

And so I'm saying to New England -- so long until we meet again. And to all of you --

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.