

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1931

INTRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

I have a group of visitors with me in the broadcasting studio tonight. They were brought by Mr. E. F. Endicott, chief of the Blind Department of the St. Louis Public Library.

Mr. Endicott, who has been blind for many years, is here attending a meeting - a meeting of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, which is meeting in conjunction with what is known as the World Conference for the Blind. With Mr. Endicott, sitting right beside me, are a number of other delegates.

They are not alone. With each delegate is a boy scout. The Boy Scout organization assigns a different division of lads, each day, to accompany the blind delegates and pilot them around New York. And so they're here, the boys and the delegates, listening while I reel off the news dispatches of the day.

And I think I'll begin with the dispatch that I'm sure Mr. Endicott and his fellow delegates select as the news item of the day.

It concerns a speech that was heard today by the delegates themselves at their meeting. Lieutenant Nicolodi, a blinded Italian war veteran, told how the Italian government has settled the problem of the blind in Italy.

His address, as reported in the New York Evening Post, explained that Premier Mussolini has adopted a system of special workshops for the blind. These shops are centers of such industries as can be practised by men and women who are without sight.

The Fascist Government has guaranteed the cost of establishing the workshops for the blind and also manages the sale of the manufactured goods. It sees to it that there is a market for them. The government does this by placing orders with the workshops for the blind and buying enough to make sure that they are kept on a paying basis.

In that way paying jobs are provided for the blind people of Italy who are thus given useful and normal places in the economic scheme of the country.

I have a telegram here from Helen Keller. She is another

of the delegates at that conference of workers for the blind. And she tells me that there are some 400 blind representatives from thirty-four nations attending the affair.

And then Helen Keller in her telegram adds that she has just received a message from Mrs Hoover in which the First Lady of the Land states that she is looking forward with much pleasure to see Miss Keller and the blind delegates at the White House on Wednesday, April 22nd.

Well, there is one thing you can bet your boots - and that is on the night of Wednesday, April 22nd, I will have something to tell you about how Mrs. Hoover received Helen Keller and the other delegates who are working for the benefit of all those who like themselves are without the gift of sight.

1 The most important news story this
2 evening is still about Spain. The King
3 is gone. The new republican **government**,
4 headed by Zamora, is in control. There ^{is}
5 wild jubilation, and the whole country
6 is enjoying a national holiday.

7 But already threats of trouble
8 have ~~now~~ cropped up for the new ^{regime} ~~republic~~.
9 In the Province of Catalonia, which has
10 declared ^{itself} ~~it~~ a separate republic, ~~with~~
11 ~~the Spanish republic~~, there has been
12 rioting and fighting. According to the
13 United Press, three people were killed
14 and dozens injured during street riots
15 in Barcelona. Mobs attacked the jails
16 and liberated the prisoners. Radicals
17 and Communists are busy, and a general
18 strike was declared today by the United
19 Labor Syndicate.

20 Prime Minister Zamora's ~~and the~~
21 government in Madrid is ~~also~~ confronted
22 with ugly threats. There are signs of
23 dissention between the various political
24 parties.

25 The International News Service cables

1 ~~that~~ the Communists are shouting that
2 the new republican government is not
3 radical enough. They demand that they
4 be given a strong representation, ~~in the~~
5 ~~government~~. They say that they're going
6 to have a Communist government in Spain--
7 I suppose something on the order of the
8 Sōviets in Russia. And to enforce
9 their demands a general strike has been
10 declared in the city of Saragossa.

11 Meanwhile, the royal family has
12 ~~is~~ scattered far and wide. The dethroned
13 king who, according to all accounts
14 behaved with a stoical dignity, went
15 aboard a Spanish cruiser. It is supposed
16 that his destination is England. King
17 Alphonso's present whereabouts, however,
18 are something of a mystery. The cruiser
19 was supposed to have put in at Gibraltar,
20 ~~and~~ ^{to} take aboard one of the sons of
21 King Alphonso, the Infanta Juan. The
22 cruiser has not appeared at Gibraltar,
23 although it is long overdue. Wireless
24 messages have been flashed to the ship,
25 but no replies have been received.

A late ~~U.S.~~ dispatch tells us the
cruiser is on its way to Marseilles.

There seems to be little ill will
against King Alphonso in Spain. The
Associated Press informs us that the
first number of the official gazette
published by the new government appeared
today. It's principal section is given
over to an article about the King and
the royal family. And that article is
described as friendly and highly
respectable.

Queen Victoria and several of her
children are on their way to France *by rail.*
A crowd broke into cheers for the ex-
queen, who was in tears as she stepped
into the railroad carriage.

Well, that's a brief resume of the
news from Spain today. And we're likely
to hear a good deal more ~~during the~~
~~next week or so~~ from the land of the
Hidalgos and the Senoritas *during the next*
week.

1 There is also a bit of political
2 unrest in the Argentine today. The
3 Associated Press states that the Cabinet
4 handed in its collective resignation
5 to the Provisional President.

6 The International News Service
7 explains that the reason for the
8 resignations is that in recent elections
9 the voters cast their ballots in favor
10 of the party headed by ^{the} ~~a~~ former President,
11 ~~troyan~~ who was turned out of office
12 some time ago.

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NICARAGUA

Things are still seething in Nicaragua too. The Associated Press reports that a total of nine Americans have been killed by bandits and rebels since Saturday. The Marines and the Nicaraguan National Guard have had plenty of trouble and have suffered reverses; although at the same time they've inflicted heavy casualties on the insurgents.

The International News Service cables that American airplanes have bombed the bandits in the hills, and that the explosive eggs dropped from the sky caused general havoc.

The Marines who landed from the cruiser Ashville at Porto Cabezas may not stay ~~xxx~~ ashore long. It's explained that they were dispatched to protect lives, not to undertake anything that might look like formal intervention. The Marines it seems, are not to be used merely to protect property.

1 I saw a familiar face on the
2 street today, a good old-fashioned,
3 hard-boiled newspaper man's face. I
4 walked up and stuck out my hand, and
5 said:--

6 "GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST, IF IT ISN'T
7 ARTHUR PEGLER!"

8 And right there Arthur Pegler and
9 I started in on a ~~long~~ talk about old
10 times.

11 We worked together on the same
12 paper out in Chicago ^{seven} ~~fifteen~~ years ago.
13 He is now editorial writer and one of the
14 editors of the New York Daily Mirror --
15 and I, well in ~~the~~ a way I'm still in the
16 newspaper game. This radio berth of mine
17 is a branch of newspaper work, and each
18 day I owe a tremendous debt to a vast
19 army of newspaper men who send us the
20 news from all over the world. Anyway,
21 Arthur Pegler cut a big figure in my
22 life. The most glorious day of my young
23 newspaper career came when I, just a
24 cub, was lucky enough to stumble onto
25 a great story. I telephoned it into the
office, and Arthur Pegler, who was our
star rewrite man in those days, took it
down and wrote the article--an article

1 that was so important that it was spread
2 over the entire front page --nine columns
3 of it.

4 The story concerned a supposedly
5 highly respectable Chicago financial
6 figure who turned out to be a ~~get-rich-quick~~
7 get-rich-quick swindler. And I was the
8 first reporter to get the facts. It was
9 quite a scoop for me, and Arthur Pegler,
10 at the rewrite desk, did a splendid job
11 of writing it up. The story he banged
12 out on his typewriter impressed me
13 profoundly--and it also got me a bonus
14 and a vacation on full pay.

15 When we were talking on the street
16 today I said: "WELL, ARTHUR, DO YOU
17 REMEMBER THAT STORY? IT CERTAINLY WAS
18 A KNOCKOUT! ~~YES~~, IT WAS ONE OF THE BIG
19 EVENTS OF MY LIFE. THAT STORY OF MINE
20 WAS ONE OF THE BEST STORIES YOU EVER
21 WROTE. REMEMBER IT?"

22 "WHAT STORY?" he asked, hard-boiled
23 like.

24 I explained to him every circumstance
25 and detail about that great and important
story. But still he couldn't remember
it. He had written thousands of newspaper
articles in his years of journalism, and

DIGEST--BASEBALL - 3.

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→ that story which meant so much to me was just

1 another bit of the day's grind to him.
2 And he ~~just couldn't~~ ^{couldn't even just vaguely} remember it.

3 Then when I got back to the office
4 of the Literary Digest, there was a
5 curious coincidence. I picked up my
6 usual advance copy of the new Digest,
7 the April 18th issue which will be on
8 the stands tomorrow, and started looking
9 through it.

10 I saw a whole series of stories
11 about sports. The Digest editors seem
12 to have gone in for sports in that new
13 issue, as you will see when you get
14 your copy tomorrow. That's quite in
15 keeping with the spirit of spring, and
16 I think during the next few days I'll
17 take the Digest editors' cue and pass
18 on to you several of those stories
19 about sports.

20 The one I read today ~~was about~~ ^{concerned}
21 baseball, one of those mocking,
22 illuminating bits that hit one right
23 between the eyes. The Digest editors
24 quoted from an article printed both in
25 the Chicago Tribune and the New York

1 Evening Post; and the writer of that
2 article is Westbrook Pegler, son of
3 that same Arthur Pegler who ^{some seventeen} ~~fifteen~~
4 years ago wrote that magnificent story
5 which I dug up, and ^{which he} doesn't remember
6 a thing about. ~~it now~~

7 Well, the Digest quotes Westbrook
8 Pegler on the subject of baseball slang,
9 and ~~it~~ goes on to give an example of
10 how the baseball reporters used to
11 write. Here's the way it reads:

12 "THE CRAB BINGLED TO CENTER FOR
13 ONE STATION WITH THE HASSOCKS CROWDED
14 AND THEN PILFERED THE NEXT CUSHION."

15 That bit of Chinese English
16 means that ^{Johnny} Evers singled with the
17 bases full and stole second.

18 Yes, that's the way the baseball
19 writers used to sling the King's English.
20 But it's different now. They don't go
21 in for all that weird jargon any more.
22 Today a hit is just a hit. It used to
23 be a bingle, poke, belt, slam, wallop,
24 sock, crash, or whack. The baseball
25 was called the pellet, pill, sphere,

1 globule, apple, onion, potato, or
2 tomato. — *anything but a baseball.*

3 Of course the sports writers still
4 do use a little of that kind of lingo,
5 but not so much as they used to. The
6 Digest informs us that ^{the} excessive,
7 crossword-puzzle kind of baseball jargon
8 has become a bit stale and old-fashioned.

9 *It had its' day — but now, Westbrook*
10 *Pegler and his fellow sports writers,*
11 *turn out some of the best copy, from*
12 *a literary standpoint, ~~in~~ that appears in*
13 *our modern newspapers.*

COBB

This seems to be a time of great matrimonial tribulation, for famous athletes. Dempsey is in a divorce mix-up with his better half.

And now comes Ty Cobb. Ty's wife is suing him for the same thing. According to the Associated Press she has entered proceedings at Atlanta, Georgia, and demands the custody of her four children.

Well, old Tyrus Raymond Cobb, hero of many tough baseball games has at times heard the umpire say STRIKE THREE, YOU'RE OUT. But now it's Friend Wife saying STRIKE THREE, YOU'RE OUT.

Newspapers today are calling attention to an interesting event in Detroit. A prominent Auto manufacturer ran his 20,000,000th car off the line today. The President himself drove the car. It goes to a museum - that 20,000,000th car.

1 A big merger in the textile
2 business is reported. 14 mills at
3 Gastonia, North Carolina, are planning
4 to unite and form a \$17,000,000
5 corporation.

3 6 If this goes through, the new
7 combine will operate more than 300,000
8 spindles, and will be the largest yarn
9 manufacturing concern in the United
10 States. That is, the largest yarn
11 manufacturing concern next to the Tall
12 Story Club. But, seriously, the new
13 textile concern will be a whopper.
14 Great guns! I don't seem to be able to
15 get away from Tall Story words--like
16 whopper#.

17 Anyway, it's going to be a big
18 corporation. And the plan is for the new
19 combine to buy up 6 other textile mills.

20 The International News Service tells
21 us that the merger was approved today
22 by the directors of the 14 mills. And
23 all that remains now is for the
24 stockholders to put their O.K. on the
25 project.

GERMANY

Well, since I seem to be so badly tangled up with the tall story idea, let's have a real tall one.

The Associated Press dispatch flashes the news that the tallest statesman in Europe today became the Lord Mayor Elect of Berlin. He is seven feet and one inch in height, and that's some tall! His name is Heinrich Sahm.

No man holding public office in Europe is as tall as Herr Sahm, and tonight his neighbors are saying "prosit" and toasting him as the new Mayor of Berlin.

TURKEY

NO, FATIMA, YOU'RE NOT VOTING TODAY. YOU'RE JUST STAYING HOME IN THE HAREM, DUSTING OFF THE KORAN AND MILKING THE GOATS.

So spoke Abdul the Turk to his wife, Fatima, as Turkey today went to the polls.

Yes, the new Turkey is very modern. The Progressive government has decreed all sorts of improved western innovations, one of them woman suffrage. The ladies were given the right to vote, and Fatima and Abdul went along to the polls together - last year.

But, as noted before, Fatima stayed at home today. According to the United Press, women suffrage has been called off. Because the Progressive majority in the Turkish Parliament says the girls didn't do right at the last election.

They turned that election into something of a holiday. It was a day filled with joyful feminine shouts and

1 giggles. Why? Well, that's where the
2 trouble comes in. The leader of the
3 opposition party, which is fighting
4 against the Progressive majority, had
5 a bright idea.

① 6 He got a fleet of automobiles and
7 offered to take Fatima and her sisters
8 on joy rides to the polls. Did they
9 jump at the idea? Bet your life they
10 did. They just piled into those
11 automobiles and had a series of some
12 of the joyfulest joy rides on record.
13 And ~~and~~ of course they voted for
14 the fine fellow who was providing the
15 entertainment; that is, they voted for
16 the opposition party.

17 That's why the Progressive majority
18 is sore, and they say they've done a
19 lot for Turkish womanhood. They gave
20 the women the right to go unveiled in
21 public. They gave them equality with
22 ~~the~~ men in the courts. They also gave
23 them the vote. And so, ~~and~~ was it
24 right for the women--thereupon and right
25 away--to vote against their benefactors,

1 just because the opposition party
2 came along with a lot of swanky looking
3 cars and gave the girls a ride?

4 It was ~~not~~ right, declares the
5 Progressive Party. And that's why
6 Fatima, Zobeide, and Scheherezade ~~are~~ were
7 ~~not going~~ ^{not allowed} to vote ^{today} ~~tomorrow~~.

8 Their place was in the home.

9 Yes, and this evening at this
10 particular time, my place is in the
11 home. That's where I'm ^{bound for} ~~going~~ now,

12 So, So-long until tomorrow.
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