

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1931

WASHINGTON

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Things are about as tranquil as usual along the Potomac today. In other words not tranquil at all. The compromise arranged by Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress is being considered by President Hoover.

~~The New York Evening Post~~ prints a report that the President has some objections to make to the wording of the agreement. As we know it is proposed that the government lend \$25,000,000 to farmers in the drought stricken sections. The Congressional leaders, in specifying what the farmers might use the money for, were careful to avoid the word "food". The President, as we know, is opposed to the idea of using government money to buy food for the needy. And so the compromise states that the farmers are to use the money for "crop production and farm rehabilitation". The Democrats, of course, want that farm rehabilitation to mean food for the farmers. And that's just where the President is said to find a flaw in the wording of the agreement.

1           Meanwhile the Associated Press  
2 reports that Mr. Hoover is entirely ~~xxxx~~  
3 opposed to the suggested compromise.

4           Well, it's all getting too deep  
5 and subtle for me. But here's hoping  
6 the Washington fireworks ends ~~some day~~  
7 in time for the farmers to ~~actually~~  
8 get <sup>some sort of</sup> ~~that~~ relief.  
9



## AIRSHIP

Some of the newspapers today are discussing a plan to tie up the big dirigible, LOS ANGELES, to the top of New York's newest and tallest skyscraper, the Empire State Building.

Ex-Governor Al Smith of New York, who is the head of the corporation operating the Empire State Building, is all for having the big dirigible come sailing over New York to the mooring mast of the giant skyscraper.

That would be a spectacular experiment in anticipation of the day when cities may all have mooring places for great airships.

Ex-Governor Smith announces that Admiral Moffat of the United States Navy, has agreed to the Los Angeles making the attempt.

The aviation editor of the New York Evening Post has gathered opinions from various experts on dirigible airships, and many of these think the idea dangerous. They point out that the atmosphere over large cities is unusually disturbed, and that if anything went wrong it might result in a great disaster, because of the crowds of people in the streets that would gather to watch

the spectacular performance.

On the other hand, there is an acknowledged recognition that the time has come when airships ought to be able to moor to the tall towers of skyscrapers, just as ocean liners dock at their piers.



1 <sup>I guess</sup>  
2 ~~well~~ I might as well turn  
3 auctioneer for a moment and put an  
4 airplane on sale. What am I offered for  
5 this magnificent ship of the air?--Going,  
6 going, gone! <sup>Sold to the gentleman in the bronze  
wiskers and the iron hat. What's the idea?</sup>

7 Well, An advertisement appeared in a  
8 newspaper at Hammond, ~~Ind~~ Indiana, which,  
9 according to the International News  
10 Service, reads as follows: IF FLOYD  
11 HOGAN DOES NOT REMOVE HIS AIRPLANE FROM  
12 MY PROPERTY, IT WILL BE SOLD FOR CHARGES.

13 The notice was inserted by  
14 J. F. Ponlplatz. Mr. Ponlplatz tells  
15 how that airplane got on to his front  
16 lawn. Floyd Hogan was flying over  
17 Hammond and then he started to come down.  
18 He landed in Mr. Ponlplatz's front yard.  
19 Floyd went away from there and left his  
20 airplane behind, ~~him~~. Finally Mr.  
21 Ponlplatz got tired of looking at the  
22 flying machine, ~~and~~ <sup>declares</sup> so he ~~says~~ that if  
23 Floyd doesn't come for it pretty soon  
24 that plane is going to be--Going, going,  
25 gone!

1 Here's a bit of baseball that's  
2 being played--not on a diamond, but in  
3 a courtroom.

4 The Milwaukee Club of the American  
5 Association is swinging a big bat, but  
6 not at a baseball. That Milwaukee Club  
7 is trying to knock the crown right off  
8 the head of Judge <sup>Renesaw Mountain</sup> Landis, ~~the~~ <sup>America's</sup> baseball  
9 czar.

10 The trouble <sup>has all arisen over</sup> ~~is about~~ Fred Bennett,  
11 an outfielder. Bennett was on the  
12 St. Louis <sup>s</sup> team in the American League,  
13 and then he was shifted to Milwaukee.  
14 Landis claims that this was ~~not~~ in  
15 violation of the agreement <sup>between</sup> ~~the~~ major  
16 and minor leagues, and has ordered  
17 outfielder Bennett back to ~~the~~ St. Louis,  
18 ~~team~~. But the Milwaukee team wants the  
19 big flycatcher; and has gone to court,  
20 complaining that Judge Landis has exceeded  
21 his powers.

22 According to the International  
23 News Service, the fiery baseball czar is  
24 a witness in his own behalf, and he is  
25 expected to toss a wide assortment of



1 verbal curves in an attempt to register  
2 a strikeout against the Milwaukee Club.

3           When I was a cub reporter in  
4 Chicago years ago Judge Landis' court  
5 was on my beat. <sup>believe me</sup> And <sub>^</sub>the Judge can  
6 certainly send 'em smoking over the  
7 pan when he gets ~~at~~ wound up.  
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1 The Einstein theory is in the news  
2 again today. <sup>No,</sup> it's not a case of a man  
3 coming forward and saying he understands  
4 the Einstein theory. This chap says <sup>that he</sup>  
<sup>not only understands it, but</sup> he invented it. At least he says he  
5 invented that part which is called the  
6 "unified <sup>field</sup> theory".  
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8 Ira D. Edwards, of San Pedro,  
9 California, has entered suit in the  
10 United States District Court, and,  
11 according to the United Press, he claims  
12 that he presented that unified field  
13 theory in a book which he published in  
14 1929. He says that Einstein got his  
15 idea from that book.

16 Well, many trials are quite  
17 incomprehensible. And this one ought to  
18 have unusual qualities as a puzzler.  
19 Anyway, the jury will probably have a  
20 lot of fun figuring out who is the real  
21 inventor of the unified field theory. <sup>Yes,</sup>  
22 <sup>and what a dizzy time the lawyers will have</sup>  
23 <sup>trying to explain the Einstein theory to the jury.</sup>



1 Last night I got only half way  
2 through an item. But my time was up and  
3 I had to postpone the rest of it. I  
4 mentioned about a striking contrast that  
5 you will find in this week's Literary  
6 Digest.

7 There is an article which gives a  
8 brilliant pen portrait of India's leader  
9 and prophet, Mahatma Gandhi, the toothless  
10 emaciated, shriveled up little Hindu who  
11 represents the mystic soul of India.

12 And there on the other side of  
13 the fence from him stands the man who  
14 represents all that Gandhi is opposed to,  
15 Lord Willingdon, the new Viceroy of India  
16 and representative of the King-Emperor.

17 This week's Digest carries an  
18 illuminating article on this eminent  
19 Britisher who leaves his post as Governor-  
20 General of Canada to become the ruler of  
21 Britain's vast empire in India.

22 While Gandhi on one hand seems  
23 to represent all that is weak of body  
24 and great of soul in India, Lord Willingdon  
25 typifies perfectly the English  
aristocrat. The Digest quotes

1 the New York Times in telling us that  
2 he is sixty-four years old. He is  
3 tall and graceful, with the lean  
4 strength of the sportsman or soldier.  
5 His face is full of humor and charm.  
6 You see in him touches of a soldier  
7 on parade, of the diplomat, the  
8 politician, the sportsman, the society  
9 man, the administrator. He has perfect  
10 tact and good manners. He is not a  
11 mystic, <sup>Oh, no</sup> but he is <sup>the ideal</sup> a man for the pomp  
12 and pageantry of India.

13 Gandhi may be deep in those  
14 unworldly dreams which make the soul  
15 of India, but Lord Willingdon is a  
16 man of firm, even-tempered good sense.  
17 As the Literary Digest tells us, Gandhi  
18 symbolizes the terrific might of  
19 meekness. Lord Willingdon symbolizes  
20 moderation and strength. When he was  
21 appointed ~~to be the~~ viceroy of India  
22 he made one characteristic statement.  
23 He said he would not flaunt the British  
24 flag out in India, but he added, that  
25 assuredly the British flag would not



1 be furl ed.

2       The Literary Digest tells us  
3 that even Hindu nationalists themselves  
4 admit that the new Viceroy has all  
5 the qualities of tact, firmness and  
6 generosi ty.

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1                    *by the way,*  
2                    Today, <sup>^</sup> was a day of idleness  
3 out in India. Schools and business  
4 offices in most cities were closed.  
5 This was because of the death of Pandit  
6 Nehru, ~~who is~~ one of the leaders of the  
7 Nationalist party and a close associate  
8 of Gandhi.

9                    Gandhi's party immediately  
10 declared a hartal, that is, a strike  
11 for one day all over India as a token  
12 of mourning and respect for the dead  
13 leader.

14                    Meanwhile the Indian delegates  
15 to the Round Table Conference arrived  
16 back in India today. They issued a  
17 proclamation urging Gandhi and his party  
18 to accept the British offer of modified  
19 home rule. One of the delegates, a  
20 friend of Gandhi, has gone to confer with  
21 the Mahatma <sup>hoping to persuade</sup> ~~and is asking~~ <sup>^</sup> him to accept  
22 the British offer.  
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1           Let's pass along to a rich and  
2 romantic safety-first item. The Prime  
3 Minister of Japan has a new bodyguard,  
4 and that bodyguard consists of six  
5 jiu jitsu experts. Can't you just imagine  
6 how beautifully safe you'd feel if you  
7 were guarded by six jiu jitsu experts?

8           They've been having rather a wild  
9 time in the Japanese Parliament.

10 Principally on account of that London Naval  
11 Treaty. Fiery speeches turned into a  
12 free-for-all fight. The Japanese M.Ps.  
13 threw inkwells and ash <sup>trays</sup> ~~receivers~~ at each  
14 other. One man flashed a dagger. ~~and~~

15 ~~According to the Associated Press,~~ half a  
16 dozen members were cut and bruised <sup>in the melee,</sup>

17           Threats were even made against the  
18 life of Prime Minister <sup>ee</sup>Shidehara. And so,  
19 according to the International News Service,  
20 the Prime Minister decided to adopt the  
21 good old scheme of safety first. He had  
22 a large police guard already, but those  
23 Japanese cops weren't enough. Now he has  
24 added those six jiu jitsu experts. If  
25 anybody gets fresh with the Prime Minister,

1 ~~these~~ jiu jitsu boys will just tie him into  
2 knots and wrap his legs around his ears.

3           This jiu jitsu idea sounds a new note  
4 in the field of political science, and it  
5 sounds like a rather good one too.

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1 Here's a thing I didn't know before,  
2 although I've traveled a bit in Asia.

3 There is just one Christian nation  
4 in all of that vast continent -- and only  
5 one. It is the old biblical land of ~~the~~  
6 Lebanon where the cedars grow, the cedars  
7 of Lebanon that King Hiram of Tyre sent to  
8 King Solomon for the Temple in Jerusalem.

9 Lebanon is in that part of Syria which  
10 is under the control of France, but the  
11 French have given the people ~~of Lebanon~~  
12 the status of a nation. ~~and~~ <sup>77</sup> ~~the~~ Most of the  
13 people in the ancient land are Christians,  
14 and the nation is Christian.

15 An article in the New York Sun tells  
16 us that they've had a census ~~in the ancient~~  
17 ~~land of Lebanon~~, and the number of these  
18 ~~people~~ <sup>population</sup> is more than 800,000. There's  
19 been a lot of immigration of late, and  
20 most of those who have gone away are  
21 Christians. But still the Christians  
22 predominate. The largest sect is that  
23 of the Maronites who form one of the  
24 oldest of Christian churches. In their  
25 ~~church~~ services they still use the

1 Aramaic language, which the Saviour spoke.

2 Well, it's good to hear that there  
3 is a Christian nation among the cedars of  
4 Lebanon, #even if it is almost the  
5 smallest nation in all Asia. And by the  
6 way, the mountains of Lebanon are among  
7 the most beautiful in all the world.

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1 Way "down under", in the southern  
2 hemisphere, old Mother Earth is still  
3 playing pranks.

4 After that bad earthquake in New  
5 Zealand now comes a series of cloudbursts,  
6 floods, and landslides in Australia. In  
7 Queensland and New South Wales the  
8 Associated Press reports that thousands  
9 of people have been washed out of house  
10 and home.

11 According to the International News  
12 Service, 16 inches of rain have fallen  
13 in the important city of Brisbane during  
14 the past 24 hours. The suburbs of the  
15 city are like lakes. In the town of  
16 Lismore, a steam boat was able to  
17 navigate down the main street.

18 Yes sir, over here in America we may  
19 be having a drought but it's raining  
20 plenty down there in the land of  
21 bushrangers and kangeroos.

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1 ~~How~~ Let's take up the great  
2 egg mystery. It's ~~XXXXXXXX~~ the reigning  
3 sensation over in Italy.

4 In the town of Pallanza  
5 somebody is busy bestowing eggs upon  
6 the people. No, not throwing rotten  
7 eggs at them, ~~Just~~ giving them good  
8 fresh eggs to eat. <sup>But</sup> Nobody <sup>has been able to</sup> ~~can~~ guess  
9 who the unknown benefactor is.

10 The mystery began <sup>when</sup> ~~XXXX~~ Don  
11 Scacco, the parish priest found sixty  
12 eggs all in a row on the doorstep of  
13 his house.

14 According to the New York  
15 Sun he supposed some benefactor had  
16 left them for the poor and he distributed  
17 them among the needy of the village.

18 A few days later a tavern  
19 keeper found two dozen eggs on his  
20 doorstep. He made an omelet out of them  
21 and served them to his customers. The  
22 next day the local judge found four  
23 dozen eggs. He ate them.

24 Then a bride married a few  
25 weeks, found a basket with several dozen



1 eggs on her doorstep and she was the  
2 first to notify the police, because she  
3 thought they might have been poisoned  
4 by her jealous rival. The police,  
5 however, found that they were perfectly  
6 good fresh country eggs.

7           Then day after day people  
8 continued to find eggs on their doorsteps.  
9 A watch has been kept but the unknown  
10 giver is very clever. Nobody has been  
11 able to catch sight of him.

12           The news has spread all over Italy  
13 and everyone is asking who the unknown  
14 egg-giving Santa Claus may be. They  
15 are <sup>all</sup> hoping that he will keep up the good  
16 work and leave a few dozen ~~fresh eggs~~  
17 on their doorsteps.

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1 Last night I said I was going  
2 to spend the evening reading a book, ~~it~~  
3 ~~is~~ "The Road to Culture" by Charles Gray  
4 Shaw. Well, I <sup>did read most of it and it gave me</sup> ~~read enough in that book~~  
5 ~~to give me a few~~ <sup>plenty of</sup> good ideas to think  
6 about for some time to come. Culture is  
7 a thing which most of us are interested  
8 in. <sup>Of course many</sup> ~~some~~ of us are frightened by the  
9 word. It sounds so grand and lofty.

10 Well, that is just where Professor  
11 Shaw puts us to rights in his book "The  
12 Road to Culture." Right on the first  
13 page I read the statement that culture  
14 was once a luxury in the minds of a few  
15 people ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> is now a necessity in the  
16 lives of many.

17 Professor Shaw goes on to show  
18 how books and motion pictures and the  
19 radio have brought culture into our  
20 houses often without our knowing about it.  
21 He says the ~~pages of~~ <sup>road to</sup> culture ~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> as open  
22 to our minds as the highways are to the  
23 automobile.

24 And then he goes on to explain  
25 that culture is an adornment of the mind,



just as clothes are an adornment of the body. The time was when furs and silks were the signs of royalty and aristocracy - but today, furs and silks are a part of the everyday life of all of us. So it is with Culture.

His book gave me a better idea of how pleasant traveling can be, along "The Road to Culture."

1           Now for some news about Patsy.  
2   Who is Patsy. Well, Patsy is a dog, a  
3 fox terrier and she lives down in Tavares,  
4 Florida. The story of Patsy's  
5 peculiarities is sent to me by A.C. Stubbs,  
6 of Taveres.

7           It appears that Patsy has a nose  
8 for news. Anyway she listens in, every  
9 evening to The Literary Digest hour. She  
10 sits there with her ears cocked and pays  
11 close attention to the things that have  
12 happened all over the world.

13           And at the end, Patsy hears --  
14 so long until tomorrow, and instantly she  
15 makes a beeline for her kennel. ~~It's~~  
16 ~~"so long until tomorrow" for her too, and~~  
17 ~~she just tears along to curl herself up~~  
18 ~~in the dog house and go to sleep.~~

19           Well, the time has come to send  
20 Patsy scurrying away to her kennel. And  
21 it's time for me to scurry along to my  
22 cubicle among the cliff dwellers of a  
23 modern city.

24           So, so long until tomorrow.  
25