

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1931

WILKINS

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

In the icy waters of the Arctic, less than 700 miles away from the North Pole, a cigar-shaped hull is nosing its way along this evening, through floating masses of ice. And that's a thing to make us wonder and admire. I'll tell you, that man Wilkins certainly has spunk and determination. He's up there on the edge of the Polar ice-pack getting ready to take a dive under the frozen surface of the Northern sea.

Of course we all know the series of mishaps into which Sir Hubert Wilkins has run. At best, that adventurous project of making a voyage to the North Pole under the ice is enough to give a fellow the creeps. No, you won't want a submarine that's liable to go wrong when you're out to try that sort of trip.

But Captain Wilkins submarine, the Nautilus, has been playing funny tricks ever since he left these shores on his way across the Atlantic and then north to the Arctic. It seemed so pitiful that it was almost laughable when that North-Pole-going

under-sea craft broke down in the Atlantic and lay wallowing in the storm and then had to be towed part of the way across. I suppose plenty of us were surprised when Sir Hubert Wilkins didn't stop right there. But he continued on his way north just the same; and then he had more trouble. The engines broke down and the whole apparatus went wrong in general. But he patiently made repairs as best he could and kept on to Spitzbergen, to the northern-most point of civilization from which a dash into the Arctic would have to be made. No, I wouldn't have blamed him if he had decided to wait until next year and got his boat into better shape before monkeying around with the Polar ice-pack.

But that's not Wilkins, I never knew a man who had so much iron determination. You can see it in his face and he's a man to stick to a job until it's done.

Well anyway, tonight Wilkins in that submarine which has broken down so often, is pushing his way through the northern ice, far up there at the top ~~ax~~ of the world.

Tonight he's well to the north of Spitzbergen. The

International News Service describes how the Nautilus has been carefully treading its way through lanes of open water among dense floating masses of ice. Several times as the submarine pushed along she was confronted by towering walls of ice. Once or twice she got tangled up among the frozen masses in such a way that she had to duck under a bit. She had to submerge partly to get free.

Wilkins himself in a wireless dispatch to the Hearst newspapers, explains that the ice has been thick enough to make diving difficult. But he thinks he'll be able to do it soon. He's going to try to work his way to a free space, and then -- well, it will be the first time that an undersea craft has ever dived under the ice-pack of the North. He may be under the ice now and what a drama there is in that thought.

Wilkins tells us that he intends to make several short dives under the ice and see how it works, before he attempts any really long journey beneath the frozen surface of the Polar sea. He's going to give his craft a good tryout.

I don't know what is in Sir Hebert's mind. The season



is already late for a trip on to the Pole, and it may be that he intends to use the tail end of the present summer season for study and practice so as to be prepared for next summer, and wait until then before he attempts that almost unimaginable trip under the ice to the North Pole.

Many think this is what he'll do, but you can't tell.

Wilkins may spend a few days in practicing diving under the ice and then even with the season drawing to a close, he may go right ahead, make a long dive under the frozen sea, and start for the North Pole. Because Sir Hubert Wilkins is a man of surprises.

## LINDBERGH

Well, the Lindbergh plane got into motion today. No, it didn't fly. It was towed by a ship. The waters off the island of Ketoi in the Kurile group were too stormy for the safety of a plane afloat on the surface. There was grave danger of it being wrecked by the high seas. So a Japanese steamer towed the Lindbergh monoplane to a safer spot 15 miles away. That is, to Muroton Bay, Shimushiru Island.

There, the Associated Press relates, it was hauled onto the beach. Colonel Lindbergh is working on the motor. He and Mrs. Lindbergh hope to be able to take off tomorrow and continue their voyage southward to Tokyo.

The United Press draws a picture for us of Mrs. Anne Morrow Lindbergh sitting on the sandy beach of Muroton Bay while her famous husband worked on the motor. They say the young wife cast homesick glances across the sea. Such is wedded bliss in the family of a famous aviator. Naturally there are bound to be a few forced landings.

The Paris of the West Indies, the gay city of Havana, is under heavy guard tonight. The government is taking strong measures to prevent a revolutionary outbreak in the city. The United Press reports scattered firing in various parts of the Cuban capital. Just who is to blame for the shooting is not made clear.

Meanwhile, fighting is still going on in various parts of Cuba. The reports of the situation are contradictory -- the government claiming it has the trouble well in hand, and the rebels declaring that they're making progress.

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But Cuba was not the only place in the Western Hemisphere where fighting occurred today. New York also was the scene of a battle, a running battle between two bandits and a hundred or more policemen. As a result five are dead tonight, several others are dying and a dozen more are wounded.

Late in the afternoon a payroll robbery occurred in upper Manhattan. The two robbers fled north to the Bronx, then along the Boston Post Road, back to Manhattan, around the Polo Grounds, along Broadway and over to Riverside Drive, leaving a trail of dead and wounded. In the end both robbers and the driver of their taxi were killed. An extra edition of the New York American refers to it as one of the worst outbreaks of its kind in the history of New York, in recent times.



And now for another tangle, purely political. The threads of British politics are all snarled up this evening. Those financial problems we heard about lastnight are as perplexing as ever. There were rumors today that the Labor Government would resign. The indication seemed to be that the cabinet of Prime Minister MacDonald was about to step out of power.

But this evening the International News Service tells us that the Labor government is holding on and that Prime Minister MacDonald has called another important meeting of the cabinet for tomorrow.

## GANDHI

We have some more news about Gandhi this evening. That frail little Holy man of India certainly does seem to have the faculty of making the world sit up and take notice. He's always in the headlines.

The Associated Press reports that the Secretary for India in the Government of London has ordered the Indian viceroy, Lord Willingdon, to get busy and come to an understanding with Gandhi.

The Mahatma has been claiming that the British Government in India has not lived up to the agreement it made with him some time ago and a lively controversy has been going on. As ~~xxx~~ a result of this Gandhi has refused to go to London and attend the big conference that is to be held on the subject of India.

But apparently the British Government is eager to have the Holy Man take part in the proceedings.

Lord Willingdon had planned an extensive tour of India. And a veceregal tour in the last word ~~in~~ in pomp and circumstance panoplied elephants and the carpet out at every station. But the Secretary for India in London has told the noble lord to cancel



the elephants and the red carpet and get busy straightening out matters with the Mahatma. And so the viceroy has put off his tour. He has ~~xxx~~ called a vice Regal Council to meet at Simla, the summer capital of India, tomorrow. And this solemn council is scheduled to find some way to satisfy Gandhi so that he will withdraw his refusal and go to London and attend that forthcoming conference on Indian affairs.

1           The Brazilian Embassy in Washington  
2 announces today that an agreement has  
3 been signed according to which Brazil  
4 and the United States ~~were~~<sup>are</sup> going to do  
5 a bit of swapping. They are going to  
6 swap coffee for wheat. The quantities  
7 of merchandise involved are not named  
8 but Brazil is going to give the United  
9 States Government a big load of coffee  
10 in return for some of that mountain of  
11 wheat which the Federal Farm Board has  
12 stored up.

b 13           The Associated Press adds that  
14 this coffee announcement falls right on  
15 the heels of a statement in Washington  
16 that the Grain Stabilizing Corporation,  
17 which has control of the Farm Board  
18 wheat has been authorized to negotiate  
19 with the Chinese government on the subject  
20 of grain.

21           The idea is to sell to China  
22 17 million bushels of wheat for the  
23 relief of millions of people who are  
24 facing starvation as the result of the  
25 floods along the Yangtse river.

## CHINA

Yes, and dreadful scenes are reported from the flood districts of China. The Yangtse River is still rising. The great city of Hankow is flooded -- its streets are under water, and the belief is growing wierd and wild among the Chinese that the city is doomed to destruction by the resistless power of the river.

Hankow is a great industrial center together with its sister cities of Wuchang and Hanyang. It has a population, so the Associated Press tells us, of nearly a million, and this has been swollen by hundreds of thousands of refugees. Stark terror reigns among the packed and ~~ex~~ crowded inhabitants of the city. Hundreds of thousands are fleeing. Yesterday the flood waters of the river receded a bit and that encouraged hope. But today they are rising again and the Chinese people believe that Hankow is doomed.

In Washington it is announced that an American Red Cross fund of \$100,000. has been sent to China for flood relief. \$100,000. can do a lot of good in China. Red Cross officials have word that the situation is desperate and one of them declared that the present Yangtse floods may go on record as the worst calamity that the world has ever known. Perhaps the greatest in the long thousands of years of Chinese ~~x~~ history.



## DIGEST

While the floods are raging in China, the political situation over there is just as complicated as ever. In fact, Chinese politics seem so very complicated that if somebody comes along and makes them a bit simpler, why that chap is doing us a big favor.

It seems, according to this week's Literary Digest, that it's all a matter of money, that is, economics. And that brings the high-falutin' entanglements of affairs in the Far East right down to solid earth.

The Literary Digest goes to the Far East for its information. It gives us an analytical study by an expert who belongs to a nation that should have a pretty good idea of the money-master T. V. Soong, who is Finance Minister for the Nationalist government of General Chiang Kai-shek. The anti-foreign angle of the Nationalist movement, we are told, is capitalist. Not it isn't Communism fighting against Capitalism. It's

1 good insight into affairs in China. He is  
2 Doctor S. Washio, who writes in the Tokio  
3 ~~newspaper~~ called the Trans-Pacific. He  
4 is quoted in the Literary Digest as  
5 telling us how weird events for the past  
6 few years in China are based on a series  
7 of financial changes that are going on.

8 We think of Communism in connection  
9 with China. Yes, there's plenty of  
10 Communism over there, but the Japanese  
11 expert tells us that the Chinese  
12 Nationalist movement is based distinctly  
13 on Capitalism. It was planned and  
14 financed by Chinese <sup>money</sup> ~~financial~~ interests  
15 centered at the treaty-port of Ningpo.  
16 And these capitalists have been running  
17 the Nationalist party ever since. Their  
18 leader is the money-master T. V. Soong,  
19 who is Finance Minister for the  
20 Nationalist government of General Chiang  
21 Kai-shek.

22 The anti-foreign angle of the  
23 Nationalist movement, so we are told, is  
24 Capitalism. No, it isn't Communism  
25 fighting against Capitalism. It's

1 Chinese capitalists in a battle with the  
2 financial interests of the Western  
3 powers. The Western nations have had  
4 a strangle-hold on Chinese commerce, and  
5 that's what the powerful group of Chinese  
6 capitalists want to break down.

7 ~~Well, how come that the Chinese~~  
8 ~~capitalists have become so powerful?~~ The  
9 Literary Digest tells us that ~~also~~.  
10 China is slowly becoming industrialized.  
11 The people in the rural districts are  
12 more and more depending on factory-made  
13 products. In consequence the Chinese  
14 financial interests that are organizing  
15 the industries of the country have become  
16 fabulously rich and powerful. And the  
17 Communist movement in China has simply  
18 made them richer. With the Communist  
19 bands on the rampage in the interior,  
20 people with money have cleared out and  
21 sought safety in the cities along the  
22 coast. They have brought their money  
23 with them, and this money has gone into  
24 the banks controlled by the great Chinese  
25 financiers.



There is a large and well-organized revolutionary movement on foot in China right now. A separate government has been set up at Canton and is holding off the forces of the Nationalist authorities.

So the present political situation in China consists principally of a big battle between two rival groups of financiers.

1 It seems to be a case of -- well,  
2 I was about to say rough on rats, but ~~it~~ I  
3 should <sup>say:</sup> ~~be~~ rough on Mayors <sup>that is out</sup> at Edgewood,  
4 Iowa. Folks out there don't seem to be  
5 able to keep Mayors on the job long.  
6 ~~they've had two~~ <sup>have gone out of office</sup> in the last eight weeks,  
7 and now ~~they've got to pick another one.~~ <sup>it's a case of mayor number three.</sup>

8 Well, ~~now~~ I'll bet you Edgewood is a fine  
9 progressive little city, but somehow the  
10 Mayors of Edgewood seem to have a way of  
11 chucking up their jobs.

12 ■ J. C. Amling was Mayor of  
13 Edgewood, <sup>Iowa,</sup> but he resigned last month. He  
14 got into an argument about the Fourth of  
15 July sale of fireworks and walked right  
16 out.

17 So Edgewood had to find a new  
18 Mayor. Fred Dennis was the lucky  
19 candidate, but now he's out. The trouble  
20 was on account of a carnival company.  
21 The Mayor told the carnival people that  
22 they couldn't put up a merry-go-round  
23 in the public park. But the Edgewood  
24 Commercial Club said the opposite. They  
25 told the carnival company, "Don't mind

him -- he's only the Mayor. Go right ahead and put up your merry-go-round."

And so now, as the International News Service tells us, His Honor Mayor Dennis says, "Go ahead and find yourself another Mayor." And he walked right out.

And just to keep the ball rolling, it's time for me to walk right out - I mean:-

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.