

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1931

AVIATORS

Good Evening, Everybody:

Excuse me if I gasp a bit at this moment. It's bad enough to have to jump out of a disabled airplane, but then to land in a maze of 2200-volt electric wires -- well, that's enough to make anybody gasp.

At Greencastle, Indiana relates the Associated Press, Richard Scanlon and Frank Spring got into trouble while flying right over the town. They both bailed out, and took to their parachutes. Spring didn't have any particular trouble. He just came down easily. But as Scanlon drifted to earth with his parachute he came down among those high-tension wires. His parachute caught on them, but Scanlon himself dropped neatly through, without touching the death-dealing electric strands.

He hit a sidewalk near the campus of De Pauw University, and broke a leg. That didn't feel any too good. But as he thought of that jump into space and his narrow squeak with the 2200 volt electric wires, he just thanked his lucky stars, and said huh, what's a broken leg?

1           There was a wild skirmish in  
2 New Haven. The riot call sounded. A  
3 squad of policemen came rushing, and  
4 there was a sound of pistol fire. What  
5 was the cause of the trouble?

6           Well, it all started when a  
7 man walked up to a young woman and asked  
8 her if she could introduce him to a  
9 wooden Indian.

10           All of this sounds some<sup>^</sup> what  
11 complicated, but the United Press  
12 explains it ~~somewhat~~ in detail.

13           George Porter, a Yale student,  
14 was being initiated into ~~membership of~~  
15 a fraternity<sup>ty</sup>. He was given several  
16 peculiar things to do. One was ~~that he~~  
17 ~~was~~ to go down the street, approach the  
18 first woman he saw, and ask her to  
19 direct him to a wooden Indian.

20           The student did so. It seems  
21 that he picked out a young lady with  
22 sensitive nerves, because when she heard  
23 the strange request, she promptly fainted.

24           A cop came running up and  
25 ~~xxx~~ arrested the student for causing the

1 young ~~man~~<sup>lady</sup> to faint.

2 Joseph Farricelli, another  
3 student, came to his comrade's rescue.  
4 He started to fight with the cop. A  
5 bunch of street boys gathered and joined  
6 in the rumpus. That caused the riot  
7 call to be sounded. As the cops arrived,  
8 Farricelli started to run. The cops  
9 fired their pistols into the air, and  
10 he stopped.

11 And that's how a lot of commotion  
12 started in New Haven when a young fellow  
13 asked a girl to tell him where he could  
14 shake hands with a wooden Indian.

1 I have a telegram from Kentucky  
2 which reads:- "In your Tuesday broadcast  
3 you quoted a New York paper as saying that  
4 Boston College and Holy Cross were the  
5 only football teams to donate to charity  
6 the receipts of a regularly scheduled  
7 game."

8 The telegram goes on to add that the  
9 University of Kentucky gave to charity  
10 its entire share of the money taken in  
11 at its Home-coming game with Duke  
12 University on November 7th.

13 Similarly, I have a letter from I.M.  
14 Cohen, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who tells me  
15 that the University of Cincinnati and  
16 Miami University of Oxford, Ohio, played  
17 a regularly scheduled game on Thanksgiving  
18 Day, ~~and~~ Miami University gave <sup>a large</sup> ~~20~~ per cent  
19 of its share ~~of the money~~ to charity, ~~and~~  
20 the University of Cincinnati gave ~~almost~~  
21 <sup>even more,</sup> ~~its entire share.~~ Nineteen thousand  
22 dollars was turned over to be used for  
23 charity's sweet sake.

24 And I believe that these are only two  
25 of a number of similar instances in which

1 colleges donated the receipts of  
2 regularly scheduled games for the  
3 benefit of unemployment relief. So

4 there are other colleges that deserve  
5 special credit along with Holy  
6 Cross and Boston College.

1 They ~~have been~~<sup>are</sup> having a series of  
2 floods in Arkansas and Louisiana. Rivers  
3 and creeks are flowing over their banks,  
4 and the turbulent waters are threatening  
5 to do serious damage.

6 It's been raining ~~cats and dogs~~<sup>pitchforks</sup>.  
7 The downpour, adds the International  
8 News Service, followed right on the heels  
9 of a tornado which cut a path of  
10 desolation. Three ~~people~~ were killed,  
11 and many houses were either damaged or  
12 completely demolished.

13 They've been having unseasonably warm  
14 weather down South, and the twister seems  
15 to have been a result of comparatively  
16 hot weather in December.

17 The funnel-shaped cloud swept across  
18 southwestern Arkansas and Louisiana, and  
19 caused a reign of havoc along its path.

20 And floods are reported in Southern  
21 Ohio, also, tonight.  
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1 (It was announced in Paris this  
2 afternoon that France will not pay to the  
3 United States the Nineteen Million Dollars  
4 that falls due tomorrow. This is in  
5 accordance with the agreement for the  
6 suspension of payments of debts and  
7 reparations.)

8 In Washington Senator Smoot of the  
9 Senate Finance Committee has introduced a  
10 bill which would allow European countries  
11 to make their payments to the United States  
12 in silver; the silver ~~would~~<sup>to</sup> be accepted  
13 at the average market price. The object  
14 of the plan ~~would be~~<sup>is</sup> to enable foreign  
15 countries to make their payments without  
16 too much difficulty. Also, payments  
17 in silver ~~would~~<sup>will</sup> improve the silver  
18 market.

19 A counter-proposal was made by  
20 Senator Dill, ~~xxxxx~~ who ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> quoted by  
21 the International News Service as  
22 proposing a world conference on silver  
23 to consider the matter of Governments  
24 paying their debt<sup>s</sup> to the United States in  
25 silver.

1           Meanwhile in both houses of  
2 Congress sharp attacks were made on the  
3 President's moratorium policy, meaning  
4 that the battle is under way; ~~of~~ the  
5 big series of <sup>debates about</sup> ~~disputes~~ which is sure to  
6 ~~center round~~ <sup>^</sup> the Foreign Debt situation.

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1 Well, it seems to be a cinch for  
2 Chicago, -- I mean the Republican National  
3 Convention.

4 The International News Service  
5 reports that the Republican National  
6 Committee has decided to take the  
7 Convention to Chicago. Cleveland dropped  
8 out of the race today.

9 Chicago offers \$150,000 for the big  
10 Republican pow-wow. And that seems <sup>to assist</sup> ~~to assist~~  
11 settle the matter, with the G. O. P. elephant  
12 trumpeting: - "On to Chicago."  
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1 The appointment of thirty-two  
2 Rhodes scholars ~~has~~ was announced today.  
3 Thirty-two young Americans have been  
4 named to go to Oxford with <sup>most of</sup> their expenses  
5 paid by the great fund established by  
6 Cecil Rhodes, *the Empire Builder.*

7 Harvard tops the list. Four Harvard  
8 men received the coveted scholarships.  
9 West Point and the University of Michigan  
10 are next. Two men from each of these  
11 ~~xxx~~ institutions will go to Oxford.

12 ~~to~~ Other college<sup>s</sup>, <sup>adds</sup> ~~says~~ the ~~xxx~~  
13 International News Service, <sup>1.</sup> *got one each.* ~~received more~~  
14 ~~than one scholarship.~~

## DIGEST

I wonder if it wouldn't be a good idea if those of us who have children would stop now and then and ask the question - what do our children think of us? Maybe we'd get a surprise if we knew. This thought is suggested in an amusing article in this week's Literary Digest. It tells us what Charlie Chaplin's two boys have to say on the subject of papa. Announcer Howard Petrie mentioned this article on Saturday.

The Literary Digest explains that the two youngsters aged 5 and 6, were interviewed by a correspondent of the London News-Chronicle. The 6-year-old declared himself clearly on the subject of his cane twirling dad who has made kids and grown-ups all over the world shake with laughter.

Said Young Sid Chaplin: "Daddy really isn't so funny. I like Punch-and-Judy shows better."

And then the little Sid went on to say that he didn't think so much of the movies.

He said:—

"I'm going to be a lion-tamer." ~~he~~  
boasted.

And then he made the following  
illuminating comment upon Charlie ~~Chaplin~~<sup>S</sup>  
in his domestic role: ~~ugh~~ "you know,  
~~cried the youngster,~~ "Daddy never throws  
pies at home."

Well, I have an idea that if the  
children of any of us had their ~~say~~,  
they'd express themselves in a way just  
as odd and amusing.

1 Things are quiet in Honolulu tonight.  
2 Heavy ~~shore~~ patrols were landed from the  
3 warships, and they proceeded to restore  
4 order among the sailors, who had been  
5 rioting ashore.

6 The trouble, as the Associated Press  
7 explains, was caused by an attack on the  
8 wife of an American naval officer.

9 The gobs on shore were enraged by the  
10 crime, and went on a rampage. They beat  
11 up one of the Japanese accused of the  
12 offense, and also a Chinese merchant, who  
13 had nothing at all to do with the affair.  
14 The sailors mistook him for one of the  
15 defendants and pummeled him severely.

16 The downtown section of Honolulu was  
17 the scene of a wild skirmish between the  
18 police and several hundred sailors, who  
19 were dressed in dungarees. ~~— that is,~~  
20 ~~overalls~~

21 There <sup>has</sup> been a bad situation in  
22 Honolulu. Last Friday Rear-Admiral  
23 George T. Pettingill, commanding a force  
24 of American mine-layers, warned the  
25 Admiral of the battle fleet that Honolulu

was unsafe for the wives of American officers.

A report on the whole state of affairs is being sent to Washington.

Meanwhile, the United Press gives the information that American naval officers have cancelled all shore-leave for the sailors. The gobs will have to stay aboard their ships -- for the present.

1 It seems as if the Statue of  
2 Liberty is going to have a rival. It  
3 will be a statue of Lenin.

4 The United Press reports that ~~the~~  
5 Soviets ~~Russians~~ <sup>are</sup> planning to erect a  
6 giant statue of the founder of the  
7 Bolshevik regime in Russia. It is to be  
8 ~~xxx~~ 370 feet high. The Statue of  
9 Liberty is 305 feet high.

10 The enormous effigy of Lenin will  
11 be topped by a lighthouse beacon, and  
12 will stand at the entrance of the Port of  
13 Leningrad. If the statue is really ~~x~~  
14 put up, it will be the tallest in the  
15 world, although the figure of the  
16 chunky, bearded, bald-headed apostle  
17 of Communism may not be quite so graceful  
18 as ~~the statue of the goddess~~ <sup>who beams</sup> ~~that stands~~  
19 ~~at~~ <sup>over</sup> the entrance to New York harbor.

1           There seems to be some doubt this  
2 evening about the President of China.  
3 A report from Shanghai declares that  
4 General Chang Kai Shek, president of the  
5 Nationalist Government resigned today.

6           The Associated Press reports that  
7 the rumor created a tremendous sensation  
8 in the city.

9           From Nanking, the Nationalist Capital,  
10 however, comes a contradiction. The  
11 International News Service ~~reports~~ <sup>has</sup>  
12 officials <sup>there</sup> ~~as~~ declaring that Chang Kai Shek  
13 ~~has~~ not resigned and ~~didn't~~ <sup>doesn't</sup> intend to.



1 From out in India, where everything  
2 is tense with possibilities of trouble,  
3 comes the report of the killing of a  
4 British official. Charles Geoffrey  
5 Buckland Stevens, a district magistrate  
6 in Bengal, was shot today by two women.  
7 One of them was only twenty years old.  
8 They approached the magistrate, drew  
9 revolvers, and opened fire.

10 The crime is said to be a case of  
11 political terrorism. And the Associated  
12 Press points out that this is the first  
13 time that women have taken a hand in the  
14 sporadic outbreaks of violence that have  
15 happened in India.

1 The Secret Service of the Tall Story  
2 Club reports the discovery of a learned  
3 and distinguished tall-story teller in  
4 the academic halls of Johns Hopkins  
5 University.

6 To mankind at large Doctor Broadus  
7 Mitchell is known as Associate Professor  
8 of Political Economy, who enlightens the  
9 minds of the students at Johns Hopkins  
10 with grand elucidations of the mysteries  
11 of world credit, balance of trade, and  
12 the gold standard.

13 In the midst of all these ■■■■■  
14 erudite subjects Doctor Mitchell has been  
15 known to expatiate to his class in  
16 political economy, on the subject of the  
17 Southern razor-back hog.

18 Doctor Mitchell is a native of South  
19 Carolina, ~~and is a possessor of much~~  
20 ~~scientific lore concerning the razor-~~  
21 ~~back.~~ He declares that in his native  
22 state the razor-backs are so big and  
23 lanky that they are often mistaken for  
24 deer. They are also exceedingly skinny.

25 The learned political economist often

1 enlightens his class with a scientific  
2 fact discovered by Strickland Gilliland,  
3 the humorist. This concerns the method  
4 a South Carolina farmer uses when he  
5 wants to decide whether the razor-back  
6 is fat enough to be turned into pork  
7 chops. He picks the hog up by the ears.  
8 The razor-back, as we all know, has a long  
9 and imposing face, sometimes inelegantly  
10 called a snout. If, when the farmer  
11 holds the hog up by the ears, the front  
12 end goes down and the rear end goes up,  
13 why then the hog is too skinny. If,  
14 however, the rear end overbalances the  
15 front end, why then the hog is ready to  
16 be converted into excellent South Carolina  
17 pork chops.

18 *Thus spake the learned professor*  
19 *from Johns Hopkins.*  
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1           Hope you choke. Now, wait a  
2 minute. I didn't mean it that way. I  
3 was reading the first line of this  
4 next dispatch. It tells us of a love  
5 call, and that's the way that love call  
6 goes. Hope you choke. Although that  
7 may not seem to be so very sentimental.

8           The United Press~~x~~ quotes the  
9 Smithsonian Institute as revealing  
10 today a few secrets about an odd bird  
11 that flourishes in Mexico and Central  
12 America. It's black and brown, with  
13 a yellow tail, and when it courts its  
14 mate, it says - Hope you choke.

15           Yes, a wonderful bird is the  
16 Oropendola. The male bird surrounds  
17 himself with a group of hens and then  
18 he proceeds to murmur and whisper and  
19 coo. He utters over and over his  
20 romantic love-call.

21           Frank M. Chapman, of the  
22 Smithsonian Institute, after many efforts,  
23 was able to get near enough to a group  
24 of Oropendolas to distinguish what the  
25 bird was saying to his mates. To his

1 astonishment he discovered that Mr.  
2 Oropendola was ~~saying~~<sup>murmuring</sup> over and over -  
3 Hope you choke - Hope you choke, while  
4 the female of the species listened  
5 entranced.

6 And that my friends is the love call  
7 of the Oropendola.

1 Well, now let George do it. No, I  
2 don't mean that I'm shirking this next  
3 bit of news -- but just the same, let  
4 George do it. I mean, it's about that  
5 familiar old phrase. It tells us the  
6 origin of the expression, "Let George do  
7 it."

8 It seems that of late we've been  
9 having a good bit of learned information  
10 explaining the origins of familiar old  
11 things and sayings. Various ~~erudite~~  
12 authorities tell us that familiar things  
13 may come from strange places.

14 ~~In this case~~ The New York Sun quotes  
15 The Pathfinder to the effect that the  
16 good old phrase, "Let George do it," is  
17 NOT American. It originated during the  
18 15th century in France. Of course, the  
19 French didn't say it in English. They  
20 said:- "Laissez faire a Georges."

21 ~~They say~~ The original George was ~~none~~  
22 ~~nobody~~ <sup>other</sup> less than a Cardinal and Prime  
23 Minister of France. The original George  
24 was His Eminence Cardinal Georges  
25 d'Amboise, Prime Minister to King

Louis 12th of La Belle France. The Cardinal was a sort of Jack-of-all-trades, a kind of poo-bah of his time. He did just about everything. And so the French said satirically "Laissez faire a Georges." -- In other words, "Let George do it."

Later on it became a piece of Parisian slang, and then was translated into English and finally found its way to America.

Well, I suppose if I thought hard I might find something else to say about this, but "laissez faire a George" -- LET GEORGE DO IT, I MEAN LET ANNOUNCER HOWARD PETRIE DO IT, and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.