

NICARAGUA

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast
for The Literary Digest. Page 1
~~Saturday~~ Friday, Feb. 13, 1931.

Good Evening, Everybody!

1 ~~In Washington~~, Secretary of State
2 Stimson announced today that the force
3 of Marines in Nicaragua will be
4 reduced to 500 men by June 1st. There
5 are now 1500 Marines in Nicaragua.

6 The ^{United Press} ~~International News Service~~
7 informs us that the Nicaraguan National
8 Guard will be increased considerably
9 and will take over the duties of the
10 Marines that are leaving.

1 This afternoon, the House of
2 Representatives passed the ~~Navy~~ Annual *Navy*
3 Supply Bill.

4 \$344,000,000 are to be spent to
5 keep the Navy going, ^{during the coming year.} This is ~~some~~ about
6 \$36,000,000 less than was spent on the
7 navy last year.

8 According to the International News
9 Service, ^A an amendment was tacked on to the
10 bill which provided for \$225,000 to be
11 spent on high-speed aircraft.

12 This means that the navy may enter
13 its airplanes in the ^{international} Schneider cup races
14 this year, ^{and may} ~~to~~ try to bring the cup ^{back} to the
15 United States.

1 It looks as though there may
2 be a compromise in Washington on the ~~that~~ ^{Soldiers'}
3 bonus question. The compromise
4 proposition is to fix things so ~~that~~ the
5 veterans will be able to borrow as much
6 as fifty percent of the face value of
7 their bonus certificates.

8 The Associated Press ~~states~~
9 ^{says} ~~that~~ it has information that the Senate
10 will probably okey the compromise.

11 At any rate that's the
12 latest news on the subject. Whenever
13 there are any more developments on
14 the bonus question I'll let you know.
15 There are several million families
16 scattered all over America to whom
17 this is an exceedingly important topic.
18

1 The newspapers to day are commenting
 2 upon some of the things President
 3 Hoover said in ^{his} Lincoln's Birthday
 4 address over the radio last night.

5 They point out that the President
 6 found in the life and career of the
 7 great emancipator certain principles
 8 which ~~is~~ he is now applying to the
 9 problems of government in Washington.

10 Such matters as drought relief
 11 and plans for having the government
 12 provide food for the needy were
 13 prominently in the foreground when Mr.

14 Hoover spoke against the centralization
 15 of government ^{in his Lincoln's Day address.} He said that victory
 16 over the depression will be ~~is~~ won
 17 by the resolution of our people to
 18 fight their own battles in their own
 19 communities; and according to the
 20 Associated Press, ^{he} added that if the
 21 Federal Government continued to take
 22 over responsibilities it would lead to
 23 a superstate where every man ^{would} become
 24 a servant of the state and ^{where} real
 25 liberty ^{would} ~~is~~ lost.

1 The President spoke with the
2 microphone ~~upon~~ the table ~~at which~~ where
3 Abraham Lincoln signed the emancipation
4 proclamation, and that was a fitting
5 ~~and symbolical~~ way of linking the
6 old heroic days with these modern
7 times of ours.

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VATICAN

And today many newspapers all over America are printing a column and a half of stately Latin. I suppose this is the first time in history that city editors have shown any learned disposition to print paragraph after paragraph in the ancient language of the Romans.

Of course, I am referring to the broadcast that Pope Pius the Eleventh gave to the world yesterday, and that was heard on six continents. A United Press message to the Literary Digest informs us that newspapers all over the United States wired in asking for the Latin text of the Pope's speech.

And so today, newspaper readers in American cities found themselves gazing at grave and sounding paragraphs which must have reminded many of their high school days when they chanted: Amo, amas, amat.

Last evening I made no mention of the Pope's broadcast, because it had been the day's big feature on the air and you probably heard it.

1 I thought I'd wait until today, until
2 ~~the~~ news ^{dispatches} came in with ~~the~~ interesting
3 facts ~~that attended~~ ^{concerning} the broadcast.

4 Now, here's a curious thing: --
5 London got the Pope's broadcast, not
6 from Rome direct, but from New York!
7 For some reason radio communication
8 between London and Rome was bad. So
9 the British wireless experts did a bit
10 of quick work and switched over and
11 picked up the Pope's broadcast from ^{one of} the
12 big New York stations which put it on the
13 air for the United States.

14 On the whole, we understand
15 however, that the reception over most
16 ~~all~~ of the world was excellent. Radio
17 conditions in nearby Spain were only
18 fair but the Pontiff's voice sounded
19 clear and strong all over South America.
20 Yes, and away off on the other side of
21 the world in Australia, the Associated
22 Press informs us that the broadcast from
23 the Vatican came through almost as
24 distinctly as if it were given from a
25 local station.

~~Listeners in the United States
commented upon the dramatic, world-wide~~

I read of one charming human touch. There was a bit of private radio talk between Monsignor Stephen Donahue, in New York, and one of the radio experts at the Vatican. Millions of people listened it to that brief bit of dialogue. It ended when Monsignor Stephen Donahue, In New York, said to the Vatican expert:

"And, by the way, will you tell Monsignor Spellman that I was asking for him?" Monsignor Spellman being the prelate who delivered the English translation of the Pope's address.

Then over the air broke in another voice:

1 "I'M HERE, STEVE".

2 It was Monsignor Spellman speaking,
3 and Monsignor Donahue told him:

4 "WE JUST TELEPHONED TO YOUR
5 MOTHER, FRANK, AND SHE HEARD YOU FINE."

6 And that was true. Up at
7 Whitman, Massachusetts, two old people,
8 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Spellman, sat
9 and listened while their son, a prelate
10 in Rome, broadcast the Pope's message
11 for the English speaking peoples of
12 the world. Monsignor Spellman, by the
13 way, used to be the star shortstop
14 on the Whitman High School baseball
15 team.

16 Meanwhile, the Associated Press
17 informs us that Senator Marconi, the
18 inventor of ~~the~~ wireless, who arranged
19 Pope Pius's broadcast, has given out a
20 significant ~~xxxx~~ hint about new things
21 in radio. In an interview he states
22 that there ~~is~~ an important development
23 at hand in the world of radio. But he
24 didn't say what.

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1 Over in Europe, a few nations
2 may ^{soon} slash their tariffs and out import
3 duties on British goods. That is, they
4 will if the British have their way.

5 The Associated Press informs us
6 that the British Government has addressed
7 a note to seven European countries
8 suggesting that they all reduce their
9 tariffs on British goods by twentyfive
10 percent. The note was sent to France,
11 Italy, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden
12 and Poland.

13 In Paris, the comment on the
14 British note was that while the British
15 would be helped by the tariff cuts, they
16 could hardly see how the parties that
17 did the tariff cutting would be benefitted.
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1 The ^{London Labor} ~~British~~ Government has ^{Just} issued
2 a new statement on its policy in
3 Palestine. And in Jewish circles it ~~is~~ ^{is}
4 said that this declaration meets with
5 the full approval of the Zionists.

6 ~~According to the Associated Press,~~
7 the greatest concession which the
8 British are making is on the subject
9 of Jewish immigration to Palestine.
10 The present policy of the British
11 Government has been to consider the
12 number of the unemployed in Palestine,
13 and admit Jewish immigrants only in such
14 numbers as will not cause more
15 unemployment. This has been changed
16 now, and the British will consider
17 the ^{number} ~~amount~~ of people the land will
18 support in calculating the number of
19 Jewish immigrants. ^{||} The new statement of policy
20 ~~And it is understood~~ ^{is said} to have the
21 O.K. of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, ~~the~~ former
22 president of the world Zionist organization.

1 ^Q
2 ~~Another~~ royal romance is rumored
3 over in Europe, ~~and this one~~ ^{a romance that} may cause
4 some trouble.

5 Queen Helen, the divorced wife of
6 King Carol of Rumania, plans to marry
7 a Rumanian army officer, Colonel
8 Skeletti.

9 There has been a lot of talk about
10 whether Queen Helen would go back to
11 her gay husband, whose various
12 ~~romances~~ ^{escapades} were the talk of Europe.
13 Pressure has been brought to bear on
14 her, and attempts have been made to
15 nullify the divorce which she got
16 from him.

17 According to the Associated Press,
18 Queen Helen is said to have recently
19 written to Carol, stating that she
20 will resist any attempt to throw out
21 the divorce. And the report that she's
22 to marry the Rumanian Colonel follows
23 right on top of that.

1 We have been hearing a lot about
2 Russia's Five-Year Plan - that plan to
3 have Russia communized and industrialized
4 in five years.

5 Well, I have to report tonight
6 a little slip-up in the progress of that
7 famous scheme.

8 The five-year plan is a very
9 important and solemn affair, but the sad
10 news I have to relate is that the great
11 sparrow-catching drive ^{has} ~~is~~ gone wrong.

12 In the Yelansky Province of
13 Russia, they have the usual communist
14 cooperative society which is trying to
15 make the Yelansky Province entirely
16 socialistic. Not long ago, the head
17 of the cooperative society received
18 a telegram. It was signed by a Moscow
19 official and it bore a number for the
20 purpose of record. All official telegrams
21 of the Soviets have similar numbers.

22 According to the International
23 News Service, the telegram read
24 SPEED UP STORAGE ONE THREE FIVE THREE
25 TWO VOROBIOV.

Now Vorobiov is a common name
in Russia but it also means "sparrows".

1 the head of the cooperative society
2 thought that telegram meant speed up
3 storage of 13,532 sparrows. So he put
4 the whole village to work catching
5 sparrows. They caught sparrows with traps,
6 with nets; ^{and} they used up hundreds of
7 bushels of grain as bait for the
8 sparrows. The villagers were kept busy
9 day and night with the communists
10 spurring them on.

11 After they had caught 2,000
12 sparrows and had them in a shed, some
13 cats got in one night and ate several
14 hundred of the birds, but still the
15 sparrow program continued.

16 Finally the District Chairman
17 inquired of Moscow whether the
18 Government wanted the sparrows dead or
19 alive and then the joke came to light.
20 The official Bolshevik newspaper, the
21 Pravda, in discussing the incident says
22 the only place to educate such fools
23 is in prison, - and there may be some
24 sense in that.

1 All I can say about this next item
2 is that some of the boys out in Wisconsin
3 certainly are clever.

4 A petition is being circulated to
5 ask the state legislature to change the
6 Wisconsin rattlesnake law.

7 The state pays a bounty on
8 rattlers -- in fact, pays that bounty-
9 money to anybody who turns in the rattles
10 off a snake's tail.

11 The trouble is that some of the
12 snake catchers out there are so clever
13 that they catch a rattler, snip off his
14 rattles and collect on them. Then they
15 keep the snake in captivity and when the
16 old boy grows some more rattles they
17 collect on these new rattles, and so on.

18 Now some of the folks who don't
19 see the joke want the law changed, so, if
20 you want the bounty money, you'll
21 have to turn in ten inches of rattler
22 instead of a few rattles.

1 A man in Lynn, Massachusetts, took
2 a fire to the fire station. Jacob Ganz
3 was attending services at the Ansha Skolum
4 Synagogue and when he came out, he
5 discovered that his automobile was on fire.

6 He jumped into the seat and rode
7 down the line to the fire station and
8 asked the firemen to put the blaze out,
9 which, according to the United Press, they
10 did.

1 Now, I'll have to be awfully
2 careful about this next one. Yes, I'll
3 certainly have to watch my P's and Q's.
4 Because it would be a calamity if I
5 made a slip-up and mispronounced a word.
6 For this item is about words; words that
7 are commonly mispronounced. Gosh! I
8 knew I'd do it. I meant, mispronounced.

9 Anyway, in this week's Literary
10 Digest, Dr. Vizetelly, the renowned
11 lexicographer, tells us that the King's
12 English is being murdered over in England.
13 He explains that since the World War a
14 trace of Cockney has been creeping into
15 the language of the British upper classes.

16 And that reminds me that not long
17 ago I read a statement by an English
18 authority that the Prince of Wales
19 speaks with a touch of Cockney. Well,
20 maybe so. I traveled with the Prince of
21 Wales out in Asia some years ago and my
22 American ear didn't catch any particular
23 trace of Cockney in his speech. For
24 example, I never heard H.R.H. drop an "h".
25 I never heard the Prince of Wales say

1 "līdy" for "lady", or "pīpers" for
2 "papers". But, as I said, I have an
3 American ear and it may not be sensitive
4 to all the subtleties of British
5 pronunciation.

6 However that may be, Dr. Vizetelly
7 goes on to say that good American English
8 is better than the English of the British
9 aristocracy and swanky classes.

10 The Digest quotes an article of
11 Dr. Vizetelly's, in the Atlantic Monthly,
12 in which the famous lexicographer tells
13 us some of our commonest American faults
14 in pronunciation.

15 For instance, it is not ADDRESS;
16 it's adDRESS. It's not DEEF; it's DEF.
17 It's not EGZIT; it's EKSIT. It's not
18 inVENTory; it's INventory. It's not
19 LESure; it's LEEsure. It's not
20 ACclimated; it's acCLIMATED.
21 it's not appaRATus; it's appaRAtus. It's
22 not BEography; it's Blography.

23 Well, my inVENTory---- I mean
24 INventory---- of news is about over.
25 I've had my turn at the microphone, and

END - 3

I guess I've used that appaRATus -- I mean appaRAtus -- enough
for this evening. And I'll make my EGZIT -- I mean EKSIT.

Great Guns! Dr. Vizetelly's got me all bawled up. In
fact he's got me on the run --- so,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.