

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast  
for the Literary Digest.  
Monday, January 12, 1931.

INTRO

Good evening, everybody:

When I groped my way down to the big city this morning through a blinding snowstorm I found the day's news dispatches full of stories about the weather. The storm seems to be pretty general all over the country. But you never can tell how the weather is in one locality by a report you get from another. For example here's an Associated Press flash from the Middlewest stating that a Canadian has collapsed today from heat stroke out at Hammond, Indiana.

At any rate we ought to be tickled that our weather isn't like the weather on the other side of the world.

Northern and Central China and Japan are in the grip of the worst cold spell since 1898. The Associated Press cables that there have been tremendous snow falls in the Yangtse Valley.

People in those parts are not prepared for such long and bitter cold spells, and the suffering is said to be intense. Thousands of Chinese have already perished in the storm.

Northern Japan is buried under six feet of snow this evening. Houses have caved in and communications are crippled.

The United Press sends us a curious note about the weather. It tells us that storms have been playing havoc in Palestine. Disastrous floods have been ~~up~~ sweeping down the valley of the Jordan. The Jordan Delta at the northern end of the Dead Sea just south of Jericho, has been flooded and many lives have been lost.

The dispatch states that 1500 persons who live in the Jordan Valley have been rendered homeless.

This is the rainy season in that country. I have been there at both seasons, and when summer comes you wouldn't think a drop of rain had ever fallen along the banks of the Jordan.

Allenby's cavalry galloping north from Jericho would raise a cloud of Alkali dust that would completely hide the horsemen. This was one part of the Promised Land that the Billjims of the Australian Light Horse hated. And the language they used in referring to the heat and salty dust in the Dead Sea Country and the Jordan Valley was Biblical all right. They used the correct words but in the wrong order.

1           This next dispatch is advance  
2 word on the problem of India. The  
3 Round Table Conference has been dragging  
4 along some time now and it's about  
5 ready to issue a report.

6           The International News Service  
7 states that it has word on good authority  
8 that the result of the Conference will  
9 be an offer of Dominion rule to India,  
10 and that England will see that the  
11 responsibility for Dominion rule ~~shall~~  
12 rest<sup>s</sup> on the Indians themselves.

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BOMBAY

Hundreds were injured, twenty-five critically, today when rioting broke out in cities and towns throughout Western India, in protest against the execution this morning of four men who were convicted of the murder of four policemen.

1           Here comes a post-holiday note  
2    from England, and it's a sour one.  
3    A lot of Britishers had turkey for  
4    Christmas, and now H. W. Seaman, who's  
5    an expert on what's good to eat, denounces  
6    the turkey as not being good to eat  
7    at all. He says the turkey has no  
8    place in England. ~~and that~~ It's tasteless  
9    and not fit for British palates.

10           According to the New York Evening  
11   Post, Mr. Seaman recommends that England  
12   hereafter celebrate her Christmas with  
13   the good old-fashioned English goose.  
14   Geese, he says, are much better than  
15   turkeys.

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1 My News Item of the Day was picked  
2 for me by Tex O'Reilly. Maybe you've  
3 heard of Tex. He's a famous soldier of  
4 fortune. He has fought in wars all over  
5 the world and has been in more adventures  
6 than most of us ever dream about. Some  
7 of Tex's most famous soldiering was <sup>done in Morocco</sup> ~~done~~ <sup>and some was</sup> ~~done~~  
8 <sup>done</sup> ~~down~~ in Mexico with Pancho Villa. Tex  
9 was an important officer under Villa,  
10 and fought in most of the campaigns of  
11 that King of Brigands. Well, Tex,  
12 naturally enough, picked a story about  
13 Mexico. Here it is:--

14 Mad forces of nature are at work  
15 along the West coast of Mexico, and there's  
16 a dramatic story to tell. The Mexican  
17 government has a penal colony on  
18 Las Tres Marias Islands, and those  
19 islands are being shaken by some strange  
20 power from under the sea. ~~For~~ For three  
21 days ~~they~~ have been <sup>rocking</sup> ~~working~~, and huge  
22 waves from the ocean are washing in.  
23 Within a period of three hours, 27  
24 earthquakes have been counted. And  
25 volcanic craters near the edge of the

1 water have been smoking and rumbling.

2 On the nearby mainland, the volcano  
3 Cerobrucko is thundering and spouting  
4 clouds of smoke. That mountain has been  
5 quiet for a hundred years, but now it  
6 seems to be about to break forth in some  
7 huge eruption. The earthquakes on the  
8 penal island are attributed to the  
9 activity of the volcano.

10 Well, the drama is in those  
11 convicts who are imprisoned on the  
12 trembling islands. They are in mortal  
13 terror. They believe the quakes are  
14 caused by Divine vengeance <sup>all on account</sup> ~~because~~ of a  
15 nun who is confined in the island prison.  
16 She is Madre Concepcion, and she was  
17 convicted of being the moral author of  
18 the assassination of General Obregon in  
19 1928.

20 According to the Associated Press,  
21 those convicts think that the doom of  
22 heaven is descending and that the ~~islands~~  
23 islands are shaking to pieces. They expect  
24 their lonely bits of land to sink into  
25 the sea or that volcanos will explode  
beneath the island and blow them into the  
air. ~~They are trembling and praying.~~

12-10-5M

STRAUS

If the news were as sparse today as on most Mondays, I'd be tempted to devote my whole thirteen minutes to telling you about just one story that is featured on the front page of every morning and every evening newspaper in New York City today. It's a story telling of the passing of one of the truly great men of our time. I first became aware of his greatness when I was with Allenby's army in Palestine. His name has long been almost a legendary one out there, among people of all creeds.

The New York Times carries more than a full page of solid type summarizing ---

1 his epic life story, and quoting the  
2 tributes ~~that have been~~ sent ~~in~~ from  
3 great men all over the world.

4 Senator Copeland wired from  
5 Washington that America had lost the  
6 greatest philanthropist of this  
7 generation. Former Ambassador Geradd  
8 calls him New York's first citizen.  
9 John Spargo, the famous radical  
10 economist, calls him the noblest  
11 American of our time and one of the  
12 world's greatest figures.

13 The man I refer to is Nathan  
14 Straus, whom Rabbi ~~Wise~~ calls "the best  
15 loved Jew on earth."

16 Tonight's New York Telegram  
17 refers to him as the man who made  
18 fortunes and gave them away to make the  
19 world a happier place.

20 He became famous for a score  
21 of reasons, among them for introducing  
22 the pasteurizing of milk. It has been  
23 said of him that more children owe their  
24 lives to Nathan Straus perhaps, than to  
25 any man. ~~who ever lived.~~ ~~When he started~~

STRAUS

At his own expense he established plants for pasteurizing milk, not only in this country but in many foreign lands, until today the idea of pasteurizing milk has become well nigh universal.

Every child in America, and of course every mother and father, should bow in humble homage to the memory of Nathan Straus, who came to this country an immigrant boy, became a merchant prince, and then one of the great philanthropists and humanitarians of all time.

On his death bed he said that it gave him happiness and contentment beyond price to look back and feel that he had lived a full life and done his duty according to his means.

What a marvelous thing to have a record like his to be written against one's name in the book of life.

1 A strange dispatch from Paris  
2 tells of a new saint - St. Nicholas, and  
3 that Nicholas was the ill-fated czar  
4 who was murdered by the Bolsheviks.

5 Russian refugees in Paris are  
6 said to have formed a movement to  
7 canonize the last of the czars. They  
8 demand that he be given a place on the  
9 roaster of Russia's saints and that his  
10 image be put in a place of honor  
11 in the stained glass windows of  
12 orthodox Russian churches. There has  
13 been a report that <sup>fragments</sup> ~~some~~ of the remains  
14 of the bodies of the czar and his family  
15 have been brought to France, and,  
16 according to the International News  
17 Service, the Russians who regard the  
18 czar as a saint want these relics to  
19 be ~~ix~~ honored as the relics of other  
20 saints are honored.

21 Well, all of this sounds strange  
22 to us - it must sound <sup>strange</sup> also to the Red  
23 Communists who rule in Moscow.  
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1 I'm sorry to have to <sup>report</sup> ~~say~~ tonight  
2 that no word has been received <sup>regarding</sup> ~~about~~ the  
3 Tradewind. Captain McLaren and Mrs.  
4 Beryl Hart took off from Bermuda on  
5 Saturday on their way to the Azores.  
6 They should have reached those islands  
7 long since, but there has been no sign  
8 of them. It looks as though these two  
9 brave aviators may be just two more  
10 names on the roll of those adventuring  
11 spirits who have tried to conquer the  
12 Atlantic by air. Although, of course,  
13 it may be that they have been ~~xxx~~  
14 picked up by a ship. <sup>that doesn't carry wireless.</sup> Let's hope they  
15 have.

1 And now for some ~~deal~~ <sup>real</sup> good news.  
2 It comes from out at Detroit. The  
3 automobile industry seems to be definitely  
4 swinging back to normal.

5 The Associated Press tells us that  
6 the automobile ~~manufacturing companies~~ <sup>makers</sup>  
7 out there are calling their men back  
8 by the thousands. More than 100,000  
9 ~~workers~~ <sup>returned to their</sup> ~~gone back on the~~ jobs recently.  
10 The International News Service reports  
11 that conditions in Detroit are almost  
12 back to normal.

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1 Right here I'm going to yell "fore" --  
2 not that I'm taking a swing at a golf  
3 ball or anything like that. But I just  
4 want to disagree with that Judge out in  
5 Pittsburgh. He says that a golfer is  
6 under no obligation to yell "fore" when  
7 he drives the ball.

8 According to the Associated Press,  
9 Leon Benjamin was hit by a golf ball  
10 driven by Maurice Nernberg. So Benjamin  
11 sued Maurice and the Jury awarded him a  
12 thousand dollars damages. But Judge  
13 Swearingen reverses that and says that *even*  
14 if you don't yell "fore" -- ~~that is~~ <sup>it's</sup> no  
15 proof of negligence.

16 So hereafter when you're on the  
17 links, you <sup>d</sup> better duck when you hear  
18 "fore" -- and ~~also~~ <sup>duck</sup> when you don't ~~hear it.~~

1 Now for one of those marvels  
2 of science that takes our breaths away.

3 The Associated Press informs  
4 us that Professor Ross of Stanford  
5 University has been making X-rays do  
6 all sorts of marvelous things. And now  
7 he has succeeded in devising <sup>an</sup> X-ray screw  
8 driver.

9 He just turns the X-ray on  
10 and those mysterious waves of ~~ix~~ ether  
11 proceed to turn that screw and drive  
12 it in.

13 No, this new scientific marvel  
14 won't help you in your household  
15 carpentry because when you use that  
16 X-ray screw-driver it costs just Five  
17 Thousand Dollars to drive each screw -  
18 ~~That also takes my breath away.~~

19 So I'm not recommending it  
20 to carpenters.  
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We will just address a few words at this point to Officer McGuire.

Yes, Officer, you <sup>are ordered to</sup> ~~just~~ leave the witness stand for a moment and throw that chew of tobacco out ~~of~~ the courtroom window.

All of which means that, according to the Associated Press, the great Midwestern Metropolis of Kansas City, has passed a rule that hereafter policemen ~~are not allowed to~~ <sup>must not</sup> chew tobacco while on the witness stand.

TOPICS IN BRIEF

The Literary Digest this week quotes a line from the Passaic News:- A SCIENTIST SAYS THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A PERFECT CLIMATE. CALIFORNIANS WILL RETORT THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A PERFECT SCIENTIST.

The Digest quotes the Chicago Evening Post as saying: "A GOVERNMENT HUNTER IN ARIZONA HAS KILLED 2,300 COYOTES, 700 BOBCATS, 28 WOLVES, AND EIGHTEEN MOUNTAIN LIONS." Then adds the Chicago Post, "THAT MIGHTY HUNTER SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO CHICAGO."

From the Detroit News, the Digest quotes as follows: A DETROITER WHO IS STILL UP TO THE EARS IN THE STOCK MARKET SAYS HE MAY HAVE TO GET IN TOUCH SOON WITH A CERTAIN HEATHEN TO WHOM HIS WIFE SHIPPED A BARREL OF OLD TROUSERS, ETC., IN 1928.

And then there's a wintry note in this line which the Literary Digest gives us from the Milwaukee Journal: THE SNOW

1 IS BEAUTIFUL IF YOU ARE WATCHING THE  
2 OTHER FELLOW SHOVEL IT.

3 Florida chimes in with what sounds  
4 like a plaintive <sup>voice</sup> ~~note~~ from the orange  
5 growing belt. The <sup>lit.</sup> Digest gives this one  
6 from the Key West Citizen: IF ONLY  
7 BURBANK COULD HAVE LIVED TO SEE HOW MANY  
8 GALLONS OF ~~XXXXXX~~ ORANGEADE ONE ORANGE  
9 CAN MAKE.

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END

I have a letter here from F. Gregory Hartswich, the sage of Farnwood, New Jersey. Well, Gregg's an old friend of mine and he sends me a clipping that's got him all steamed up.

Gregg goes on to tell me how much he likes spaghetti. He thinks about a yard of spaghetti is the next thing to heaven, and so he's a bit indignant to find somebody delivering a newspaper blast against the delicacy which he inhales with such relish.

Well, it's an Italian who denounces spaghetti, the wild futuristic Marinetti who paints futuristic pictures and writes futuristic verse. Marinetti has ~~fi~~ informed the Italians that spaghetti is bad for them -- and that's news. He says the Italian people are lacking in fire and blazing temperament and don't get excited easy enough -- and that's news also. Anyway, he blames it all on spaghetti, and, as Gregg Hartswich writes, that's bad news.

But Marinetti goes on to say that the Italian people, or for that matter any kind of people, should eat futuristic dishes. These alone, says Marinetti, can satisfy the sense of taste and

also the aesthetic sense of man. Then he goes on to tell what futuristic dishes are.

Here's a sample of a futuristic dish:- It is called "equator and north pole", and Marinetti says it's composed of a platter full of raw eggs with salt, pepper and lemon. This forms the equatorial sea. In the middle of it stands a cone, something like a mountain. It's made of whites of eggs and inside are circular slices of orange. These represent the sun. At the top of the cone are pieces of truffle, that savory kind of mushroom. The pieces of truffle are cut in the shape of airplanes, and they symbolize man's conquest of the zenith. So that's the famous futuristic dish called "equator and north pole".

Well, I'm going home to dinner now, and I'm not going to have any futuristic aesthetic dish like that "equator and north pole". I'm hoping my wife will have my favorite dish - corned beef and cabbage. At any rate, here's hoping, and

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.