

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST  
FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST  
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1931.

Good Evening, Everybody:-

Martial law went into effect today -- no, not in distant war-torn lands. The soldiers are in control in the oil fields of Eastern Texas, and Governor Sterling indicated it would continue for thirty days. This is another movement of battle to check the over-production of oil.

The East Texas oil fields are the biggest in the country. The Texas State authorities have worked out a plan for oil conservation and are getting ready to put it into effect. The State has ordered the operators to shut down their wells but some of the East Texas producers want to go right on pumping oil. Word comes tonight that 17,000 wells were actually closed down today. This will cut production in Texas by 700,000 barrels a day. Production in Oklahoma has been cut by 300,000 barrels a day. This means taking 30,000,000 barrels off the market in thirty days, and it is hoped that the price of oil will shoot up again.

Governor Sterling, in a statement quoted by the Associated Press, declares that "It is evident that an organized and entrenched group of crude petroleum oil and natural gas producers in the East Texas oil field are in a state of open rebellion against the constituted civil authorities of the State."

East Texas is said to be responsible

1 for much of the over-production of oil  
2 and the further claim is made that the  
3 methods of production are such that  
4 there is an immense waste of the state's  
5 natural resources.

6 And so the Governen of Texas has  
7 clamped down martial law, and state  
8 troops are in control of the situation.

9 Rain has been falling in East Texas  
10 today and the red clay of the oil fields  
11 is soft and oozy. This has made travel  
12 difficult for the soldiers who have  
13 gone trudging along all day through  
14 the mud.

1           The recent reports that the Chinese  
2 government wants to buy some wheat from  
3 the United States received official  
4 confirmation today. The American consul  
5 at Nanking, the Nationalist capital of  
6 China, telegraphed Washington today and  
7 stated that he had been approached by  
8 officials of the Chinese government, who  
9 wanted to find out what kind of terms  
10 the United States will make for wheat.

11           China needs a lot of grain to feed  
12 the three million people who have been  
13 washed out of house and home by the  
14 floods along the Yangtsé River. The  
15 International News Service <sup>tells us</sup> ~~states~~ that  
16 the Chinese government does not state  
17 how much wheat it wants to buy. It  
18 merely asks what kind of credit terms  
19 the American government has to offer for  
20 a good deal of the immense quantity of  
21 wheat that the Farm Board has stored up.

22           ~~At Washington it is said that the~~  
23 ~~Chinese inquiry will be turned over to~~  
24 ~~the Farm Board.~~

25           The Associated Press points out

1 that the distribution of food will  
2 be easier in the present Chinese  
3 famine crisis than it has been in the  
4 past. In former times famines have taken  
5 place in remote inland regions to which  
6 it was exceedingly difficult to transport  
7 supplies. In the present instance some  
8 of the famine districts are far inland  
9 all right, but they could scarcely be  
10 called remote because they are along the  
11 banks of the Yangts~~e~~ River, which is  
12 one of the world's most magnificent  
13 arteries of commerce. River boats or  
14 even large freight steamers could carry  
15 that Farm Board grain for hundreds of  
16 miles into the interior.

17 And the floods are still continuing.  
18 The American consul at Hankow cables that  
19 the water has reached a level of nearly  
20 53 feet, and is still rising.

21 At Wuchang the dikes have broken  
22 and the waters of the river have  
23 poured into the town. The Japanese  
24 concession is flooded.

25 The situation obviously is one in

1 which that mountain of wheat gathered  
2 by the Federal Farm Board might play a  
3 big part. Plenty of people have been  
4 wondering and saying, "We are flooded  
5 with a surplus and overproduction of  
6 wheat, and over in China millions of  
7 people are <sup>flooded by the river and</sup> faced with starvation."

8 The International News Service  
9 passes along a statement by the Chinese  
10 Famine Relief organization in New York  
11 City, which has been inquiring about the  
12 possibility of <sup>our</sup> selling wheat to China.  
13 Senator Borah has replied to the inquiry  
14 by saying that he is all for sending  
15 Farm Board wheat across the Pacific to  
16 the stricken land. He declares that it  
17 wouldn't be cutting into any market for  
18 the present crop. ~~of grain.~~ He says the  
19 starving Chinese are too poor to buy  
20 anything anyway. And any money that  
21 might be got from the Chinese government  
22 for wheat would be pure gravy. ~~What the~~  
23 ~~Chinese would need would be long-term~~  
24 ~~credits, and Senator Borah thinks it~~  
25 ~~would pay the United States to dispose~~

MEXICO

Down in Mexico there's a good deal of protest because of the action of the American government in closing the international bridges at 9 o'clock in the evening. The U. S. authorities have decided that no one shall be allowed to cross those famous bridges over the Rio Grande between American and Mexican territory after 9 p.m.

The Associated Press dispatch relates that Mexican towns near the border don't like the idea. They are asking their national government to protest to the United States. They claim that the closing of the international bridges is unjust and is an injury to commerce between the two countries. It's also unjust the night owls.

Coming across on that midnight street car at Juarez was a better show than the last act of any whoopee extravangaza on Broadway.

1 They had a troublesome week-end  
 2 in the North of Ireland. The old  
 3 quarrel between the Orange and the Green  
 4 is blazing out anew. Nothing <sup>very</sup> serious  
 5 ~~of course~~, <sup>apparently</sup> just a few lively scraps  
 6 here and there.

7 At Portadown, County ~~of~~ Armagh,  
 8 a mob of Orangemen attacked a convent.  
 9 They tried to batter down <sup>the</sup> a door but  
 10 failed. Then they amused themselves by  
 11 going on a window-smashing <sup>Jamboree</sup> ~~campaign~~.  
 12 Truckloads of police were rushed to the  
 13 scene by the Government at Belfast, and  
 14 they put an end to the trouble.

15 In the town of Drum-Reilly, County  
 16 ~~of~~ Leitrim, a group of men surrounded  
 17 a building last night. Some farmers  
 18 were having a <sup>barn</sup> dance <sup>- Irish jigs and everything.</sup> The attacking  
 19 force began shooting through the walls.  
 20 The farmers inside threw themselves on x  
 21 the floor and only one of them was hurt.

22 Saturday night was a wild one at  
 23 various points along the Ulster Free  
 24 State Border. Orangemen and the Wearers  
 25 of the Green had battles with bottles

1 and stones *and shillaybys.*

2 The members of the Ancient Order  
3 of Hibernians, so the Associated Press  
4 relates, held their assembly on  
5 Saturday. The Orangemen relieved their  
6 feelings by attacking members who  
7 attended. This was their response to  
8 the action of Irish Republicans a few  
9 days ago who gathered in force and  
10 prevented the Orangemen from holding  
11 a big meeting which they had scheduled.

12 Yes, the Orange and the Green  
13 are having a bit of trouble once more  
14 but the authorities of both Dublin and  
15 Belfast are acting vigorously to keep  
16 the peace.

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1           There seems to be a little trouble  
2 between Bulgaria and Greece. The  
3 Associated Press reports that the  
4 Bulgarian government has ordered all  
5 ~~the~~ Greeks to leave the country. Every  
6 citizen of the old land of Homer and  
7 Pericles will have to pack up and ~~go~~ *hit*  
8 *the trail for Athens.*

9           The Bulgarian government charges  
10 that recently the authorities at Athens  
11 have ordered Bulgarian subjects to leave  
12 Greece. And so it seems to be a case of  
13 the old principle of tit-for-tat.  
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1           Now comes some more rumors of  
2 royal domestic trouble in the Balkans.  
3 This time it isn't Roumania, with the  
4 romantic adventures and household  
5 storms of King Carol. It's Jugoslavia.

6           An Associated Press cable relates  
7 that many loyal Jugoslavs are wondering  
8 whether there hasn't been a rift, a tiff,  
9 a bit of trouble between King Alexander  
10 and Queen Marie, his wife.

11           The reason for the rumors of  
12 domestic disturbance is ~~that~~ the fact  
13 that the King and Queen were not  
14 together to celebrate the occasion of  
15 the tenth anniversary of their ascent  
16 to the throne. In royal circles an  
17 anniversary of a coronation or something  
18 like that is always a big day, but this  
19 time the King and Queen of Jugoslavia  
20 did their celebrating apart from each  
21 other. The King spent the day at his  
22 summer estate, the Queen reviewed a  
23 naval parade somewhere else.

24           And that's why some folks think  
25 there may be a royal family row under  
way in Jugoslavia.

DIGEST

Over the week-end I started to read one of the recently published novels. "Was it good?" ask you? Well, I'll answer the question in this way.

This afternoon I happened to be looking over the Topics-in-Brief page in the Literary Digest, and I felt like giving three cheers when I came across this line. The Digest quotes the Thomaston (Georgia) Times as remarking that a certain writer says that only those who have suffered can write modern fiction. "If so," observes the Thomaston Times, "anyone who has read modern fiction should be able to write it." Yep, thens my sentiments -- at least on the subject of some modern fiction so far as I got this week-end.

And that Topics-in-Brief page of the Literary Digest, has another cutting remark from that same Thomaston (Georgia) Times. It says that the depression has solved the problem of what to do with old safety razor blades -- instead of throwing 'em away now we use them.

1           And then the Digest <sup>quotes</sup> ~~gives us~~ a  
2 line from Judge ~~which makes the~~  
3 predict<sup>ing</sup>~~ion~~ that the depression will be  
4 over long before any two experts can  
5 agree as to what caused it.

6           The Arkansas Gazette, as the  
7 Literary Digest tells us, has a note on  
8 international politics and observes  
9 that the European nations have a good  
10 memory in at least one respect -- they  
11 can always remember where they last  
12 buried the hatchet.

13           And the <sup>famous</sup> Toledo Blade comes along  
14 and pays a handsome compliment to the  
15 Literary Digest.

16           "Eventually," declares the Toledo  
17 Blade, "science may be in a position to  
18 forecast earthquakes in time to warn  
19 against the danger. But the public may  
20 still ha<sup>ve</sup> to rely upon The Literary  
21 Digest for advance knowledge of  
22 political upheavals."  
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1 And talking about earthquakes,  
2 here's one that happened in west Texas <sup>and</sup>  
3 <sup>her part</sup> it hit the town of Valentine in the  
4 Rio Grande valley. For 72 seconds the  
5 ground trembled as if some gigantic  
6 hand was skaking it. Nearly every  
7 house in Valentine was damaged more or  
8 less. Only one man, however, was hurt.

9 The International News Service  
10 adds that the quake was felt in a lesser  
11 degree over a wide area, both in Texas  
12 and in Mexico.

13 <sup>Yes, and</sup> The earth shook as far north as  
14 Denver, where they had the first  
15 earthquake in more than a quarter of a  
16 century. People were <sup>tumbled</sup> ~~thrown~~ out of  
17 their beds, but nobody was hurt.

18 The United Press reports a whole  
19 series of week-end earthquakes in  
20 widely separated localities. There  
21 was an earth shock at Santiago, Chile, <sup>and</sup>  
22 one at Buenos Aires. Various parts of  
23 Mexico were shaken and even in distant  
24 North Africa, the city of Algiers  
25 experienced a series of shocks which  
set the natives running in panic.

1 No, they didn't have snow in Denver  
2 over the week-end, but it looked like  
3 snow.

4 A violent thunder storm hit the  
5 city with a deluge of rain -- also hail.  
6 The whole city was pelted with a downpour  
7 of those icy marbles. Trees were  
8 stripped of their leaves, and gardens  
9 were destroyed. It was the hail, says  
10 the United Press, that gave the city a  
11 wintry appearance. The streets were  
12 covered white, and it looked like  
13 snow. Some people got out their snow  
14 shovels and used them to shovel away  
15 the white drifts of hail stones.

16 I've seen deep snow on the streets  
17 in Denver, in May, but anything resembling  
18 snow is most uncommon out there in  
19 August. In fact it's a city with an ideal  
20 climate -- I mean, except when something  
21 unusual happens like this tremendous  
22 hail storm.

1           Memories of former times are  
2 brought back by the discovery over in  
3 England of a ship at the bottom of the  
4 Thames. Divers were working when they  
5 came upon an old hulk. It's believed  
6 to be a Dutch warship named the Admiral  
7 Van Tromp, which was sunk 200 years ago.

8           It's hard nowadays to think of an  
9 enemy fleet braving the British Lion  
10 and sailing up the River Thames. But  
11 the Dutch did it. In 1667 Holland's  
12 famous Admiral De Ruyter led his fleet  
13 up the river. The Dutch raised general  
14 cain. They destroyed several British  
15 warships and burned the Sheerness  
16 dockyard.

17           As the Dutch fleet made its get-  
18 away, one of its ships was sunk. This  
19 was the Admiral Van Tromp, the hulk  
20 which has now been found at the bottom  
21 of the Thames.

22           Well, those were the days when  
23 the tiny country of Holland beat the  
24 British on the sea. For years the  
25 Dutch were master of the watery element.

In those days instead of Britannia -- it was the portly burghers of Amsterdam who ruled the waves.

The International News Service in telling of the discovery of the Dutch warship at the bottom of the Thames remarks that the anchor and cable have rusted away, but the magnificent wooden beams with which the old whip was constructed are still in excellent shape.



1 Now draw up your chairs, mates,  
2 and light your pipes, and if any of  
3 those merry ~~gibberish~~ joke-smiths of  
4 the Tall Story Club lift an eyebrow,  
5 why throw them out. Because this is a  
6 true story. It's a story of a ship  
7 that salvaged herself. She was a  
8 wreck, but she pulled herself right out  
9 of her trouble and of her own accord  
10 went sailing the sea again.

11 The good ship North Bend lies  
12 anchored at Ilwaco, Washington, and  
13 old sailors shake their heads in  
14 wonder as they look at her.

15 In 1928 the North Bend was bound  
16 in ballast from Sydney, Australia to  
17 Portland, Oregon. At the mouth of the  
18 Columbia River she ran into a ~~whirlwind~~ wild  
19 storm and a raging tide. It was night,  
20 and the big 4-master was driven headlong  
21 by the fury of the tempest.

22 She was aground. The crew knew  
23 that; but they never guessed the half  
24 of it. When morning came they saw that  
25 the ship was on dry land. She was far

1 inland. She was half a mile from the  
2 shore. The storm and tide had been so  
3 tremendous that the shore was flooded.  
4 The North Bend was swept right on, and  
5 when the water receded she was left on  
6 the sand, half a mile from the ~~shore~~ <sup>water's edge.</sup>

7 The United Press gives us the odd  
8 detail that an automobile was aboard  
9 the ship. It had been loaded at Sydney.  
10 The crew unloaded the auto on to the  
11 sand, and started the motor ~~to~~ going and  
12 made the trip along the beach to Ilwaco.

13 The North Bend was given up as a  
14 total loss. They tried to salvage her,  
15 but the big ship was too far away from  
16 the water.

17 Then a strange thing happened.  
18 Something -- wind or gravity -- at least  
19 something, began to push the North Bend  
20 down toward the water. Inch by inch  
21 she crept through the sand, leaving a  
22 long channel behind her. It took her  
23 a year to make the trip, but finally  
24 she was at the water's edge. And still  
25 she kept pushing on until she was afloat

1 again.

2           The astonished sea-faring folks  
3 of those parts got a tug and towed her  
4 to the harbor.

5           And there she still is, while old  
6 jack-tars point her out and tell the  
7 story of the ship that salvaged herself.

8           And now, my hearties, here comes  
9 the First Mate to spin a yarn of his  
10 own -- I mean Neal Enslin. And I'd  
11 better be on my way to the <sup>fore'sle</sup>forecastle --  
12 I mean I'd better go home. So avast  
13 there! And gangway, <sup>mates!</sup> I mean,

14                   SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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