

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR LITERARY DIGEST

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1931

PORTUGAL

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

A voice comes from across the sea tonight uttering the sage and sapient words -- "it's just one thing after another." And it's the government of the Republic of Portugal that's speaking. Or, at any rate, the authorities at Lisbon have every reason in the world to be saying "it's just one thing after another." They certainly have!

After having suppressed a revolution in the islands of the Azores, the Portuguese government proceeded along and put down a revolution in the Madeira Islands. That job being completed, they're now on their way to put the kibosh on still another revolution in Portuguese Guinea, on the west coast of Africa.

This new insurrection has just broken out. The trouble hasn't been particularly violent. The rebels simply rebelled and ejected the government officials. They gave the officials the gate, and those same officials have just landed in Lisbon and today they told their tale of woe.

And so, according to the International News Service, the ships and soldiers at the Madeiras are now getting ready to sail for the African coast to go thru the motions all over again.

Foremost among the men-of-war that are polishing up their heavy artillery, is the ancient battleship Vasco de Gama. This venerable fighting craft was launched in 1875, and is believed to be the oldest warship in active service in any navy on any of the Seven Seas.

That armour-plated patriarch of the oceans will soon be seen in threatening, warlike array off the west coast of Africa.

The center of the insurrection is the port of Bolama, and there the perils of civil war are mixed up with the more peaceable perils of aviation. For the big German flying boat, the DO-X, is at Bolama waiting to hop across the South Atlantic to Brazil. And it may be that the DO-X will take off for a memorable flight while the old Vasca de Gama and her sister ships are standing off and firing with all their guns against the rebels on the shore.

1 I don't know how much importance  
2 this next political dispatch has, but  
3 there's something dramatic about it.  
4 Ex-Kaiser Wilhelm, in his exile at Doorn,  
5 seems to be trying to take a hand in  
6 German politics.

7 This was revealed today by his son,  
8 Prince August Wilhelm, a member of  
9 handsome Adolph Hitler's Fascist party.  
10 The son of the Kaiser declared that his  
11 father is a staunch supporter of the  
12 Fascists.

13 According to the International News  
14 Service, Prince August Wilhelm made this  
15 statement in a speech in which he talked  
16 about the way he was recently beaten up  
17 by the police in the course of a  
18 political demonstration. He related  
19 that previous to the beating-up incident,  
20 the Ex-Kaiser had taken no special interest  
21 in the Fascist movement. When, however,  
22 the former warlord learned how his son  
23 had been manhandled by the police, he  
24 wrote to August Wilhelm as follows: - "My  
25 Son "YOU CAN BE PROUD THAT YOU HAVE BEEN

1 PERMITTED TO BECOME A MARTYR TO THIS  
2 GRAND NATIONAL MOVEMENT."

3 *Well* It has been reported <sup>for some time</sup> that the  
4 former Kaiser has been a silent  
5 supporter of handsome ~~Adolph~~ Adolph ~~Hitler~~  
6 and even that he has donated money to  
7 the Fascist party.

8 And now, from what Prince August  
9 Wilhelm says, it would appear that  
10 Handsome Adolph can count the one time  
11 All-Highest as a prominent and  
12 ~~presumably~~ influential supporter.

13 So it indeed seems that the  
14 Kaiser is sticking his finger into the  
15 German political pie, which is liable  
16 to be hot.

Now comes a war of the ether, a war of words, a battle of microphones.

Over in Germany the authorities are angry because Soviet Russia has been conducting a Red raid through the ether into Germany. The Bolsheviks have been broadcasting revolutionary speeches for the benefit of the Germans. These fiery speeches are given in <sup>the</sup> German language.

And now, according to the United Press, the Germans are retaliating. They're putting on anti-Bolshevist broadcasts for the benefit of Russia. The German counter-attack began with a radio lecture by a German author who poured into the ether a vivid account of the terrible life the Bolshevik authorities compel the Russian people to lead, and how much worse <sup>off</sup> ~~than~~ the Russian working man <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ than the working men of the rest of the world.

A war of the ether! Wouldn't that news item make our great-grandfathers' gasp?

1           There seems to be a little  
2 wireless difficulty in England too. It  
3 comes about because of the peculiarities  
4 of Yorkshire and Lancashire dialect.  
5 People of Northern England, you know,  
6 talk a <sup>brand</sup> ~~kind~~ of English which is Greek  
7 and Gaelic to most English speaking  
8 peoples.

9           The New York Evening Post tells  
10 us the trouble started when a radio station  
11 was established at a town in Northern  
12 England called Slaithwaite. At least,  
13 that's the way it's spelled. But it  
14 isn't Slaithwaite to the local population.  
15 It's Slowit.

16           Just how the town's name should  
17 be pronounced caused a lot of argument  
18 until finally the radio officials  
19 ~~xxx~~ compromised by calling the station  
20 Moorside Edge.

21           The same sort of thing happened  
22 when a broadcasting station was  
23 established at the town of Daventry. It  
24 is spelled Daventry but the natives of  
25 the town pronounce it Daintree.

That reminds me of an American who told me that he was in the section of England where they speak a thick dialect and he wanted a horse and buggy. The innkeeper said to the hired man:

"Gae gie th' shay."

It took some time for the American to understand that "Gae gie th' shay" meant: "Go get the shay", or in other words, the buggy.

Well, we have some fairly rich dialects over here but they are simple and easy to understand in comparison with those in Northern England.

1 Another record flight is in the  
2 news tonight, ~~It is~~ a flight in a glider.

3 According to the United Press  
4 Hans Groenhoff of Munich claims ~~that~~ he  
5 ~~has made a world's record flight in a~~  
6 ~~glider today. He~~ glided for almost  
7 165 miles in ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> craft without power.

8 An airplane towed Groenhoff  
9 and his contraption high into the sky  
10 and then released him and down the glider  
11 came and floated all the way from Munich  
12 to the town of Kaaden in Czecho Slovakia.—  
13 a distance of about one hundred and sixty-five  
14 miles, which is way beyond the former  
15 world's record.

1        This afternoon I read a poem--and  
2 also a few advertisements. And that  
3 may seem a peculiar combination. But  
4 here's how it happened.

5        In the Poetry Section of the current  
6 Literary Digest, I saw a bit of verse by  
7 Wilfred J. Funk, ~~the~~ author of that  
8 scintillating book of verse, "Manhattan  
9 Bronxes and Queens". I read a few jaunty  
10 lines about travel. Here's the way  
11 they go:--

12        "Any line or any ship,  
13        Any dock or any slip,  
14        Any port or anywhere,  
15        Any distance--I don't care.  
16        Travel circulars are free  
17        And create an ecstasy  
18        In my heart--I read them through  
19        And make believe, as children do!"

20        Yes, travel circulars issued by  
21 steamship, railroad, and touring companies  
22 are interesting. But you can get the  
23 same sensation out of the travel ~~ad~~  
24 advertisements ~~which these companies~~  
25 ~~print~~ in the Literary Digest.

So, ~~and~~ after I had read Wilfred

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Funk's poem. I did pretty much what he describes. I leafed through the Digest travel ads, and, as the poem says -- "I read them through, and made believe as children do".

## KENTUCKY

There was another battle in the eastern Kentucky coal fields this afternoon. According to an International News Service bulletin tonight a crowd of over a hundred miners ambushed an auto load of deputy sheriffs. The deputies replied with machine gun fire. The news tonight is a bit meager, but I understand that many were wounded and a number killed including two deputy sheriffs and one miner. Fifty more deputies have been rushed to the scene. The trouble originated over a labor dispute several weeks ago.

1 I <sup>we</sup> ~~have~~ been waiting for several  
2 days until all the letters came in --  
3 that is, the letters about the capture  
4 of a desperate outlaw at Dover, New  
5 Jersey. The facts were that a dangerous  
6 criminal named Nannery, who had been  
7 hunted far and wide by the big-city  
8 police was trapped by Patrolman Charles  
9 Ripley of Dover, New Jersey. ~~Officer~~  
10 Ripley did a particularly brave and  
11 clever piece of work in making that  
12 capture. <sup>Well, I remarked</sup> ~~And I said~~ that the notorious  
13 crook had been captured by "a hick cop," <sup>and</sup>  
14 That started the letters of protest  
15 flooding in from folks who tell me that  
16 Dover is not a hick town. <sup>And</sup> ~~As~~ a matter  
17 of fact, <sup>they are right --</sup> it isn't. It's a delightful  
18 little city. <sup>In fact the biggest hick town of</sup>  
19 <sup>them all is New York.</sup>  
20 But I think some of the folks who  
21 wrote to me missed the point. They  
22 explained to me that the big-town cops  
23 had not been able to catch that outlaw,  
24 and Patrolman Ripley did. That's just  
25 it. That's what I meant to imply.

The big-town cops, and criminals

1 like Nannery, would call a Dover, New  
2 Jersey, policeman a hick cop. But who  
3 turned the trick? Why, Patrolman Ripley  
4 of Dover.

5 I merely wanted to point out the  
6 irony of Nannery who had sworn that no  
7 policeman would ever take him alive.  
8 He braved the forces of the highly  
9 advertised and well-organized police  
10 of New York City, and then he was  
11 captured by what he ~~would~~<sup>ed</sup> call just a  
12 hick cop.

13 ~~The fact is,~~ I don't consider the  
14 term "hick cop" an expression of  
15 reproach at all. In fact, I meant it  
16 as giving three cheers.

17 ~~In fact,~~<sup>And -</sup> my sentiments are  
18 exactly expressed by a poem printed  
19 in the Jerseyman of Morristown, New  
20 Jersey. In that bit of verse Roy S.  
21 Tinney makes a few reflections upon  
22 the capture of the <sup>r</sup>cook at Dover.

23 Says Roy:

24 "A hick is a quiet sociable chap  
25 With a manner direct and queer,

And not at all like the city sap  
Who supports the racketeer.

The hick is a simple minded soul,  
That is the way he is made,  
He sings 'em to sleep with a blazing gun  
An' he puts 'em to bed with a spade.

And that's what Officer Ripley did - except that he  
put his desperado to bed in the Dover, New Jersey calaboose.

1 Sic 'em, Strangler! - <sup>which</sup> ~~meaning~~ <sup>saying</sup> that  
2 Strangler Lewis is said to have bit a  
3 man.

4 The well-known wrestler, who made  
5 the headlock famous, was the central  
6 figure in a wild wrestling bout at  
7 Montreal. Lewis was grappling with the  
8 Canadian giant Deglane.

9 The Canadian won the first fall.  
10 Lewis let out a loud holler, saying that  
11 his shoulders hadn't really been pinned  
12 to the mat. There was an intermission  
13 while the argument went on.

14 Then, according to the Associated  
15 Press, the wrestling started in again.  
16 And Strangler Lewis pinned the Canadian  
17 to the mat. The referee said that the  
18 old Strangler had won the fall. But the  
19 Canadian staggered to his feet and  
20 showed the referee his right arm. On  
21 the wrist were tooth marks. It looked as  
22 if a big papa-bear had got hold of that  
23 ponderous pachyderm's arm.

24 It was then decided that Lewis was  
25 not content with being a mere strangler,

1 but that he was a biter also. They said  
2 that he had bitten his adversary in the  
3 arm, and so the bout was awarded to the  
4 Canadian.

5 The Strangler denies that he bit  
6 Deglane. He says that he's a gentle  
7 fellow and wouldn't do anything like  
8 that. The old Strangler declares that  
9 the most he'd ever do would be to  
10 strangle somebody.

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1 I have a telegram from <sup>one of</sup> the editors  
2 of the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegram, who  
3 tells me of an important story which his  
4 paper is printing today. It's about a  
5 new and improved lightning rod which will  
6 ward off ~~from a building~~ immense quantities  
7 of electricity. That lightning rod will  
8 ~~knock out~~ - as they <sup>absolutely</sup> say, enough lightning  
9 to lift the Woolworth Building off its  
10 foundations. That is, it will handle  
11 a terrific shock of 132,000,000 volt  
12 amperes and all that remains of that  
13 gigantic bolt of lightning, is two  
14 funnel shaped flashes. *Well that sounds funny*  
15 *to me - but it's what the telegram says.*  
16 They say the new lightning rod  
17 is expected to save a lot of money by  
18 protecting transmission lines from being  
19 struck. ~~by lightning~~

19 The ~~xxxxx~~ telegram doesn't  
20 state whether along with the new and  
21 improved lightning rod, they will  
22 have new and improved lightning rod  
23 salesmen who will take up the work of  
24 the old time lightning rod salesmen  
25 famous in song and story.

1 Remember the tale of the ~~king~~  
2 lightning rod salesman who sold a farmer  
3 lightning rods for everything in sight  
4 and ended by putting lightning rods on  
5 the cows? Well, you couldn't improve  
6 much on that <sup>chap.</sup> ~~lightning rod salesman~~

1 I have to report this evening a  
2 flagrant and inexcusable incident of  
3 disrespect for the law--that is,  
4 disrespect for an officer of the law.

5 In Kansas City, Traffic Patrolman  
6 King was on his post at a crossing,  
7 directing the passing cars. Patrolman  
8 King stuck out his arms signalling for  
9 the traffic to stop. As he did so, a  
10 car passed swiftly by.

11 And then the patrolman observed that  
12 a woman's pocketbook was hanging on his  
13 outstretched arm. According to the  
14 United Press, the purse belonged to a  
15 Kansas City woman, and seven dollars were  
16 missing from it.

17 It was bad enough for the <sup>playful rogue</sup> ~~finder~~  
18 to have taken the seven bucks, but when  
19 he hung the purse on a traffic cop's  
20 outstretched arm that certainly was  
21 disrespect for the law.

1 A complaint comes in a letter from  
2 Charles Dibble, of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

3 "I have a pet hen that listens to  
4 your broadcasts every night," writes  
5 Mr. Dibble. "On several occasions ~~at~~  
6 you've told a tall story, and when the  
7 hen heard it she went out and laid a  
8 little white egg. Now, Lowell, ~~now~~ I just  
9 want to ask you--if you're going to pass  
10 along to us those whoppers which the  
11 tall story boys send in to you, please  
12 tell one big enough so that ~~that~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~my~~ pet  
13 hen ~~of mine~~ will lay a decent size<sup>d</sup> egg,  
14 a real big egg the way a hen should lay."

15 Well, so writes Charles Dibble, and  
16 he certainly gives me an assignment. I  
17 spent an hour this afternoon digging  
18 through the archives of the Tall Story  
19 Club in quest of a whopper big enough to  
20 please Charley's pet hen. ~~Well, I found~~  
21 ~~one that certainly is tall, and it ought~~  
22 ~~to appeal to that hen.~~ Finally I found one that may do,

23 It's from Harry P. Milstead, of the  
24 State Teachers College, Upper Montclair,  
25 New Jersey. Mr. Milstead sends me a

clipping that he cut out of the Highland News of Highland, Illinois.

It tells about Ed Boyd, who lives in Missouri. Ed had a lot of hens. They were always cackling, but it was all bluff. They never laid an egg.

The Highland News doesn't say where Ed got his inspiration. But somebody, probably an old sea captain, told Ed that parrots were good layers.

So Ed crossed his hens with parrots. The idea worked fine. When one of those hens has laid an egg she just walks up and says:-- "Ed, I've laid an egg."

Well - I hope that's tall enough for Mr. Dibble's pet hen. In fact, I'll close now so the pet hen can go right out to the chicken house and lay a real sized egg.

So, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.