

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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INTRO

I'm getting a great kick out of visiting some of my old haunts in Chicago. Seven-teen years ago, when I was a reporter here, it seemed to me that Chicago was about the biggest city on earth, and the most fascinating. I have only been back a time or two, and then just for a few hours, so I never really had a chance to see what changed had taken place. Sometimes when you return home after a long absence, things don't seem quite so big and impressive as they once did.

Since the old days in Chicago, my wanderings have taken me to all parts of the globe. As a news-gatherer I have been obliged to make my home in London, Paris, Berlin, and Rome. Up and down the world I have treked, along the streets of Calcutta, Singapore and Mandalay. Naturally, I have come back to Chicago with a somewhat different point of view.

But instead of looking less impressive to me, it is far more impressive than ever. The famous old loop that used to throttle the business section of Chicago seems at least to have lost its importance because the center of the city has spread

## INTRO

out in all directions. Instead of 10 and 15 story buildings there are miles and miles of towering sky scrapers. Historic land marks have vanished. For instance, in the old days the Palmer House was as famous a gathering place as Shepard's Hotel in Cairo. Dickens and Kipling wrote about it. Now the old Palmer House is gone and in its place is a vast palatial hotel that makes Shepard's in Cairo seem like a small Oriental caravansery. The Oriental princes and desert shieks at Sheperds may be a bit more picturesque than the shieks one sees at the new Palmer House.

Chicago with her vast new park system, new boulevards, Wacker Drive, new Field Museum, Acquarium, the Lindbergh Aerial beacon on the Palm Olive Building, and a hundred other wonders, rivals any city on earth, and the prophets who say that in time it will outstrip them all may be right. It certainly looks so to one who comes back after an absence of seventeen years.

The newspapers of Chicago seem more metropolitan than ever. Let's scan them for a moment and see what's going on throughout the world.

SPAIN

Over in Spain, General Berenguer, the Prime Minister was walking through the lobby of the presidential palace in Madrid. A shot was fired. The General spun round, and seized the men who had done the shooting.

He turned out to be a Madrid journalist. According to the United Press the journalist claims he fired, not at the Prime Minister, but at the ceiling, just a playful little way of showing his dislike of the prime minister's political regime.

ITALY

Here's the usual evening's bit about Mussolini and the Fascists.

A lot more people have just been tossed behind the bars in Italy. Mussolini says he has discovered a new plot against his government. Not a little amateur one this time, but a real big affair. An American widow is among the alleged plotters. She has been arrested. Her husband was an Italian, but she was formerly Miss Lillian Burnham, of Boston.

Some days ago I referred to the arrest of several prominent professors in Italy. They were charged with plotting against Mussolini. One of the professors has been released. The United Press says he was set free after promising to devote himself exclusively to professional affairs and not ~~xx~~ to things political.

## RUSSIA

And we couldn't get along without something about the Bolsheviks.

The Soviet government has long been famous for its propoganda. But the British don't like it a little bit. In fact the British Ambassador at Moscow, says the United Press, has been instructed to protest against the way the Solshevists have been suing the radio to stir up trouble. The Labor Government in London objects to Moscow encouraging revolt anywhere, but particularly among British workingmen.

## PROSPERITY

Here's a real prosperity item, and it shows how the British are betting on a world wide revival of business. The firm of Lewis, Limited, of London, which operated a chain of stores in England and Scotland, announces that it has placed orders for one and a half million dollars of goods. It is buying all this merchandise from all over the world. And the reason is that those canny Britons say that the lowest level of prices has been reached, and that prices are sure to go up. In other words, that prosperity is on its way back.

LINERS

In England work has been started on two giant ocean liners that are to cost twenty-two million dollars each. Well, Germany is building bigger and faster liners, so are our own American shipping people, and xix now according to the Associated Press, the British are out to regain the Trans-Atlantic honors, if they can.

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I wonder if any of you felt that big earthquake today? It ocured somewhere but we don't know just where. From 2 to 5 this afternoon the recording instruments at Harvard Observatory recorded a series of heavy shocks. But the experts say the shocks came from far away and evidently not on this continent.

FASHION

This next concerns a somewhat indelicate subject.

The subject is black finger nails, but not the sort you might think. These are fashionable black finger nails. In Paris the vogue in women's clothes is all for black and white. In fact, says ~~x~~ an International News Service cable, the vogue for black has reached the extreme where Parisienne ladies are going in for white hands and black finger nails. They do it with a black varnish and it gives the finger nails a dark, dusky color - some - thing like black opal or black pearl.



At the Chicago office of the Literary Digest today, I saw a handsome picture that will be seen by millions of people tomorrow morning. It's a picture full of deep, rich colors. Nothing gaudy, just the right blending of subdued shades of blue and green and gold.

It's on the cover of the new Literary Digest, the one that will be on the news stands tomorrow, and you will recognize it immediately because it's so different from the pictures we usually see on magazines.

Last week I referred to the questionnaire that comes out in each issue of the Literary Digest. Well, there was one question in the new Digest that caught my eye right off.

That question was:-

"What has Russia done ~~xi~~ with her icons?"

Turning to the article in which the question is answered, I found a fascinating account of how the atheist Bolsheviks, who are trying to kill off and stifle all religion in Russia, have been collecting all the old sacred icons of Russia - those ~~xxx~~ small pictures and images which were held in such veneration until

the Russian Revolution. Then the article goes on to tell just what their motive is.

In that Literary Digest questionnaire, I saw another question that aroused my curiosity. The question was:-

"Do bananas grow on trees?"

Bananas somehow are always funny, whether we are thinking of, "Yes, we have no bananas", or not.

But the Digest questionnaire asks the bewildering question: "Do bananas grow on trees?"

I'll tell you all about that tomorrow night. Or if you read the Digest article, the one that gives the answer, well, be sure and prepare yourself for quite a shock.

In Washington the ship of state may be in for some ~~xxi~~ stormy weather.

WASHINGTON

That huge lot of money that President Hoover asked Congress for yesterday, well, there may be a fight over it. The President wants it for big building projects so as to provide thousands of jobs for men out of work. According to a United Press dispatch, congress is all for spending the money, but the question seems to be just who is to do the spending.

The President wants the money turned over to the administration in a lump sum, so that he and the Cabinet can decide on how to use it. The Democrats think that Congress ought to have the say about where the money is to go.

Senator Elmer Thomas, a Democrat of Oklahoma, told the Senate today that the members of Congress are better able to decide what the country needs than anyone else.

There also seems to be little chance of trouble over the President's choice of Mr. Doak of Virginia as Secretary of Labor. The President today sent Mr. Doak's name to the Senate for confirmation. The Senate must put its O. K., on cabinet appointments and also x on the appointment of Henry P. Fletcher of Pennsylvania as chairman of the new tariff commission.

Senator Nye still breathes fire over the way the Senate welcomed former Secretary of Labor Davis. Yes, sir, Mr. Nye thought that Mr. Davis spent too much money in getting elected and Mr. Nye threatens to make a fight to have the new Senator expelled.

So it begins to look as though the lame duck Congress is limping right into a feww-for-all fight.

OKLAHOMA

Down in Oklahoma City, a curious situation has come up. Squatters have been ~~xx~~ staking claims right in the city, just like they used to stake claims in the old homesteading days. The Rock Island Railroad is abandoning a long strip of ground in the city. But the municipal government is buying that ground. Nevertheless, many people, including the squatters, are under the impression that it ought to revert back to the government, because the government gave the railway its original rights to the property. But, says the International News Service, the city insists that the railroad property is to be turned into a park and the squatters must get off or be thrown off.

## MIKE

Here's a story that just naturally pops right out and bangs me in the eye. It's about a well-known detective, Michael Fiaschetti, former chief of the famous Italian squad of the New York police department. It's so sensational that I can't resist making it the news item of the day.

Well, I know Mike and he certainly is a picturesque character. He's a great big fellow and for years he was the arch-enemy of the Black Hand in New York.

There's a book about Mike and his adventures called "YOU GOTTA BE ROUGH", and Mike, when he feels like it certainly knows how to be rough. You ought to hear him tell some of his experiences as a New York detective. They'd make your hair jump right upon end.

Mike blew into Chicago today. Reporters cornered him and he certainly handed them a red hot line. For instance the headline in the Chicago Evening Post reads: FIASCHETTI VIEWS AL CAPONE AS CHICKEN STEALING WOLF.

Capone is not such a big shot, according to Mike, and he goes on to explain the reputation of Scarface Al by saying he's

just like a wolf, who steals chickens.

As Mike explains it, after a wolf has taken a dozen chickens from a farmer's coop, neighbors sometimes come in and steal a few dozen more. But the wolf ~~xx~~ always gets the blame for every missing chicken. That's the way with Capone, says Mike. The big detective then adds: "I knew Capone when he was just a young hoodlum around New York."

Mike certainly has his nerve with him. But he always was a nervy chap. His record shows that even Mussolini honored him for what he accomplished against the black hand.

MEXICO

Down in Mexico, farmers are starting to raise silk worms. An Italian expert in silk culture has been borrowed from the Italian government by the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, reports the United Press. The expert has arrived in Mexico to teach the farmers concerning the strange manners and customs of the silkworm.



WOMEN

And here's a news flash from Europe that may be of far reaching importance. The United Press reports that there are more girl babies being born than boy babies. The dispatch states that there are eighteen million more women than men in Europe right now. Yes, and the alarming part about it is that it's going to keep right on increasing. French experts on population say that in time there will be enough women in Europe to provide each man with three wives. But if any of you feel a bit oriental in regards to this matter of plural wives, don't rush over to Europe. This ~~xx~~ situation will not reach the three wife stage of another hundred years.

END

Well, in that new Literary Digest, which will be on the stands tomorrow, I read through an article which made me flop back and close my eyes and think a bit.

That article was about a questionnaire, which the London Morning Post, a famous British newspaper recently sent out.

The questionnaire was to decide which were the most popular 8 songs among the English people, songs of British origin.

What were the 8 songs selected? Well, I'll bet several are songs that many Americans never heard of.

The first one on the list isn't English in origin. It's Irish. The name of it is THE MINSTREL BOY. The second song is entitled LOCH LOMOND, which sounds like a Scottish ballad. The rest of the ~~xxxx~~ eight are: ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT, which is Welsh; CHERRY RIPE, English; AWAY TO THE MOUNTAIN, an English hunting song; BELIEVE ME OF ALL THOSE ENDEARING YOUNG CHARMS, DRINK TO ME ONLY WITH THINE EYES, and HOME SWEET HOME -- although I've heard that HOME SWEET HOME came originally from the Italian.

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That Literary Digest article goes on to tell us that the Providence Journal of Providence, Rhode Island, has answered that British selection by picking out what it considers the most popular 8 American songs.

Here they are: OLD FOLKS AT HOME; CARRY ME BACK TO OLE VIRGINIA; DIXIE; MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME; JOHN BROWN'S BODY; TENTING ON THE OLD CAMP GROUND; SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT; and NELLIE GRAY.

Well, that's a good list, although I wonder how many of you would agree with it.

I know for my part that there is one song I'd want to put on that list. I believe it's an old Southern song.

I'd be singing it all the time - I mean I would if I could sing. As it is, I whistle it morning, noon and night.

You know how it goes of course - those charming lines:-

"Me, my wife and my dog  
Crossed the creek on a hickory log.  
She fell in and I couldn't swim;  
And I lost my little brown jug again."

And then that other marvelous stanza that goes:

"I have a cow that gives sweet milk  
I clothe her in the finest silk;  
I feed her on a ton of hay  
And milk her forty times a day."

Let's all rise now and sing the chorus, the part that  
goes:-

"Ah, ha, ha, you and me"

Since I can't sing I'll leave the singing for you to do,  
while I go whistling down Michigan boulevard in search of more  
news for our next session.

So, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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