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THE GHOST HUNTERS

Far in the background of almost every mind there is a sneaking belief in ghosts. Even the coldest-blooded realist will be disposed to leave a light burning when he goes to bed after one of those evenings in which the talk turns to supernatural things and some one or other starts a series of ghost stories with one of those familiar narratives of adventure "in a strange farmhouse" where blood-curdling things happened in the middle of a lonely night.

As almost every one believes dimly in ghosts, so almost everybody has seen one, or something that looked like one, at some time or other. That is why the country will follow with intense interest the adventures of Dr. Prince of Antigonish, where he has gone to see if he can find a ghost that will talk to him and tell its real name.

Dr. Prince, hardened by science, doesn't expect to meet his ghost. Yet it is doubtful whether he has actually abandoned hope of a scrimmage with a real specter. For the thought of ghosts and a queer fear of them is as old as the race. It comes down to us like the shape of our thumbs and the essential glands. It began in the dim past, among the originals of the race, in their forests, in their loneliness and their dread, and it continues to reveal mankind still awed, for all its glib self-assertion, in the presence of the mysteries of life and death.

It is not the reasoning faculties that respond when some one in a quiet interval begins to talk of mystifying things seen or heard in gloomy places or of sounds that seemed to come through the darkness of an unfamiliar place from the other side of the grave. It is primitive instinct that brings the thrills to the back of your neck, the echo of a fear that shook the heart of one of your earliest ancestors in the days when men were just beginning to wonder and to know what fear was.

There are, of course, the folk who believe in ghosts, and make no secret of their fears. Only thoughtless people will venture to disagree flatly with them, since no one knows whether there are ghosts or not. Life on this troubled and isolated planet is a flash of time between eons, an experience with forces that the human mind cannot comprehend, an earthly flight of consciousness that may, for all you know, have a future as long or longer than its past.

The Antigonish ghost, however, is not of the most convincing sort. If there are ghosts they exist in a dimension of matter all their own. Therefore they couldn't ring bells if they wanted to or move cattle from one set of stalls to another or plait the horses' tails. Neither would they start such fires as have troubled and frightened the former residents in the house where Professor Prince is carrying on his investigations.

The belief in the region of Antigonish that radio waves of high power may be in some ways responsible for the uncanny disturbances in the Antigonish farmhouse opens a field of speculation as interesting as that of ghost lore. Wireless is becoming commonplace. It is girdling the earth with free electric current. If it is possible for high-powered radio stations to start small fires in distant places a new problem is presented to those who are now setting about to map out a course of action for future police of the air.

New York Supreme Court has ruled that the right to wear silk stockings isn't worth \$5000. A woman who wanted to sue for that amount because of a scar on her leg has been told to stick to the lower court, where her first plea was for \$500. The justices are perhaps of the opinion that a woman shouldn't show 'em. And, as a consequence, the Lisle Bank must be satisfied with a smaller deposit.

Halifax Chronicle: Really we must protest, when our good friend, The St. John Telegraph, refers to Nova Scotia as "Our Ghost-Ridden Neighbor," and when sensational stories in American papers represent the people of our

Province as in a state of feverish excitement. It is carrying the "spook" business entirely too far.

It is submitted by F. H. Collier that one reason Harold Bell Wright has sold 7,000,000 copies of his books is that they can be read aloud to children. Can be, no doubt, but are they? Maybe you could, if you'd tie the child.

Abe Martin advances the interesting hypothesis that the reason the girls do not buckle their galoshes is that they want to give the impression that they are too tight when buckled.

It may not always be soft for the hard-coal men.

Every time Lloyd George is bumped he bounces.

What makes the bluebirds blue? Snow in March.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

If you don't say anything you may be considered either wise or stupid.

Sometimes a wrinkle is a dimple that has seen better days.

One never hears children speaking boastfully of the nice parents they have brought up.

Lima Beane says the prune's greatest drawback is having its lot cast in the same world with the strawberry.

Flappers are now eagerly looking around for something just as good as the unbuckled galoshes, which certainly were entertaining.

"Much of the modern imagination," remarked the Man on the Car, "has been written into the advertisements."

A man is unlucky when he gets something for nothing. His temporary success destroys his appreciation of realities.

Putting fancy dewdabs on the handles of women's umbrellas has stopped the evil of friend husband grabbing his wife's umbrella by mistake and rushing downtown on a rainy morning.

When a man is standing up getting married with his soul full of love and his heart beating a rat-a-tat-tat against his ribs, he doesn't really want his bride to say she will obey. That idea comes to him later.

FREDERICTON LADIES AT THE CAPITAL

At the opening of Parliament at Ottawa, the following Fredericton ladies were present and their costumes are described by the Montreal Star.

Mrs. R. B. Hanson, of Fredericton, N. B., wife of the Member of Parliament for York-Sunbury, in a gown of simple design in periwinkle blue velvet.

Mrs. A. H. McKee, in a gown of black panne velvet and silk lace trimmed with touches of turquoise in beaded work.

Miss Katherine Lynch of Fredericton, N. B., in a gown of Spanish lace embroidered in jet and trimmed with jet cord and tassels, over black satin.

Mrs. Gregory of Victoria, B. C., daughter of Senator Thompson of Fredericton, N. B., in a handsome gown of black georgette trimmed with cut steel, diamond ornaments.

SUSPENSIONS AT STELLARTON

Halifax, N. S., March 11—An official bulletin of the maritime provinces branch of the A. A. U. of Canada announces the suspension of Alfred Kirby, Charles Fraser, George Brooks, Charles Appleton and Simon Higgins, Stellarton hockey players. They had been playing independent hockey.

Early Chicks

Mrs. George Danby of North Devon has a flock of twenty two White Wyandotte chicks hatched out in an incubator last week. They are healthy youngsters and she anticipates no difficulty in raising them.

THE OPTIC COSTUME THE LATEST THING

Atlantic City, March 13—The "optic" costume is the newest "wrinkle" in feminine sportswear along the Board walk.

Fair visitors are matching their promenade attire with the color of their eyes, and the fad has found tremendous favor among hundreds of pretty damsels.

Blues and browns yesterday had the call in the first big showing of the new modes. From smart and close-fitting toques to silk and wool hosiery the eye shades were followed out. Rubber-soled sport shoes generally completed the apparel.

If the wearer happened to be a blue-eyed blonde the main "structure" of the booties was of straw color, with brown trimmings. A brown-eyed brunette reversed the order: the brown leather was the base with lighter decorations.

APPOINTED TO THE SENATE

Ottawa, March 12—F. F. Pardee, former Liberal sitting member for West Lambton, Ont., and Gustave Boyer, sitting Liberal member for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Que., have been elevated to the senate. The appointment of Mr. Boyer creates a vacancy in the province of Quebec, and it is expected that a by-election writ will be issued immediately.

Mr. Pardee fills the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Milne, and Senator Boyer that created by the death of Senator Arthur Boyer. These two appointments bring the senate representatives to full strength and reduce the Conservative majority in the senate by two, the late Senator Milne having been appointed by the Borden Conservatives, while the late Senator Boyer was a Liberal. Mr. Pardee was a Liberal Unionist, and was defeated in 1921.

Fiume has had another seizure.

CARD OF THANKS

William Gorman and family desire to express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for many kindnesses and sympathy shown them in their recent sad bereavement. Also for the many beautiful floral tributes.

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