

The Daily Mail

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LIKE TO BE HUMBUGGED

The appalling thing about the swindles which are from time to time attempted, is that so many people fall for them. There is never any lack of victims. The more preposterous the promises of the promoters, the more eagerly do the foolish ones gulp down "bait, hook and sinker." The old saying that "there's a sucker born every minute" is no idle fancy. It is almost literally the truth.

The reason so many allow themselves to be caught is principally that their cupidity is appealed to, and when cupidity is aroused common sense is benumbed. People should know better than to believe anybody is honestly begging them to accept 800 per cent. dividends, or even 18 per cent., if they stopped to reason. But they don't stop to reason—that is, a lot of them don't—because they don't want to disbelieve anything so alluring.

They prefer to "take a chance." But what they really take is not a chance but a certainty—of disappointment and loss.

Organized society tries to protect its more gullible members, but the job is one of the hardest there is to do. Barnum observed that the public likes to be fooled. Surely a very sizable part of it still does, a full half century after the great showman helped it to cut its eye teeth. Even public men at times like to be humbugged.

AN UNHEALTHY TOPIC

Wherever one happens to be nowadays—on trains, in theatres, hotels, stores, or in the street—yes, even in churches—people are heard conversing about ailments, epidemics, operations, the dangers of colds, influenza, pneumonia and all that sort of thing. It is quite natural that we should think of these matters when so many folks are falling ill that the doctors don't get time for meals. However—there is such a thing as thinking too much along this one line.

Part of the message the little French chemist brought us recently was that we should forget the trifling ills that we are apt to worry about and just imagine ourselves well and strong.

Interested in our friends who are ill we ought, to be of course. But this does not mean we should spend all our time discussing their condition and keeping our minds immersed in a germ-laden atmosphere. That sort of conversation is depressing. It tends, by some very real though little understood process, to open the way for kindred ills in our own systems.

Woe we to take good health for granted, turning our thoughts away from disease as much as possible, the result would be a tonic for our systems. Suppose, then we cut down the ill health topic to about five per cent of our talk budget instead of the present 95 per cent.

Governor Pugsley at seventy-three is retiring from office to resume the practice of law. His Honor is easily the most eminent lawyer in Eastern Canada and it is scarcely likely that the future is giving him any cause for worry. As Lieutenant Governor he cheerfully met all demands made upon him and enjoyed to a marked degree the confidence and esteem of all classes of people. Hon. Mr. Pugsley was Minister of Public Works in the Laurier Cabinet and when the government went out of power in 1911 he became Sir Wilfrid's Chief Lieutenant in opposition. His work for the Liberal party in parliament during the years following the advent to power of the Borden regime particularly when the Naval Bill was under consideration, can never be forgotten.

Bishop Richardson is one of the outstanding men of this province. He takes a great interest in the questions of the day as every Church leader should. His letters to the press are marked by soundness and common sense, so that the people are always glad to know his vision on public questions. Yet this is what the Gleaser says about him: "Bishop Richardson's letter betrays an absence of knowledge of fact, and, unfortunately, disregard for principles upon which practical and substantial upbuilding is done. It is in

fact one of those letters, which has of recent years, been coming gushingly from Bishopscote with peculiar persistency."

Mr. George Black, member for the Yukon, contributed a very good speech to the budget debate in Parliament. His speech was not of a partizan nature but he devoted his time to Yukon matters, becoming quite eloquent as picturing the land of gold and its climate and resources. An Ottawa correspondent in writing of Mr. Black's speech says: "George Black almost caused a stampede to the Yukon by a mouth-watering description of the resources and conditions there. A little inconvenience like 60 deg. below in winter is more than offset by the wonderful daylight saving in vogue—three months continuous daylight—two of 'em all sunny."

New Brunswick now has two governors and both are honoring Fredericton with a visit today. Governor Pugsley is here to close up his affairs with a view to vacating office on March 1st and Governor Todd came over from St. Stephen to make arrangements for taking over his duties on that date.

Medicine is one of the most urgent necessities in Russia, according to a retired observer and a little will do, if it is of the kind that has to be taken after meals.

The Chicago youth put on the rock pile for an incurable tendency to pull false alarms, appears to have great possibilities as a great European diplomat.

Chicago banks are advertising extensively with nursery rhymes and historical volumes, but their most popular publication as usual, is the bank book.

Well, the consensus of opinion appears to be that the Ruhr occupation is going to keep France occupied for some years to come.

It's going to be interesting to note what effect, if any, the visit of M. Cote will have on the season's consumption of sulphur and molasses.

The man who has both a front walk and a furnace is getting plenty of exercise this winter with a shovel.

If Aladdin were alive in Bagdad he would rub his lamp today and wish it full of oil.

What goes up must come down. Exception: The cost of living.

Skeptics rave—and the Bible still remains the world's best seller.

February is winter's Big Bertha.

Zero and less is too much.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

A minute is sixty seconds unless one is asked to wait that long.

Poker players will lose if they try to make tens and deuces win with the Coue formula.

"France's watch on the Rhine," remarked the man on the Car, "is an alarm clock."

As between the old kaiser and his wife we are neutral. Both are to blame.

A loafer's problem is to devise ways and means of getting money he needs away from the fellow who works.

Blondes are at a disadvantage. They can't hang a jewelry store advertisement on either ear and look like a Fiji Island belle.

A Chicago man, shot by his wife exclaimed that he didn't think she would do it. Simply goes to show that man cannot understand women.

Optimism has its limitations. For one thing it can't overcome a big fact in nature that an egg cannot improve with age.

A husband may not always have the \$50 his wife asks for, but he ought to be liberal enough to give her the last word in the argument that follows.

Mr. First Robin is the bird that can make three or four inharmonious notes sound like music. He'll be along before many weeks, the weather bureau permitting.

It is better to have second class brain than a second-class character.

UNUSUAL ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Pathfinder Has Troubles

"Somehow I cannot get enthusiastic about the snow when I have to mark the path on our street each morning after it snows," says a Lansdowne street resident.

So Be Careful

This is pneumonia weather, according to a well known doctor, and the possession of even a slight cold should cause the owner to seek medical treatment. Pneumonia comes from cold or draught rather than from wet feet, according to the doctor. The popular supposition is that wet, slushy weather is most productive of this affliction.

Must Get Monotonous

"All of this enthusiastic talk about the equable climate of California may be right" says a Frederictonian who spent some time in the land of "native sons," and earth tremors, "but think of having to live in a land when the conversations never change."

The Ointment's Fly

The shoe shine boy says that he is opposed to men wearing rubbers. "Rubbers," he says, "keep men's shoes in good condition, so where do I come in? They don't need so many shoe shines wearing rubbers all the time."

SAYS FRANCE IS RICH NATION

London, Feb. 20—"The policy of France," Philip Snowden declared in the House of Commons to-day, "seem to be to make her nation bankrupt by keeping her people rich. France to-day through her savings and the recovery of her exports is the richest nation in the world."

Although his view was challenged in debate, still there is a growing belief here that France is not so financially depressed as it is generally believed. The adventure in the Ruhr has increased the agitation for funding her debts to Britain and the industrial group in the House of Commons, declared to be in favor of the immediate funding of all debts will submit a scheme to the Government next week. In official circles, however it is said the British are waiting to see what America proposes to do with her French debt and the tendency is to work for distant co-operation with America.

BONDS ARE CONVERTED

Ottawa, Feb. 19—The total amount of Victory bonds converted in the recent conversion loan was \$114,449, 250, Hon. W. S. Fielding minister of finance, announced in the House today.

"What was the total cost of the conversion?" asked Mr. W. C. Good Progressive, Brant.

"Expenses paid to date are \$322, 635, of which \$117,828 is for advertising," replied Mr. Fielding. "The charges are now practically complete."

Making Subscription

Residents of Barker's Point and property owners in that place have subscribed generously to a fund for the assistance of George Clayburn a colored man of that place who lost his home by fire a short time ago.

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Eve. 7.15, 8.45 15-25
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Matinee 10-20 Evening 15-25

Wed. Richard Barthelmess in "THE SEVENTH DAY"