

The Daily Mail

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MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1933.

THE DRAKE HOAX

It is said that the effort to recover an alleged large estate left by Sir Francis Drake, great sea rover of the Elizabethan era, has up to the present time cost suckers in the United States and Canada the enormous sum of ten million dollars. Sir Francis was undoubtedly a great sailor; he helped rout the Spanish Armada and he afterwards made a voyage around the world, and although he gathered in some treasure on the Spanish main and elsewhere, he died a relatively poor man. Oscar Merrill Hartzell, a one time Iowa farmer, who claims kinship, is credited with being the promoter of the scheme to recover the mythical estate left by Sir Francis Drake, which has been aptly described as "one of the most fabulous hoaxes of all time." Hartzell was recently deported from England and on arriving in New York was promptly arrested on a charge of fraud and is now at liberty on a \$10,000 bond awaiting action by the grand jury at Sioux City, Iowa, on a conspiracy and mail fraud charge.

A circular issued by Hartzell to his dupes in the early stages of his campaign to recover the Drake billions contained this enticing passage:

"If you had all over one billion pounds sterling, which is the equivalent of five billion dollars, if you had all above that amount, you could buy the whole city of Des Moines, and build a fence around it, so you can see what a colossal affair it is."

The promises of fabulous returns by the promoter of this colossal fake brought hundreds into the scheme, and if our memory serves us right, some residents of the Counties of York and Carleton, New Brunswick were among the number, and many of them are still firm in the belief that they will eventually pick up a fortune. An inventory of the Drake estate as doped up by Hartzell, showed that it included the Cunard docks at Liverpool, redwood forests in Oregon, cotton lands in Egypt, properties in the heart of London and the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. He even made the claim that England was liquidating herself in order to be in a position to pay off her share of the estate, and it was also urged that the impending settlement had caused her to go off the gold standard. Each claim made by the Iowa fakir brought in a new crop of gullible investors, some of whom parted with the savings of a lifetime.

Hartzell's activities in England, where he was sent by his dupes to settle up the estate, were investigated by Scotland Yard at the request of the American authorities. They reported that he made daily visits to the office of the American Express Company in Haymarket, London, where he received money from America, deposited it to his personal account, and thereafter adjourned to a well known hotel lounge and spent hours beering up. The solicitor's report emphatically deigned that there is any unsettled or undistributed Sir Francis Drake estate.

When Hartzell was lodged in jail at Sioux City it was found that his wardrobe included ten suits of clothes, including two for evening wear, twenty shirts, ten pairs of shoes and one hundred ties. His stiff hat bore the label of a concern described as "hatters to His Majesty the King and the Royal Family."

Sir Francis Drake spent some time cruising the waters of the West Indies. One of the ships of the Canadian National line bears the name of his wife and all hope that she will eventually become a revenue producer. This is the only chance that Canadians have of cashing in on the reputation of the famous sea rover.

The appointment of Joseph L. Ryan of Bathurst, to the County Court judgeship, vacated by the retirement of Judge McLatchey will give general satisfaction, especially to the people of the three counties, which comprise the district. The new judge is a sound

lawyer of long experience, has a wide acquaintance throughout the North Shore counties, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all classes of people. That he will worthily discharge his important duties is beyond all question.

The auk and the dodo probably have welcomed the heath hen to that val-halla of extinct birds. Anyway, Dr. Alfred O. Gross of Bowdoin college a noted ornithologist, who has made a long search for the heath hen, concludes that extinction has overtaken this fowl.

"A freshman always knows more than he will ever know again", said President Lowell of Harvard to the freshmen at the annual smoker. But very few sophomores would agree to the statement.

Chicago, which hasn't been paying its school teachers anyway, has cut their salaries 15 per cent. That's very considerate. Now the teachers will not lose so much when they fail to draw their pay.

"It is felt that married men have less nerve than bachelors", says the cable dispatch agent Australian aviators. If they had less, would they be married men?

Psychologist says paternal grouches over school matters can be cured by getting Dad to attend a dance with the teacher. What's the use of transferring the grouch to the female parent?

Housewives are being urged to economize by doing their own cooking. Well, that's one way to persuade husbands to eat less.

Week-ends will soon be going strong.

Once more the winds are Easterly. On a head—the Easter hat.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Many of the vanished street signs are said to be directing traffic in the Beaverbrook Residency.

Educated people have more of "something else" to talk about than others.

Occasionally it is very difficult to defend one's self against impudent questions.

But this curse of machinery hasn't yet reduced mother's working hours to five to five a day.

"Man wants but little here below"—so the poet said of yore, but if he only wants a little it's because he can't get more.

Wonder what a farmer thinks about when he is plowing in a field next to a game of golf.

In marriage, the first fact to realize is that very little of the program proceeds as it was planned.

Farmers can't make more prosperous by laws that make the rest of the country poorer.

One had better practice early at staying at home alone in the evenings, for sooner or later one will have a lot of it to do.

Let's beware of the man who knows how to make us fabulously wealthy overnight but hasn't a thin dime himself.

So far as clothes are concerned women have been emancipated. The great danger now is that men are going to lose their sartorial freedom, if we may call it that.

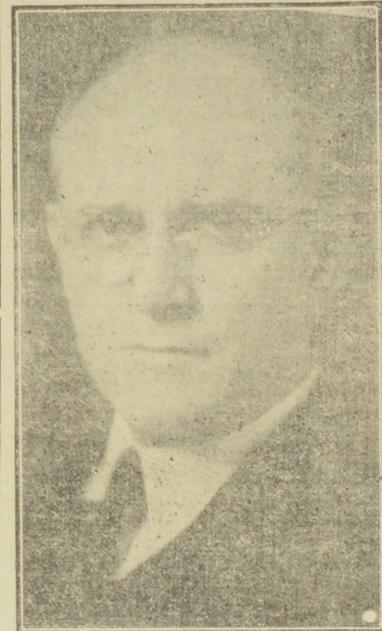
PERSONAL MENTION

Fredericton people registered at the Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal over the week-end included: Mrs. L. S. Morrison, Miss M. A. Morrison and Miss M. Morrison and Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Merrithew.

R. B. Hanson, K. C., M. P., who spent the week-end at his home here is returning back to Ottawa this afternoon.

MONTREAL MAN
WILL LECTURE
AT SACKVILLE

Sackville, N. B., April 15—The Josiah Wood Lectures on Citizenship will be given this year on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 19, 20 and 21, by Dr. Lloyd Douglas, of Montreal. There will be three lectures, the specific subject being "The Student Faces a Muddled World." The lectures will be given in the Charles Fawcett Memorial



DR. LLOYD DOUGLAS

ial Hall and will be free to all.

Dr. Douglas is the Pastor of St. James United Church in Montreal, a position which he gives up in May next to devote his whole attention to writing and lecturing. He was born and educated in the Middle West, was Pastor of a Church in Washington, D. C., and then for some years Director of Religious Education in the University of Illinois. He is widely known in University circles and has given Convocation addresses in almost every State University in America. While an unusually forceful and interesting speaker, Dr. Douglas is best known by his writings, some of which are in connection with his ministerial work, such as "Those Disturbing Miracles," "Those Sayings of Mine," "The Minister's Everyday Life." To most people he will be best known as the author of novels which have been widely read during the last year or two: "Magnificent Obsession" and "Forgive Us Our Trespases."

Drunken Charges

Two men, Gregory Myshrahl and Shirley Kelly appeared before Magistrate Walter Limerick this morning on charges of being drunk. The former was sentenced to \$8 fine or thirty days in jail while the latter was remanded until tomorrow when he will be tried on a charge of assault, the information on which was laid several ears ago. Both are from Kingsclear.

GAIETY

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
This Week

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START TO FINISH!

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and
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FAY WRAY

DIED

WHITEHEAD:—Passed away April 16th, 1933, Stephen Turney Whitehead at Saint John County Hospital, only child of Mr. and Mrs. G. Stephen Whitehead, aged 5 years.

Funeral on Tuesday morning on arrival of Saint John train. Service will be conducted by Ven. Archdeacon Bate. Interment will be made in the Rural cemetery.

KATNE:—Suddenly at Marysville, N. B., April 15, 1933, Blair Katne, of Marysville, son of Mrs. Lee McCoy, aged 20 years.

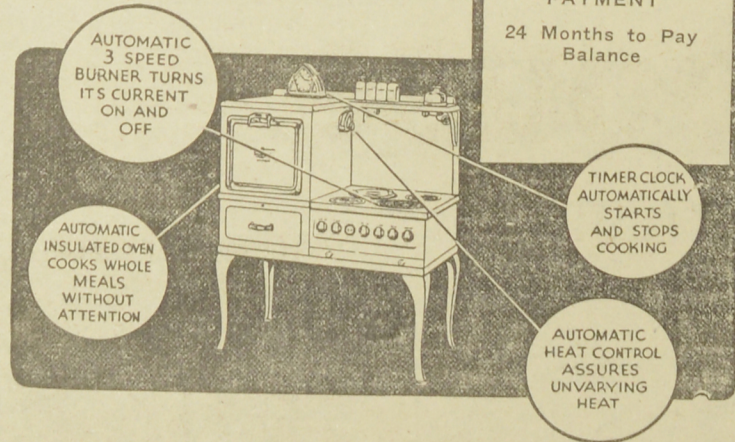
Funeral will take place from the home of his grandmother, Marysville, at 5 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. Service will be conducted by Rev. M. H. Manuel, following which the body will be taken by train to Ludlow for service and interment.

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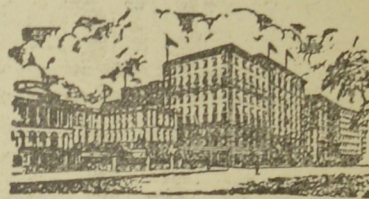
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