

Beginning Today—
The World's Strangest
Mystery Story!

The PHANTOM of the OPERA

(Published by Arrangement with Universal Pictures)

by
GASTON LEROUX

This story is published by arrangement with Universal Pictures, who have produced it as a tremendous spectacle. The supposed "Phantom," who inhabits the Paris Opera House, is played by Lon Chaney. Mary Philbin is Christine, and Norman Kerry is Raoul.

(Continued.)

I leave M. Moncharmin to complete the story. In his Memoirs, he says:

"MM. Debienne and Poligny seemed to grow more and more excited, and they appeared to have something very difficult to tell us. First, they asked us if we knew the man, sitting at the end of the table, who had told them of the death of Joseph Buquet; and, when we answered in the negative, they looked still more concerned. They took the master-keys from our hands, stared at them for a moment and advised us to have new locks made, with the greatest secrecy, for the rooms, closets and presses that we might wish to have hermetically

closed. They said this so funnily that we began to laugh and to ask if there were thieves at the Opera. They replied that there was something worse, which was the ghost. We began to laugh again, feeling sure that they were indulging in some joke that was intended to crown our little entertainment. Then, at their request, we became 'serious,' resolving to humor them and to enter into the spirit of the game. They told us they never would have spoken to us of the ghost, if they had not received formal orders from the ghost himself to ask us to be pleasant to him and to grant any request that he might make. However, in their belief at leaving a domain where that tyrannical shade held sway

The Phantom of the Opera
Fictionized by Patrick Kearney from Universal's screen version of the novel by Gaston Leroux



RED ROSE COFFEE "is good coffee"

remembered that it was the red-hand writing in which the memorandum-book had been so curiously completed. He recognized the clumsy childish hand. He opened the letter and read: Dear Mr. Manager:

I am sorry to have to trouble you at a time when you must be so very busy, renewing important engagements, signing fresh ones and generally displaying your excellent taste. I know what you have done for Carlotta, Sorelli and little Jammes and for a few others whose admirable qualities of talent or genius you have suspected.

Of course, when I use these words, I do not mean to apply them to La Carlotta, who sings like a squirt and who ought never to have been allowed to leave the Ambassadeurs and the Cafe Jacquin; nor to La Sorelli, who owes her success mainly to the coach-builders; nor to little Jammes, who dances like a calf in a field. And I am not speaking of Christine Daae either, though her genius is certain, whereas your jealousy prevents her from creating any important part.

All the same, I should like to hear Christine Daae this evening in the part of Siebel, as that of Margarita has been forbidden her since her triumph of the other evening; and I will ask you not to dispose of my box today nor on the following days, for I can not end this letter without telling you how disagreeably surprised I have been once or twice, to hear, on arriving at the opera, that my box had been

sold, at the box-office, by your orders. I did not protest, first, because I dislike scandal, and, second, because I thought that your predecessors, MM. Debienne and Poligny, who were always charming to me, had neglected, before leaving, to mention my little fads to you. I have now received a reply from those gentlemen to my letter asking for an explanation, and this reply proves that you know all about my memorandum-book and, consequently, that you are treating me with outrageous contempt. If you wish to live in peace, you must not begin by taking away my private box.

Believe me to be, dear, Mr. Manager, without prejudice to those observations,

Your Most Humble Servant.

Opera Ghost.

The letter was accompanied by a cutting from the agony-column of the Revue Theatrale, which ran:

O. G.—There is no excuse for R and M. We told them and left your memorandum-book in their hands. Kind regards.

M. Firmin Richard had hardly finished reading this letter when M. Armand Moncharmin entered, carrying one exactly similar. They looked at each other and burst out laughing. "It's harmless enough," observed Armand Moncharmin. "What is it they really want? A box for tonight?"

M. Firmin Richard told his secretary to send Box Five on the grand tier to MM. Debienne and Poligny.

(To be Continued.)

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BISHOP TELLS WHY GROUSE ARE SCARCE

A Shediac correspondent to the Telegraph-Journal writes:

Partridges have been scarce in Westmorland and Kent counties this fall, due mainly, it is said, to automobile parties shooting the birds in and out of season when they emerge from the woods to the main highways and by-roads early in the morning and at sunset.

Some hunters predict that the motor car means the extermination of the partridge in the Maritime Provinces, except in sections where vast wilderness exists. Bishop Richardson, of Fredericton, who was here recently, expressed the opinion that illegal shooting rather than disease was the real cause of the scarcity of partridges.

ONTARIO'S HEAVY TOLL OF HUNTERS

Renfrew, Nov. 15—Dr. J. J. McCann, Coroner, last night attended the inquest on the death of the third victim from shooting while hunting. Three men have been killed within 36 hours. On Thursday William Sly was killed at Folger, while today Martin Dahl, aged 25 years, of the Township of Matawatchan was shot, and A. Etimsky of Barry's Bay was accidentally killed by his son. Father and son were in the bush together, when the father was mistaken for a deer and shot through the knee, from which wound he bled to death before assistance could be secured.

In all three cases death was pronounced accidental.

HALIFAX SUGAR PRICES.

Halifax, N. S., Nov. 17—Announcement was made here this morning of a drop of 15 cents per 100 pounds in the wholesale price of sugar the quotation now being \$6.50 per hundredweight.

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THE PRODUCTION OF SEED GRAIN BY EXP. FARMS

(Experimental Farms Note.)

The Experimental Farms operated by the Dominion Government throughout Canada aim to produce seed grain of a degree of excellence which is obtainable only through the exercise of very special care. This grain is designed for use by special seed growers who wish to produce Registered Seed in commercial quantities. Registered Seed, as is now pretty generally known, is the highest legal Seed Grade recognized by the Seeds Act of Canada. It is defined as seed which on field inspection, is found to be at least 99.95 per cent true to variety. It must also have originated either from Registered Seed or from what is known as Elite Stock Seed. The latter class of seed which must be at least 99.995 per cent true to variety is the initial starting point of all Registered Seed. From it Registered Seed is produced in the first place a fact which emphasizes the great importance of having Elite Stock Seed all that the definition implies and requires.

To make sure that the degree of purity and trueness to type required by Elite Stock Seed has been attained a very careful inspection is necessary. So thorough must this inspection be that it is not considered practicable by the writer to attempt to vouch for any very large acreage as being up to the high requirements of this grade. It is highly desirable however that there be maintained for propagation at as many places as possible a fair supply of this class of seed of the leading kinds of grain grown. This is the policy of the Dominion Experimental Farm system. These farms aim also to propagate this seed so as to be able to supply seed growers with a fair quality of First Generation Registered Seed, thereby enabling them to proceed in the work of producing Registered Seed without loss of time.

In 1925 the Experimental Farms produced a good many hundreds of bushels of registerable seed of various kinds. This seed will be handled largely through the Canadian Seed Growers' Association with which organization the Experimental Farms co-operate closely.

Wills—Bring up a child in the way he should go—

Waters—Yes, and when he is old he will brag about being a self made man.

Ottawa, Nov. 16—Right Hon. Arthur Meighen is in Toronto today. After a brief business visit in that city the Conservative leader will spend two weeks' vacation in the southern United States.

they had hesitated until the last moment to tell us this curious story, which our skeptical minds were certainly not prepared to entertain. But the announcement of the death of Joseph Buquet had served them as a brutal reminder that, whenever they had disregarded the ghost's wishes, some fantastic or disastrous event had brought them to a sense of their dependence.

"During these unexpected utterances made in a tone of the most secret and important confidence, I looked at Richard. Richard, in his student days, had acquired a great reputation for practical joking, that the old French sense of humor was never likely to become extinct. Richard added that he now understood why MM. Debienne and Poligny were retiring from the management of the National Academy of Music. Business was impossible with so unreasonable a ghost.

"Certainly, two hundred and forty thousand francs are not to be picked up for the asking," said M. Poligny, without moving a muscle of his face. "And have you considered what the loss of Box Five meant to us? We did not sell it once; and not only that, but we had to return the subscription; why, it's awful! We really can't work to keep ghosts! We prefer to go away!"

"Yes," echoed M. Debienne, "we prefer to go away. Let us go."

"And he stood up. Richard said: 'But, after all, it seems to me that you were much too kind to the ghost. If I had such a troublesome ghost as that, I should not hesitate to have him arrested.'"

"But how? Where?" they cried, in chorus. "We have never seen him!"

"But when he comes to his box?" "We have never seen him in his box."

"Then sell it!" "Sell the Opera ghost's box! Well, gentlemen, try it."

"Thereupon we all four left the office. Richard and I have never laughed so much in our lives."

CHAPTER IV Box Five.

The first few days which the partners spent at the Opera were given over to the delight of finding themselves the head of so magnificent an enterprise; and they had forgotten all about that curious, fantastic story of the ghost, when an incident occurred that proved to them that the joke—if joke it were—was not over. M. Firmin Richard reached his office that morning at eleven o'clock. His secretary, M. Remy, showed him half a dozen

letters which he had not opened because they were marked, "private." One of the letters had at once attracted Richard's attention not only because the envelope was addressed in red ink, but because he seemed to have seen the writing before. He soon

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