

The Daily Mail

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HOUDINI THE WIZARD.

Harry Houdini who defied death in many forms for years has finally been laid low by one of the ailments to which flesh is heir. He prided himself upon his ability to take any kind of punishment, but we are told that his fatal illness may have been precipitated by a chance blow from a university student in Canada during one of his demonstrations. Whether this be true or not is immaterial because this famous "magician" never claimed anything more than the skill and the power to entertain and hystify his audiences. By sheer ability, strength and will-power he won a world-wide reputation because he was as well known in Melbourne and London as he was in the United States.

One of his professional friends in paying tribute to him says that as an adviser he was in a class with Barnum and that in force of character he resembled Roosevelt. In his special form of entertainment he stood alone, but a study of his career must convince anyone that he was more than a "magician." Men of his kind make a success in life no matter what path they may choose. Born the son of a rabbi, he showed talent as an acrobat and a contortionist in his earliest youth. Later he entered the field as a showman and performed before notables and rulers in all parts of the world. He invented a diving suit and he won a prize as a successful flier long before airplanes were as numerous and popular as they are now.

But it was as "The Handcuff King" that he aroused universal interest. He was interested in the exhibitions of the Davenport Brothers when they undertook the work of exposing fake spiritualistic mediums. It was their practice to have themselves tied in a cabinet and then release themselves amidst the ringing of bells and the clashing of cymbals. Houdini went them one better. He had himself handcuffed and managed to free himself by a method that was all his own. The experts at Scotland Yard were later amazed at his performances. Perhaps the greatest proof of the way in which he impressed himself upon his time lies in the fact that his name has become embalmed in the English language through the Standard Dictionary. That authority upon words now contains a very "houdinize," meaning "to release or extricate oneself from confinement, bonds or the like by wriggling out."

Houdini worked hard for the fame he won, but he was a student as well as an entertainer and his career is an object lesson to those slothful ones who neglect their talents. In his own field he was always trying to do better and men of that kind—whatever their occupation—seldom go unrecognized.

A BANK PRESIDENT'S VIEWS.

Sir John Aird, who succeeded the late Sir Edmund Walker as president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has come out squarely in favor of the liquor policy of Premier Ferguson of Ontario. In a letter to the Toronto Globe, published over his own signature Sir John says:

"I am entirely in accord with the program of Mr. Ferguson, who, in his proposal, has taken a sane and constructive step toward solving what has promised to become a serious problem in this Province. The O.T.A. was voted on by the people of Ontario in good faith, influenced largely by conditions arising out of the Great War, and as it was to a great extent a new departure in legislation it must be considered in the light of an experiment which has failed. It has been a costly failure in many ways, and has, in my opinion, set back the cause of temperance many years. When I say temperance, I mean it in its truest sense, as it is a word being glibly used by some people at the present time who evidently have not the proper conception of its real meaning.

"In the course of my connection with various large business and financial institutions there have passed under my notice and charge many thousands of young men and women. I have seen a few of these fall by the wayside, but of these failures a negligible percentage has been caused by indulgence in strong drink. The only effect of the O.T.A. upon this percentage has been to raise it."

In dealing with the contention of the temperance reformers that the prohibition act can be enforced Sir John says:

"The slogan of the dry element that the O.T.A. can be and will be enforced is futile. If ever this law had a chance of being enforced, it was when the Drury Government was in power. We had then an Attorney-General of the most pronounced prohibition type, and behind him a Government which subsequent discoveries have shown was not loath to spend money. Did not the bootlegger thrive and prosper as much at the end of that regime as at the beginning? The O.T.A. has achieved one great thing, and in this it can be compared to the policy of the British Government in 1776. It has proved again that the Anglo-Saxon will not be oppressed. The British nation learned a valuable lesson in the American Revolution, and it is to be hoped that legislative bodies in Ontario have learned a similar lesson, namely, that the Anglo-Saxon is a peace-loving soul, but his home is his castle and his private business is his own."

This is certainly pretty straight talk coming as it does from the head of one of the greatest financial institutions in the Dominion.

The editor of a New Brunswick independent newspaper was among those who "listened in" on the planet Mars when it was only 42,000,000 miles from the earth and he apparently made the discovery that the inhabitants of the planet are interested in hydro development in New Brunswick. Mars is about the only place left where the newspaper in question now wields any political influence but it is doubtful if it will succeed in creating prejudice up there against the Baxter administration.

An English inventor who produced a shoe that can be regulated to the growth of a child's foot. A great saving might be effected if the principle could be applied to the hats of a lot of men who have acquired a little brief fame.

It's our offhand guess that little ten-year old Indiana schoolgirl who was sent home because she came to school in knickers was as modestly dressed as the teacher who dismissed her.

Hitherto unknown poems by Omar Khayyam having been unearthed by investigators in India, a further search is being instituted for the jug.

Carpentier knocked out a swindler who had nicked him for \$1382. It's a wise confidence man who knows his own victim.

A Massachusetts widow says her husband never told her a lie in 40 years. If this is true he was a wonder, or if it isn't.

Triplets born in the midst of Armenia's recent earthquake have been named, Faith, Hope and Charity. What, we wonder, is the significance?

Doctor says that in order to be healthy we should use less heat, and we have an idea that before long the winter will supply it.

A Dutch scientist says talking fatigues women less than it does men, but does one have to be a Dutch scientist to grasp that truth?

Of late Trotsky doesn't seem to be running so wellski. In fact, it looks now as though he were completely outski.

One trouble with a lot of men who claim they "know what they're talking about" is they don't know they are talking about the bush.

Somehow it doesn't seem like the same old autumn, with no stoppage of any kind in the coal industry.

The amount of stuff they put on their faces doesn't compensate for what they take off their legs.



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PORTRAIT OF CHIEF JUSTICE IS UNVEILED

(Continued from page one.)

Douglas, it hardly was necessary for him to speak at greater length concerning his services to the public. On several occasions he (Taylor) had been associated with Sir Douglas as a junior and he could say that it would be difficult to find a man who gave more of his strength and energy to his duty to his client or who displayed greater courtesy toward the court.

The bar greatly esteemed the act of courtesy on the part of Hon. H. A. McKeown former Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench in coming from Saint John to attend the ceremony. With the permission of the court he would ask the former Chief Justice to unveil the portrait.

Hon. H. A. McKeown.

Hon. H. A. McKeown said that he acceded with pleasure to the request of the Barristers' Society to unveil the portrait for the ceremony was one which should give any citizen pleasure. It gave him the utmost pleasure and satisfaction to add his words of appreciation of the life and works of the present Chief Justice. It was nearly one hundred and forty years since Chief Justice Ludlow and Judges Putnam, Allen and Upham had been commissioned as the first Supreme Court of New Brunswick. With but two exceptions from that day to this the features of all Chief Justices were represented upon the walls of the chamber. The exceptions were Chief Justices Saunders and Bliss. It was hoped that ere long discovery would disclose some representation of them whereby reproductions could be made.

A long time had elapsed since Sir Douglas and himself had been in school in Fredericton under that noted teacher Sir George Parkin. Their first friendship had been formed then and no difference, small or great, had since cast a shadow on that friendship.

The former Chief Justice then approached the veiled portrait all in the room rising, and drew back the national flag which covered it.

Reply by Sir Douglas.

Sir Douglas rising replied to the two addresses. He expressed regret because of inability to find adequate language to thank the members of the bar. In that chamber a few months before reference had been made to the fact that since its foundation the Supreme Court had enjoyed the confidence of the bar and of the people. For that reason it had been with hesitation and diffidence that he had accepted the appointment as Chief Justice. Although he had supported himself and his family largely by the practice of law, for some ten years before appointment he had been able to devote little attention to it because of the demands of public life. It pleased him to be able to say that in the nine years he had been Chief Justice he had received every support and courtesy from member of the bar.

The honor of which he had been the recipient afforded him the highest pleasure. It also was gratifying that the two gentlemen who with himself had formed the Appellate Court were present with the judges of the King's Bench Division. It was not for the excellent work of the King's Bench Division the Appeal Court would have much more to do. The Chief Justice of the King's Bench Court was his old friend. They had been admitted to the bar together. He also was delighted to see present the Chairman of the Railway Commission, an old friend from Collegiate School days. It had been with utmost regret that all had learned some years before of his retirement from the Court of King's Bench to assume his present office.

The Chief Justice proceeded to refer to the changes which law had been undergoing. In it as in all other things there was evolution for methods of life were changing. Points which had succeeded twenty-five years ago would not succeed today. Courts became less technical day by day. He recollected being told that himself when pleading before the Chief Justice of Canada.

In his own experience as a judge he had endeavored to prevent any cases from hanging as had happened in the past and he believed that he had succeeded with one or two exceptions. It was his opinion that bar and client were entitled to prompt decision. He also believed that a member of the judiciary without losing dignity could meet members of the bar in the most friendly spirit.

DIED

MacDONALD—At Nashwaaksis, November 9, John Medley MacDonald, aged 68 years. Funeral under auspices of L. O. L. No. 31, Thursday afternoon. Service at 2.30 at the home. Interment in Pickard Cemetery, Douglas.

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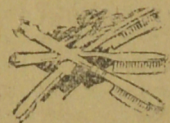
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