

DR. DAFOE DISCUSSES THE DIONNE QUINTUPLETS AND THEIR FAMILY TROUBLES

Famous Physician Given Frank Interview On
Quints' Troubles

"First come the babies!"

Half a dozen times in the course of an interview this morning Dr. Allan Roy Dafeo, country doctor who saved the lives of the Dionne quintuplets, used this phrase. He is in Montreal today.

"First come the babies!" He said when speaking of efforts being made by Oliva Dionne and his wife to get the children back into their custody from their present position as wards of the King. First, he meant should be considered the babies' health and their financial security.

It is, he admits, the thought that governs his life. It has become a principle with him, toughened and hardened by the fight he has had to make in the past two years in order to maintain it. For Dr. Allan Roy Dafeo may have reaped honor through his skilled attendance on the five Dionne baby girls—his late Majesty made him an O.B.E.—but he also was given great responsibility and a heaping measure of obloquy from those who are trying to exploit the Dionne quintuplets for their own profit.

He talked frankly to them; frankly and easily about the disagreements with the Dionne parents that have flashed into newspaper headlines every few months. He talked of the babies; of their health, and their charms, and ever again came that phrase: "First come the babies!"

Quarrel With Parents

As for the quarrel with the parents... Well, Dr. Dafeo puffed at his short briar and spoke of its roots with sympathetic understanding.

"That quarrel will be made up," he said. "Bound to be. Oliva Dionne is a sensible man. I know him. Know his family. It's good stock. I... he smiled a little. "I attended his parents and his grandparents too..."

"Then what causes the trouble?" A reporter asked.

"Other people," Dr. Dafeo's kindly face was grim. "Those who try to make money out of the quintuplets for themselves. They are egging him on to make trouble; to write letters to the King; to write letters to the Pope, to ask that the children be put back into his custody."

"After all," he waved his pipe. "Put yourself in the Dionne's place, Farmers. Poor. Then this happens. Newspaper headlines! Five children at one time is a thing isn't it? Doesn't happen more than once in 57,000,000 confinements."

"Then people come offering money if he will let the babies go here, or go there, and be shown on exhibition. They offer enormous sums of money for all kinds of things."

Million Dollar Babies

"Well," the doctor smiled, "You can understand the Dionne's attitude. If they had control of the babies they might make \$1,000,000. Easily." His voice dropped with quite natural ease as he spoke of the money.

"But, first the babies!" he said. "Do you imagine that they would be still alive if they'd been permitted to go to Chicago when the World's Fair was on?"

"Think of them. The whole five weighed only 9½ pounds. And do you know what Dionne would have made from that contract he signed to take them to the Fair?—Just \$100 down and up to \$100 a week for the babies' needs. That is all there was in that contract, and they would have held him to it, if he had not been wise enough to put in a clause that I should judge whether the babies were fit to make the trip!"

"Do you think that there will be peace reached with the parents?" a reporter asked.

"I think so," he said. "I hope so. It is not right the way it is. And it will be reached as soon as these people who egg him on, find that they can't get anywhere."

Dionne's latest criticism that he feared the five quintuplets would develop a superiority complex over the other five children in the Dionne family because they were so specially cared for, was put to the doctor.

"I wonder where Dionne learned about 'superiority complexes,' one reporter joked.

"Exactly," said Dr. Dafeo. "These things are put into his head."

Dodging Diseases

"But as to keeping them apart from the other children of the family," he said. "Certainly they are kept apart at present. We used to think at one time that it was good for children to catch measles and other childhood diseases when they were young."

"Well now we know that is better when they get them as they are older and stronger. Do not forget," he added, "that the quintes are still pretty much hot-house flowers. And don't forget that to let them play with their brothers and sisters now would tend to expose them precisely to these ill-

nesses which might be dangerous."

"As for the father and mother," he said, "there are no limits to visiting hours for them. They have lost no rights whatever. The mother frequently comes over and helps to wash or dress them. They can bring in adult friends or relatives too—and that is more than I permit myself to do."

The reporter asked whether it was true that at one time there existed a threat of kidnapping the babies.

Dr. Dafeo's face clouded. "Yes," he admitted. "That was so."

"Did you get threatening letters?"

"No—but we had private information. And so I took steps to have the babies under guard all the time."

"What chance did the babies have of actual survival when they were first born?"

Survival Miracle

Dr. Dafeo shrugged his shoulders. "It was a miracle," he said. "The whole thing was an accident. But, frankly, I did not have much hope for their survival until after they had been moved into the home we built for them."

"You see," he continued, "things were pretty impossible in that little shack where the Dionne's lived. The mother was seriously ill. Very seriously. It is another marvel, that she pulled around. Then there were the other children to attend to and always curious visitors in the place. No, I didn't have much hope until the babies were moved."

Dr. Dafeo explained the set-up of the guardianship. He explained it with the patience of a man who has had to explain it many, many times.

It was created first of all, with the consent of the parents, in order to have a home built for the children. In March of last year it was superseded by an Act of the Ontario Legislature creating the quintuplets wards of the King.

Oliva Dionne is one of the three guardians. Judge J. A. Valin, French-Canadian, is another. The third is Dr. Dafeo. Hon. David Croll, Ontario Minister of Public Welfare sits in as an advisor and scrutineer of all money-making advertising contracts offered to the quintuplets.

Only Doctor Paid

"None of the guardians are paid," Dr. Dafeo said. "Only I get \$200 a month as medical advisor for the children—and I have given up my private practice in order to give them my full time—and Oliva Dionne gets \$100 a month—which is a lot of money in Northern Ontario."

There are expenses of approximately \$1,500 a month to keep the Dionne babies in perfect health. Dr. Dafeo explained. These are paid out of the gradually growing trust fund being earned for the children through the sale of pictures, motion picture contracts, and advertising contracts.

This fund now amounts to about \$165,000, but out of it are paid all expenses, which include provision for two policemen, two nurses, two maids, a housekeeper and general costs of maintaining the bungalow hospital of the babies.

"Later on, as the fund gets bigger, we'll make a bigger allowance to the Dionne family," Dr. Dafeo said. "But at present all our efforts are concerned with keeping the babies fit and healthy."

"Why," he pointed out, "if one of them should die, all our advertising contracts are immediately cancellable. And since we want to provide for the kids that's another reason why I say 'First the babies.'"

Dr. Dafeo was welcomed at the Bonaventure station by his brother, Dr. William Dafeo of Toronto, a noted gynecologist who aided him with counsel during the first troublous days after the Dionne babies had been born. Also present was Rev. Gilbert Oliver, Dr. W. J. Patterson of the Shrine's Hospital for Children, E. C. Thorne of the Province of Quebec Society for Crippled Children, Olivier Lefebvre, president of the society, and Austin Wright, representing the University of Toronto Alumni.

Welcomed By Council

Montreal City Council welcomed Dr. Dafeo to the city today by giving a formal reception first in the mayoral suite, then in City Council chamber and afterwards on the lawn in front of the building.

Surrounded by a group of prominent citizens the modest Dr. Dafeo entered the ante-room of the mayoral chambers and greeted the mayor with a simple statement that he was glad to be here. Seeing the press and photo graphers he remarked "I see the gant's all here—as usual."

He was accompanied by his brother, Dr. William Dafeo, of Toronto, Ald. George Layton, Ald. Desroches, Ald. Trepanier, Olivier Lefebvre, Dr. W. J. Patterson, Rev. Gilbert Oliver, A. C. Thorne, Austin Wright, Dr. Gaston

Caisse; Dr. S. Boucher, Montreal medical health officer and Ald. J. M. Savignac, chairman of the executive. The party signed the Golden Book of visitors bearing many world-famous names.

After a brief welcome in the mayor's office the doctor was led to the council chamber where the aldermen had gathered. He was greeted by a salvo of cheers and handclapping.

The Mayor introduced the doctor to the aldermen and the party adjourned to the lawn in front of the city hall where sound movies were taken.

At Rotary Club

The gathering of stones by souvenir hunters at Callander formed the basis of one of the best stories that Dr. Dafeo told to members of the Rotary Club of Montreal at their weekly luncheon in Windsor Hotel today.

Dr. Dafeo said that after the wonderful event he got a lot of letters on birth control. "That is a kind of delicate question, especially where French Canadians come in," he said, "especially in the position I was in of having five babies—how could I talk about birth control. After that a lot of people came up there—a couple had no children after being married 10 to 12 years. They came up there and picked up some stones on there for souvenirs. We did not mind, because we had lots of stones there. Then the next year, to my surprise, they turned up again with a baby. I don't know whether it was the idea of taking this trip up north for a holiday, or whether the lady had changed her mind, but ever since I have been bothered with letters asking me to send some stones. This man who was in the picture with the Quintes, Jean Hersholt, packed up a box of stones and took them back to Hollywood."

Dr. Dafeo continued: "On the other hand Niagara Falls is very jealous of Callander—they are complaining because all the honeymoon couples come up north. They come around to see me—I don't suppose it is for my blessings, but they come to shake hands, and go away happy."

"The babies are very healthy children, and it is very interesting, and it is quite a pleasure to see five little sisters running around. If you pick up one first the others are jealous. Now I want to speak of the excellent nurses we have up there. They come from between Montreal and Quebec. They are French-Canadian, and we are bringing the children up in the French language and Catholic faith. The children don't understand English and morning and night they say their little prayers in French."

Many Visitors

"Last summer we had 375,000 people—we expect over half a million this summer. The majority of these people will be American. We are trying to build a new road—our roads will not stand this heavy traffic. We are building a parking place for a thousand cars, and trying to provide a place where the visitors can see the children at play. We have not our plans quite ready yet, but we have got to have a place where they can go along and see the children without the children seeing them. When they are 'fat, fair and forty' they will be very wealthy children, but they should have a little privacy. They must have it, for we want to bring them up as normal healthy children."

Dr. Dafeo was introduced by Rev. Gilbert Oliver, an old friend who told something of the doctor's early days in the north country, and Dr. Dafeo, immediately he started to speak, told a story on Mr. Oliver, remarking that the first time he had come into contact with him, he found that Mrs. Oliver had twins—"if he had been at Callander I don't know what would have happened to him," he added.

Dr. Dafeo said he had been very pleased to come here because Montreal was known the world over—"but we have a little village up north that is perhaps known even better," he added. "I receive mail from all over the world. Some of my mail is addressed to Montreal—I don't know whether they think I live here. Some is even addressed to England."

The doctor then spoke of what he described as the wonderful work that the Ontario Government has done for the babies.

Wolves Fall Victim to Strange Disease

PORT ARTHUR, April 16—A strange disease has taken a toll among wolves and foxes in the Lake Nipigon district. Allan Bay, Hudson's Bay factor, found a number on the trail during the winter. He described the malady as affecting the sheen, making the fur practically valueless.

—Son—I don't know whether to be a barber or an author.

Father—Well, toss for it—heads or tails.

Guide—This, sir, is the leaning tower of Pisa.

American Tourist—Pisa! Let me think. No, that doesn't sound like the name of the man who built my garage, but it looks like his work.

ETHIOPIA'S DEFENCES WEAKER

In the weeks in which Europe has been absorbed with verbal jousts over broken treaties and the world's attention has been focused on the Rhine, Mussolini's armies have been quietly—though not too quietly—assuming control of Northern Ethiopia. Forgotten by the League of Nations neglected by the rainy weather which was to have added so much to his defenses, Emperor Haile Selassie has been sending his armies into losing battles.

Recently report of his decisive defeat south of Quoram while perhaps somewhat exaggerated in its estimates of 7,000 Ethiopian casualties, is unmistakable evidence that Italy's armies have the upper hand. Recently a section of the northern army accomplished the strategically important march into Gondar but a matter of miles from Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile and water supply for the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. A few days before another division marched unresisted into Sardo, against the French Somaliland border. Though with less to show in territorial gains, the southern army has been almost as successful, and has rapidly consolidated its positions.

More obvious than ever before is the fact that the continued defense of Ethiopia, if there is to be any, is an external affair. It is questionable now whether the rainy season when it does come, will do more than delay that evil day when the Ethiopians will be forced to admit defeat. The weeks in which the rains have been delayed have made it possible for the Italians to fortify their positions and construct permanent lines of communication almost to the line of their most recent advances.

Of even greater assistance was the diplomatic good fortune of Mussolini in Europe. At the time when the League of Nations was prepared to reconsider and presumably go forward with oil sanctions, Chancellor Hitler kicked the Locarno treaty into the Rhine. That act, which destroyed the whole alignment of European diplomacy overnight and forced the Powers to turn to Italy, was the greatest boost the Italians have had since the war began. Undoubtedly the march of troops into the Lake Tana area was designed to strengthen that position and force Britain to listen to the French pleas for abandonment of sanctions against Italy. Its great importance, apart from what it will accomplish in cutting off Ethiopian supplies through the Sudan, is diplomatic.

Only one factor in the present picture seems to favor the Ethiopians. That is the rapid depletion of Italy's financial reserves. In an official statement issued at the beginning of the week it was shown that the gold reserves of the Bank of Italy had fallen from \$350,304,000 on October 20th to \$269,403,000 on December 31st. Foreign currency held by the bank had fallen by more than \$1,000,000 over the same period. Three months have elapsed since then. Certainly the cost of the war has not decreased and Italy's foreign position has gradually declined. If, then, rains can delay the fighting, Mussolini may yet be induced to accept more modified peace terms than it would now appear he will be to force upon Haile Selassie.

FRIENDSHIPS THAT
DEFY CONVENTION

I have yet to meet the woman who does not get a secret thrill out of introducing "My friend Lady Snobbenwell."

But the woman who can get an equal thrill out of presenting Mrs. Brown, the washer woman, is a rare and wonderful find. She is a woman whose friendship is worth having, and strange to say, it is a friendship that the Lady Snobbenwell of the world will seek. For, being unconscious of social position, she is always her natural self, easy-mannered and charming to every one she meets, from prince to beggarman.

Such people are fortunate as well as admirable. Where others are limited by accidents of birth, wealth or calling, they can make the most of their time by spending it in the company of those they find really entertaining.

Friendships on which convention has frowned have helped to give some of our greatest writers the deep knowledge of humanity which makes their work of value. A girlhood's friend of the famous novelist F. Tennyson Jessie told me she had "a genius for picking up queer people." Genius is the right word. For it is largely her sympathetic descriptions of unusual people and their amazing adventures that have given her a position among modern novelists.

—Doreen Levy, From 1934 Home Magazine.

Doctor—Well, have you taken that box of pills I gave you?

Smith—Yes, doctor, but I don't feel any better. Maybe the lid hasn't come off yet.

TRADE WINDS BRING PESTS

Spores Collected High
Over Caribbean

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15—The trade winds, blowing steadily week after week over tropic seas, a boon to ships in "windjammer" days, may be blowing another kind of voyager across many miles of ocean—tiny living spores of fungus growths both friendly and harmful to man.

The spores, too small to be seen, except through microscopes, have been caught at heights up to 12,300 feet during airplane flights over the Caribbean Sea and Central America by F. E. Meier, United States Department of Agriculture, in a survey carried out in co-operation with the National Geographic Society and Pan-American Airways. Results of the survey were announced by the National Geographic Society.

Some of the spores represent types of molds which attack harvested citrus fruits, while others are common organisms of decay which live only on dead or dying vegetation and serve a useful purpose by steadily removing much of the world's debris and litter.

It is known that many of these microscopic organisms travel widely through the air over the United States and even across the North Atlantic Ocean but this is the first time that an effort has been made to trace their flights in the Caribbean and Central American regions.

The trade winds blow steadily for many weeks at a time in a general westward direction, from the north-east north of the equator, and from the southeast to the south of it. Meier believes they play a definite part in the spreading of fungi in the Caribbean region. Whether they can blow spores all the way across the Atlantic Ocean in middle latitudes, however, is not yet known.

Many plant diseases of the American mainland, such as oat smut and wheat rust are spread in this way by

BARBARA HUTTON HAS 45 MILLIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15 — The current argument between the Internal Revenue Bureau and Countess Barbara Hutton Haugwitz-Reventlow over taxes gave rise yesterday to speculation on the size of her fortune and disclosed that in 1933 it was in excess of \$45,000,000.

Sources close to the Countess and available records combined to bring out that practically all of Countess Barbara's income—which was \$1,750,000 in 1933—is from tax exempt securities.

The government, because of the large proportion of the fortune on which she pays no taxes, and because of the federal policy of examining with particular care the taxable remainder of such fortunes, broke down her income.

The breakdown showed that \$1,390,000 which the Countess had to spend in 1933 came from tax-exempt securities.

There was \$1,000,000 derived from trust covenants, \$45,000 from what was left of former trust funds which Countess Barbara herself broke up \$65,000 from interest and \$160,000 from her income on Woolworth stock.

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