

WHERE IS DR. COOK?

World's Greatest Faker Disappears Leaving No Trace of his Whereabouts

Dr. Frederick A. Cook's former attorney, who some days ago expressed the opinion that Cook might have destroyed himself, said that he now believed Cook to be alive and well. The lawyer would not discuss the matter for publication, but from other sources it was learned that Cook was in communication with a business representative at New York as recently as last Friday.

The friends of Mrs. Cook who have remained loyal and who insist that she has been greatly humiliated by the events of the last few months, insist that she is living in or near New York as Mrs. Hunt, which was the name of her first husband. Mrs. Cook is anxious to avoid further connection with the affairs of her husband.

Wm. L. Cook, the brother who lives in Brooklyn, added mystery to the story of a possible separation by stating tonight that he was sure Mrs. Cook was with her husband at this time and that they were abroad. He denied, however, that he had heard directly from them recently.

COOK'S MEASURE OF FAME

We would not let the year 1909 die without a farewell tribute to the genius of Dr. Frederick A. Cook. With the new year there will be, we think, a gradual change in public feeling towards this most interesting character. Something of the bitterness of the sting that an American could so hoax the world will pass off under the softening effects of time, and the old ability of the American public to see the humorous side of things will re-assert itself. Something of his shame will long attach to the nation, particularly abroad; but the entertaining character of the deception, the mastery and modest bearing of the imposter when crowned with laurel and wreathed with flowers—all these will find due recognition. Then the debt, too, of the English language to Cook is certain to be admitted by philologists the world over. Has not every man added to his vocabulary at least a dozen new figures of speech? Has not the gum-drop been exalted for all time? Shall we not be sending things to Copenhagen for the rest of our days? And our friends Dunkel and Loose, Wake and Wack, ought we not, as the year wanes to its end, to recognize seriously the humor they have imparted to our grave, too grave, American life? And then in 1910, as we see it, nothing in fiction is going to be half so interesting as the Cook mystery. Whither has he strayed? Whom is he hoaxing now? How is he living? How has he foiled the detectives of the all-knowing yellow-press? And, finally, has he not made it clear that the belief that a man could no longer drop out of the world's sight over night is premature? Telephones, wireless telegraphs, cables, reporters, Sherlock Holmes—Dr. Cook has defined your limitations.—New York Post.

GRAFTERS DROVE HIM CRAZY

An aged Canadian, J. E. Bailey, who was being taken back to Winnipeg from the United States, because he had been declared hopelessly insane and ordered deported by the federal authorities, has recovered his reason due to the jolting he received in the wreck of the Winnipeg flyer at Monticello, Minn., on December 18. Bailey was a prosperous retired Manitoba farmer. In September he lost much of his money to some Winnipeg men, it is said. Then he went to visit a married daughter, Mrs. James Butterfield, of Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. While there his mind gave way. He was sent to Milwaukee and Chicago for treatment, but the doctors said his malady was incurable. The federal authorities heard of the case and the old man was ordered to be taken back to Winnipeg. James Butterfield, a son-in-law, had him in charge.

CANADIAN NAVY APPLICATION

Over a hundred applications have been received at the marine department Ottawa, for positions in the proposed Canadian navy. Included in the number are applications from several men who have served in the British navy and are now on the reserve. It is not likely,

however, that any large number of these will be engaged but younger men sought. The pay of officers will be similar to what obtains in the British navy, but the scale for crews will be higher and more along the line of what is paid in the United States. It is expected that the cruiser Rainbow will arrive in Canada early in June. The negotiations for a second training ship have not yet taken definite form, but there are several proposals being discussed with the admiralty at present.

WOMAN AVIATOR FELL

Mme. Delaroché, a woman aviator of Paris, France, met with a somewhat serious accident while continuing her experiments in a Voisin biplane at Buoy, near Châlons, January 4. The wind was slight when she made her ascent, but on the second turn of the course, while flying at a height of five metres, she made too wide a curve and was not able to go high enough to escape some poplar trees, which the machine struck.

The apparatus was disabled and fell to the ground. Mme. Delaroché was assisted out of the machine at once and the aeroplane was then taken to the shed. Mme. Delaroché complains of internal pains and her shoulder is dislocated.

TAXICABS FOR WINNIPEG

The Winnipeg Taxicab Company has applied to the Manitoba government for incorporation, and it is expected that the announcement will appear in the Gazette of the present week. A number of Winnipeggers have taken an interest in the concern. It is expected that the cars will arrive shortly and the service will be opened.

For several months past this scheme has been under consideration and William Kearney, of Montreal, has been active in promoting it. As outlined the plan calls for the installation of from 15 to 20 taxicabs, and later as the demand increases this number will be added to.

SUNSHINE ENTERTAINMENT

The Winnipeg organizing secretary of the International Sunshine society arranged a glorious treat for the children of the city, January 4th. C. P. Walker kindly loaned the Walker theatre for the concert which took place from 2 to 4 o'clock.

The balcony and gallery were reserved for the little children, who seldom have the privilege of seeing the interior of a theatre. How they did enjoy every act. The older people present appeared to be as enthusiastic as the youngsters.

Hon. T. Mayne Daly was the first speaker on the program and he explained in simple language the worthy objects of all Sunshine organizations. The magistrate exemplified the spirit of sunshine in his daily tasks, and his address was bright and cheery. The children liked him too.

To tell the truth the children liked everybody and every turn on the program.

The biggest and most pleasant surprise of all awaited the Sunshine guests at the door on their way out. A toy or doll and a stick of candy was handed out as a souvenir of the occasion.

FOUR BURNED TO DEATH

Four people burned to death is the terrible result of a fire which broke out at 4.15 o'clock this morning in a boarding house run by F. H. Babcock, at 603 McKellar Street, Fort William. So quickly did the building burn that the occupants of the house escaped in the 20 below zero weather only in their night clothes. How the fire started is not known, but is supposed to have been from the hot air furnace.

When those of the occupants that got out were awakened, they found the whole lower part of the house in flames, and escape by the stairways cut off, and most of them jumped from the second storey windows. Five people were quite badly injured in jumping from the window.

Nine persons are dead, two are dying and two others are dangerously, if not fatally ill at Los Angeles, Cal., as the result of ptomaine poisoning, caused by eating canned pears.

SHOCKING CRUELTY Little Immigrant Boy Treated Without Mercy

Details of a revolting case of cruelty to a young lad on a farm near Lumsden, Sask., have just come to hand at Regina, and it is likely the attorney-general's department will take action, against the guilty parties. The boy in question had been placed on the farm of W. R. Herbert, near Lumsden, by a mission home in England. The case came up last week before Magistrates Carver and Martin at Lumsden, when evidence showed that the boy had been half starved, beaten with a horse-whip and forced to sleep with the dogs in the granary. Herbert's sister admitted using a red-hot iron to make the boy move quicker. The boy's back was bared in court and showed shocking traces of ill-usage. Herbert was fined \$50 and his sister \$10, but it is believed that owing to certain formalities not having been observed at the trial the case can be reopened. The boy, in the meanwhile, is to be placed in the custody of the Children's Aid Society at Regina.

PREMIER McBRIDE REFUSED

Victoria, B.C., Jan. 4.—The question of the province of British Columbia assisting grain elevators is not far advanced. Vancouver interests have asked the local government to guarantee the interest on a \$1,000,000 investment, but this Premier McBride has refused to do, and the matter stands there now. Between Hon. W. H. Cushing, of Alberta, and Premier McBride no scheme has been advanced for joint action by the provinces.

SCHOOL TEACHERS JAUNT

It was suggested at the end of the last school year, and by many of the teachers who were writing on the examination papers of 1909, that a visit of the teachers of Manitoba to the old country during the summer of 1910 would be both interesting and beneficial to the educational progress of the province. The idea was taken up at once and preparations were soon commenced with the result that unless something unforeseen happens a large number of teachers will avail themselves of the opportunity.

The party, which will necessarily be limited, will consist of bona fide teachers actually engaged in the profession in Manitoba. The trip will last for about eight weeks, and the party will take its departure for the old country immediately after the marking of the examination papers of 1910. The department will arrange matters so that the examiners will be able to leave Winnipeg to sail probably on the R. M.S. Canada from Montreal on July 16. A number of centres in the old land will be settled upon, from which expeditions will be arranged to places and towns of interest in the neighborhood. The cost of the tour should not exceed \$200. Applicants should register names at once with the organizing secretary, Fred. J. Ney, Treherne, Man.

INTERIOR WIRELESS STATIONS

It is learned here that the Marconi company is planning to establish over a score of wireless stations at principal points throughout Canada to which messages from Great Britain can be transmitted by wireless telegraphy thence to less important points messages may be transmitted by telephone. In various portions of Great Britain, notably in the north of Scotland the telephone has been used for transmission of telegrams to distant points with great success. It is claimed that this new system, which will be in operation by early spring, will overcome the existing difficulties with the land companies.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

Halley's comet will give the Pacific coast a close brush this year on May 18, between the hours of 4 and 10 o'clock p.m., and the "brush" will be something spectacular, says Professor Charles Burckhalter, of the Chabot observatory, because the earth will pass through the last third of the 20,000,000 mile tail of the celestial visitor, and the result ought to be as dazzling a piece of heavenly fireworks as this generation ever witnessed. A feature of the visit lies in the fact

of the nearness of the comet to the earth, a distance of 14,000,000 miles. As the tail of the comet should be about 20,000,000 miles long, and pointed directly away from the sun, it will doubtless be encountered by the earth, but on that point I have nothing to say.

The astronomer insists that he has "nothing to say" about so dramatic a situation, fraught not only with awe-inspiring possibilities to the dwellers of the globe, but fraught as well with possibilities of tragic moment. Whether or not the earth's dive through the comet's tail will mean anything more than a dazzling starry spectacle Professor Burckhalter will not predict. He only says: "Wait and see."

CATTLE GO TO THE COAST

"To what extent is the development of the agricultural country in Alberta curtailing or outstripping the cattle industry?" was asked Patrick Burns of Calgary recently.

"To a very large extent indeed," he replied. "Experienced farmers from the United States are coming in to Alberta in large numbers and the development of the agriculture of the province is forging ahead remarkably fast—so fast, indeed, that it can be only realized when one takes into account the increased production of grain and products of mixed farming of this year's harvest. Alberta, is rich in resources beyond report; this fact is yearly becoming more appreciated, and their development is increasing accordingly."

Touching on the cattle industry Mr. Burns said:

"Approximately 75,000 head of cattle were shipped out of Alberta this season. Of this number about 35,000 went east and 40,000 to the Pacific coast. The average price ranged for steers \$45 to \$55 a head; cows \$50, to \$40."

Regarding the cattle ranges Mr. Burns admitted they were being cut down to a large extent by the inroads of the agriculturist, and did not deny that in a few years a different system of grazing would be necessary if the output of marketable cattle was to continue to be as large as at present, because of very possible diminished grazing area.

He ventured the prediction that the year 1910 would be a year of great progress in the western provinces, and believed that the opportunity was at hand for every man willing to work to gain a satisfactory competence.

Leon de la Grange, a noted aviator, was killed at Bordeaux, France, January 4th, by the fall of his aeroplane while making a flight there.

The nurses in training at the New Haven, Conn., hospital either will have to give up their positions or their "rats" as the result of an order issued today by the superintendent of nursing, Miss Emma L. Stowe.

Edmonton has developed into a packing centre since the Swift people of Chicago, established their mammoth plant there, which, in conjunction with the other half dozen plants already established in Edmonton and Strathcona, has given the farmer of the district a permanent market for all the stock he can produce.

The increase in banking facilities in the three western provinces has amounted to 119% in the past five years. In Manitoba there are now 173 branch banks, in Saskatchewan 200, and in Alberta 152. The increase in Manitoba has been 41% in Saskatchewan 240% and in Alberta 145%.

The 1910 seed catalogue of A. E. McKenzie Co., Ltd. Brandon, is an artistic production, and is thoroughly illustrated throughout. It contains testimonials from satisfied customers, and some interesting information on garden and farm work. It will be forwarded on request. The writer should mention THE GUIDE.

For the past week or so, betting at Lloyds on the result of the general election had been at even money. A day or so ago, the price advanced to odds 5 to 4 on the Liberals. To-day the odds were again suddenly advanced to 7 to 3 on the Liberals winning out. It is stated, however, that the layers of the odds were Liberals.