

PRINCE BLAMES MARY ELLEN FOR 'GHOSTLY' FIRES

Noted American Investigator Submits Report on Nova Scotia Mystery.

GIRL HAD 'DREAM STATES'

Experiences of Carroll and Whidden Considered Due to Causes Not Understood.

HALIFAX, March 15.—(By Canadian Press).—"The fires were produced by the physical means of the hands of the girl of the family (Mary Ellen) as shown by marks left in the building. She was not, however, morally culpable, owing to having been in an altered state of consciousness. There is the added possibility, supported by a body of evidence in other quarters, that this altered state was brought about by a discarnate intelligence. This is a theoretical possibility, whereas no external facts seem certain. The experiences of Harold Whidden and P. O. Carroll were probably of a supernatural character, which does not necessarily imply that the supernatural cause was spiritualistic. It may have been owing to a psycho-physiological cause which is perfectly normal, though as yet imperfectly understood."

Dr. Walter Franklin Prince, director of the American Society of Psychic Research, thus summed up tonight the result of his investigations into the fires in the vicinity of Antigonish, N. S., which has attracted so much attention, ended Monday morning. It is difficult to condense a report of some 7,000 words into a much briefer statement, and only the salient points can be mentioned.

"Apart from the statements of Signor Marconi and other experts, I have proven that the wireless wave theory cannot be true, unless the waves are endowed with intelligence to know just when people are in the house, with a disk for the upper part of the room walls, with a repugnance to having persons see them break out into flames, and with ability to transport cushions from one room to another and the like."

Caused By Human Hands.

"The fires were undoubtedly set by human hands, judging by the unmistakable signs left in the house. The burns are never found on the wallpaper higher than the reach of a person five feet tall, which is the height of the girl in the family. Over the bed which fills one end of a room they are never higher than such a person kneeling could reach, and in muddy or snowy weather one would not wish to stand on the bed. Other slightly higher places on the woodwork were always set on fire by pieces of cloth, which could easily have been tossed. In a recess over a door, where a fire occurred, were found the fragments of a glove, undisturbed, and in the midst of them a match where it could not have been prior to the fire, nor have been placed there after its extinguishment. The fires avoided starting before witnesses as there was no occult reason for its doing, and avoided all parts of the dining-room and parlor visible from the meeting place in the kitchen. An odorless, inflammable liquid was found in a bottle on a beam, which produced the described effect on the paper."

Not Mentally Culpable.

"The various witnesses were undoubtedly honest in believing that the acts could not have been thus performed, but my acquaintance with the crafts of observation and of memory on the part of intelligent persons dealing with a large number of details in a matter quite new to them has often demonstrated that such testimony may be vitally in error."

"But I am emphatically of the opinion that the girl was not mentally culpable," the report continues. "She is mentally exceedingly young for her years, and within the last year has had singular 'dream states,' from which it was difficult to arouse her. It is very probable that she was the victim of altered states of

Hot-Headed Groom of 80 Deserts Bride at Altar.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 15.—Friends today tried to figure out whether it was a hot head or cold feet that caused Sims Berry, 80, to flee from his prospective bride as the preacher was about to tie the matrimonial knot.

The stage was set at the home of Mrs. Emma McMahon, 100 years and four months old, for her marriage to Berry. The guests had arrived. Then a flock of reporters came to "write up" the wedding.

Berry got mad. He declared he would "get in the paper, wedding or no wedding, bride or no bride."

He grabbed his hat and left. And he hadn't returned at a late hour today.

And he needn't come back, Mrs. McMahon declared.

consciousness, about which psychology has learned so much of late. Such was demonstrably the condition of Esther Cox, around whom similar phenomena in the great 'Amherst mystery' evolved.

"The experiences of Messrs. Whidden and Carroll when at the house for the purpose of investigation, by way of hearing strange sounds as of footsteps, and feeling actual sensations, are supported, as supernatural experiences of some kind by other cases investigated at length by experts, and which revealed no psychological causes. The experiences were suggested by any previous reports, were shared by two persons, were not assignable to any known existing cause and there was less wind on that night than on several occasions when I and several other persons were in the house. There was a wind during the night which I passed alone in the house and I examined the loose board which someone suggested vibrated and there was no movement nor sound. My own personal study of a series of raps and other sounds which lasted for months in my own house makes the testimony of Messrs. Whidden and Carroll quite creditable, to the effect that the sounds were not from ordinary causes."

"For reasons which I cannot here give in detail, I regard the tactical sensations which both had as effects upon their consciousness not of the usual kind and due to causes little understood."

Prompted by Discarnate Agency.

"This new outbreak would be consistent with the theory that the girl was prompted by a discarnate agency which now found a new outlet owing to a peculiar quality residing in one of the men, probably Mr. Whidden, which quality has been given the name 'psychic.' In that case, Mr. Carroll also heard and felt because he was with Mr. Whidden, who was the human wire, so to speak, through which the force, or influence, whether an unknown physical one or some other, passed."

"I have known other cases where persons shared in the witnessing of phenomena only when a particular person was present. I am not arguing for this theory, only stating it as it is intelligently held. But consistent with it would be the fact that during my stay at the house, an experiment which I performed, namely, to pass away the time, resulted in a sudden and volcanic outburst of automatic writing on the part of Mr. Whidden, during which an ordinarily mild gentleman strangely imperative and as like another person, the writing claiming that the communicator caused the fires which, of course, he might have done through the girl, according to the theory of obsession."

"The fact of automatic writing and its contents also are not evidence for or against the theory, but it is a fact that many such writings contain clear evidence whether of spirit communication or of telepathy, which embraces the world like a system of telegraph wires. This is a plain statement of the logical issue. But it is interesting to note that while this writing came unexpectedly to Mr. Whidden, four succeeding attempts when his mind was full of expectation, resulted in not a single word, which is not quite what we would expect."

"The experiment of the automatic writing was a perfectly valid subjective one, but there was a consistency both in its occurrence at all, and in its contents, with the general theory of the supernatural and especially with that of obsession on the girl's part. But it proves nothing. It does not, however, suggest the cause why Mr. Whidden's sub-conscious mind should respond to lack of expectation and utterly fail to respond to desire and confident expectation, if it was solely the agent."

SPEAKS ON GOLDEN RULE

Rev. W. L. Hill Delivers Interesting Address at Parkhill.

PARKHILL, March 14.—The Ministerial Association of Parkhill met at the residence of Rev. T. T. George on Monday afternoon, March 6. Rev. T. Bingham in the chair. Meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Burgess. After business, Rev. W. L. Hill read a paper on "Christ the Key of the Solution of All Life," which was based upon the principle of the golden rule, Matt. 7:12.

"Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you do ye even unto them. This is the law and the prophets." The speaker spoke of: (1) The life of Jesus on the life of today. Jesus carried out the principle of the golden rule in all his dealings with mankind, and if that same principle was followed in our present social, commercial and political life what a change would take place? It would solve the problem of the present day of unrest.

(2) The object of the Master in laying down this golden rule was to lead humanity out of the spirit of selfishness, strife and prejudice into common love in helping one another to higher and nobler life in Christ Jesus.

(3) The formative principle to control human life. It was a principle set forth in the law and the prophets, but Christ put in simple language that all might understand. Discussion followed.

DRURY WANTS COURT RULING ON TAX ISSUE

Advises Representatives of Catholic Educational Council to Initiate Action.

REFUSES LEGISLATION

Premier Intimates Government Will Not Amend Separate School Act.

TORONTO, March 15.—Premier Drury this afternoon told representatives of the Roman Catholic Educational Council that the government would not take legislative action this session as asked by the separate school supporters in regard to secondary schools and the division of corporation taxes so that a portion would go to separate schools.

The premier, however, was prepared to co-operate with the separate school supporters in submitting a stated case to the courts to find out just what the separate schools' rights in the question.

The deputation intimated that they would accept this alternative, although they would not bind themselves definitely that they would agree to joining in a stated case without more mature consideration.

Ask Definite Reply.

The representatives of the Roman Catholic Educational Council were Bishop O'Brien of Peterboro, Rev. J. T. Foley of Toronto, and M. O'Brien of this city. Bishop O'Brien explained that two communications had been sent to the government on these questions, and although that was almost a year ago, there had been no reply, and they wanted to know just what the government was prepared to do. They thought they were entitled to a definite answer.

The premier replied that the government had concluded that the points raised were those of law, and should be settled by the courts. He wanted to know what was the situation in the negotiations which were carried on between the separate school organization and the Hearst government, when the change of government took place.

Rev. Mr. Foley explained that that government had agreed to submit a series of questions to the court, and Premier Hearst had promised that the government would bear the costs of this litigation, which would be carried to the Privy Council.

Favor Court Decision.

"Don't you think there are some points in the controversy that could be settled without going to the courts?" Rev. Mr. Foley asked, but in the case of each point he suggested, the premier thought it was for the courts to decide at least as a start.

"Surely we have natural rights that should be made clear by legislation," Bishop O'Brien urged, and pointed to business plants in Peterboro that had been used by the city, all ratepayers paying a share, and yet all the school taxes from these plants went to public schools. He made it clear that the society felt that the question of secondary schools was of more importance even than the division of corporation taxes.

"If you can stop us teaching above the 5th form you can cut us off at the end of the 1st class," he said.

The premier thought it would be a great mistake in this province for the name of unity and the good of the province to have two sets of high schools. Bishop O'Brien did not agree that two systems would injure unity. He made it clear that the deputation did not actually commit itself to accepting the government's offer of a stated case, although giving the impression that it would be given immediate consideration.

SOUTH BRUCE ELECTION

EXPENSES WERE SMALL

Total of Three Candidates Hardly Exceeded Expense of Any One in North Riding.

[Special To London Advertiser.] CARLISLE, March 15.—The amount of the election expenses of the three candidates in South Bruce in the federal campaign, according to a statement given out by Returning Officer Cass today, is divided as follows: J. W. Pimbley, Progressive member-elect for South Bruce, \$491.65; R. E. Truax, Liberal candidate, South Bruce, \$944.26; John Purvis, Conservative candidate, South Bruce, \$446.55.

It is interesting to note the difference between the amount of election expenses of the candidates in South Bruce and North Bruce. From the report of the latter, it appears that the combined total election expenses of the three candidates in South Bruce, amounting to \$1,882.46, barely exceeded the amount of election expenses of any one candidate in North Bruce. The figures furnished by Returning Officer Gillies, North Bruce, a few days ago, were: James Malcolm, Independent Liberal member-elect for North Bruce, \$1,338.81; Col. Hugh Clark, Conservative candidate, North Bruce, \$1,612.79; Richard E. Stacey, Progressive candidate, North Bruce, \$1,617.45.

DERBY REFUSES SECRETARYSHIP

LONDON, England, March 15.—The Earl of Derby has declined the offer of the Indian secretaryship, but has been asked to reconsider his refusal. It is understood that he considers he can better serve the coalition from outside than inside the cabinet.

Gossip in the House of Commons today is again concerning the prime minister and the possibility is suggested that Lord Derby might in that case form a Conservative government.

BRIGDEN BIBLE CLASS HOLDS ANNUAL BANQUET

Presents Teacher With Well-Filled Purse in Appreciation of Nine Years' Service.

BRIGDEN, March 14.—Members and friends of the Adult Bible class of the Methodist Church School to the number of 150 held their annual at home in the basement of the church Friday evening. Mr. Jarrott presided, and the program included a song by three little girls of Mrs. Boyington's class, little Misses Carter, Aikin and Whiting; a paper by Mr. Peggett on "Sunday School Work;" a solo by Mrs. Wesley Carter; an address by Mr. Plumb; a solo by Miss Gladys Aikin; a brief address by the superintendent of the school; a reading by Mrs. Boyington, sen.; a solo and readings by little Edith Carter, and an instrumental number by Miss Roland and Miss Potter.

On the chairman calling to the front Mrs. Jas. Mitchell, Mr. Williamson and Mr. Peaton, Mrs. Mitchell read an address and Mr. Williamson presented Mr. Beaton with a well-filled purse in appreciation of his faithful service as teacher for the past nine years. Mr. Beaton replied briefly, and the evening was closed by the serving of an enjoyable lunch.

CHOIR SUPPORTS DIVORCED LEADER

HAMILTON, March 15.—Because Rev. J. M. Copeland, pastor of the Simcoe Street Methodist Church, requested the resignation of George Siddall, who had been choir leader for 23 years, on the ground that Mr. Siddall was divorced, the rest of the choir went on strike.

There was also a woman, who had been divorced, in the choir. The trouble may result in the closing of the church.

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DARCY E. SNIDER, FORMER BRANTFORD CITIZEN DIES

Manager of Valverde Hotel, Socorro, Succumbs, Aged 34.

[Special To London Advertiser.] BRANTFORD, March 15.—News of the death of a former Brantfordite has been received in the city from Socorro, where Mr. Darcy E. Snider died Monday, March 13, at the age of 34 years. Deceased left Brantford about 13 years ago, and his career since then has been one of great promise. At the time of his death he was manager of the Valverde Hotel in Socorro. A wife and three little daughters survive. Deceased was well known in the city. While here he was employed for a time at Ham and Norris, and also at the Adams Wagon Works. The late Snider is survived by his father, Mr. Stephen Snider, of 149 Elgin street, and two sisters and two brothers. They are Mrs. William Telford and Mrs. Harry Isaac at 233 Chatham street, Mr. Archie Snider, 273 West street, this city, and Mr. Edwin Snider, of St. Catharines.

Echo Place property is selling well. Many lots and residences have changed hands during the past month. It is reported that about 20 new residences are to be built on the highway this summer. The contracts have been awarded to local contractors.

Some careless hands caused a runaway on Terrace Hill yesterday afternoon. They were throwing stones about on Grand street, when one of the missiles struck one of the team of horses belonging to Harry Hull, teamster, which was standing by, attached to a grader. Mr. Hull was some feet away, talking to Township Councillor A. J. McCann and D. H. Tattersall, assistant township clerk, and before he knew it the team started off down the road at a fast clip. No damage was done, and the horses were found later near Mr. Hull's stables on West street.

CLAIMS ACTION OF REYNOLDS UNJUST

[Special To London Advertiser.] GUELPH, March 15.—Prof. J. W. Crow, head of the horticultural department at the O. A. C., was notified by President Reynolds yesterday that he had been dismissed from the staff of that institution. He will be relieved of his duties on May 31.

Today Prof. Crow makes public a copy of a letter he wrote immediately to President Reynolds on receipt of his dismissal. In his letter Prof. Crow declares that the action of Reynolds is most unjust one, and he takes occasion to direct some hot shots at the head of the O. A. C. particularly and at that institution. He will be relieved of his duties on May 31.

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HERE IS A REAL OPPORTUNITY

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Genuine Savings In Furniture Buying

W. M. Patten, Furniture Dealer, Retiring From Business

W. M. Patten, the well-known furniture dealer, is retiring from business. The lease has expired, and store has been sold and only a few weeks remain to clear out the entire stock. Everyone knows the high quality of goods carried. The complete stock has been sold to the Ontario Furniture Company, Limited, at a very low rate on the dollar. The Ontario Furniture Company, Limited, has left Patten's plain price tags on the goods and marked the big reductions below so that you may see exactly what you are saving. Nothing has been taken from the stock. Nothing will be taken back. Everything will be cleared out in the next two weeks.

We can honestly say that furniture has never been sold in London at such ridiculous prices.

Many articles and suites are marked at half-price, others at one-third off.

:: A Regular Feast of Bargains ::

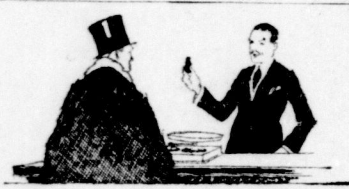
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Free: Write Baker & Black, Toronto, Dept. 214 for valuable book, "Correct Care of the Feet."