

## PROFESSOR IS SEEKING GHOST

Many Are Offered, but All of Them Turn Out to Be Fakes.

Baltimore, Md.—Ever on the lookout for an authentic ghost is Dr. Henry C. McComas, who will be a lecturer on psychology at the Johns Hopkins university during the next scholastic year.

Doctor McComas has sought diligently for such a phenomenon and always has been disappointed. He has seen plenty of manifestations which were supposed to be actual spirits, but none that was convincing to him.

In fact, he has a pet ghost of his own that is better than most he has observed. It appears, seemingly in spots—a pale face and dim, indefinite figure—hovers hair raisingly a moment and vanishes. Its owner summons it from across the Styx largely by means of luminous paint and ultraviolet rays.

### Given Lessons in Magic.

Some of Doctor McComas' most interesting work as a psychologist has been concerned with the purported supernatural. As preparation for research in this field he had a magician teach him some tricks, so that he might have a better chance to avoid being deceived by charlatans. From the late Houdini he obtained much valuable information.

Thus armed, he visited spiritualists and attended seances, listened to the voice of little Laughing Water warning against that contemplated investment and watched the specter of Uncle Jed appear before the staring eyes of Aunt Emma and the girls.

He saw spiritualists who had been endorsed by Sir A. Conan Doyle exhibit their power—and had no hesitancy in pronouncing them rank fakes.

Some of the mediums he found exceedingly clever—too clever for him to discover how they produced their "spirit messages." But none could produce a ghost that he could consider scientifically genuine. And he rather fears none ever will.

### Strange Marks on Film.

He almost surprised himself once when he took a photograph of a medium at work. For the film, when developed, showed something about the medium that looked like flashes of spectral light. Investigation revealed that the strange marks on the film had been caused by static electricity, generated by a slight friction when the paper was torn off the film pack.

Ghost breaking, of course, has been only a part of Doctor McComas' scientific activity.

Among the problems in psychology in which Doctor McComas has been interested is that of the numbering of automobile license plates. In these days of hit-and-run drivers and motorized banditry, it often is important to be able to take a license number quickly. So the question arose: What kind of figure combinations can be read quickest?

Psychologists, after extensive tests, decided that numerals in an uninterrupted row were easiest to read; that a letter or a dash in the combination slowed perception. It also was determined, however, that if the numerals were divided by a dash they were remembered better.

A somewhat similar conclusion was reached in regard to telephone numbers. It was found that operators remembered a number better if the subscriber paused an instant in the midst of the number—in other words, gave the number in two sections.

Doctor McComas is a native Baltimorean. He attended a private school here, received his B. A. at the Johns Hopkins university in 1907, an M. A. at Columbia university and a Ph. D. at Harvard.

He is on an indefinite leave of absence from Princeton, having found it necessary because of the illness of a relative to return to Baltimore last year to carry on the business of a coal company. He will continue to devote time to that business, he says, in addition to lecturing at Hopkins.

### Whale Steals Cods

Boston.—The she blows on the fishing banks. Old salts back from the Georges tell of seeing whales, some as long as schooners. One stole some codfish that were being hauled in.

### Sophomore Healthiest

Ann Arbor, Mich.—Sophomores require less hospital treatment than members of the other three classes at the University of Michigan.

### Door Shut 400 Years

Opens for Foch, Joffre  
A door closed for more than four centuries was opened recently in honor of two marshals of France, Foch and Joffre.

Both began their military careers as graduates from the Polytechnic school, the government engineering center, and when they returned for a recent ceremony a door in the old Hotel de Navarre that tradition required should never be used was opened for entrance of the two soldiers.

## WILLIAM F. WHITING



William F. Whiting of Holyoke, Mass., who was appointed secretary of commerce to succeed Herbert Hoover.

## NAVAL PERSONNEL IS SHORT 2349 MEN

Washington, D. C.—Although enlisted personnel of the navy will be increased by 750 men during the present fiscal year through economies and extra finances, the force for peace-time operations of the fleets remains short by 2349 men.

Rear Admiral R. H. Leigh, chief of the bureau of navigation, analyzed the situation and found that an average of \$4,410 enlisted men could be maintained through the funds available, compared to \$3,560 last year, 410 of whom do duty in naval hospitals administering to Veterans' Bureau patients.

Enlistments of 19,385 men will expire this year, and with 65 per cent re-enlistments 6785 will have to be replaced, along with about 9170 expected to be lost through desertions, court martials, sickness and accidents, making a total of 15,955 to be recruited.

The navy is facing a shortage of 2718 petty officers and 2400 students are sought among the bluejackets for service schools to fit them for promotion.

Of the 60,158 men destined for sea duty this year, 10,000 are of less than one year's service.

## BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

General John J. Pershing celebrated his 68th birthday September 13.

Jean Claude Justine Charpentier, 102, said to be the oldest man in the southwest, died at his home in Hardin county, Texas.

At President Coolidge's request the American Red Cross appropriated \$50,000 for immediate relief in hurricane-stricken Porto Rico.

The American government may be invited to participate in a revision of the statutes of the permanent international court of justice.

Mrs. Myrtle Huddleston, 35-year-old New York city matron, set a new endurance swimming record for both men and women when she emerged from the Ravenhall pool at Coney Island after having remained in the water for 60 hours.

Dispatches from Porto Rico indicate one of the greatest disasters in history of Caribbean hurricanes. Reports say 70 per cent of the homes in San Juan and 30 per cent of the buildings were destroyed. A third of the city's population is believed to be without shelter.

Wisconsin Is After Summer Capitol.  
Superior, Wis.—A movement to establish a permanent summer home for presidents of the United States is being pushed by the public affairs committee of the city of Superior. The committee would have the state of Wisconsin purchase the 4000-acre Cedar Island lodge on the Brule, where President and Mrs. Coolidge spent the past summer.

Release of Mining Man Demanded.  
Washington, D. C.—Secretary of State Kellogg was urged by Senator Waterman, republican, Colorado, to exert every effort to obtain the release of E. J. Bumsted of Los Angeles, who was kidnapped August 25 and held for ransom by Mexican outlaws at Ixtlan Del Rio, Mexico.

Northern Chinese Flee in Disorder.  
Shanghai.—General Chang Tsung-Chang's last remnant of northern nationalist forces south of the great wall is reported in dispatches as having crumbled before the advancing nationalist forces.

Prominent Labor Leader Dies.  
Quincy, Mass.—James J. Duncan, first vice president of the American Federation of Labor, died here at his home after a long illness.

## ASK QUIZ ON LEGION CENTRALIA DEATHS

Methodist Conference Would Investigate 1919 Armistice Day Shooting.

Tacoma, Wash.—Special investigation of the case of seven Industrial Workers of the World incarcerated in the state penitentiary at Walla Walla for participation in the Centralia Armistice day shooting of 1919 will be undertaken by a special committee of Methodists who will be directed to bring a thorough and impartial report before the 1928 session of the Puget sound and Columbia river conference which, by that time, will be merged.

Action to this end was taken in the 46th annual session of the Puget sound conference after a hot debate extending more than an hour. The question came up in a resolution proposed by the conference social service commission, headed by Rev. J. Herbert Geoghegan of Hoquiam.

Rev. Geoghegan, a member of the last legislature, but defeated for re-nomination in the primaries, led from the floor of the assembly the movement to have the cases of these men investigated thoroughly.

The fight then started as to the complexion of the investigating committee and number to serve on it. The resolution was redrafted with the word "political" omitted.

A proposal of the commission that three of the members of the investigating committee be Professor C. W. Topping of Tacoma, Clint Lee, Seattle layman, and Rev. Richard Decker of Everett was rejected.

Rev. E. M. Randall, a retired pastor of Vashon, formerly of Chehalis, assisted in the demand for investigation declaring that "the evidence of guilt of these men was not as clear as it should be in a Christian conscience."

German Claims Two Altitude Records.  
Dessau, Germany.—Pilot Schwesinger of the Junkers company claimed two world altitude records when in an airplane of the type of the trans-Atlantic plane Bremen he attained 25,590 feet with a load of 2300 pounds and 25,871 feet with a load of 1100 pounds.

Bobby Jones Defeats British Rival.  
Newton, Mass.—Bobby Jones won his fourth national amateur golf title in five years by overwhelming Phil Perkins, the British champion, 10 and 9 to play, in the final match.

Illinois Storm Takes 30 Lives.  
Rockford, Ill.—At least 30 persons were killed and more than 150 injured in the tornado that struck and practically demolished several factories in the southeast district of this city.

Then there is the case of the absent-minded professor who turned bootlegger and walked all the way to the drug store to get some poison to kill the cat.

## MRS. T. G. WINTER



Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, prominent clubwoman of Minneapolis, is directing the republican "kitchen campaign." It is Mrs. Winter's job to line up the housewives and their daughters in support of Herbert Hoover.

## FOUR MISSING BOYS DECLARED SLAIN

Los Angeles.—Charges of Sanford Clark, a 15-year-old youth that four missing southern California boys had been held captive and then put to death on a small ranch near Riverside, Cal., resulted in the detention here of Cyrus George Northcott, 57, the ranch owner.

On the strength of the story as told by Clark, who said he had been held captive on the place and had been forced to participate in the killing of one of the boys, search was begun for the son of the rancher, Stewart Northcott, 21 years old. The officers believe young Northcott fled to Canada after young Clark's arrest by immigration authorities here investigating his entry into the United States.

The elder Northcott was arrested in Los Angeles, and police believe he and his wife vacated the farm at the same time the son fled.

Time works some wondrous changes. Forty years ago William Hohenzollern ascended the throne of Germany, and now Bill is seen to have descended a considerable distance and the throne can't be seen at all.

An American in Porto Rico says he got relief from mosquitoes by sleeping in a stable, the mosquitoes devoting all their attention to the horses. Still, it might be just as inconvenient being bitten by a horse.

Indiana university officials rule that secret marriages among the students must be announced in two weeks or all college credits will be lost. The faculty might at least give the poor things till the end of the honeymoon.

## GERMANS OPPOSE PROPOSAL OF ALLIES

Partial Evacuation of Rhineland Plan is Not Acceptable.

Geneva.—Immediate evacuation of the second occupied zone is understood to be the offer made by the allies to Germany in return for German acceptance of a special commission of conciliation and verification to control the Rhineland.

The allies have further suggested that this commission continue to function during the life of the Rhine pact negotiated at Locarno. In the German view this would extend the commission's life indefinitely. The Germans point out that the Rhine pact remains in force until the league of nations council by a two-thirds majority decides that the league itself insures sufficient protection of the Locarno signatories.

The Germans are said to be absolutely opposed to accepting such a commission beyond 1930 and some of them think that it would be infinitely better to drop all evacuation negotiations than to give their consent to the allied proposals.

The French idea is that the five countries signatory to the Rhine pact—France, Germany, Belgium, Great Britain and Italy—should be represented on the commission. Whether it would sit permanently at Cologne or merely meet when occasion justifies is still under discussion.

## CABINET ASKED TO CUT DOWN EXPENSES

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge has every expectation that sufficient economies can be carried out in the operation of the government before June 30 so that there will be no treasury deficit on that date, as estimated by the budget bureau.

The president took up the question of reducing governmental expenditures at a cabinet meeting. He urged all heads of departments to refrain from expending any appropriations which were not strictly necessary for the operation of the government, and he obtained sufficient assurance of possible economies to satisfy him that no treasury deficit will be incurred in the current year.

Mr. Coolidge pointed out to his cabinet officers many appropriations for the year which should be wiped out. One unexpected governmental financial burden has been the \$45,000,000 expenditure resulting from a recent decision of the interstate commerce commission increasing the railway mail rates by \$15,000,000 a year, retroactive for three years.

"He sat staring out into space," said the impatient parent of the indolent youth, "so I put a telescope in front of him and am trying to make him an astronomer."

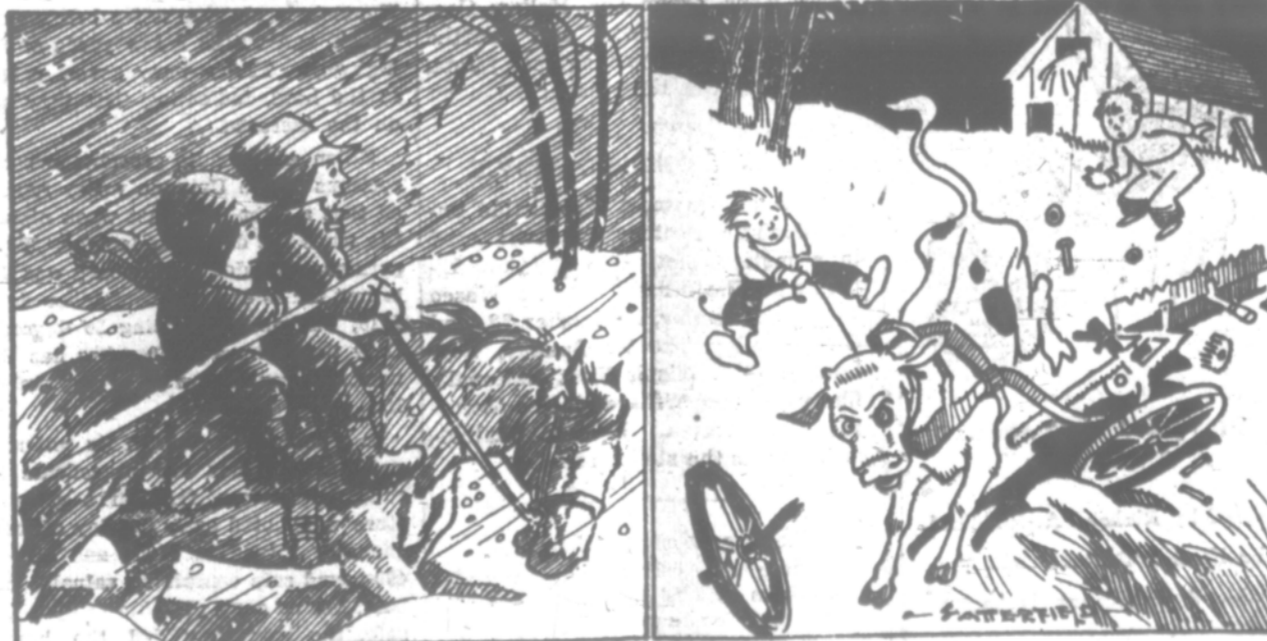
## PICTORIAL LIFE OF HERBERT HOOVER

No. 5 By Satterfield



1. After the death of Herbert Hoover's mother in 1894, he went to live with his Aunt Milla in Cedar Rapids, Ia.

2. He was now ten years of age—old enough to assume an important share in all manner of farm work.



3. In winter Herbert and his cousin rode on horseback to school two miles away.

4. The future engineer constructed a mowing machine out of an old cross-cut saw, using a heater for power.

### ATTABOY EDDIE

The Eddie's a dynamo, truly,  
We don't aim to drive him  
unduly;  
We try to control him;  
But when we cajole him,  
We fear he'll get force and  
unruly!

SATISFYING MEALS BRING SMILES

Unless the housewife has First Quality Groceries she cannot prepare a meal that will bring smiles from the whole family. When you serve a meal prepared from the Pure Food Products that we sell, your family cannot help but smile. You will enjoy prompt delivery service if you let us fill your order.

SPECIALS for SATURDAY and MONDAY, September 22 and 24

Sugar, 12 lbs for	75c
Post Toasties, 2 pkgs for	16c
P. C. B. Jelly Beans, 2 lbs	33c
Scott Co. Catsup, 14 oz bottle (There is None Better)	18c
Dunbar Shrimp (best obtainable) 2 cans	35c
Peets Granulated Washing Machine Soap, pkg	41c
Crete Oil Soap, 3 bars	22c
Wesson Oil, quart	48c
Sperry's Oats, large pkg	28c
Swansdown, 2 3/4 lb pkg	40c
Blue Rose Head Rice, 4 lbs	25c
Sweet Potatoes, 3 lbs for	20c
Citrus Granulated Wash. Mach. Soap, pkg	41c
Netted Gem Potatoes, 10 lbs	18c
Kingsford Corn Starch, 2 pkgs	26c

We reserve the right to limit quantities

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## DELEGATION SUPPORTS COLUMBIA BASIN PLAN

Wenatchee, Wash.—Members of Washington's congressional delegation gave assurances of active and unreserved support of the Columbia basin irrigation project, when more than 200 members of the Columbia Basin Irrigation league met here for the seventh annual convention. The meeting was characterized by the most enthusiastic and constructive discussions in the history of the league.

United States Senator Jones spoke in behalf of his colleagues in promising united action. The entire delegation is in accord for the bill, he asserted.

"The Columbia basin bill will go through," Senator Jones predicted. "We will neglect no opportunity to get the measure through, and have found a friendly feeling toward it, with little organized opposition."

Hervey Lindley, Seattle, "grand old man" of the basin league, was unanimously re-elected president upon suspension of rules, and John W. Langdon, Walla Walla, vice-president for Washington. E. C. Sammons, Portland, was elected vice-president for Oregon.

## LOANS TO VETERANS LARGE

\$25,898,525 Borrowed by Oregon Ex-Servicemen.

Salem, Or.—A total of \$25,898,525 in state bonus funds have been lent to 10,709 Oregon veterans of the world war and the Spanish-American war since the state aid act became operative May 1, 1922, according to Secretary of State Kozar.

All of these loans are secured by first mortgages on real property. To date there has been repaid on these loans \$3,246,632.27 and interest aggregating \$3,407,380.61. Approximately \$4,580,000 has been dispensed in cash bonuses, of which \$363,145 has been repaid by veterans who later elected to take advantage of the loan privilege.

In spite of the large number of loans made the state has found it necessary to foreclose on only 349 loans aggregating \$869,125.

An historian of our customs says 50 years ago bananas were almost unknown in most Northern sections. This leaves us in the dark as to what small children munched in day coaches.

## WARNING GIVEN BY CHINA

Notes on Pact Calls Far East "Danger Spot"

Shanghai.—Although the text of China's reply to the American invitation to sign the Kellogg-Briand anti-war pact has not been revealed, it is learned that in it the foreign minister, Dr. C. T. Wang, has congratulated the United States on efforts in behalf of world peace and has pledged Chinese support.

It is understood, however, that in addition he has called attention to the unsettled conditions prevailing in the orient, terming the far east "a danger spot in which it is possible to originate another world conflict, due to the presence of foreign armed forces in China."

He also urged greater American interests in Chinese questions.

## Middle West Storm Toll Fourteen.

Chicago.—At least 14 persons were killed, scores were injured and many farm buildings blown away or demolished by two tornadoes which swept across portions of Nebraska and South Dakota. Eight lives were lost in the Nebraska twister, which first struck near Pender, 80 miles northeast of Omaha, and cut a narrow swath reaching almost to Sioux City, Ia.

## Coolidge to Visit His Boyhood Home.

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge left here for a three or four-day trip to New England. With Mrs. Coolidge, he will spend Thursday morning in Northampton, Mass., the home of Mrs. Coolidge's mother, and proceed to Vermont on an inspection tour of the district flooded last spring. He will spend a day and night at his boyhood home in Plymouth.

## World Church Conference Planned.

Geneva.—A world religion peace conference will be held in 1930, probably in India, it was decided by the church peace union committee of which Dean Shailer Mathews of the University of Chicago is chairman. An organization committee of 1000 will be appointed and all religious sects will be invited to send delegates.

## Coast Labor Conditions Improve.

San Francisco.—Industrial activities in California, Washington and Oregon increased noticeably during August with an actual shortage of labor in certain sections. This is the trend of the August industrial employment survey report of the department of labor.