

Eccentric Mr. Sangster

By GERALD PRIME

Rodolf Sangster was eccentric, to the verge of something far more serious than was uncomplicated quackery. Fortunately for him, he had been eccentric so long that it had come to be understood among men that he was to be left unmolested. Absolutely normal in matters of business and the ordinary affairs of life, he was known to be subject to the most extraordinary and even extravagant variations from the natural and expected. He was a man with a positive genius for perverseness.

Among all his eccentricities there was nothing so indicative of his perverseness as his uncompromising refusal to permit his daughter, motherless and an only child, to marry John Williston. Both young persons seemed fashioned for each other. John Williston was the worthy repository of several generations of transmitted wealth and the woman he had loved from early girlhood was the heiress of a man whose touch had been that of Midas freed from the sordid lust for gold.

This was maddening. John Williston was a marvel of patient tact, but this illogical beating about the bush was almost more than he could endure.

"About the only thing left for me to believe is that you don't consider your daughter good enough for me," he said, bitterly.

At this unfamiliar outburst Sangster smiled rather sardonically. "There may be something in that," he admitted, as if he believed it.

Then the baffled lover rushed away, bearing the burden of a stifled longing that was well nigh crushing.

Years passed. Sangster showed no sign of yielding. Although he was a veritable weathercock on most questions he never swerved a hair's breadth on the subject of the marriage. The day came, however, when Williston made up his mind to bring the matter to a crisis. Putting all his wit and energy into the business, he evolved a scheme which seemed to be so promising that he went to Miss Sangster immediately. To his infinite delight she not only listened appreciatively, but agreed to cooperate.

A few hours later Williston dined with the Sangsters and when he and his host were alone in the smoking room the crafty lover uttered the conversation toward occasion, a subject in which Sangster professed to be greatly absorbed.

"I've always set you down for a skeptic," said Sangster.

"I used to be," the other admitted.

"Has anything brought about a change of heart?" Sangster asked, with a sharp glance from beneath a pair of unusually bristling eyebrows.

"Well, not precisely that," John confessed, certain person—and one or two fanned, rather diffidently. "Just lately things—have seemed rather mysterious—hard to accept, you know."

Sangster lighted a fresh cigar and assumed an expectant attitude. "Fire away," he said. "I'm listening."

"Oh, there really isn't much to be said. What it all amounts to is that a certain person of my acquaintance has developed suddenly the faculty of doing things that have seemed to be impossible."

"Is he an adept or only a fakir?"

"That is still to be demonstrated."

"Let me help you unmask him."

"That's precisely what I want you to do."

"There's nothing on the planet that interests me more deeply. I must confess, though, that I have run up against nothing but impostors."

ALMOST BLEW HIM UP.

Everything was quiet in the little cigar store when the old farmer rushed in and brought his umbrella down on the showcase with a smack that almost broke the glass.

"You wassel-eyed shrim!" he shouted. "What do you mean by selling me a loaded cigar? I lit it and it exploded. You ought to be ashamed of yourself. I don't want to see you again."

The clerk arose and rubbed his eyes.

"A loaded cigar?" he echoed in astonishment. "Why, my dear sir, we don't sell loaded cigars."

"Well, you sold me this one, because here are the pieces."

"And the clerk had to laugh."

"You insisted upon paying 50 cents for a good cigar, didn't you?"

"I did, young man."

"Well, the 50-cent cigars always come in an air-proof celluloid tube and you must have lit the cigar without removing the tube. Here's another one without the tube. Smoke it on me, sir."

"The most extraordinary claim made by this person is the power to exchange personalities—to appear, for instance, under two or more distant forms within a very brief period—possibly in less than an hour," he said.

"Rot—deadly rot!" declared Sangster, contemptuously. "Mere buffoonery. The petty device of the trickster."

"Possibly," the other admitted, with the air of a man unconvinced. "I've not yet seen this exchange of personalities effected. I have been promised an opportunity to witness it on Saturday evening."

"Where is this precious piece of jewelry to be worked?"

"No particular place has been designated—yet."

"Then why can't it be pulled off here?"

"I know of nothing to conflict—unless it should be the odor of tobacco, I have heard the alleged miracle worker express a decided distaste for that."

"Then let it be done in one of the parlors or in the library."

"No," Williston said, decidedly. "After all it would be better to have it here. It's quieter and more remote."

"As you prefer. The hangings and furnishings can be removed if necessary. Any apparatus required?"

"None whatever."

"Want the lights turned low? I can flood the place with electricity at the first symptom of treachery."

"In this manifestation there should be as much illumination as possible. It's entirely visual, you know."

"Good! Saturday evening—at what hour?"

"About eight."

"Isn't that rather early for the supernatural to show itself?"

"This manifestation does not demand the hour of midnight as one of its conditions."

"What are its conditions?"

"As I understand the matter there is only one—that we are to seat ourselves comfortably in a well-lighted room and see what we shall see."

"Yes—we'll see what we see," echoed Sangster.

At eight o'clock on the following evening the two men were again in the smoking room. Enveloped in a constantly deepening cloud of his own creation, John Williston emitted smoke in puffs that suggested a miniature volcano. He had not spoken a word for ten minutes.

"If your fakir doesn't like tobacco," he observed finally, "he won't be at his best in this atmosphere. Don't you think we'd do well to move into the library?"

"Oh, no; let us stick to the original arrangement," John said, hastily, rousing himself and consulting his watch. "Eight o'clock," he added, as if he had been asked the hour.

"Your fakir may be all that a fakir should, but he isn't Johnny on the spot," grumbled Sangster.

"Somebody's coming," Williston whispered.

The door was opened softly and there floated into the mist a figure so good to look upon that both men abandoned themselves straightway to the luxury of looking.

It was the vision who spoke first. "What a perfectly dreadful atmosphere!" It exclaimed, with a little choke which was not at all unbecoming.

"John is the Vesuvius who is responsible for it," said the vision's father. "I haven't been smoking. Wherefore all this magnificence? Are you going out?"

"Oh, no. My new gown came home and I just got into it and came up here to exhibit myself."

"In its present setting it certainly is," the old man agreed gallantly.

"Well," she hesitated and began to move slowly toward the door. "I want you to see me in it."

She stepped forward quickly, threw her arms about her father's neck, kissed him on the forehead over and over again, sobbed audibly half a dozen times and fled precipitately from the room.

"What the—?" began Sangster.

"Tobacco. What a brute I was not to have opened the window!" John broke in, rather excitedly. "I'll see if I can do anything for her."

When he had gone the old man lighted his cigar and fixed himself comfortably in his armchair. "Now for the next chapter in the exchange," he chuckled, grimly.

He had not long to wait. Before he had come to the end of his cigar the door was opened again and Molly, still wearing the wonderful gown, its fleecy whiteness made still more ethereal by a veil of filmy lace and a crown of orange blossoms, entered the room.

"Same girl, same gown, same everything—except the headgear. No transformation, no exchange of personality—just the original Molly Sangster," the old man maintained stoutly.

"Not so," denied John Williston, showing himself in the doorway. "The dean is still in the house."

"Then I'll ask you to excuse me while I go down and thank him for the great service he has rendered me!" said Sangster, making off with unwonted alacrity.

Knew How to Advertise.

"How did you happen to get four times as many letters as I did?" said one washerwoman who had advertised for work by the day to another who had advertised for the same thing.

"Wound up my advertisement by saying 'I was on a diet,' said the lucky one. 'That on a diet notice goes right to the heart of stingy souls who are trying to cut down expenses. They hate to figure on a washerwoman's meals and jump at the chance of getting one who doesn't eat.'"

Passing It Along.

"I've lost all confidence in Hinklers since he worked that old horse off on me," said Markleigh. "I'd never trust him again."

"What are you going to do with the animal?" asked his wife.

"Why—er—I expect a friend of mine over this afternoon to look at him," replied Markleigh.

Fleeing Charms.

All eyes delight to feast upon a maid who's "cast in beauty's mold." But if a shrew when beauty's gone, The man who wed her murmurs "Sold!"

SCIENCE NOTES.

Fifty-seven unmarried persons commit suicide to forty-three married. Switzerland produces \$3,000,000 worth of manufactured chocolate annually.

Bathing the head behind the ears with hot water often will cure an obstinate headache.

Peat will be the only fuel used in a great German electric power generating station.

A healthy horse eats nine times its weight in food in a year, a healthy sheep six times.

During 1909 Chile produced 18,179 tons of copper, as against 19,463 tons the year before.

At the last semi-annual official estimate there were 299,293 Indians in the United States.

More than fifty bacteria to the cubic inch were found in a recent test of rain water in Paris.

At an elevation of ten feet the horizon apparently is slightly more than ten miles distant.

The rudder of the transatlantic liner Olympia weighs 190 tons, being the heaviest ever built.

A web filament two and one-quarter miles long has been taken from the body of a single spider.

China will hold its first great exposition, national in character, at Nanking from May to October.

FASHION HINTS

For a young girl this is a natty, semi-saltatory style, suited to any wash material. It may be made as simply as you please, or a more dressy touch introduced by having the collar and cuffs and bands of embroidery.



OUR COAL SUPPLY.

Simplifying the Labor of Procuring It Increased the Output.

It was feared at one time that the rate of coal consumption would soon outgrow the rate of production and there was talk of curtailing the use of coal in many industries, says a writer in Lippincott's.

But the inventor proceeded to make coal mining machinery which lessened the labor of extracting the raw product from the earth and increased the output tenfold. England today bases her hope of extending the period of her profitable coal mining upon the invention of machinery that will compensate for the added cost of deeper mining. In America coal mining machinery has doubled and tripled the output. A coal digger cuts and extracts the coal from its bed as fast as three or four skilled miners could formerly do; it falls automatically upon cars, which swing upward like elevators to the light of day, and deposit their contents into chutes tumbling to the breakers, where it is pounded and broken into sizes suitable for commerce. Thence it slides on to the other end to be dumped on cars. The cars quickly cross the country to some river or bay, where canal boats are waiting. The transference from the cars to the boats, and from the boats to the whole sale and retail dealers' coal yards is performed automatically. Even when the coal comes into our homes it is shot down chutes into cellars, and not carried there in buckets and baskets as of old.

And yet, for all this simplifying of labor, this invention of machines to reduce the dust and ashes, nobody likes coal, and we all pray for the time to come when its use may be abolished. It is not a popular article of commerce; it is a clumsy and dirty fuel, and in this age of invention and discovery it seems woefully out of date. It is not new machinery to increase the output that we are longing for, but the discovery of some new method of obtaining heat and power.

Establishing a Reputation.

"Father," said little Rollo, "was Solomon really the wisest man?"

"I don't know, my son. You see, his political power was so great that when he claimed to be the wisest man nobody had the nerve to contradict him."—Washington Star.

What are the seats of the scornful?

"Didn't you ever have a friend pass you perched up in a fine automobile?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Indignant Customer.

"Indignant Customer—I want to return this jewel box. It's not ivory, as represented."

Dealer (musingly)—Now, I wonder if it can be possible that elephant had false teeth.—Cleveland Leader.

The Kind It Was.

"Waiter, this chuck steak I ordered is like wood."

"Yes, sah. Dat am wood-chuck steak."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

COMMERCE INCREASES.

American Trade With South America of Great Importance.

Washington—That the commerce of the 20 Latin American republics lying south of the United States is increasing with such strides that it is deserving of particular attention is proved by the special report of John Barrett, director of the International bureau of American republics, to the fourth Pan-American conference now in session at Buenos Ayres. After pointing out that the work and correspondence of the bureau have increased 1,000 per cent since the last conference in 1906; that last year it was directly responsible for \$52,000,000 of new trade exchange in the Pan-American field; that it distributes annually 450,000 pieces of printed matter descriptive of Pan-American relations, in contrast to 50,000 four years ago, and that it has been an active and useful factor in numerous ways for the promotion of Pan-American friendship, peace and commerce, the director says:

"The statistics just compiled show that in the year 1909 the 20 republics south of the United States bought and sold in trade with the rest of the world products valued at the surprising total of \$2,127,301,000. Assuming that there are 70,000,000 inhabitants in Latin America, this gives a per capita trade of approximately \$30. The foreign commerce of China and Japan, combined, with a conservative estimate of their population at 350,000,000, was approximately \$1,000,000,000, or only half that of Latin America, giving a per capita of less than \$3 a head, or only one-tenth that of Latin America. This comparison is not in any sense intended as a reflection on Japan or China, but solely to emphasize the remarkable importance and progress of Latin America."

"This grand total represents an almost phenomenal increase in one decade, as over the average foreign trade for the years 1896-7-8, of \$1,203,516,000, or 128 per cent. It must convince the most hard-headed doubter that the 20 nations which reach in unbroken array from Mexico and Cuba south to Argentina and Chile are worthy of the study of the rest of the world and particularly of the United States."

"The total of Latin American foreign commerce for 1909, divided into exports and imports, shows a notable balance of trade in favor of Latin America. The exports were valued at \$1,232,103,000; the imports at \$895,198,000, or a favorable balance of \$336,905,000. Exports, moreover, show an impressive increase in ten years of 143 per cent and imports of 115 per cent."

The United States bought from and sold to Latin America in 1909 products valued at \$589,302,000. Taking this as high-water mark of the trade Latin America and the United States exchanged last year, what becomes of the complaint of the uninformed man that the United States is being outstripped by Germany and France? When the United States buys, as she does, one-fourth of all Latin America sells to the world, and sells to it one-fourth of all it buys, no one can logically say that the United States and Latin America are losing their commerce with each other through the competition of Europe."

Boat to Get New Guns.

Vallejo, Cal.—The cruiser South Dakota, which has just returned from Monterey bay, will go to Mare Island navy yard immediately for extensive battery overhauling. All eight-inch turrets will be remodeled, and heavier, stronger guns with a hydraulic elevating gear for the turrets will be installed. Considerable routine work on the South Dakota has also been authorized.

The cruiser will be in the navy yard for several months, during which time the cruisers West Virginia and Maryland will be undergoing repair. Upon the completion of the work in October, the three ships will leave here for anchorage in San Francisco bay, under sailing orders.

Western Ideas Wanted.

Washington—China is looking for Western ideas for her navy. In September her imperial highness, Prince Tsai Huan, and Admiral Sah, the imperial naval commissioners, will arrive in the United States to study naval affairs. Mr. Calhoun, minister to China, advised the State department that the royal party will sail on the steamer Manchuria, on August 2.

Details for his reception will be arranged soon. A number of American naval officers probably will meet the prince when he lands and escort him to the various naval establishments on his way across the United States.

Railway Bureau to Open.

Washington—A new phase of railroad development will be marked by the installation in this city by the railroads of the United States of a bureau of railway economy, formal announcement of which was made recently from Chicago. Logan G. McPherson is director-in-chief. "The bureau," said Mr. McPherson, "proposes to build a complete railroad library and to become a repository and source of information for matters of railway interest other than those of a technical nature."

Retirement of Colonel Stevens.

Washington—After more than thirty-six years of active service, Col. Robert R. Stevens, assistant quartermaster general at San Antonio, Texas, will be placed on the retired list of the army on his own application. Colonel Stevens is a native of Texas and was graduated from the United States military academy in 1877. Recently he was promoted to the grade of assistant quartermaster general with the rank of colonel.

TROOPS TO SAVE TIMBER.

Plan to Station Regulars in Forest Reserves During Summer.

Spokane, Wash.—President Taft, as commander-in-chief of the army, and Secretary of War Dickington have been requested by the Western Pine Manufacturers' association, of which J. P. McGoldrick of Spokane, is president, acting in behalf of timber owners, lumbermen and settlers in the Northwest and Pacific states, to station government troops in the national forest reservations from May 1, to September 30, of each year, to the end that the timber resources of the United States may be saved from destruction.

"The fire losses in the forests in the Western states during the last 60 days will amount to at least \$150,000,000," said George M. Cornwall, of Portland, Ore., who presented a resolution embodying the foregoing at the semi-annual meeting of the association, "and it is likely that in addition millions of dollars' worth of timber will be destroyed during this and next month unless the heavy rains come before the end of the dry season."

Statistics compiled by A. W. Cooper, secretary of the Western Pine Manufacturers' association, show that fully 50 per cent of the standing timber in the United States is located in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and California, where fire patrols are maintained by lumbermen's associations and the state departments. These, however, are inadequate to cope with the fire element.

"There exists a grave menace to standing timber in the national forests on account of fires," Mr. Cornwall said in discussing the use of troops in fighting and prevention, "and this carries with it heavy losses of life and valuable property."

"There are stationed at various points in the United States thousands of troops, known as government troops, who could be instructed in the methods of fire fighting and patrol duty in the various forests not alone in the Northwest and Pacific states but throughout the country where forests exist."

"The plan, if carried out, would be to place the troops under the direction of the department of the interior or any other department of the government in the direction of actual conservation of the forests, where the methods of fighting forest fires, which are usually started as the result of carelessness on the part of hunters, campers, land clearing, lumbermen and railroads."

"These forests require an adequate patrol, regularly established and maintained during the so-called dry season, from May to September. Forest fire fighting is a science and should be taught to the troops as part of the military tactics. Besides no better employment could be found for the soldiers than to utilize them as protectors of life and property during part of the year when men are most needed in the forests of the country."

"We are hopeful that the president of the United States and the secretary of war will look upon our request as a step in the direction of actual conservation of one of the country's chief resources; also that an order will be issued to send the nearest troops into the national forests, which, in several of the northwestern states, are not unlike furnaces at the present time."

Reports from various parts of Idaho, Washington and Montana received in Spokane show that fires have broken out anew in the various reserves, where in addition to more than 2,000 men now at work with dynamite, axes and mattocks, there is an urgent demand for more than double that number to cope with the flames.

In the Lolo national forest in Western Montana and Eastern Idaho, more than 600,000,000 feet of white and yellow pine timber in the path of fires and other districts in various parts of the Northwest are threatened. Representatives of timber companies returning to Spokane from Montana and Idaho say that the fire lines are from eight to 10 miles in extent in numerous places.

Discrimination is Charged.

Washington—The interstate commerce commission received complaint from the Medford traffic bureau against the Southern Pacific company alleging discrimination against Medford in class freight rates from Medford to California points, 50 to 75 per cent higher than from Sacramento to Portland. Instead of combination rates from Medford to and beyond the California-Oregon state line the complaint says rates should be according to a graduated mileage scale and suggests a reduction of from 5 to 25 cents per 100.

Army Policy is Decided.

Washington—Major General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, came back from Beverly with President Taft's army policy in his portfolio. President Taft and General Wood went over all the War department estimates for the coming year and decided on general expenditures for the maintenance of the army. The president and General Wood, it is understood, are in accord to bring the National guard to closer relation with the regulars.

Who Will Work on Maine.

Washington—Three persons have been named by Acting Secretary of War Oliver as board to have charge of the raising of the battleship Maine. The board consists of Colonel Black, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick and Captain Ferguson. They will have charge of the engineering problems encountered when it is finally decided to remove the sunken warship from Havana harbor.

Lemon Rate Reduction Postponed.

Washington—The interstate commerce commission ordered a postponement from September 1 to November 1 of the date on which reduced freight rates on California lemon shipments shall become effective. A cut in the rates from \$1.15 to \$1 per 100 pounds applies to shipments to all eastern points. The order seems to make certain that no further postponement will be possible.

ALASKA STEAMER LOST.

Princess May Total Wreck on Reef—All Hands Safe.

Juneau, Alaska—The Canadian Pacific steamship Princess May, which left Skagway, southbound, for Vancouver, B. C., at 9 o'clock Friday night, with 80 passengers and a crew of 68, struck the North Reef of Sentinel island at 2 o'clock Saturday morning in dark and hazy, but not foggy, weather, and in a smooth sea sank two hours later.

All the passengers and their baggage were taken to the lighthouse on Sentinel island, whence they will be brought to Juneau by steamers which have gone to their relief. The lightkeeper did everything in his power to board the castaways as comfortably as possible. None of the passengers or crew was injured.

There was no panic when the Princess May struck the reef, but the women and children suffered much from cold in the small boats, the majority having left the sinking ship scantily clad.

Captain McLeod and his officers took the situation coolly and managed to get all the passengers and crew away from the sinking steamer before she foundered. The boats hugged the shore until daylight, when landings were made.

In the meantime steamers were sent from Juneau, where the distress signals were received from several sources. The steamship Victoria picked up the call at sea, and it was also heard by the United States naval station at Cordova. Canadian postoffice officials believe that a shipment of gold from Dawson for Seattle went down with the vessel.

IDAHO FORESTS BURN;

2,000 Men Working to Save Timber—Many Buildings Burn.

Spokane, Wash.—Fanned by stiff mountain breezes, forest fires in the Coeur d'Alene, the Panhandle of Idaho, Bitter Root mountains, Stevens county, St. Joe country and the Clearwater valley have broken out afresh and rangers have again sounded a call for every available man in the country.

Two hundred men were asked for at Wallace, 50 at Stites, in the Clearwater country, and 300 employees of the Flewelling Lumber company quit work at the mill at St. Joe and went to fight the flames.

All told, perhaps 2,000 men are fighting fires within a radius of 100 miles of Spokane.

Rangers Pring and Finiah struggled through 10 miles of flames to Stites to summon help. By crawling in the bed of a small stream where the water was scalding hot, the two guards saved their lives and, famished for food and drink, stumbled to help at Stites.

A special from Wallace says forest fires in the vicinity of Murray have swept all the timber from an area four miles in width and 10 miles in length, together with buildings, farms and appliances belonging to mining companies.

WAR CLOUD PASSES.

Catholic Authorities Abandon Proposed Demonstration.

Madrid—Like oil on troubled waters came an official announcement that the manifestation scheduled to be held at San Sebastian had been abandoned. With the Catholics insisting upon holding it and the government forbidding it and rushing troops to the scene to see that the order was obeyed, Spain was prepared for a great insurrection, which now seems forestalled by the decision to forego the manifestation. The Catholic newspapers will publish manifestoes explaining the decision.

Spain was at a high point of tension at the time the decision was made. That the Catholics would go ahead and prepare to hold the manifestations at San Sebastian, thereby precipitating an uprising, seemed assured. Troops were being rushed to San Sebastian from this city, including two regiments of hussars, a regiment of cavalry and two battalions of chasseurs, while a regiment of infantry was ordered from Vittoria.

Once Rich Man in Workhouse.

Chicago—W. Wayne Belvin, former millionaire of the New York stock exchange, member of a distinguished Virginia family, president of the Port Angeles & Eastern railroad, president of the British-American Finance company, and vice president of the Wayne Construction company, was sent to the workhouse because he could not pay a \$10 fine for drunkenness. Belvin was formerly connected with the Northern Pacific. His wife obtained a divorce from him. Belvin is a descendant of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne.

Japs Will Study Flying.

Berlin—The Japanese military commission, which for several months has been studying military conditions in Europe, has arranged with the company controlling the Wright aeroplane patents in Germany to buy a number of Wright machines. The Japanese government will send to Germany four captains and 21 lieutenants of the army, and these, by agreement with the German government, will receive instructions in aeromantics. Seven of the officers have already arrived here and begun to take lessons.

Apple Crop is Abundant.

Niagara Falls—C. V. Rothwell, of Marthaburg, W. Va., secretary of the International Apple Shippers' association, submitted his annual report on the condition of the apple crop on August 1, compared with the same date a year ago. "If present prospects are maintained," he said, "the country will have plenty of apples of better than average quality. The Pacific states will produce one of the heaviest crops ever harvested."

Thief Robs Fainting Woman.

New York—With \$24,000 worth of diamonds in her handbag, Miss Timmie Borer, a saleswoman for a jewelry firm, fainted on the street. While a policeman was assisting her to her feet, somebody in the surrounding crowd plucked him by the arm and said: "Here's the sick lady's handbag." It was empty when she opened it.

CLERK DISCLOSES CHINESE PLOT

Wholesale Entries Made by Substituting Photographs

Officers of United States District Clerk in Northern California Involved in Crookedness.

San Francisco—By the arrest of Jew Loy Sing, a wealthy merchant, Immigration Inspector Richard Taylor asserts that he has disclosed a method whereby hundreds of Chinese have obtained fraudulent entry to this country.

According to Taylor, the clerks' office in the United States district court for the northern district of California is badly involved in the disclosures. He said that the arrest of Jew Loy Sing was brought about by a confession of a youthful deputy in the clerk's office.

Jew Loy Sing is specially accused of altering and changing a public document by substituting the photograph of an unknown Chinese for that of Gee Jung Kee in the court record of a habeas corpus proceeding which had resulted in the admission of Kee to this country. Taylor said that that substitution has been practiced upon no less than 300 habeas corpus court records in the district clerk's office here. In some cases more than one substitution was made in the same record until it has become practically impossible to trace the original.

The Chinese who posed as Gee Jung Kee with the latter's habeas corpus papers succeeded in securing the entry of three Chinese as his sons and was preparing to have three more pseudo sons and one daughter permitted to land when the plot was uncovered. He then disappeared, but Jew, who is said to have employed him, was caught.

Inspector Taylor estimated that the two Chinese expected to make \$10,000 from the use of the substituted papers, as the pretended Gee's adopted family would have paid that sum to land, and more were planning to come when admission was denied to the three sons and one daughter.

A minimum rate form on for the use of papers was \$500 each and that for women, who could not be sold, \$3,500.

FARMERS MAKE FORTUNES.

San Joaquin County, California, Crops Paying Big Profits.

Stockton, Cal.—This season many fortunes will be made by the farmers in San Joaquin county and especially those who put in grain on the rich inland district west of Stockton. The barley is running from 30 to 35 sacks to the acre on thousands of acres, which means large profits to the growers.

Charles Moreing and Lloyd Woods, of Stockton, have commenced harvesting 13,000 acres of barley on the islands, and they will secure 365,000 sacks, which at the present market price will bring them about \$400,000.

They are operating five traction engines, drawing immense harvesters that thresh thousands of sacks daily, yet it will take quite a time to get all of the grain ready for the warehouses.

Reports received from many sections of the county indicate an unusually large crop of wheat and barley, and the indications are that the warehouse space will be taxed to cover all of the grain.

ROCKS ROLLED ON JAPS.

Formosans Take Heavy Toll From Brown Invaders.

Victoria, B. C.—Severe fighting, with heavy Japanese losses, is continuing in Formosa, according to advices received by the Sazo Maru.

The Japanese are now engaged in capturing Shinarak Mountain, proposing to mount artillery there to dominate the native strongholds, and have lost many men by the tactics of the head hunters in rolling heavy rocks over cliffs on advancing parties. Rocks weighing tons were arranged with props to be pulled away by natives well hidden. Sniping and ambuscades by small parties have cost many lives.

Wilder Confesses Guilt.

New York—Erwin J. Wilder, the young cashier of the Chase National bank in this city, whose stealings from the bank's security box resulted in a loss of more than \$500,000 to the institution, pleaded guilty to a charge of embezzlement. Wilder was remanded for sentence on August 10. The indictment specifically charged Wilder with stealing stock valued at \$11,000. On this indictment he can be given an indeterminate sentence of from five to ten years. Wilder may, however, be indicted on other charges.