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R. F. IRVING Editor and Proprietor

DOES IT PAY TO INVESTIGATE?

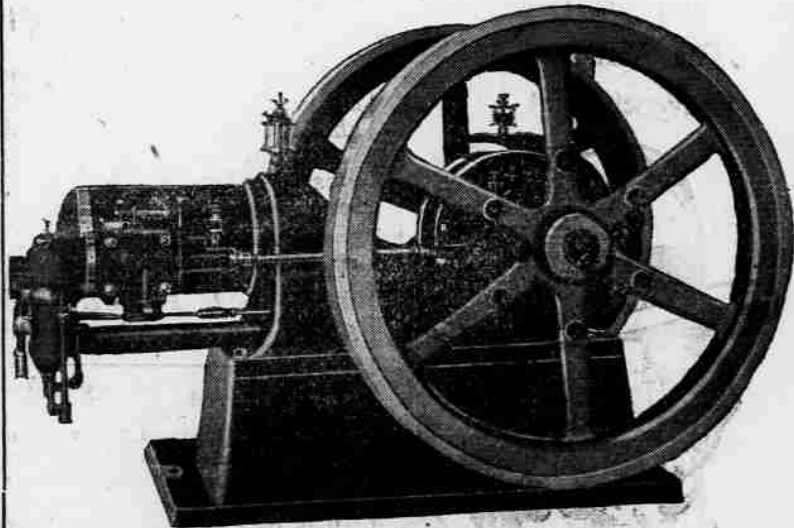
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PUTER FLEES

LEVELS GUN AT W. J. BURNS AND RUNS DOWN STREET AND ESCAPES.

Inside History of Puter Fraud—He Duped His Confederate—The Reason Why Puter Is Eager to Escape.—Other News.

Boston, Mass., March 27.—Stephen A. D. Puter, wanted by the United States department of justice for complicity in the Oregon land frauds, was arrested last night by Secret Service Agent W. J. Burns, who had followed him from Portland to San Francisco and from there to Boston. Scarcely had Burns made the arrest when Puter, pulling a revolver, held the secret service man off and, backing away through the crowd, made his escape. Burns had been in this city a week or more, but it was not until three days ago that he learned that Puter was stopping in Back Bay, under the name John H. Brownell. Stationing himself near the postoffice, Burns watched for three days, and last night Puter appeared there. The secret service agent held him in conversation for half an hour and thought that the station superintendent had gone for the police. After waiting some time he placed Puter under arrest, searched him for weapons and then led his captive outside, expecting to find the police in waiting. There was no officers in sight, and Puter, taking advantage of Burns' obvious discomfort, whipped out a revolver and under its cover escaped. Quite a crowd had gathered, making it all the easier for the prisoner to get away.

Telegram's Salem Bureau, March 27.—The story of the arrest and escape of S. A. D. Puter in Boston brings to the surface a story of the inside history of the gigantic land fraud swindle.

The whole scheme was originated and elaborated by Puter mainly for the purpose of providing himself with ready money. It will be remembered that late last fall, Puter and McKinley disappeared, and both the government and state officials lost all track of them.

Sale Land Agent West, while traveling on a Southern Pacific train, accidentally engaged in conversation with two travelers, who, in the course of the talk, discovered who he was, and they volunteered the information that there was a man in San Francisco who could reveal all the inside history of the fraud.

Through this information West placed himself in communication with this confederate, who came to Salem and told West the whole story.

In order to serve the ends of justice the name of this man is withheld for the present, but he was born and raised near LaCrosse, Wis. He had known McKinley from boyhood. Puter met him and told him what he proposed to do. It was agreed that in the swindle to be worked none of the confederate's friends in LaCrosse was to be defrauded. Puter prepared all the fraudulent certificates. The bills were printed in Chicago and at various other eastern cities, only a portion of them being printed in the same office, to prevent as much as possible arousing suspicion of fraud.

This Wisconsin man was promised large sums of money, but Puter was so penurious that he did not divide fairly. Finally this confederate became troublesome, and on the promise of a lucrative position in San Francisco he was induced to go West. After he left Chicago, Puter opened up on the LaCrosse people, among the victims being Henry Salzer, who was not to have been a victim. On their way west Puter and McKinley first learned that their scheme had been exposed. They disappeared, and the confederate, not getting his share, "peached" and gave the whole scheme away.

About this time Government Secret Agent Burns came west and took charge of the matter. He followed up some of the tips given out by this confederate, and every one led to facts which proved that the story was true. It was from this

story that the government got a line on Puter. It was a strenuous chase, which for the moment seems to have failed. Puter, so it is said, has declared that he would kill himself before going to jail. It is now known that Puter is wanted here on an indictment found last year. It is because he knows that he faces a serious charge here in Oregon as well as elsewhere that he is making such a desperate effort to escape.

Boston, Mass., March 27.—No trace has been found by the police of Stephen A. D. Puter, who held up Secret Service Agent Burns last night and escaped. A general alarm has been sent out to all surrounding towns, and close watch placed upon all lines of travel out of the city. Mr. Burns was at the Federal building today consulting Marshal Darling and United States District Attorney Garland. He also communicated with Chief Wilkie of the secret service, and is awaiting instructions before making his next move to locate Puter.

New York, March 27.—The first definite move in the long expected prosecution of life insurance officials for making campaign contributions from the funds of the insurance companies was taken today when Magistrate Moss of the police court, after a conference with District Attorney Jerome, issued a warrant for George W. Perkins, former vice-president of the New York Life Insurance company and partner of J. Pierpont Morgan.

Recently when before Judge O'Sullivan, the district attorney said that he might ask warrants for the arrest of Cornelius Bliss, chairman of the national republican central committee; George B. Cortelyou, postmaster-general and chairman of the national republican committee and George W. Perkins, former vice-president of the New York Life Insurance company, who were responsible for the payment of policy-holders' funds.

Jerome went direct from the police court to his private office, where he communicated by telephone with Perkins. As a result Perkins is expected to appear before the magistrate promptly to surrender himself by bondsmen.

This is apparently Jerome's answer to Judge O'Sullivan, who urged that the grand jury should bring indictments after a thorough investigation of all the evidence and that it should not permit the district attorney to take the insurance cases away from it.

The warrant was sworn to by Vice-President D. P. Kingsley of the New York Life Insurance company.

It is Jerome's plan to test the law, and if the prosecution of Perkins is successful, other prosecutions will follow. Perkins will apply for a writ of habeas corpus. Jerome will submit the facts and ask for a speedy decision.

Chicago, March 27.—While one Chicago minister is establishing billiard rooms and dance halls to keep young members from straying, another announces a matrimonial parlor. Rev. John S. Thompson, in announcing the plan at a social gathering, said:

"This will be an excellent chance for young men to find suitable wives and young women to select husbands, handsome and devoted. What better place could be found to choose a life partner than in the shadow of the church? I believe in marriages and the church should afford opportunities for young people to become acquainted. If the churches do not, the saloons and dance halls will."

Rev. R. A. White, in defense of his billiard room and dance hall, said:

"If the church frowns on these amusements, we must not be surprised to see the young people go elsewhere for them. Every church in Chicago should have billiard rooms and dance halls. I also favor municipally conducted dance halls, which could be connected with public schools. These things are here to stay and it would be better to conduct them ourselves."

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FIGHT WITH KNIVES

BODIES OF VICTIMS DISCOVERED BY POLICEMAN IN A HOUSE AT MINNEAPOLIS.

Six Dead and Fight Lasts Only a Few Minutes—Murderers Bleed Victims to Death—Claws Are Found.

Minneapolis, March 28.—Six Italian or Greek laborers were slashed to death in a fight with six of their countrymen at 218 Tenth avenue, South, early today. The bodies were found this morning, mutilated with a systematic thoroughness which, together with the fact that there was no robbery, points to revenge as the motive of the crime. The tragedy occurred in a frame shanty.

H. Magnusson, a vegetable peddler, rented the shack to nine Italians, or Greeks, recently. The new tenants were absent daytime, but were together every evening.

It is believed the nine men constituted a Mafia or Black Hand organization and were searching the city for a man marked for death. The gang evidently found their man last night, for there were three new faces among them when they returned from yesterday's search.

The evening was spent quietly. At midnight, however, a fight started, evidently lasting but a few minutes. Soon afterward six men were seen to leave.

This morning, when the police changed beats, the new officer heard that six men were seen running from the building. He broke in the door and there discovered that wholesale murder had been done. In the center of the dark and dingy room lay, side by side, four dead bodies. Blood lay in thick pools all about the room. The officer literally waded through it to reach the bodies. He found three long, black-handled knives beside the bodies.

The murderers had evidently let the injured bleed to death, for the wounds were not deep, but, rather, in long, systematic slashes, which run lengthwise along the bodies. The faces were mutilated. None of the wounds were deep enough to be fatal, but the loss of blood must have been frightful.

When the search was concluded on the ground floor, Officer Peterson went into the cellar. Here two more bodies, cut and slashed in a similar manner, were found lying in pools of blood.

In a tin box on the first story of the room was found a check for \$73.60, made out to Nicolò Demtri, evidently a priest in the Greek Catholic church. The box also contained \$500 in Italian gold pieces.

and \$400 in American currency. The room contained several satchels. One was marked Nicolò Demtri, and contained the complete vestments of a Greek Catholic priest even to the costly mitre and robes. In this grip were found passports in Turkish, Greek and French. Addresses to Demtri were also found as follows: "Lincoln, Ill., box 345," "Chicago, Ill., 315 Austin avenue," and "New Salem, N. D." An address of "Kerstem Rouvko, New Salem, N. D." was also found.

Another grip with similar vestments and garments was found labeled "Carso Demtri." Other grips were marked Dakon Caponi and Sami Yesmi. The police believe the victims were lured to the spot and then told that they must die. A fight was started, during which not only the three victims, but three of the assailants were killed. Robbery was not the motive, for the money was left untouched and the victims all had small sums on their persons.

The nine men who rented the place were mysterious in all their movements during the two months of residence in Minneapolis. They stayed up all night Monday, but Tuesday night there were no lights in the place, despite the fact of the presence of the three extra men.

Boston, Mass., March 28.—Secret Service Agent Burns says that the more he thinks the matter over, the more surprised he is that Stephen A. D. Puter did not put a bullet in him before he took his sensational departure Monday night. He says that Puter is a bad man and desperate enough to kill if necessary to escape.

"I assume all responsibility for Puter's escape," said Burns. "In some of the stories published it is made to appear that I blame Superintendent Swift for not getting police assistance. I did not intend any such impression. Mr. Swift gave me all the assistance I asked, and Puter's escape is in no way due to him."

"Puter is a dangerous man, a bad man. I am informed that he has been living with a woman since he has been in Boston, and I am confident that we shall locate him in a long time, though I believe that he has left the city."

"In the fight we had over his gun he broke away so that I managed to get my own weapon. Just as I was about to shoot a woman came out of a restaurant and passed between us. Had I shot I might have killed her."

"I have nothing to say against the Boston police. As soon as I reported the matter they lost no time in getting after Puter, but I don't think we'll find him soon."

Boise, Idaho, March 28.—After having given up the search for the five bottles of "bell fire" at Pocatello, Steve Adams and the officers have been rewarded by the recovery of the bottles.

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