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BAD BANDIT HUNTER.

Prederick Hans of Omaha, Chief of the Northwestern Bandit Hunters, Has Had a Thrilling Career-Train Robbing Growing Unpopular.

Managers of Western railroads are making extra efforts to entirely wipe out the bandit gangs that have been very active during the past few years. The Union Pacific, the Burlington, Rock Island and Northwestern, out of Omaha, are arming their messengers anew with Winchester "pump guns," having new shells with sixteen buckshots each, loaded for them and in other ways are preparing to exterminate the first road agent band that attempts to hold up one of their trains. In addition every large railroad operating out of Omaha employs from one to a dozen men whose exclusive duty it is to protect their trains from bandit raids, trail the robbers after they hold up the train and chase them into the fastnesses of the mountain or get them killed.

Chief of Bandit Hunters. Of all the famous Western characters who have made bandit hunting a business none is better known than Frederick Hans, of Omaha, who is chief of the Northwestern bandit hunters. For years it has been the business of Frederick Hans to protect the treasure trains of that company operating through the Black Hills. From Deadwood to Omaha the Northwestern carries the treasures of the great Homestake mine. In some months this company ships over a hundred thousand in treasure over this line. The lines of the company are operated through a wild and desolate section for many miles after leaving Deadwood. It is a most inviting spot for the work of road



PREDERICK HANS.

agents. The fact that these treasure trains escape the raids of bandits is undoubtedly due to their fear of the man who is the head of the force of bandit hunters the company employs.

Frederick Hans is a mild mannered fellow with blue eyes and of most affable address. As he saunters along the streets of Omaha he is about the last man in the world one would pick out for desperate work with rifle and revolver. Yet this same pleasant fellow with his careless smile has been in more desperate affrays with road agents, killed more outlaws and sent more to the penitentiaries through the West than any man in the West to-day. "Fred," as he is known to nine-tenths of the people of Omaha, is constantly on the move. He has a wife and three bables in Omaha that he gets a chance to see once in a month or so, but most of his time is spent "up in the Hills," circulating among that element that is most likely to engage in holdups. It is his business to locate all these characters the moment a train is held up in his territory. Thus he can very nearly place the responsibility for a train robbery on the Northwestern the day after It occurs. Incidentally, it may be said that Hans carries a considerable number of bullet wounds on his personslight testimonials of his many desperate fights.

Samples of His Daring. One of his most daring deeds was going into the "Hole in the Wall" after "Shacknasty" Jim and his outlaw band when he killed the leader and two of his companions before he returned. Again he met five members of his famous Robbers' Roost gang one bright morning on the Running water in South Dakota. He had but shortly before that been instrumental in piloting a posse of Custer citizens to the lair of the band, where nine of them had been killed, and they thought to get even. The five road agents waited until Hans rode close to the sand hill behind which they were hiding, then rode down on him, firing their rifles as they galloped A fortunate shot passed through the heart of the horse that Hans was riding. Using the animal for a breastwork the railroad bandit hunter got out his heavy pistols and began business right there. He only shot four times. The first bullet he fired passed through the heart of the nearest robber, the next one struck one of the borses of the oncoming gang and killed

it, the third bullet passed through the

head of another bandit, killed him in-

stantly and the fourth passed through

died later. The two remaining mem- DORTLAND ROLLING MILLS bers of the band surrendered and were taken into Custer by Hans. The men he killed were known as "Texas," Fleet Foot and Mountain Pete. The other two, Long Tom and Skinny, were sent to the penitentiary for life.

From his experience he believes that train robbing has been made so dangerous for the robbers of late that it is losing its popularity and will totally Geo. H. Wilkams, C. E. S. Wood, L. B. Lin-thicum, J. C. Flanders, Attorneys-at-Law. disappear in a few years. Nowadays it is not the act of robbing a train that requires the greatest exhibition of skill and daring, but rather the escape after the crime has been committed. In robbing a train the band stands little chance of opposition. Passengers are as a rule unarmed and the express messengers are not in a position to make much of a fight. The use of dynamite by road agents is a terrifying element for express messengers. The minute the bandits start to make their escape, however, they come in contact with fighting men who are as well armed and well mounted as they, and know how to use their guns. This is the element of danger that deters many bandits from attacking a railroad train.

Preparing for a Hold-Up. When a gang contemplates a hold-up now the first thing they do is to arrange for their escape. A route of retreat is selected and the bandits go over the trail so that they can follow it night or day. They frequently secrete food for themselves and horses along the route and lay in plenty of ammunition. The Black Hills and the country in Southern Wyoming are favorite resorts for train robbers these days. Here most of the desperate road agents live. They must have the best horses money will buy, they must get a city crook as a rule to nandle the dynamite, they must have white powder for their guns in the event of a collision with a posse, which is quite certain, and a thousand ilttle details. The minute the news of a holdup is flashed over the wire, a posse from a dozen different points is started. These close in on the robbers. The road agents are afraid to split up in the face of a possible fight. They know they will be killed one at a time if they do not stick together. That is their only chance, and, of course, it makes the trail easier to follow. The bandits are of the most desperate class of teen. They know that sooner or later they will die with boots on. Most of them are wanted for some crime that would keep them in the penitentiary for life anyway, if not carry them to the scaffold. Under these conditions they will not surrender. Their only chance of freedom is to fight and they will fight to the death. To deal with such characters may be exciting, but the great majority of people will not envy the position of Frederick Hans.

THE LAC INDUSTRY OF ASSAM. An Important Product that Figures in

the Mechanical Arts. Lac occurs in its natural state in various parts of the forests of Assam, as well as of Burma, but chiefly in parts of the Khasi and Garo hills, and the export in recent years has averaged 16,000 maunds, or something over 500 tons, but in some of the forests, owing to the ravages of the Kolaazar epidemic and depopulation, the production is declining. The production in Manipur is not sufficient for the local needs, and quantities of the lac are sent there from the Kubo valley of Assam. The lac is all sent away from Assam in the crude form, or stick lac; shell and button lac are made, to some extent, but lac dye is not now prepared in Assam, and lacquer wares are only produced in two places, so that this once considerable industry would seem to be dying out. The black lacquer of Manipur is really not a lac preparation at all, but only the juice of a tree sent from the

Kubo valley. In Assam the lac is esually collected twice a year, first in May and June, and then in October and November. The first is mainly used for seed purposes, while the second forms the export. A few days after the collection pieces of stick lac containing living insects are tied on to the branches of the trees in which the next crop is to be grown. The usual plan is to place the lac in small bamboo baskets and tie these to the twigs of the trees. The insects soon crawl out and spread over the young branches, on which they promptly begin to feed and secrete the resin. This is allowed to go on for about six months, when the lac is collected; but if the secretion has been defective or insufficient, the insects remain undisturbed for another six months.-London Mail.

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without harm. 2. Enter and leave the house, and move about the room quietly. 3. Carry a cheerful face. Speak

cheerful, pleasant words. 4. In order to cheer, you need tell no If your friend is very ill, do not

fall into gay or careless talk in the attempt to be cheerful. 6. Don't ask questions, thus obliging your friend to talk. 7. Talk about something outside, and

not about the disease and the circumstances of the patient. 8. If possible take something with you to please the eye and relieve the

even a picture which you can loan for a few days. 9. If desirable, some little delicacy to tempt the appetite will be well bestowed.

10. Stay only a moment, or a few

monotony of the sick-room; a flower or

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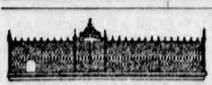
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