



ADROIT SHARPERS SWINDLE BANKER

Whole Northwest Field of Operation.

PORTLAND MEN LOSE HEAVILY

Confidence Established by Patiently Laid Plans.

LAWYER UNWITTING AID

Note Prepared for Collection and Genuine Check Make Credit Good. Seattle, Tacoma and Walla Walla Also Caught.

ALLEGED FORGER CAUGHT AT HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Jan. 15.—Charles H. Everett, charged specifically with having forged New York drafts drawn through the People's Savings Bank of Seattle, to the amount of \$151, was arrested here today by bank detectives after a chase which has extended through a half dozen Western states. That Pacific Coast banks recently have lost heavily through the issuance of fraudulent paper and that detectives are within reaching distance of several men alleged to have had a part in the transactions, is intimated by detectives here. Other arrests are expected within a few days. It is said, but for the present details of the alleged swindle are withheld.

After carrying on for more than a year a successful bank swindling scheme through which bankers and business men in various cities on the Pacific Coast were defrauded of sums ranging from \$50 to \$100,000, Roy R. Thorpe, alias George S. Simpson, was arrested by Pinkerton detectives at Hot Springs, Ark., Saturday night. Thorpe's two accomplices, J. O. Rose and Rose Correll, are being shadowed and, the detectives say, will be arrested within a week.

Among the heaviest losers in the operations of the Thorpe gang are the Merchants National Bank of Portland, a Seattle bank, three banks at Walla Walla, one at Tacoma, two in Nevada, and two at San Francisco. In addition, merchants in the various cities visited by the swindlers were bilked of thousands of dollars of jewelry, diamonds and other valuable merchandise.

Prominent Men Hoodwinked.

The extent of their operations, the success which attended them in every case, the hoodwinking of both bankers and prominent lawyers and the work of the gang in following up its efforts from place to place without detection are features which make it the most striking swindling game in the criminal annals of the Pacific Coast.

Henry E. von Greenwald, superintendent of the Pinkerton Detective Agency in Portland, who has been on the trail of the trio since they operated in Portland last May, said yesterday that Thorpe and his accomplices worked the smoothest game in the criminal annals of the Pacific Coast.

Plans Well Laid.

The general plan of the swindlers was to open real estate or stock brokerage offices in the large cities and to cultivate the confidence of prominent attorneys through whom the gang was able to establish banking relations and create a banking credit. The first swindle that was successful, however, was based upon representations that the two men had made a big "clean-up" in the Alaskan gold fields, when they announced in the San Francisco newspapers that they had decided to construct a mammoth skyscraper in San Francisco, they were met with open hands by bankers and business men. A cleverly forged bank draft for \$5000 purporting to have been drawn on a bank at Juneau, Alaska, was accepted by the Anglo-London-Paris Bank of San Francisco. Before the bank discovered the fraud, Thorpe and Rose, who were operating there under other names, had secured \$1250. By similar methods they succeeded in obtaining a large amount from the Metropolitan Trust & Savings Bank of San Francisco. It is not known that Rose Correll was connected with them while they were in San Francisco.

Work Takes Several Months.

The two came to Portland and remained here several months before completing their carefully planned scheme to defraud the Merchants National Bank of \$2300. When in Portland Thorpe went under the name of George S. Stimpson. Rose left his partner here and went on to Pocatello, Idaho, where he established himself as an expert stock breeder. Soon afterward, Thorpe, or Stimpson, presented a promissory note to a Portland attorney.

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3 PITCHED DOWN ELEVATOR SHAFT

JANITORS NARROWLY ESCAPE DEATH IN CAPITOL.

Two Fall Head First and Save Themselves Only by Grasping Cable Attached to Car.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Jan. 15.—(Special.)—Charles Rockwell, head janitor of the State Capitol, with George Dunsford and Henry Hildebrand, employed at the Capitol had a narrow escape from death this morning, when a plank stretched across the third story of the elevator shaft broke and hurled them down the shaft. Hildebrand was on a ladder on the fourth floor, the ladder resting on the plank of the floor below. Rockwell and Dunsford were standing on the plank.

When the plank broke in the center, Dunsford and Rockwell were hurled head downward, but succeeded in grasping the cable. Their hands were badly burned and they received severe wrenches and bruises, but were not otherwise injured. Hildebrand dropped with his feet foremost from the fourth floor to the top of the elevator, which was stationary between the first and second floors. He fell on his back, receiving severe cuts and bruises, but will recover.

Hildebrand seems to bear a charmed life, as a few months ago he was employed at a ranch near the city and was sawing limbs from trees. He climbed to the end of one of these limbs, turned and saved the limb in toward the tree, falling to the ground as he severed the limb. He escaped at that time with a few bruises. This morning he fell about 25 feet.

The Capitol elevator will probably be replaced by a new one this season, as repairs are necessary upon it every day or two and have been for several months. It is considered dangerous by many of the Statehouse attaches, regardless of the fact that it travels at only a snail's pace.

BRADY SUFFRAGE APOSTLE

Governor of Idaho Honored; Tacoma Is Headquarters.

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 15.—At the final meeting of the delegates of the National Council of Women Voters in this city today, it was decided to organize an advisory board, headed by Governor J. H. Brady, of Idaho. Isaac W. Stevens, of Denver, was named as a member of the board and other members will be announced by Governor Brady later.

National headquarters have been located in Tacoma to be used until after the National convention of 1912.

Taft Gets Tariff Pledge

At Dinner Republicans Say They'll Adjust Differences.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—President Taft entertained the Republican members of the ways and means committee at dinner at the White House tonight and renewed his efforts to get them to agree on some form of legislation that will create a permanent tariff commission.

SLED IMPALES WINDPIPE

Russell Standley, 12 Years Old, Is Injured While Coasting.

Russell Standley, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Standley, living at Robin's Crest, Portland Heights, lies at the point of death at Good Samaritan Hospital, the victim of an accident while coasting last night with a crowd of boys on Davenport street.

The runner of one of the sleds struck Young Standley in such a manner as to impale the windpipe. He was removed to the hospital and placed under the care of Dr. J. Marsh.

COUNTESS MADE VICTIM

Blackmailer, Threatening Daughter of ex-Ambassador White, Caught.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—A dispatch to the New York Times from Berlin says that the Countess Muriel von Scherr-Thorne, daughter of Henry White, formerly American Ambassador to France, has been the victim of a sensational attempt to blackmail at her castle at Steinsaffersdorf in Silesia.

According to the story a man named Fiedler, now under arrest, wrote her many threatening letters, demanding that she place money in a bank to his credit under pain that he would blow up her castle with dynamite. A decoy letter brought about his arrest.

BIG FIGHT IS DUE ON CONSERVATION

Policy in West Is Held Unconstitutional.

COLORADO CASE IS BASIS

State Officials Will Argue Before Supreme Court.

CONTEST TO BE THOROUGH

Anti-Conservationists File Brief Attacking Roosevelt Policies—Argument Will Begin on Monday, January 23.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—An attack on the conservation policies inaugurated by the Roosevelt Administration, more serious probably than heretofore made, will be contained in an appeal next week to the Supreme Court of the United States to declare unconstitutional the creation of the big forest reservations of the West.

Failure to win on this proposition is not to end the campaign of the anti-conservationists. They have prepared to fight a step further against the alleged independence of the forest reservations from the state laws on the theory that the Federal Government, in creating them, holds the land merely as a big land proprietor and not with any prerogatives of sovereignty.

Cattle Case Issue.

The fight has arisen out of the attempt of the United States to enjoin Fred Light, a Colorado cattleman, from allowing his cattle to trespass on the Holy Cross forest reserve in the state. Despite Light's claim that the formation of the reserve was in violation of the Federal Constitution, and that action for trespass could not be maintained under the Colorado laws, unless the land in question had been fenced, the Federal Circuit Court issued the injunction.

The case was appealed to the Supreme Court and it was advanced for oral argument Monday, January 23.

Colorado has joined in the fight against the Federal Government. Governor Shafroth approves of it. Attorney-General Burnett heads the corps of attorneys carrying on the fight for Light. Among the attorneys are James H. Teller and ex-Senator Teller. An outline of the arguments they will present to the court has just arrived in Washington in a brief.

The brief develops the argument that by withdrawing from settlement and improvement the large areas of land, the Western States are not being treated on an equality with their sister states, all in violation of the Constitution.

Other States Not Affected.

"Other states were left free to develop through the settlement of public lands within their borders—the settlers having free pasturage upon such lands and timber therefrom for their necessities—the entire area of lands having any value became private property." It is argued in the brief. "To withdraw large bodies of land is to deprive a state of these advantages and to deny to it constitutional equalities with other states."

With one-fifth of its area withdrawn from development and permanently exempt from taxation, Colorado has been curtailed greatly in its right to develop and secure increase of revenue. It is declared. It is shown that the total reserve in Colorado is equal to the area of the States of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The question is asked as to what is the legitimate end, within the scope of the Constitution, to be served by the system of reserves. According to the brief, the general answer is that it is to conserve the National resources by providing for a continuing supply of timber, regulate the flow of streams and preserve power sites from being monopolized.

It is contended that the Federal Government was not created to carry on such a work, even the "general welfare" clause of the Constitution not being broad enough to include this object. Even if the power did exist, it is argued, it could not be exercised without the consent of the states directly affected.

"That the power to establish these reserves is vested in the states."

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FIRST THINGS IN OREGON

There is hardly a week that the newspapers are not called upon to tell where and when the first streetcar was operated in Oregon, when the first telegram was sent, when the first white child was born in the state, or to answer other questions of similar nature.

Several hundred short paragraphs concerning first things in Oregon will comprise one department of the Fiftieth Anniversary Edition of The Oregonian. Every resident of Oregon will find these paragraphs instructive and interesting. It will be worth while to clip them out for reference when facts in Oregon history are in question. This information, as published, will be authoritative.

The Anniversary Edition will be published February 4. The historical section will be only one division of an exceptionally readable and attractive publication.

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EATON FORCES ADMIT DEFEAT

Fight on Rusk Doomed to Failure.

SUPPORTERS ENTICED AWAY

Pledges of Committee Assignments Win Members.

SPEAKER GAINS HIS WAY

Adoption of Rules of Last House Will Permit Appointment of Committees as Usual—Eaton to Protest Formally.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 15.—(Special.)—Friends of Representative Eaton tonight admitted defeat in their effort to deprive Speaker Rusk of the appointment of the standing committees of the House.

Eaton, himself, declined to make any estimate of his following numerically. He declared that he would go down to defeat on the floor of the House protesting against what he regards an improper delegation of authority by the Speaker in the nomination of his committees, rather than retire from the fight at this hour. Mr. Eaton said he would pursue this course, rather than surrender. At the same time he leaves to the individual members the selection of their own course.

Eaton's Forces Swindle.

Men included in the Rusk-Thompson fight tonight claimed following of at least 24 votes, or five more than the necessary majority, that can be depended upon to stand solidly against any attempted usurpation of the Speaker's prerogatives by the insurgents, under the leadership of Eaton or any other member. This strength, aver friends of Rusk, may be increased to 40 when the test comes tomorrow.

Eaton's forces apparently have dwindled to about 20 tonight, and the strength of the Lane County man may drop to 16 before the vote that will determine the committee appointments is taken tomorrow afternoon.

New Agreement Circulated.

Recognizing the futility of their fight, some of Eaton's friends desire to quit the contest. A majority, however, insist that the controversy must be settled on the floor of the House by ballot, win or lose. These tonight began circulating an agreement among the few Representatives in the city, binding the signers, if 31 signatures are secured, to stand together and take out of Rusk's hands the appointment of the committees. The course to be pursued by the Eaton men tomorrow depends entirely on the extent to which this agreement is signed.

Rusk's friends professed not to be alarmed by this move on the part of the insurgents, explaining that they already had 35 members securely tied up in support of Rusk.

Resentment Is Cooled.

From the beginning of the fight over the committees Eaton's chances of winning have not been altogether encouraging. There was, for a time, however, an undercurrent sentiment of resentment among some of the House members because of the reported trade of the committees by Rusk to Thompson in consideration of Thompson's support of Rusk for Speaker. This feeling did not prove lasting, and the attempt of Eaton's friends to develop an effective insurrection against Rusk has proved futile. It was impossible for them to organize an adequate fighting force.

Eaton not only lost the Speakership, but his attitude respecting the committee appointments may result, in his receiving insignificant committee assignments, as there is an apparent demand from some Rusk-Thompson men that he be punished for his insubordination.

Rusk Men Prompt to Act.

Timely and effective action on the part of the Rusk supporters was a determining factor in subduing the Eaton insurrection. When Eaton launched his fight

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NON-UNION HELP MAY SERVE LABOR

UNORGANIZED WAITERS LIKELY AT FEDERATION BANQUET.

Washington Body Faces Unique Quandary Because Olympia Restaurant Employees Do Not Boast Label.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 15.—(Special.)—Non-union waiters may be engaged to serve the delegates at the State Federation of Labor banquet in Olympia Wednesday night unless some of the union waiters in attendance at the convention don aprons and turn in to work. Laboring men from all over the state gather in Olympia tomorrow for their convention, which is to last a week. On Wednesday night they are to be guests of honor at a big banquet and the man in charge admits he will probably have to hire non-union waiters. In fact three non-union men have been asked if they will assist, but have given no answer yet.

Olympia is an "open town" for waiters, as the kitchen workers are not organized. The hotels and restaurants employ Chinese cooks, although a union man has been put in charge of the plans for a big banquet. He says it is practically impossible to get union waiters, as they would have to be imported, and if he goes to that expense he will not make much profit.

The situation is a trying one and will add to the general interest that is being displayed in the coming sessions. According to reports the union men are going to have a "wet" and "dry" or local option fight all of their own. Charges are to be preferred against Fred Hudson, a Bellingham printer, and his removal asked on the ground that he worked for a "dry" town in Bellingham and therefore put the bartenders' union out of business. He is third vice-president of the state organization and his resignation is asked.

At the convention the laboring men will go on record either in favor of or against the employees' compensation act which is now pending before the Legislature.

OREGON TEACHER HONORED

Dr. Boynton, Physicist, Is Ranked With Great Scientists.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Jan. 15.—(Special.)—Dr. W. H. Boynton, the head of the physics department at the university, has been placed among the foremost 150 Americans in this branch of science.

The compilation was made under the direction of Dr. J. McEwen Cottrell, a Cornell faculty member who edits "Science" and "The Popular Science Monthly." The method of selecting the names was by vote of the ten leading scientists of America.

The Oregon professor is the only man in the Northwest honored with this recognition and the first man who has ever been chosen from this state.

Dr. Boynton has published many notable articles on his subject but a treatise on Kinetic energy is held directly responsible for his recent distinction.

"GRABBER," INSIST WOMEN

Sewing Machine Agent Is Jailed by Eugene Chief.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Or., Jan. 15.—(Special.)—Upon identification by two women, Chief of Police Farrington arrested a man by the name of Curry, a sewing-machine agent here, believing he had at last captured the "Jack the Grabber," who has been the dread of Eugene for over one year.

Various women victims are being consulted as to the suspect's guilt. Eugene is much aroused over the arrest, but there is little likelihood of violence, as many believe Curry is innocent.

AFIRE, BOYS RUN TO DEATH

Playing With Matches, 2 Lads Explode Gasoline Tank.

FRESNO, Cal., Jan. 15.—A special from Madera says that Harold Miner, aged 8 years, and Otis Russell, aged 13, were burned to death when a 50-gallon gasoline tank was set afire by matches with which the boys were playing and exploded.

The boys ran three blocks, screaming and with clothes blazing, before they were stopped and the fire extinguished.

BLAST KILLS 5, MAIMS 4

Gas Explosion Starts Fire Which Destroys Frame Hotel.

NIORARA, Neb., Jan. 15.—Four persons were killed and four injured in an explosion which occurred here at 7:30 o'clock tonight. The fire which resulted from the explosion burned to the ground a three-story frame hotel owned by Michael Kendall.

The explosion was caused by a leak in a gas plant in the cellar of the hotel. It is thought that all the injured will recover.

INITIATIVE LAW IS URGED

Bourne Tells New Jersey Voters to Disregard Party Lines.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., Jan. 15.—Senator Bourne, of Oregon, speaking today before the People's Institute, urged all listeners to make the adoption of the initiative and referendum the issue in every campaign without regard to party lines.

When these measures have been adopted, he urged a campaign for direct nominations, corrupt practices, registration and the recall.

"FOOD TRUST" IS NEAR COLLAPSE

Cold Storage Corner Defeats Own End

VAST QUANTITY IS UNSOLD

Dairy Products in Hand Five Years to Be Unloaded.

DROP IN PRICES COMING

Single Firm Has 44,000,000 Pounds of Butter on Hand—Recent Excessive Prices Have Reacted Upon the Demand.

BUTTER AND EGG PRICES MARVELOUSLY LOWER.

The following comparison of prices of butter and eggs shows the reduction of the past 10 days:

Eggs—	Jan. 5, Jan. 15.
Fresh 34 1/2 33
Prime 32 1/2 31
Firsts 30 1/2 28
Butter—	
Extra creamery 29 27
Firsts 25 1/2 23
Dairy 25 23

CHICAGO, Jan. 15.—(Special.)—Millions of pounds of cold storage butter, eggs, cheese and poultry, some of it as much as five years old, according to estimates of dealers, are about to be thrown on the market and sacrificed at whatever price they will bring as the result of the collapse within the last few days of the "food trust," which, by steady aggressions has piled prices of provisions up to their present figures.

Chicago, as the center of the cold storage industry of the country, is to be the vortex of the wholesale unloading.

Pinch Is Widely Felt.

Chicago wholesalers admit that the bottom has fallen out of prices for dairy products and poultry and that a big slump is due as soon as the contents of the cold storage warehouses can be put on the market. They assert that an attempt is being made by retailers to keep prices up to an abnormal level by buying such stocks at low figures and selling them to the public at the old high levels.

Although the collapse of the "corner" is likely to be felt most keenly by the cold storage men of Chicago, the pinch will be felt in many of the Eastern and Middle West shipping centers. Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis and Minneapolis, were spoken of yesterday as the points where most of the unloading probably would be done.

Poultry Due to Fall.

Prices for dairy products, it is said, will drop to a reasonable figure. Chickens, turkeys, geese and domestic fowls of all sorts are expected to become cheap enough for the poor man's table. The collapse has been due to natural causes.

The present troubles of the cold storage people have been brought about by their own manipulations at the expense of the public. A large number of them got together five years ago in more or less informal agreements and proceeded to put artificial prices on butter, eggs, cheese, fowls and everything else that could be kept in cold storage. They were able to do this by the simple method of putting goods in storage instead of delivering them immediately to the market. Their combined storage facilities gave them a position of supremacy which not only enabled them to limit the supply to the public and thus keep prices up, but to control nearly absolutely the prices paid to producers.

Thus while producers were getting little enough for their butter, eggs and poultry, the public was paying extortionate prices.

Greed Destroys Market.

In putting up prices to the high figures attained during the last two years the cold storage men cut the ground from under their own feet. People who could not afford to pay 35 and 40 cents a dozen for eggs stopped eating them. Families that found butter too expensive used oleomargarine. The result was that after this had gone on for a year or two the wholesalers found themselves with full warehouses and no demand. General uneasiness was followed by a downward trend in prices. Then came a more pronounced drop. Now the wholesalers find themselves in the imperative necessity of unloading or going out of business.

Just how much food is in storage in and around Chicago there is no means of ascertaining. Only the wholesalers know, and they will not tell. A few days ago one firm controlling 22 warehouses admitted it had in storage 44,000,000 pounds of butter that must be disposed of before May 1 at the latest.

Storage Consumes Profits.

It cost from 27 to 28 cents a pound to store this butter and it will cost 2 or 3 cents more a pound to market it. The normal price for first-class butter at the present time is given

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF STATE, OPENING CONSERVATION WAR, ATTORNEY IN-CASE AND EX-PRESIDENT ATTACKED.



Governor Shafroth. Theodore Roosevelt. Ex-Senator Teller.