

RUSSIAN IS SOUGHT AS COUNTERFEITER

Flood of Spurious Currency
Laid to Photographer.

VICIOUS WOLFHOUND KEPT

Secret Service Agents Ask for Arrest of Eccentric Man, Who Had
Rolls of \$10 and \$20 Bills.

Secret service agents, it was learned yesterday, have sent out descriptions and asked for the arrest and detention of an eccentric Russian photographer who was in Portland immediately preceding Christmas to ascertain whether or not he was involved in the counterfeiting operations which resulted in flooding the city with spurious \$10 and \$20 bills during the holiday rush.

The counterfeiter, it was learned from an authoritative source, worked on a larger scale than was at first suspected, and authorities believe that a complete check of the "queer" currency passed in Portland during the week before Christmas will disclose a loss of several thousand dollars. Additional counterfeit bills are being brought to light every day and federal authorities say it probably will be several weeks before the last of these spurious bills will be rounded up.

Russian Is Suspected.
Although there is no positive evidence connecting this eccentric Russian with the "mob" of counterfeiters, at the same time, secret service agents say, his actions in Portland were suspicious enough to have them seek his apprehension in order that they might make a check on his immediate past.

This Russian, whose name never was disclosed to anyone in Portland, came here about two weeks before Christmas and engaged a room in a rooming house operated by W. G. Hodgden at 228 Grand avenue. He came to Portland in a small touring car with a vicious Siberian wolfhound, which was said to have been part wolf, as his only companion.

This wolfhound was kept chained in a workroom at the rear of the rooming house where the Russian kept some of his personal belongings. So vicious was the animal that no one dared enter this shed, according to Mr. Hodgden, so whatever the Russian may have had cached in the shed never was seen by any person. The Russian paid an additional \$1 day for permission to use this shed with the dog chained near the door to guard it.

Cameras Among Effects.
Among the effects of this Russian was one or more cameras, said to have been of expensive manufacture. He also had several boxes, grips and other packages which he kept securely locked and guarded whenever persons were near his room.

Several days before Christmas, according to Mr. Hodgden, he entered the Russian's room while the latter was absent for a short time, and saw two large packages of crisp \$10 and \$20 bills lying open on the table. One package of the \$10 bills was wrapped in a large roll and fastened with a rubber band, while the other lay flat upon the table.

Mr. Hodgden told Mr. Hodgden that he was a motion picture photographer as an explanation for his photographic supplies, but gave no further information concerning himself. His car had a Washington license.

Russian Flees in Night.

While staying at the Hodgden house, the Russian arranged to have a special trunk rack made for the rear of his machine. Mr. Hodgden contracted to make it for him. This rack was completed at about the time the stores all over Portland were being flooded with these spurious bills.

It was about a week ago that the Russian fled from the rooming house and city some time between midnight and morning. He kept his automobile parked directly beneath his bedroom window, and it is believed he lowered his grips and other belongings from the window directly into the machine. He likewise put the trunk rack on the rear of the machine, although he had neglected to pay Hodgden for it. A bed for the wolfhound was fixed in the tonneau of the car and a canvas covering was so arranged that the dog was carefully hidden from public view.

Operator Thought Photographer.
These are the sole facts given to the secret service agents and upon which they based their circular which they have sent broadcast asking for his apprehension and detention.

That the man who manufactured the spurious bills is an expert photographer is admitted by secret service operatives. The Russian had a big photographic layout, while the fact that the two large packages of \$10 and \$20 bills were seen in his room tend further to strengthen the suspicion against him.

The counterfeiter who operated here are experts, say the authorities and there were at least two and possibly more in the gang, including one woman.

During the time the Russian roomed at the Hodgden house he never had any callers, either men or women, although he frequently left the house during the early evening hours and remained away for a short time.

Authorities say that if he were the man who had manufactured the spurious bills, it is unlikely that other members of the gang engaged in passing them would have roomed with or near him, nor would they take a chance on being seen in public together.

Disappearance Is Mystery.
Just what caused the Russian to disappear so suddenly during the dead of night is something which the authorities are unable to learn. It is thought unlikely that he left only for the purpose of evading payment for the trunk rack, which cost but \$4.50, for he seemed to be a liberal spender. On one occasion, when Mrs. Hodgden dined two pairs of socks for him, the Russian tossed \$2.50 in silver on the table for her.

If this mysterious Russian is the one who manufactured the counterfeit bills, it is thought that he keeps the vicious wolfhound to protect his automobile from prying eyes during the time he is traveling on the road.

One night, Mr. Hodgden reported, the dog got loose in the house and the Russian was severely bitten on the hand before he could capture the animal in the attic.

The fellow was described as being about 43 years old. He wore khaki riding breeches, a khaki coat and leather puttees. He was of light complexion and weighed about 175 pounds. He told Mr. Hodgden he could speak seven different languages including Chinese, and one day on the public market he was seen by Mr. Hodgden to converse fluently with a Chinese vegetable gardener. He also

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\$45.00 Suits and Overcoats . . . \$33.75
\$49.00 Suits and Overcoats . . . \$36.75
\$55.00 Suits and Overcoats . . . \$41.25
\$60.00 Suits and Overcoats . . . \$45.00
\$67.50 Suits and Overcoats . . . \$50.65

Sam'l Rosenblatt & Co.

Fifth and Alder

Gasco Building

could speak French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian and some other foreign languages.

Youthful Bootlegger Rearrested.
HOOD RIVER, Or., Jan. 2.—(Special.)—Marion Phillips, youthful bootlegger, who has just completed serving a sentence for participation in the operation of a distillery here last summer, was arrested last night by Deputy Sheriff Sloat and Deputy City Marshal Webster.

Phillips, whose bootlegging charge, Phillips, whose case will be called today by Justice of the Peace Onthank, was coming to the city from the Underwood ferry, not been announced, but it will probably be about ten days longer.

Smallpox on Steamer Curbed.
ASTORIA, Or., Jan. 2.—(Special.)—No additional cases of smallpox have developed among the members of the crew of the Japanese steamer *Brasil Maru*, which is at the federal quarantine station. The one man afflicted with the disease was getting along nicely today and the one who was suffering from paralysis appeared to be improving. How long the steamer and her crew will be detained has not been announced.

Benton Farm Loans \$103,000.
PROSSER, Wash., Jan. 2.—(Special.)—According to W. S. Jenkins of the Benton County Abstract & Title company, federal farm loans in Benton county during the last year have aggregated \$102,000 and approximately \$60,000 more in loans have been approved and are on the way. Most of these loans have been in the west end of the county.

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