

CRIME IS TAUGHT

Characteristic of the Crookedness of San Francisco.

LITTLE GIRLS ARE ARRESTED

A School Organized Where Girls Are Taught the Art of Stealing Goods From the Various Stores in Bay City.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The police have found, right in the heart of San Francisco, what they declare is a school of shoplifting. In that school women, it is said, have been taught with painstaking care to go into the big stores and steal clothes and garments—steal them with such skill that a watchman's eye would not be able to detect them in the act. And this is no story of Fagin and his school for pickpockets—no tale from the brain of a novelist—but a hard fact in the Christian city of San Francisco and in the unimaginative year of 1904.

This school, where, the police allege, crime was taught by criminals, was in flat D at 513 Larkin street, between Turk and Eddy streets. That is no noisome den up a reeking alley. It is a modern flat, on a modern street, with cable cars continually clanging by. It is not far from the great city hall, where the solemn judges sit dispensing variegated justice. But when the police pounced upon the place they arrested six persons there—three men and three women—the instructors and the pupils.

The women were Lizzie Pierce, Maria Wagstaff and Bertha Allen. The men were S. H. Hock, J. Wagstaff and L. C. Robertson—the last named said to hold a position as janitor in the city hall. The six are now on the detinue book, while the police are looking further into their methods.

Already goods worth \$1500 have been recovered—goods that the pupils of that school of crime had lifted, the detectives say, from the counters of Weinstein, Lubin & Co., Pragers, the Emporium and R. D. Davis & Co., of this city, and the Eastern Outfitting Company of Oakland. The search goes on for more.

When Lizzie Pierce was arrested she sparkled with diamonds worth at least \$1000. She said they had been given to her by a former husband. The police are of opinion that she "lifted" them as she lifted valuable articles of wearing apparel. The loot of the gang was secured inside of two weeks, so some idea may be had of the industry of the pupils of that strange school.

Two weeks ago the flat was rented. It was at once fitted up with dummy counters and shelves. On these were placed dry goods and garments. The men gave the women lessons in how to take the goods and garments from the shelves and counters. While the men stood off like watchmen in a store, the women walked up and down, taking the things and secreting them under their garments. If they bungled so the men could detect them in the act, they were forced to try again and again, just as students are made to go over and over some task on which they have stumbled. When the women acted with superior skill, making it impossible to detect them at their work, they were encouraged and applauded.

The women became so expert that they could secret under their clothing heavy blankets and give no token to a watching eye that anything was amiss. The blankets were the ultimate test. When they could be secured the pupil was ready for graduation into the practice of crime. The woman who could grab a blanket with three men on watch without being caught in the act was turned out as a skilled shoplifter.

And so the school of shoplifting was conducted right in the center of the city, on the street with the cable cars, and not far from the great city hall where the judges sit. But the trained eyes of Detectives Ryan and Wolters had found that there was more than the usual shoplifting in the crowded stores. They soon were on a trail. On Wednesday night they arrested Lizzie Pierce in all her glitter of diamonds, and S. H. Hock. Then they slowly unravelled the threads of the strange story of the school of shop-lifting.

ANOTHER SUCKER.

Pittsburgh Banker Has His Very Easily Pulled.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 21.—James W. Friend, worth \$7,000,000, vice president of the Pressed Steel Car Company, senior member of Friend, Hoffstal & Co., iron manufacturers, vice president of the Allegheny German National bank, of which his partner, Frank N. Hoffstal, is president, reluctantly admitted today that he has had financial dealings with Mrs. Chadwick.

That he has again proven this remarkable woman's powers of persuasion, for Mr. Friend is regarded as one

of the very shrewdest of Pittsburgh's millionaires, one from whom no human being could wheedle money, and if any of Mrs. Chadwick's statements is credible it was a huge sum that she extracted from this grim business man, who, possibly, was not alone on his side of the transaction, although it has not been made public, nor even is it suspected, who was associated with him. Mrs. Chadwick confesses that she owes Mr. Friend \$300,000. Judging from similar transactions of hers it is not impossible that she gave him notes for \$300,000.

DESCENDANT OF DARWIN.

The Missing Link Discovered in Vancouver Island.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 21.—Vague rumors, always discredited heretofore, that Vancouver island is the home of a Mowgli, the facts of whose life rival Kipling's fiction, have been apparently fully confirmed by four reliable men from Qualicum. While out hunting recently near Horne lake they saw a man, evidently young, with long, matted hair and beard and covered with hair all over his body.

The man ran away with the swiftness of a deer when they approached. Several times during the past few years reports have come from the Horne lake district that such a creature had been seen. Four men, whose names are Kincaid, Ross, Hutchins and Crump, now confirm this story and the recollection of people in the district goes back twelve years ago when a boy wandered off into the bush from an outlying settlement and was never seen again.

It is surmised that this little boy grew up, but how he fared unless cared for by wild animals, Mowgli fashion, it is difficult to understand. A party will go out to search for this wild man and capture him if possible.

RATE WAR OVER.

Steamer Lines Have Buried the Big Hatchet.

Portland, Dec. 21.—Every vestige of the rate war which has been on for months between the Harriman steamers of the San Francisco & Portland Steamship Company and the Russell & Rogers line, E. J. Dodge & Co., and the steam schooner Redondo, operated by Taylor, Young & Co., as agents here, has been wiped out, and in the future freight will be carried by the smaller craft on the same tariff basis as has been maintained by the pioneer company.

This was agreed to at a recent meeting of the interested ones, and later a session will be held which will have for its object the amicable adjustment of the question of passenger rates. It is hoped to also induce the steam schooner operators to place in effect a standard for transporting human freight that will accord with the charges of the San Francisco & Portland. Though the California & Oregon Coast Steamship Company has been on a friendly basis with the Harriman interests in the past, it has also been brought into the fold with reference to the new agreement, and will respect the wish of the combination.

The utmost secrecy has been kept relative to the settlement of the difficulties of the lines. Agents were informed charges would be increased to a level of the established rates, but no explanation was made as to the reason. The principal companies concerned are Russell & Rogers and the San Francisco & Portland, as they are the only ones running steamers between here and San Francisco on a permanent schedule, and the other craft carry back lumber and grain, with the exception of the C. & O. Co. vessels; but at the same time all general cargo, both ways, is accepted under the agreement. The passenger rates have not been disturbed as yet because since the settlement of the freight question no opportunity has been offered the owners to gather, but this will be attended to shortly.

SQUATTERS IN MINNESOTA.

Cass Lake Lands Reserved from Settlement by Act of Congress.

Cass Lake, Minn., Dec. 21.—Much regret has been expressed here at the predicament in which several residents of this community have been placed through having squatted on certain lands adjacent to the village which are embraced within the limits of the 19 sections reserved under the provisions of the Morris law forever from sale and settlement.

The locality is known as "Swede Hill," and when the squatters erected their buildings there and made it their home, the Morris law had not been passed—in fact, that measure had not at that time been drafted, and the residents, like those squatting on section 16 (the Lydick allotment) did so with the hope of eventually being allowed to file on the land as homesteads or for townsite purposes.

Last fall the boundaries of the land required for the 19 sections was surveyed, and the survey showed that several buildings on "Swede Hill" were within the limits of the land wanted. The department was notified, but no real definite action was taken in the matter at that time. However, on October 4, this year, an order was issued by the general land department at Washington, forwarded to C. C. Woin, custodian of the 19 sections, and by him served on the trespassers.

LAND FRAUD CASES

Senator Mitchell and Representative Herman Arrive.

CASES WILL BE INVESTIGATED

No Much Credence Placed in Newspaper Rumors of the Confessions of Peuter and Mrs. Watson, Implicating Citizens of State.

A gentleman who returned from Portland last evening, states that considerable excitement is manifest in Portland over the outcome of the timber fraud cases. A number of men who are alleged to be implicated are awaiting anxiously the coming of Senator Mitchell and Congressman Hermann today. It is claimed that S. A. Peuter and Mrs. Watson have confessed to their complicity in the land frauds, and implicated a number of prominent men. The confession, it is also claimed, was extorted upon the promise of executive clemency. It is not generally thought that Senator Mitchell is in any way implicated, but his evidence as to who he received the letter from requesting him to expedite certain timber filings is considered material. It is claimed that Hon. F. P. Mays is the attorney referred to and that he was a party to the frauds. It is possible that he may have acted as attorney for Peuter and Mrs. Watson in preparing papers, but aside from this, he had no part in the attempt to defraud the government.

While nothing has leaked out from the grand jury room, except in the imaginative minds of newspaper reporters who are anxious to work up a story to fill space. No report has been made and none will be made until after Senator Mitchell and Congressman Hermann are given a hearing. It is also intimated that Secretary Hitchcock, who has a strong prejudice against Hermann, is using his office to indict Hermann, and if he cannot indict him, to create an impression that he is in some way connected with the frauds. It is also stated that Frederick A. Kribs, a local timber locator and C. A. Smith, a wealthy timber man of Minneapolis, are implicated, as well as a number of other prominent citizens.

Conservative men of Portland are of the opinion that the alleged charges against Mitchell, Hermann and others, cannot be sustained by the evidence, and but little confidence is placed in the alleged confessions of Peuter or Mrs. Watson. If the efforts of the government are to besmirch the character of prominent men, and allow those who are guilty of the land frauds to escape, or receive only a minimum punishment placed upon confessed criminals, it will be condemned by all honest men, as an effort to implicate persons only remotely connected with the affair and allowed the guilty ones to escape. Indictments of this nature returned are certain to result in an acquittal, and will result in the dismissal of Secretary Hitchcock, something that is devoutly desired by every one in the United States who regard him as an unscrupulous politician, only interested in disgracing those who have no connection with the cases, but against whom he bears a personal animosity.

It is also believed that Judge Bellinger will not be a party to any scheme looking for a light sentence on

those already convicted, and that all such talk has no foundation in fact. Courts, as a rule, are not inclined to be lenient with people who have been convicted by a jury in the perpetration of frauds against the government.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's New Through Service.

Effective November 27th, 1904, and thereafter, a new daily train will be inaugurated, leaving Grand Central passenger station, Chicago, at 10:30 p. m., for Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown, Pittsburg and intermediate points, connecting at Pittsburg with "Duquesne Limited" for Philadelphia and New York, and with train No. 10 for Washington, D. C., and Baltimore.

This train will be equipped with first-class day coaches, Pullman sleepers and dining car service.

On all through tickets stop-over will be allowed at Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, not to exceed 10 days at each place.

For further particulars address, Peter Harvey, General Agent, Room 1, Hobart Bldg., San Francisco, D. B. Martin, Manager Passenger Traffic Baltimore, Md., B. N. Austin, General Passenger Agent, Chicago.

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You wouldn't give your children poison? Then don't give them inferior candies.

You wouldn't try to make a bad impression on your sweetheart? Then give her some sweets that are as good in intrinsic worth as they are attractive in appearance, and, at the same time, patronize a home industry that is greater than you may realize.

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