

**DIAMOND STEALING**

**De Beers Company Loses \$2,000,000 Annually.**

**DETECTIVES IN THE PLOT**

**Recent Trial of a Buyer in Cape Town Brings to Light Many Shady Deals—Women Help to Steal the Gems—De Beers Loses About \$100,000 a Month.**

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 28.—All of the stories of diamond smuggling and diamond thieving have been revived by recent dramatic events which have occurred right here in South Africa. Not long ago Captain Jenner, chief of the detective department at Kimberley, wrote to one of his subordinates, a man named Damant, asking him to explain certain diamond transactions in which he had been involved. Damant's answer was suicide. And in South Africa suicide in this particular is considered the equivalent of confession.

But this tragic event was one of the main factors in bringing about a remarkable illicit diamond buying trial which has just been concluded at the criminal sessions. The amount involved was the largest on record, something like \$180,000, and extraordinary interest attached to the trial owing to the high social position of the accused, one David McGill. Mr. McGill, who is a well known diamond buyer at Kimberley, was accused of purchasing diamonds from a seller who had no diamonds to sell. The law penalizes such a transaction, because, generally speaking, a person who deals in diamonds without a license must have acquired the stones in an illegitimate way, either having stolen them himself or purchased them from the actual thief.

**Is an Organized Gang.**

At present the De Beers Company estimates that they are losing nearly \$2,000,000 annually owing to the clever tactics of an organized gang of I. B. B.'s (illicit diamond buyers), but in the Mc-

Gill case the seller of the diamonds was Damant. And the most remarkable thing about it was that Damant was the late head clerk in the Kimberley detective department. But as the department in the course of its duties naturally acquires a considerable quantity of stones which it subsequently disposes of, it might never have occurred to a buyer that the chief clerk was selling otherwise than in the ordinary course of departmental routine.

The main question at the trial was whether McGill knew that Damant was dealing in illicit diamonds acquired for illicit purposes. It was admitted by the accused that transactions aggregating large sums of money were omitted from the register, which he had certified to be correct.

The jury, after a protracted hearing of the evidence brought in a verdict of "not guilty" on all of the 147 counts of the charge.

Then it was that a remarkable scene occurred in court. Sir John Buchanan, the judge trying the case, had distinctly summed up against McGill and he expressed his dissent at the verdict in the strongest possible terms.

**Officer Aided the Thieves.**

But the case did result in bringing to light many remarkable facts in connection with the working of the I. B. B. act. Damant seems to have practically used the whole machinery of his secret service not to stamp out the trade in illicit diamond buying, but to encourage it for the purpose of carrying on a private traffic on his own account.

According to a statement made by Colonel Harris, a De Beers director, in the course of the trial, De Beers loses about \$100,000 in stolen stones every month. This is chiefly due to the operations of a skilful gang with cleverly laid plans who get the diamonds out of the country by way of Rhodesia and Natal to Europe. The gang is understood to include women who have the reputation of experts at this type of robbery. So great has been the skill of these women that not a woman has been detected in connection with this particular and peculiar form of crime for a great many years.

N. B. Truth, St. Paul, June 31, '08.—I've lived so long, I remember well when the Mississippi was a brook. My good health and long life came by taking Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. 35 cents. Frank Hart, druggist.

**ASTORIANS DOWN SOUTH.**

**Newsp Notes From a Member of the Delegation Touring California.**

Under date of January 25th, one of the Astorian party out with the big Oregon Development League excursion, writes this office as follows from Los Angeles:

"Some of the boys attempted a joke on the writer of this, in sending you people that menu from San Jose the other day. The rain did follow us, however, until we started from Paso Robles on last Friday morning, showering untold wealth on the Californians.

"The delegation has been generously entertained here by the Chamber of Commerce of the City of the Angels, which organization, by the way, has a membership of 2000, each of whom pays the sum of \$1.00 each and every month, and all hands in 'good standing'. The entertainment began on Saturday last and will continue until Sunday. It consists of excursions over all the principal routes of interest hereabout, and to all the famous beaches, including Catalina Island, San Diego, Pasadena, Mount Lowe, the Ostrich Farm, the great Baldwin ranch, and the biggest of the orange and walnut groves in the country. Many of these are absolutely free, with free lunches, as at Venice, free dinner at Greens, in Pasadena, the best place in this country, etc. Other trips were furnished at special rates.

"The beautiful roof-garden of palms and ferns on top of the new Hotel Green at Pasadena was thrown open for the special enjoyment of the delegation; and the Hotel Raymond served a magnificent and refreshing lunch to our hungry host. Each trip out of the city was accompanied by a committee of pleasant people from the Chamber of Commerce, so nothing was lost for want of suggestion and explanation as we journeyed.

"The San Diego trip begins this morning with a lay-over until Sunday. The delegation is diminishing somewhat, as some of the members have been compelled to leave on business engagements, for home, and elsewhere. "At Pasadena I inquired for some Oregon apples and was told that none had been on that market this year, and that importations thereof had been made from other districts. An inquiry made in Los Angeles for some Warrenton minced clams, met the response that there were none there, but that there were plenty of Hafferty's pack, from Gray's Harbor.

"We have seen large groves of oranges, but no pickers yet. Navels are not yet generally ripe and will not be until February and March. Seedless will ripen in April and the Valencia's later. Oranges that are sent out before these dates are not ripe, in this nor any other market, though they may ripen, even on the market. The earliest oranges come from the interior valleys further north.

"The other great crop here is 'tourists', and the many ways and things devised to attract him, and derive a profit from him, cannot be enumerated in one short letter like this.

"The famous 'Raymond' is open here for only three months in the year and the 'Green' for six months, so the receipts must be immense in those short seasons, to yield the notable profits that are claimed for these hostilities."

**FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.**

It is reported that the steamers T. J. Potter and Hassalo will practically change places on or about the first of the coming month. The Hassalo, re-equipped, refurnished and freshened up, from stem to stern, going into commission on the Potter's Astoria-Portland run and the big and handsome side-wheeler retiring to the ship-yard for a thorough overhauling preparatory to her summer business as a coast excursion boat. (Her overhauling to include the painting of her funnel). Her official staff will pass to the Hassalo for service, the crew included.

The steamer Czarina came down from Portland at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. She went to the bar, but things were a shade too rough for her. She will get out for San Francisco at the first possible moment.

The Oklohamo went back to Portland yesterday morning with the three masted schooner Alice McDonald and the Italian ship Margherita, on her tow-lines.

The steamship Columbia is due in this morning from the Golden Gate.

The steamer Noyo was the only arrival in over the bar yesterday.

Men are judged by the company they keep, but it isn't as easy to size up a woman by her hat. Judge her by the amount of Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea she takes. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Frank Hart, druggist.

**THE COMING ENTERTAINMENT.**

Regarding the "Rosclan Comic Opera Company," which makes their official debut at Fisher's next Friday night, the Portland Telegram has this to say:

"If the majority of the \$1.50 and even \$2 musical attractions which come to Portland had as many good voices as were found in the Rosclan Opera Company at the Marquam Grand last night, the public would be thankful for something besides a collection of beautiful scenery. At popular prices, the Rosclan Opera Company gives a big return for the money. Unlike the general run of alleged musical companies, it really depends on the vocal efforts of its members to make good. And, for its size, it gives a marvelous quantity of harmony. El Capitan, the Sousa comic opera, was used to open the engagement last evening, and it served to introduce one of the best tenors this town has listened to this season. F. W. Walters possesses this tenor, and his clear notes, with a high range and distinct delivery of words, won for him several encores every time he had a solo. Miss Hazel Davenport, who played Estrella, exhibited one of the highest sopranos of the year. In addition to this she was a hard worker, and did everything possible to throw ginger into the entertainment. Claude Asmden, the leading comedian, who had the role of El Capitan, carries a basso voice with him and a fund of humor. Hilliard Campbell, as Scramba, Miss Lucia Nola and Miss Edie George are the other soloists. With but a single exception, they have stronger voices and more musical than those heard in any other given show of the season."

Seat sale opens at Hoefler's Thursday morning.

**The Grip.**

"Before we can sympathize with others, we must have suffered ourselves." No one can realize the suffering attendant upon an attack of the grip, unless he has had the actual experience. There is probably no disease that causes so much physical and mental agony, or which so successfully defies medical aid. All danger from the grip, however, may be avoided by the prompt use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Among the tens of thousands who have used this remedy, not one case has ever been reported that has resulted in pneumonia or that has not recovered. For sale by Frank Hart, and leading druggists.

**REDUCTIONS REDUCTIONS REDUCTIONS**

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**THE GREATEST SALE**

**Of all Great Sales Going on Now**

**REDUCTION REDUCTION REDUCTION**

**Look at our Window and See the \$4.65 Suits**

**P. A. STOKES**

**REDUCTIONS REDUCTIONS REDUCTIONS**

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**DR. EARLE'S RELIEF.**

Dr. Bayliss T. Earle, federal health officer at this port, departs on Saturday next, on his four month's furlough, and every friend he has in this section of the world hopes he may enjoy every moment of his outing and return to his post and duties, refreshed and re-invigorated for another season of good work. Dr. Earle received a dispatch, yesterday, from Dr. Francis H. McKeon, of New Orleans, who is now in San Francisco, and who will arrive in Astoria this week in time to relieve Dr. Earle, and will take full charge during the latter's absence. Dr. McKeon is an assistant surgeon in the Public Health and Marine Hospital service of the government and a gentleman of culture, professionally and socially.

**"UNDER TWO FLAGS.**

The Grand Army post, here, and its friends intend, at an early day, to present, in good style, the popular drama, "Under Two Flags", for the benefit of the post. It will be a strong attraction and will, undoubtedly, be thoroughly well patronized.

**SOME FLUES AFIRE.**

At 1 o'clock yesterday morning a still alarm was turned in to the fire department, via the chief's office, from the home of Mrs. Grant at No. 614 Commercial street, which was answered by Chief Foster in person, the presence of the engines not being required, as it was but a flue burning out, and easily subdued. At 10 o'clock a. m. another call was sent in from Uniontown, for a flue-fire in one of the small homes south of and opposite the Elmore cannery. As in the former case, so in this one, no damage, save some scorched wood-work, was suffered.

**CHANGE OF TIME**

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Commencing Sunday, November 19, train No. 6, the Royal Blue Limited, will leave Grand Central passenger station, Chicago at 5 p. m., instead of 3:30 p. m. and will arrive in Pittsburg at 6:35 a. m., Washington at 4:40 p. m., Baltimore 5:50 p. m., Philadelphia, 8:19 p. m. New York 10:40 p. m. the same as with the old schedule, thus reducing the time one hour and thirty minutes. No excess fare will be charged on this fast limited train. All other trains will arrive and depart the same as formerly. Stop-over is allowed at Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, not to exceed ten days, at each place, on all first-class through tickets.

The Morning Astorian, 65c a month

**Our Desire is to Please Our Customers**

for that is the vital part of business. Buy of us and you will buy right.

We quote you our dependable Mocha & Java Coffee:

- 1-lb. can . . . . . \$1.40
- 2-lb. cans . . . . . .75
- 3-lb. cans . . . . . 1.00

Every pound guaranteed to give satisfaction or your money back.

**ASTORIAGROCERY**

Phone Main 681 823 Commercial St.

**A Jamaican Lady Speaks Highly of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.**

Mrs. Michael Hart, wife of the superintendent of Cart Service at Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies Islands, says that she has for some years used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for coughs, croup and whooping cough and has found it very beneficial. She has implicit confidence in it and would not be without a bottle of it in her home. Sold by Frank Hart, and leading druggists.

**REDUCE FREIGHT RATES.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28.—As a result of a conference of the representatives of the Armour Car Lines and the Santa Fe Refrigerator Lines a reduction of \$10 a car to Chicago and \$17.50 a car to New York was made on deciduous freights. The compact contains a clause prohibiting rebates.

**How to Prevent Bilious Attacks.**

One who is subject to bilious attacks will notice that for a day or more before the attack he is not hungry at meal times and feels dull after eating. A dose of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets when these first symptoms appear will ward off the attack. They are for sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

**THE LAST CALL FOR JANUARY SHOPPERS**

YOU'VE JUST THREE MORE SHOPPING DAYS LEFT THIS MONTH, THREE MORE IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE WITH US IN

**The Greatest of All January Sales**

IF YOU APPRECIATE TRUE VALUES, YOUR OWN SELF INTEREST SHOULD PROMPT YOU TO TURN TO US FOR YOUR EVERY NEED.

THE LAST THREE DAYS ARE GOING TO BE HUMMERS AND WE WANT EVERY WOMAN WHO HAS SHOPPING TO DO TO GET FULL BENEFIT OF THE

**BIG REDUCTIONS**

**Don't Delay, Come While You May**

AND REMEMBER THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PURCHASE IS YOU WILL GET

**ONLY NEW GOODS**

**THE FOARD & STOKES CO.**

ASTORIA'S GREATEST STORE.

Where the New things Make Their Debut.



**THE BEEHIVE**

A WORD TO THE WISE IS SUFFICIENT.

**Only a Few More Days Left of the Great Reduction Sale**

ONE OPPORTUNITY IN 12 MONTHS TO BUY THE NECESSITIES AT A 10 PER CENT REDUCTIONS.

SHEETING, MUSLINS, CALICOES, DRESS GOODS.

ALL SEASONABLE GOODS LIKE CLOAKS, HATS, MISSES' DRESSES AND OTHER OUTER GARMENTS SOLD AT COST AND LESS.

WE HAVE A FEW EXCELLENT BARGAINS LEFT IN SUITS AND CLOAKS.



**THE BEEHIVE**