

THE BURGlar

BY LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE

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SYNOPSIS.



And a Small White Hand Gestured Significantly Toward the Collection of Burglar's Tools.

"Mad" Dan Maitland, on reaching his New York hotel, was attracted by a young woman at the door. Dan O'Hagan assured him no one had been within that day. Dan discovered a woman's finger prints in dust on his desk, along with a letter from his attorney. Maitland dined with Bannerman, his attorney, and set out for Greenfield, to get his family jewels. He met the young woman in gray, whom he had seen wearing his burglar's club. Her auto had broken down. He fixed it. By a ruse she "lost" him. Maitland, on reaching home, surprised lady in gray, cracking the safe containing his goods. She, apparently, took him for a well-known crook, Dan O'Hagan.

CHAPTER III.—Continued.

Did he catch a gleam of admiration in the eyes behind the goggles?

"Now, if ever they get hold of my portrait and print . . . Well!" sighed the girl wickedly, lifting slim, bare fingers in affected concern to the mass of ruddy hair, "in that event I suppose I shall have to become a natural blonde!"

Her humor, her splendid fearlessness, the lightness of her tone, combined with the half-laughing, half-serious look that she swept up at him, to ease the tension of his emotions. For the first time since entering the room, he smiled; then in silence for a time regarded her steadfastly, thinking.

So he resembled this burglar, Anstey, strongly enough to be mistaken for him?—That thought, which he believed him to be Anstey. . . Well, and why not? Why shouldn't he be Anstey for the time being, if it suited his purpose so to masquerade?

It might possibly suit his purpose. He thought his position one uncommonly difficult. As Maitland, he had on his hands a female thief, a hardened character, a common malefactor (strange that he got so little relish of the terms!), caught red-handed; as Maitland, his duty was to hand her over to the law, to do with her as—what she was. Yet, even while these considerations were urging themselves upon him, he knew his eyes appraised her with open admiration and interest. She stood before him, slight, delicate, pretty, appealing in her ingenuous candor; and at his mercy. How could he bring himself to deal with her as he might wish—well, Anstey himself? She was a woman, he a gentleman.

As Anstey, however—if he chose to assume that expert's identity for the nonce—he would be placed at once on a plane of equality with the girl; from a fellow of her craft she could hardly refuse attention. As Anstey, he would put himself in a position to earn her friendship, to gain—perhaps—her confidence, to learn something of her necessities, to aid and protect her from the consequences of her misdeeds; possibly—to sum up—to divert her footsteps to the paths of a calling less hazardous and more honorable.

Worthy ambition—to reform a burglar! Maitland regained something of his lost self-esteem, applauding himself for entertaining a motive so laudable. And he chose his course, for better or worse, in these few seconds. Thereby proving his incontestable title to the name and repute of Mad Maitland.

His face lightened; his manner changed; he assumed with avidity the role which she had cast him and which he stood so ready to accept and act.

"Well and good," he conceded with an air. "I suppose I may as well own up."

"Oh, I know you," she assured him, with a little, confident shake of her head. "There's no deceiving me. But, and her smile became rueful, "if only you'd waited ten minutes more! Of course I recognized you from the first—down there by the river; and knew very well what you were—Anstey; you ran yourself away so suddenly, by mentioning the distance from the river to the Manor. And on this job! What a feather in one's cap, to have fore-stalled Dan Anstey! . . . But hadn't you better be a little careful with those lights? You seem to forget that there are servants in the house. Really, you know, I find you most remarkably audacious, Mr. Anstey—quite in keeping with your reputation."

"You overwhem me," he murmured, "believe me, I have little conceit in my fame, such as it is." And, crossing to the windows, he loosed the heavy velvet hangings and let them fall together, drawing their edges close so that no ray of light might escape.

She watched him with interest. "You seem well acquainted here."

"Of course. Any man of imagination is at pains to study every house he enters. I have a map of the premises—house and grounds—here."

He indicated his forehead with a long forefinger.

"Quite right, too—and worth one's while. If rumor is to be believed, you have ordinarily more than your labor for your pains. You have taught me something already. . . Ah, well!" she sighed. "I suppose I may as well acknowledge my inferiority—as neophyte to hierophant, Master!" She courted low. "I beg you proceed and let thy cheeks profit through observation!" And a small white hand gestured significantly toward the collection of burglar's tools—drills and chisels, skeleton keys, putty, and all—neatly displayed upon the rug before the massive safe.

"You mean that you wish me to crack this safe for you?" he inquired, with inward consternation.

"Not for me. Disappointment I admit is mine; but not for the loss I sustain. In the presence of the master I am content to stand humbly to one side, as befits one of my lowly state—in the ranks of our profession. I resign, I abdicate in your favor; claiming nothing by right of priority."

"You are too generous," he murmured, confused by her thinly veiled ridicule.

"Not at all," she replied briskly. "I am entirely serious. My loss of today will prove my gain to-morrow. I look for incalculable benefit through study of your methods. My own, I confess, with a contemptuous toss of her head toward the burglar's kit, "are clumsy, antiquated, out of date. . . . But then, I'm only an amateur."

"Oh, but a woman!" he began to apologize on her behalf.

"Oh, but a woman!" she rapped out, smartly. "I wish you to understand that this woman, at least, is no mean—!" And she hesitated.

"Thief!" he supplied, crudely.

"Yes, thief! We're two of a feather, at that."

"True enough. . . . But you were first in the field; I fall to see why I should reap any reward for tardiness. The spoils must be yours."

It was a test; Maitland watched her keenly, fascinated by the subtlety of the game.

"But I refuse, Mr. Anstey—positively refuse to go to work while you stand aside and—laugh."

Pride! He stared, openly amazed, at this bewilderingly feminine bundle of inconsistencies. With each facet of her character discovered to him, minute by minute, the study of her became to him the more engrossing. He drew nearer, eyes speculative.

"I will agree," he said, slowly, "to crack the safe, but upon conditions."

She drew back imperceptibly, amused, but asserting her dignity.

"Yes!" she led him on, though in no account of encouragement.

"Back there, in the river," he drew deliberately, forcing the pace, "I found you—beautiful."

She flushed, lip curling. "And, back there, in the river, I thought you—a gentleman!"

"Although a burglar?"

"A gentleman for all that!"

"I promise you I mean no harm," he prefaced. "But don't you see how I am putting myself in your power? Every moment you know me better, while I have not yet even looked into your face with the light flash upon it. Honor among thieves, little woman!" She chose to ignore the intimate note in his voice. "You're wasting time in his voice. 'You're wasting time," she hinted, crisply.

"I am aware of that fact. Permit me to remind you that you are helping me to waste it. I will not go ahead until I have seen your face. It is simply an ordinary precaution."

"Oh, if it's a matter of business—"

"Self-preservation," he corrected, with magnificent gravity.

She hesitated but a moment longer, then with a quick gesture removed her mask. Maitland's breath came fast as he bent forward, peering into her face; though he schooled his own features to an expression of intent and inoffensive studiousness, he feared the loud thumping of his heart would betray him. As he looked it became evident that the witchery of moonlight had not served to exaggerate the sensitive, the almost miniature, beauty of her. If anything, his charm was greater there in the full glare of the electric chandelier, as she faced him, giving him glance for glance, quite undismayed by the intemperate of his scrutiny.

In the clear light her eyes shone lustrous, pools of tawny flame; her hair showed itself of a rich and luminous copper hue, spun to immeasurable fineness; a faint color burned in her cheeks, but in contrast her forehead was as snow—the pure, white, close-grained skin that is the heritage of red-headed women of the world over, and their chief charm as well; while her lips—

As for her lips, the most coherent statement to be extracted from Mr. Maitland is to the effect that they were altogether desirable, from the very first.

The hauteur of her pose, the sympathy and laughter that lurked in her mouth, the manifest breeding in the delicate modeling of her nostrils, and the firm, straight arch of her nose, the astonishing allurement of her eyes, combined with their spirited womanliness—these, while they completed the conquest of the young man, astounded him. He found himself of a sudden endowed with a painful appreciation of his own imperfections, the littleness of his ego, the inherent coarseness of his masculine fiber, the poor futility of his ways, contrasted with her perfections. He felt as if rebuked for some unwarrantable presumption. . . . For he had looked into eyes that were windows of a soul; and the soul was that of a child, un-sullied and immaculate.

You may smile; but as for Maitland, he deemed it no laughing matter. From that moment his perception was clear that, whatever she might claim to be, however damning the circumstances in which she appeared to him, there was no evil in her.

But what he did not know, and did not even guess, was that, from the same instant, his being was in bondage to her will. So Love comes, strangely masked.

CHAPTER IV.
Midsummer Night's Madness.

At length, awed and not a little shamed, "I beg your pardon," he stammered, wretchedly.

"For what?" she demanded, quickly, head up and eyes afloat.

"For insisting. It wasn't—ah—coarse. I'm sorry."

It was her turn now to wonder; delicacy of perception such as this was not ordinarily looked for in the person of a burglar. With a laugh and a gibe she tried to pass off her astonishment.

"The thief apologizes to the thief?" "Unkind!"

Briefly hesitant, with an impulsive gesture she flung out a generous hand. "You're right; I was unkind. Forgive me. Won't you shake hands?"

"I do want to be a good comrade, since it has pleased Fate to throw us together like this, so—so oddly." Her tone was almost plaintive; unquestionably it was appealing.

Maitland was curiously moved by the touch of the slim, cool fingers that lay in his palm. Not unpleasantly, he

frowned in perplexity, unable to analyze the sensation.

"You're not angry?" she asked.

"No—but—"

"Yes?"

"Why do you do this, little woman? Why do you stoop to this—this trade of you-of-ours? Why sully your hands—and not only your hands—impair your good name, to say nothing of your liberty?"

She drew her hand away quickly, interrupting him with a laugh that rang true as a coin new from the mint, honest and genuine.

"And this," she cried, "this from Dan Anstey! Positively, sir, you are delightful! You grow more dangerousously original every minute! Your scruples, your consideration, your sympathy—they are touching—in you!" She wagged her head daintily in pretense of disapprobation. "But shall I tell you?" more seriously, doubtfully "I think I shall. . . . truly, I do this sort of thing, since you must know, because—imprimis, because I like it. Indeed and I do! I like the danger, the excitement, the exercise of cunning—and I like the rewards too. Besides—"

The corners of her adorable mouth drooped ever so slightly.

"Besides—?"

"Why. . . . But this is not business. We must hurry. Will you, or shall I—?"

A crisis had been passed; Maitland understood that he must wait until a more favorable time to renew his importunities.

"I will," he said, dropping on his knees by the safe. "In my lady's service!"

"Not at all," she interposed. "I insist. The job is now yours; yours must be the profits."

"Then I wash my hands of the whole affair," he stated in accents of finality "I refuse. I shall go, and you can do as you will—blunder on," scornfully "with your nitroglycerin, your rags and drills and—and rouse the entire countryside, if you will."

"Ah, but—"

"Will you accept my aid?"

"On conditions, only," she stipulated.

"Half yours, or not at all!" She was firm.

"A partnership?"

"This educed a mope of doubt, with 'I'm not worthy the honor.'

"But," he promised rashly, "I can save you—oh, heaps of trouble in other—ah—lays."

She shrugged helplessly. "If I must—then I do accept. We are partners Dan Anstey and I!"

He nodded mute satisfaction, brushed the tools out of his way, and bent at attentive ear to the combination.

The girl swept across the room, and there followed a click simultaneous with the total extinction of light.

"Startled," "Why—" he demanded.

"The risk," she replied. "We have been frightfully careless and thoughtless."

Helplessly Maitland twirled the combination dial; without the light he was wholly at a loss. But a breath later, skilfully rustled near him; the slide of the dial's eye was jerked back, and a circle of illumination thrown upon the lock. He bent his head again, pretending to listen to the fall of the tumblers as the dial was turned, but it pointed of fact covertly watching the letters and figures upon it.

The room grew very silent, save for the faintly regular respiration of the girl who bent near his shoulder. Her breath was fragrant upon his cheek. The consciousness of her proximity almost stifled him. . . . One fear that Maitland prolonged the counterfeit study of the combination unceasingly.

Notwithstanding this, she seemed amazed by the ease with which he solved it. "Wonderful!" she applauded, whispering, as the heavy door swung outward without a jar.

"Hush!" he cautioned her.

In his veins that night madness was running riot, swaying him at its will. With never a doubt, never a thought of hesitancy, he forged ahead, willfully blind to consequences. On the face of it he was playing a fool's part; he could not have done other than as he did. Consciously he believed himself to be merely testing the girl; subconsciously he was plastic in the grip of an emotion stronger than he—molten clay upon the potter's whirling wheel.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

And a Small White Hand Gestured Significantly Toward the Collection of Burglar's Tools.

Showing the Methods of the Resourceful Street Faker.

Two belligerent appearing men faced each other.

"You're a liar."

"You're a yellow pup."

"Fight!" shrieked a small boy.

Then a crowd of curious began to gather in front of the Grant building in upper Market street.

"If you're looking for trouble I guess I can give it to you," blazed the "liar" between his teeth.

"You can place a bet that I intend to see things to a finish," replied the "pup," striking a fighting pose.

"Come around the corner where a cop won't bother us, then," said the first, and, war thus declared, the duo hastened round to an empty lot behind the post office, while a crowd of bloodthirsty men and boys dogged at their heels.

TAFT HAS NEW JAP TREATY.

Removes All Restrictions on Immigration—Opposition Certain.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The text of a new treaty with Japan, designed to replace that of 1894, and drawn with the special design of eliminating the restrictions upon immigration contained in that treaty, was laid before the senate by President Taft.

The essential difference between the proposed treaty and the existing convention is said to be that it omits all reference to all such restrictions and leaves to the national honor of Japan the enforcement at her own ports of the limitations upon immigration from Japan now expressly placed upon immigration into the United States.

The document is said to provide that either country may denounce the treaty at the end of six months if it fails to operate as expected.

Because it embodies this radical departure from the existing treaty and touches the question of the deepest importance and interest to the Pacific Coast, the injection of this convention into the closing hours of the 61st congress caused a sensation today.

The new treaty will encounter opposition seems certain, for, even if it should be speedily reported to the senate from committee without serious controversy within the committee room, the Western senators are expected to insist upon opportunity for debate, which will develop the full extent of their opposition to the treaty.

Unlike matters of ordinary legislation, failure of the senate to act upon the treaty during the remainder of this session of congress would not of itself extinguish its vitality.

PORK IS FAVORITE MEAT.

More Hogs Used Than All Other Animals Combined.

Washington.—"Pork eaters" is a term which may rightfully be applied to the people of the United States, if the figures just made public by the census bureau for the year 1909 may be taken as a basis.

The figures show that during that year, 4,483,000 more hogs were killed in this country for food purposes than all other animals combined, including beefs, calves, sheep and lambs, goats, kids, etc. During the year 1909, 36,443,000 hogs were killed for food purposes; 31,960,000 of all other animals.

The total number of animals slaughtered in the slaughter houses and meat packing establishments during 1909 are given as 65,402,000. These figures, however, do not represent the entire number of animals killed for food purposes during the period which the report covers, and the grand total can be obtained, it is declared, only upon the completion of the statistics of agriculture.

DIRECT PRIMARY VETOED.

Iowa Governor Condemns Oregon System of Electing Senators.

Des Moines, Ia.—Governor Carroll vetoed the Oregon primary plan bill, which had passed both houses of the Iowa legislature. The governor, in his veto message, read to the joint assembly, characterized the measure as "an attempt to indirectly accomplish something that cannot be done directly," and declared that it was a violation of the constitution of the United States.

He said that the measure abrogated that section of the constitution providing that legislatures shall elect United States senators. The governor holds that the message has no bearing on a proposed amendment to permit the election of senators by the direct vote of the people, since one is a contravention of the constitution, while the other is a change in the constitution itself.

Balloons Brave Cold.

Ogdenburg, N. Y.—Muffled in furs, Mr. and Mrs. Emilie Barlatier braved zero weather and a cutting southwest wind in the first winter balloon flight ever made in this part of the country. The French aeronaut and his wife sailed away from Ogdenburg at 9:15 at night. The balloon saw them swing low over the city and disappear in the direction of Montreal. The balloon was a few hours later forced to descend at Summerstown because of a strong east wind.

Chinese Are Not Alarmed.

Pekin.—The foreign office has informed the Associated Press that it does not believe the Russian government had aggressive designs in sending a military force to Ili province. It was thought Russia was only seeking to achieve valuable pointers prior to the forthcoming conference. The St. Petersburg government was acting with the knowledge that China in recent months had been sending commissioners to Mongolia and Ili province to study conditions there preparatory to the conference.

Relief Fund Insufficient.

Washington.—The constitutionality of the law of Iowa passed in 1898, enabling an employee of the operating department of a railroad to sue a road for injuries, notwithstanding the fact that he had received benefits from a relief department supported partially by the road, was upheld. The law was attacked when Charles I. McGuire sued the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad for \$2,000 damages for injuries. McGuire had been given \$88.

Arabian Tribesmen Kill 50.

Jeddah, Arabia.—Tribesmen who are allies of Seyd Idriese, the leader of the outbreak of Yemen against the Turkish authority, recently captured at Zupra a convoy of 80 camels with provisions and ammunition destined for the garrison at Elhujeh. The deputy governor of Lohia attempted to recapture the supplies, but was defeated. The casualties numbered 50 killed.

One Man Captures Five.

Presidio, Tex.—Five armed insurgents were captured on the American side of the Rio Grande by Sergeant Goodrich of Troop F, Third United States Cavalry. They had rifles and revolvers. They were members of Antonio Garraca's band and were carrying provisions to their companions.

DAILY DOINGS OF OREGON STATE LAWMAKERS AT SALEM

Approved by Governor.

S. B. 2, by Hawley—For registration of farm names.

S. B. 15, by Kellaker—Authorizing the issuance of Broadway bridge bonds.

S. B. 22, by Lester—Appropriating \$50,000 for Astoria Centennial.

S. B. 62, by Malarkey—Appropriating money for the North Oregon river.

S. B. 103, by Albee—Defining vagrancy.

S. B. 141, by Dimick—To appoint trustees for McLoughlin Home.

S. B. 152, by Lester—For testing track scales.

S. B. 174, by Dimick—Pertaining to custody of state funds.

S. B. 191, by Joseph—Pertaining to damages from boats or vessels.

S. B. 215, by Calkins—Relating to corporations subject to jurisdiction of state.

S. B. 221, by Seeling—Relating to private property for public use.

S. B. 226, by Patton—Authorizing bridge across Snake River.

S. B. 234, by Carson—To ratify certain deeds.

S. B. 237, by McCulloch—To amend the public law.

S. B. 238, by Cole—Making October 12 Columbus day a public holiday.

H. B. 12, by Abbott—Appropriating \$20,000 annually for topographic maps and investigation of state water resources.

H. B. 23, by Eggleston—Appropriating \$4000 for burial plot for deceased soldiers of Spanish-American War.

H. B. 46, by Neuner—Protecting the waters of the North Oregon river.

H. B. 53, by Buchanan—Appropriating \$15,000 to reimburse Oregon National Guard for fighting the river pirates.

H. B. 82, by Potts—Requiring that convict-made goods be labeled.

H. B. 87, by Steiner—Limiting the age of persons employed as stationary engineers in logging camps.

H. B. 99, by Buchanan—Allowing Grand Army of the Republic \$300 worth of printing annually.

H. B. 115, by Bryant—Defining "railroad" and other terms.

H. B. 116, by Buchanan—Establishing an experiment station in Harney County.

H. B. 180, by Carter—Providing method by which unclaimed deposits of insane persons shall escheat to the state.

H. B. 193, by Brooks—Authorizing the State Land Board to sell land at which state lands shall be sold.

H. B. 225, by Clemens—Providing penalties for persons imposing on a license.

H. B. 234, by Peterson—Granting rights of way across state lands.

Eled by Governor.

S. B. 7, by Burgess—To regulate the sale of firecrackers.

S. B. 19, by Malarkey—Relating to adoption of children.

S. B. 12, by Joseph—Fixing salary of Multnomah County Commissioners.

S. B. 13, by Locke—Authorizing counties to build houses of correction.

S. B. 19, by Locke—To provide for registration and examination of graduate nurses.

S. B. 26, by Oliver—To provide for manner of approving of official documents.

S. B. 29, by Buchanan—Providing method for changing boundaries of corporations.

S. B. 36, by Wood—Changing name of State Reform School to State Training School.

S. B. 47, by Oliver—To fix terms of court in Tenth Judicial District.

S. B. 51, by Abraham—To provide for protection of car repairs.

S. B. 52, by Von der Hellen—To fix salary of Prosecuting Attorney in First District.

S. B. 53, by McCulloch—For time of holding court in Second District.

S. B. 54, by Hawley—To appropriate money for O. A. C.

S. B. 59, by Hawley—To appropriate money for building of County Jail.

S. B. 82, by Carson—Relating to fees due mining corporations.

S. B. 88, by Von der Hellen—Prohibiting rebating by railroads.

S. B. 96, by Sinnott—Legalizing divorces in certain cases.

S. B. 98, by Meryman—Prohibiting location of saloons within six miles of public work.

S. B. 100, by Oliver—Regarding claims of Union County.

S. B. 101, by Hawley—To provide for certification of teachers.

S. B. 105, by Buchanan—Fixing boundaries between Marion and Clackamas.

S. B. 117, by Chase—Regarding vermin.

S. B. 124, by Buchanan—Making additional regents for U. of O.

S. B. 144, by Oliver—Providing for traveling expenses of sheriffs of Union and Wallowa Counties.

S. B. 171, by Bean—For registration of trade-marks.

S. B. 181, by Abraham—To provide for care of cemeteries.

S. B. 187, by Norton—Relating to action arising on contract.

S. B. 190, by Judiciary committee—Relating to deposit of state funds.

S. B. 205, by Norton—Fixing salaries of Josephine County.

S. B. 214, by Sinnott—Authorizing Wasco County to sell real property.

S. B. 215, by Buchanan—Fixing salaries of employers of labor to report accidents.

S. B. 225, by Carson—For addition to Coated building.

S. B. 226, by Lester—Providing for county advertising fund.

S. B. 232, by committee on Judiciary—Providing for filing motions.

S. B. 234, by Hawley—Transferring lands to Falls City, Polk County.

H. B. 6, by Buchanan—Protecting secret orders.

H. B. 18, by Abbott—Regulating saloons' boarding houses.

H. B. 37, by Brooks—Making it a crime to desert sheep on the range.

H. B. 57, by Potts—Prohibiting the transportation of explosives on passenger cars.

H. B. 79, by Reynolds—Exempting small factories from county taxes.

H. B. 99, by Buchanan—Giving Grand Army of the Republic printing to the amount of \$250 annually.

H. B. 102, by Miller (Columbia)—Providing for immediate refunding of license money by County Court when licenses to sell liquor is denied.

H. B. 112, by Miller (Linn)—Fixing January 1st as the time for County Treasurers to make annual settlement with County Court.

H. B. 129, by Ambrose—Regulating the practice of optometry.

H. B. 133, by Peterson—Providing method for discharging delinquent tax payers.

H. B. 137, by Amme—Regulating and licensing private hospitals.

H. B. 140, by Abbott—Providing free ferry at St. Johns.

H. B. 150, by Pierce—Fixing salary Assistant County Clerk.

H. B. 204, by Brooks—Fixing terms of Supreme Court of Clatsop County.

H. B. 213, by Powell—Reimbursing Geo. Nesbitt.

H. B. 229, by Deale—Providing method for annexing new territory to ports.

H. B. 245, by Insurance committee—Increasing appropriation to Insurance Commissioners to \$15,000 annually.

H. B. 252, by ways and means committee—General appropriation bill for state departments.

Vetoed by Governor.

S. B. 1, by Chase—Providing for acquisition of tide lands by ports and commissions.

S. B. 23, by Nottingham—To prevent adulteration of insect oil.

S. B. 37, by Nottingham—Making merchantable honest.

S. B. 127, by Wood—Preventing deficiencies at state institutions.

S. B. 129, by Wood—Providing for auditing of accounts in the office of Secretary of State.

S. B. 130, by Bowerman—Creating office of Assistant Secretary of State.

H. B. 67, by Thompson—Relating to converting project of two minor appropriation bills reconsidered in the senate late this afternoon, makes the grand total of appropriations enacted by the twenty-sixth legislative assembly \$4,892,460.43, which is an increase over the appropriation of two years ago of \$1,504,927.22, an increase of more than 50 per cent.

The closing day of the session of the legislature was marked by the complete rout of the Bowerman forces in the house. The defeat of the bill inspired by Bowerman and presented by Norton, abolishing the conservation commission; passage of the flat salary bill when the house responded to the message from the governor, and the passing of the administration assistant secretary of state bill, these were some of the important features of the Bowerman house forces attacking a wall which was absolutely impeturable.

Salmon, Feb. 18.—Representative Amme's bill fixing the liability of telegraph and telephone companies for messages and incorrect messages which had a tumultuous course through the house, was killed in the dying hours of the senate tonight, being indefinitely postponed.

Representative Beals' two tax measures, proposing increased rates on gifts, inheritances and legacies, were defeated in the senate this afternoon. Norton expressed the opinion that all tax measures should be passed up to the special committee of the legislature on taxation, which will submit such amendments to the people as it may deem wise.

Standing at safe distance from each other, while the crowd in the lobby looked in vain for other than verbal brinks to fly, Jay Bowerman and Dan Kellaker, representing the opposite poles of thought in the senate, flung the lie at each other in the senate late this afternoon and performed new stunts in picturesque personalities.

Yielding to sympathy, pleas and the influence of deft politics played by the Bowerman crowd, the senate this afternoon refused to put State Dairy and Food Commissioner Bailey out of office. By a vote of 13 yeas and 16 nays, the senate rendered an inconclusive verdict against the removal bill, leaving Bailey still saddled on the state and two reports by declaring him incompetent lying on the desk. Senator Joseph was the chief pleader for Bailey, and made his talk from the standpoint of a lawyer, picking flaws in the testimony which had convinced even himself that Bailey should resign, as shown by the so-called minority report from the investigating committee, which he signed.

Salmon, Feb. 17.—Virtually giving the lie to five members of the Multnomah delegation in the senate, Abraham started a midnight session, the first of its kind in the senate, by the house and which is now on the table in the senate. This moved the friends of good roads in the house to get busy.

At the opening of the afternoon session they took from the table the bill for the appropriation of \$680,000 of state funds to aid construction of permanent roads.

In committee of the whole the total of the appropriation in this bill was again reduced to \$340,000 and the measure was then placed on final passage.

Eclipse of all past records for appropriations for a single day, both houses of the Oregon legislature, working like a machine today, ground out bills representing \$3,302,124.93, and up to a late hour were still passing on bills, many carrying appropriations.

State Education Benefited.

Salmon.—Two very important educational laws were enacted during the recent session of the legislature, the Huntington act, which provides a plan for the improvement of rural schools, and the Hawley act, which will tend to raise the standard of the entire teaching profession. The former act provides that in each county having more than 60 school districts the county superintendent shall appoint four members of a county educational board, of which the county superintendent shall be ex-officio chairman.

Bill Unintentionally Altered.

Salmon.—Governor West has discovered that senate bill 225 was altered, most probably unintentionally, in enrolling, so that it excludes train dispatchers from its operation. The bill is one prescribing a 14-hour limit for the continual employment of railroad men. There is a clause in the bill where the typist could easily have jumped from one line to another in copying. This was undoubtedly the manner in which the error was made.