

HOW SECRET SERVICE WORKS

From One Small Room Orders are Flashed Daily Which Lead to Arrest of Desperate Criminals the World Over.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. — In a small, scantily furnished and out of the way room on the third floor of the treasury department here, there sits, from 9 until 4:30 o'clock daily, a man whose frequent orders are flashed over the telegraph wires to cities, small towns and hamlets in all parts of the country, in a code so complicated that, to the laymen, it is utterly baffling.

More frequently than otherwise these orders, which are obeyed to the letter, mean a prison sentence to someone; for the man is Chief Wilkie and his messages go to the members of that silent, deadly efficient force known as the Secret Service.

To the law abiding citizen the Secret Service is perhaps only a name. The government intends that this shall be so, for should it become generally known that a certain person was connected with what is probably the most efficient organization of "sluths" in the world, his usefulness as a catcher of criminals would be gone.

These agents are forever and continually traveling about the country. They are suave, magnetic, well educated and well bred men, with no apparent business save to enjoy themselves, yet they are ready and able to assume any role at a moment's notice. Such an agent, following the reception of a cryptic message, may seem to disappear from the face of the earth, his place being taken by a ragged, illiterate hobo, who will steal out of town on the clinkers of a freight train. He has been sent on a mission which will throw him with tramps, from whom he knows he can best secure results by being one of them.

The duties of the men of the Secret Service are almost as many as they are varied. They participate in raids on houses where opium is stored. When there is a great public function attended by statesmen and foreign diplomats, they mingle with the crowds, seemingly listless, but in reality on the lookout for a would be assassin. All this and more they do, but their chief duty lies in protecting the government and its citizens against counterfeiters.

The average American has little or no idea as to the magnitude of counterfeiting operations which are being carried on in all parts of the country, perhaps within a stone's throw of his own residence. Hardly is one plant broken up and its operators sent to jail before the discovery of a new spurious bill proves that another one has been started.

Then comes intricate planning and tracking, so arranged as not to frighten the quarry, and to insure the gathering of enough evidence to make conviction certain. Rarely indeed do the plans of the Secret Service miscarry. Few persons arrested by Wilkie's men are acquitted.

SOLONS MEET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Feb. 18. — Floundering in a maze of technical procedure in connection with the proposed investigation of the state supreme court, and divided among themselves over the question of necessity of making any investigation whatever and fearing to make themselves ridiculous through the exposure of their indecision, the assembly and senate committees on rules met again today behind locked doors.

"The members of the committees do not know where they are at," remarked a member of the assembly rules committee. "The only reason I favor an executive session of the committees today so that the predicament of their members may be not exposed. Here we are called to meet at 9 o'clock, only to learn that Senator Boynton, a member of the senate committee, has departed for San Francisco for the declared purpose of conferring with the supreme court justices. It took much as though we were begging the supreme court for the privilege of investigating them."

The attendance at the senate committee meeting was limited to Senator Reagan who had not been informed of Boynton's departure.

"We will give the court a full investigation," said Speaker Hewitt at the conclusion of the meeting.

Roads Deeds Back Land.

DENVER, Cal., Feb. 18.—Official corroboration was expected of the announcement that 20,000 acres of

Nevada lands, said to have been illegally obtained by the old Central Pacific railroad, had been deeded back to the government through the efforts of Mrs. E. H. Harriman. Since it acquired the lands, the Southern Pacific has absorbed the Central Pacific, and it is reported that Mrs. Harriman ordered attorneys to effect a compromise. Negotiations looking to the return of 200 acres of valuable mineral land near Reno are also pending today.

LEGISLATURE ORGY DURING NEXT WEEK

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 18.—Either an extra session of congress or a legislative orgy for the next eleven days with big governmental supply bills passing with scant consideration is the congressional prospect here today. Six appropriation bills, carrying \$100,000,000, are pending in the house and several which the house has passed are pending in the senate. Yesterday not a single bill passed in either chamber.

Little consideration is being given reciprocity in the senate, and it is predicted that if the bill is passed at this session it will be only after the application of the drastic methods. Farmers throughout Oklahoma today are smiling because of a downfall of rain. For the first time since last August the ground is wet enough to be plowed.

RAIN-FALL SAVES OKLAHOMA FARMS

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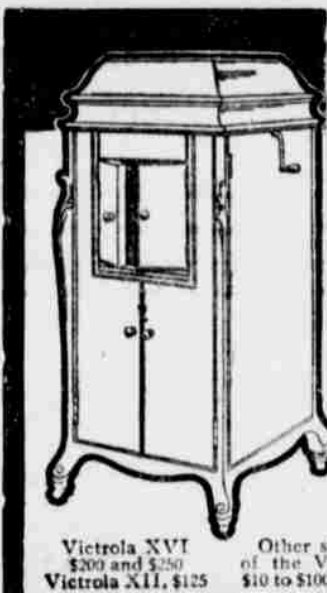
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