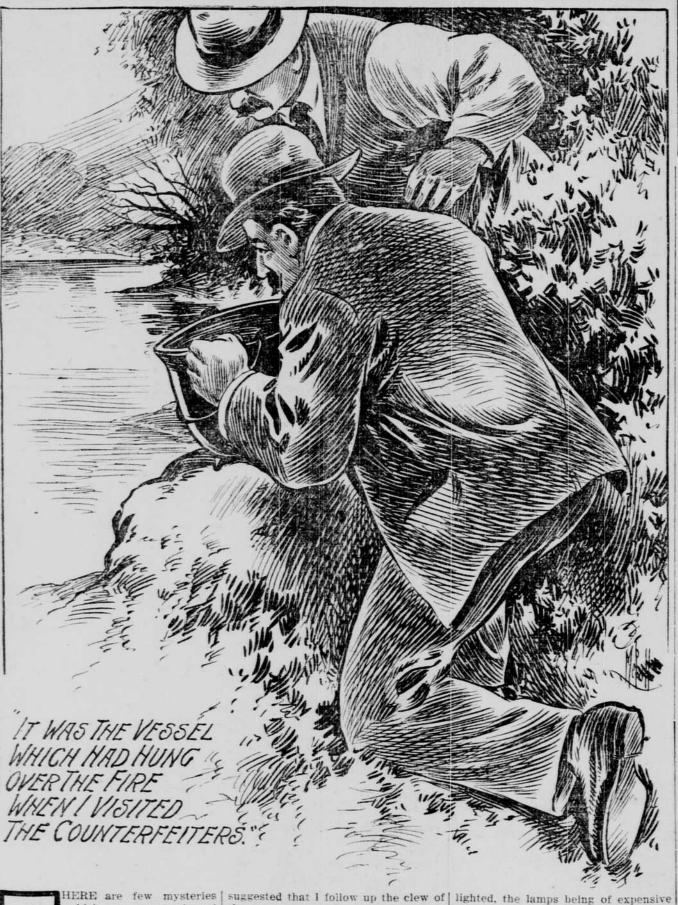
The Iron Pot-Still a Mystery

By a Former Secret Service Man

Ex-Operative Tells of Cleverest of Counterfeiting Plots



which are never cleared the empty envelope.

heard of the original matter. Such

in a cleverly constructed cave in a left about March and were gone until suburban district. It was an artificial October, when they returned one night cave, dug back in the face of a clay and again took possession of their through the shanty of a poor Irish made on the 15th of October, and this he knew my real character, and therefamily, a circumstance that diverted caused me to think that perhaps the fore I thought it best to keep on the vessel which had hung over the fire suspicion from it and one to which is empty envelope was making good. partly due the long immunity the

"There was no scrap of metal, no make a call upon them. coins, chemicals, or other thing used "I started out in a folding canvas leak in my canoe and paddled slowly with paraffin and sealing wax, and not got into the newspapers.

which might or might not offer a clew been playing for. to the counterfeiters. It was an empty ing, on the other hand, it might be of the job in St. Louis. the gravest importance. It had been found beneath the sheet of metal on least bit suspicious. A large iron pot which the cook stove stood, the tip of bubbled invitingly over the open fire, They had caught a through freight it and pocketed it without attracting steam pushed it up on one side. A village, and although I worked the attention.

fore the cheerful wood fire carries into the woods with him, I left atmosphere of a sportsman's club. of his cozy study one the train one day at the wayside stanight last winter, "al- tion which bore the name of the post- but themselves. They spoke of many tents. I felt sure I knew what was though some of them slum- mark. Securing a guide and cook, in cities, but never of their homes. They in it. ber for years among the the person of a lanky native, I had my things forgotten, until the truck hauled out to the St. Francis had always made it a custom to spend minable I arrived at the village and denouement is accident- river, only two miles distant, where I ally developed by some pitched camp and made preparations woods. They were clever men and been groundless. With the indifference person who, perhaps, never for an indefinite stay.

"By making inquiry of my visitors, I was the case which I have come to learned that about five miles down the remember as that of 'The Iron Pot.' river were camped, in a snug cabin It was a vessel of this humble charac- built by themselves, three gentlemen ter that finally cleared up a great mys- from parts unknown. They maintained tery and brought the guilty to justice. the place as a sort of club and had a bulldog. His face was too shrewd to matter had rested. "A St. Louis gang had their plant spent the spring season there. They be pleasant. He watched me furtively, and gravel bluff. The entrance was cabin. Our raid on the cave had been

in the art. Only the machine and a canoe, late in the afternoon, and ar- up-stream, trying to figure out where few wrenches and similar tools. The rived in the vicinity of their camp just I had seen the big man with the square gang had skipped out. The Irishman at nightfall. With a sharp cypress jaw before. was half-witted, and his wife was too tree, aided by a jagged cut from my clever to be caught in the traps we hunting knife, I succeeded in punching before retiring that evening, it came laid for her. We had made a water- a bad hole in the bottom of the canoe, to me where I had seen him. It was hundred odd counterfeit silver dollars, haul, except for the machine, which and with the boat rapidly filling with on a street car in St. Louis, on one ocwas destroyed. The cave was filled water, I landed just after sunset at the casion when I was shadowing the up. Acting under orders from Wash- very door of their cabin. The three shanty at the cave. He had been on ington we maintained secrecy about men were at home and they welcomed the entire matter and nothing of it me with the open hospitality of campers, insisting that I spend the night looked at me then as if he wanted to "I found one thing in the shanty with them. This was just what I had

"It was easy to see that the men envelope bearing the postmark of an were crooks. There is always someobscure railroad station in the sunk- thing to disclose the counterfeiter, if land district of northeastern Arkansas- the observer is only sufficiently versed I had long ago learned that it is the in their ways and mannerisms to rectination. While I hastily gobbled down seemingly insignificant things that ognize the telltale signs. I was pretty lead to the discovery of criminals, and sure, before the evening was over, while this envelope might mean noth- that these were the men who had done

"Nothing about the cabin was the one corner, discolored and grimy, at- the fragrant odor of boiling meat is- about midnight, taking little or no tracting my attention. I had secured suing from under its lid when the baggage with them. I hastened to the steaming haunch of vension, cooking single telegraph wire to its utmost "If the gang had never existed it with some vegetables and dumplings, capacity, the three men succeeded in could not have disappeared more effec- was produced from the pot for our making their escape. tually. We were face to face with a supper, which was served soon after blank wall. This made us the more my arrival. In the center of the room Washington, I repaired to the cabin in anxious to capture the counterfeiters. was a big table, crudely constructed of the swamps and made a careful search As nothing better offered, the chief heavy oak timbers. The cabin was well of it. Everything within was in the

character and great brilliancy. Guns "With as cumbersome and complete and fishing tackle and hunting tog-Dickson, as he sat be- an outfit as every city sportsman gery of every kind gave the cabin the

> told me they were college chums who a few months together each fall in the inquired about the pot. My fears had "As the three gentlemen did not offering me personal violence. But in their lair. Then I remembered its deign to visit my camp, I decided to the night passed away without inci-

"While I was smoking a last cigar when I alighted near the hut. He had false coins in the secret cave. know me the next time he saw me. I was assured that he was one of the counterfeiters, and made up my mind to arrest the three of them the first

thing next morning. "Here I learned a lesson in procras my breakfast the next day, a trapper, who camped near by and who had gone to the village the night before for supplies, happened along and told me a most disconcerting bit of news. The three men had taken French leave.

"Sending a full cipher report to

Gang and the Ultimate Consequences-Man with Bulldog Jaw and His Daring Escape from the Grip of the Law. D D D D greatest confusion. Clothing and

Captain Dickson Relates Tale-He Tells of Encountering Desperado

shells, guas and fishing-tackle were strewn about the floor, evidencing a precipitate departure. It was tantalizing to again allow the criminals to escape. I felt deeply chagrined, and resolved never again to put off a matter of this kind. The men had forestalled me by only a few hours, for I had in tended arresting them that morning, and there had been nothing in their conduct during my visit to their cabin to indicate that they thought of flight

"In one corner of the cabin, beneath the very bunk on which I had slent there was an excavation three feet square and as many deep. The cover was down and dirt was strewn over it which gave it the same appearance as the dirt floor of the house. I discovered it by a hollow hound when I tapped over the spot. It was empty

"I noticed the absence of the pot which had supplied my supper, but it was rather a subconscious notice of it. The fact really made no appreciable impression on me at the time, nor did it, in fact, until more than a year had passed. It was then recalled by a newspaper dispatch under date of the

"Some of the boys in the village had appropriated the cabin as a sort of clubhouse, after the three men had They would spend Saturdays there, fishing and swimming and hunting. Immediately in front of the cabin was a steep bank, and the river widened out into a broad, deep pool which afforded good fishing and swimming. The boys would throw white pebbles into this hole and dive for them from the bank. One of them had struck his head against something hard at the bottom of the river and had been pulled up a corpse, his skull baving been fractured by the impact of the blow.

"The others investigated and found a large iron pot half buried in the soft mud. Its cover was sealed down and its weight had been so great the boys couldn't lift it from its oozy bed. The lispatch stated that the pot was to be raised and its contents examined.

"I was in Little Rock when I read this dispatch and, without waiting for instructions from headquarters. I boarded the first train and set out for almost the entire area will in time un- over 2,000 feet. The reproduction of the village. I was in a state of fever- doubtedly be covered with a dense pine is fairly good wherever mature ish excitement, fearing I would arrive there after the pot had been secured. "The men talked freely of everything I wanted to be the first to view its con-

readily passed for the lawyer, the doc- so characteristic in country people the tor and the merchant, the characters villagers had forgotten, after the they respectively pretended to be. The | funeral of the unfortunate young man, one to whom the other two deferred in the incident of the pot. While there everything was a large, powerful man had been some talk of raising it, no with clean-shaven face and a jaw like one had taken the lead, and there the

"Securing a team of mules and some a sinister, amused smile playing about strong ropes and chains, I drove out to the corners of his mobile mouth. That the cabin. By dint of much diving I smile spoke volumes. It made me lie succeeded in fastening the chains awake all night. It seemed to say that about the pot and had my assistaant watch. The man seemed capable of when I had visited the counterfeiters dent. After breakfast, I repaired the after their departure. It was sealed a drop of water had passed the lid.

"I contained a complete set of engravers' tools, several bottles of powerful acids, glass stopped and sealed, a and the dies with which they had been stamped out. The dies were thickly coated with wax and were as bright the same car and had kept his seat and fresh as when they beat out the

> "After swearing my assistant to secrecy, I returned to headquarters with my booty.

"Not many weeks later two of the men were captured. I had given the department a minute description of them, after their unceremonious departure, and its vast machinery had been set in motion for their apprehension. It is a maxim of the service that a man once a counterfeiter is always a counterfeiter. This rule held good with reference to two of the men, at least, for they were captured and convicted of another job. The incidents I have just related were not introduced in evidence against them and consequently escaped the press. The man with the bulldog jaw escaped completely at that time, but I met with him, years after, under circumstances neither of us will forget so long as we live."

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gers; whatever you do, continue to streets, among which are Jacob's Ladstare wide-eyed into the darkness, and | der, Gabriel's Ladder, Coffin land and most important of all, think of that Cuddy lane. It is, however, in the one question only. In about five min- "close" that this ancient city figures teract the weakening effect of hot wa- power on earth could keep you awake. in the Wall close, Little Jack and Big ter. Then shut out every ray of light The one cure for fatigue is rest, and Jack close, Lady Stairs, Heave-Away in London, the former being as straight as a die and the latter so narrow that a vehicle in it cannot pos-

NATIONAL FOREST FOR PLORIDA TO BE FIRST RESERVATION TO BE





two more states to the list of

those wherein land will be put under

scientific forest administration. There

ational forests.

ders of the forest.

to water oak, ash, elm, magnolia, hick-

ory and maple are found bordering

Fire has played a very important

part in bringing about the present

burned uninterruptedly over this tract.

the humus of the soil. Naturally pro-

however, that the soil will rapidly re-

the prevention of fires would eventual-

ly mean the reforestation of practical-

Ocala national forest. Turpentining

by boxing is carried on over contigu-

ous areas and through the careless

and antiquated methods used the fu-

ture pine crop of the adjoining region

is greatly jeopardized. The soil is of

little value for agricultural purposes

and about the only crop which can be

attention there should in time be a

The new Daliota national forest con-

the Northern Pacific railroad on the icle.

valuable forest of this species.

No sawmill operations have been

ly the entire orea.

the confines of this forest.

nie now 19 states, and Alaska, having

Before the creation of the Ocala, in

Florida, the two forests in Arkansas,

the Ozark and the Arkansas, were the

easternmost national forests. Prac-

Pacific coast states. The Florida for-

St. Paul on the south. Its creation is important for it means that an experi mental field for forest planting has been secured in North Dakota, the tically all the other national forests forest nurseries with the hope that in are in the Rocky mountain and the time to come the area may be reforest has an area of 201,480 acres, of which about one-fourth has been taken | ject lesson to the settlers, who, it is up under various land laws. It covers hoped, will in turn plant windbreaks

a plateau between the St. John's and around their farms. Ochlawaha rivers and at no point is | The forest is very open and for the an elevation exceeding 150 feet above most part centains a scattering stand sea level obtained. The area is by na- of western yellow pine timber. Along ture better fitted for the production of the creek bed are found ash, box elder, forest growth than for any other pur- cottonwood, pose. Nearly all of the area, however, breaks are also found on precipitous seems particularly well adapted to the slopes bordering the streams. Westgrowth of sand pine, which is even ern yellow pine is the only merchantnow replacing the less valuable able species, however, on the forest species, and with protection from fire and the average stand per acre is not stand of this species. The long-leaf trees occur, but owing to the open pine, a much more valuable commer- condition of the forest and the dense cial tree than the sand pine, appears growth of grass it is for the most part rather sparsely on this forest and is unsatisfactory.

confined principally to the lower flat There is but little timber that will lands along the streams on the bor- be sold from the forest at the present time, since this area is very isolated. In addition to the pines and scrub being surrounded on all sides by vast growths, bald cypress, cabbage palmet- plains. Many homesteaders have in to and tupelo gum, gradually changing the past come to this forest for timber for logs to build their houses.

No sawmill operations have ever the numerous ponds and lakes which been conducted on the area. When are scattered abundantly throughout the Northern Pacific railroad was being built a larger number of trees were cut for railroad ties, and together with the logs which have been propoorly forested condition of the Ocala, cured for house building by settlers, as year after year large fires have this is the only use which has been made of the timber on the forest. It is killing all vegetation and consuming understood that the logs used in the construction of President Roosevelt's tected portions which have not been cabin, which now stands in the state subject to the flames prove positively, capitol grounds at Bismarck, N. D., were obtained from the area now inspond to a little care taking and that cluded in the Dakota national forest.

Gov. Burke of North Dakota is very much interested in this forest and thinks it will be of inestimable value to the people who live in the region conducted on the area included in the where the forest is created.

Both of the new national forests, the Ocala in Florida, and the Dakota, will be put under administration by the forest service as soon as possible.

French Ingenuity Triumphant. All the women prisoners at the Clarkenwell sessions recently approduced that will be of lasting value peared in the dock wearing their is sand pine, and with proper care and hats. The rule of "no hatpins" was strictly enforced, but their absence in no way troubled the women. Indeed, one balanced a hat more than six feet sists of 14,080 acres in the Bad Lands in circumference without the slightest region. It is located in Billings coun- trace of anxlety. How she did it only ty and lies an equal distance between a woman could tell.-London Chron-

SISTER WAS A FIRECRACKER.

After-Christmas Amusement Devised | "Oh," he said, "I'm not hurting her by Clever Youngsters.

It was the day after a strenuous ting her off." Christmas, and mamma was resting in her room next the sewing-room, where Douglas, four, and Madeiaine, three,

were playing, says the Delineator.

before seemed to have worn on Made the port of New York in September. laine's nerves also for suddenly a 1908. Of these, 2,433 were women, piercing shriek came to mamma's ears, 2,001 men and 1,791 children. Russia followed by a gust of laughter from contributed 4,607; Austria-Hungary. her little son. When this was repeated 1,234; Roumania, 273; England, 56; several times, mamma rose wearily to Germany, 29; Turkey, 19; Sweden and investigate, and, stepping to the door, Spain, two each, and Holland, three, she saw Madelaine, face down on the The record also shows that 1,566 of the bed. Then Douglas cautiously ap- immigrants went to homes outside of proached Madelaine, and, leaning to the metropolis. In the corresponding ward her, touched her with his fore- month last year the number of Jewish finger. The shrick that followed with immigrants was 3,033 greater, the flourish of arms and legs made him double up and roll over on the floor in a perfect gale of merriment.

"Why, Douglas!" mamma exclaimed, "what are you doing to your little York city during the last year and

at all, mamma. I'm playing my little sister is a firecracker and I'm just set-

According to a table published in the current number of the Federation Re The unusual excitement of the day view, 6,225 immigrant Jews entered

> Many Women Stenographers. Women as stenographers have been greatly increased in number in New there are now about 11,200 of them.





There was a time when buxom girls Preferred to learn to cook and brew, But now their choice is something els More ladylike, they say to you. They much prefer to be a clerk And wrap up packages all day, Or glue the backs on trashy books

They live at home and spend their wage On street cars going to and fro, And some of them have honored names Alas, the times seem out of joint For when you want a maid for home ou cannot catch a single one By hunting with a fine-tooth comb

You offer everything that's good A dandy room and evenings out, But nothing comes of it at all And all your ads. are put to rout. And as you sit and think it o'er, You wonder, as you catch your breath, How long 'twill be before this world Will simply all be starved to death?

000 Rag Time.

It is almost as hard to get a hired girl as it is to get into Taft's cabinet. Somehow the kitchen cabinet does not appeal to the misses of the land.

Some fellows who call themselves sportsmen will lug a gun all day, break the laws of every suburb they invade, beat a dog into abject subjection and go home at night with one



mangled meadowlark and a net squir rel-rewards of prowess. The desire to kill is so strong in some men that even a robin is not safe within the range of their powder and shot.

000 An Editor's Dictionary.

Poet.-A man whose breast throbs while he writes things that are supposed to rhyme. Example-

The poet twanged a mournful lyre: He piled his "copy" ten sheets higher, And sighed!

Fiercely he puffed his pipe of cob; His breast it heaved with fervent "throb"-He wrote of verses a great gob,

And sighed! Mystery.-What the sausage link was made of. Ex.—"It was a 'mystery' in the community what became of Jones' dog."

Editor.-One who is supposed to take cordwood on subscription. Ex .-"Ye editor is in need of fuel for his domicile. Will some back subscriber please bring us in some stumps and receive our blessing. It takes money to run a newspaper!" Muzzle.-A political contraption.

Ex.-"He put a 'muzzle' on his friends and was elected by the back country." Potatoes.-Taters, Ex.-

He plowed up ten acres Says he: "I'll just cater To wealth and estate-er My name's not Boggs!"*

*This was last spring. He is now known as the Honorable Horatio de Bogges of Boggsville, Oklahoma, Moral.-Know when to plant potatoes Insolent.-One who wears insoles Ex.—"Get up and build your own fire,"

she said with "insolence." Newspaper Reporter .- A reporter of news. Ex.-"The reporter un-

bridled his imagination and 'smoked Rubber.-To peek, to crane one's

neck. Ex.-Little Johnny "rubbered"

At his sister May:

Until her beau blew out the light And settled down to stay.

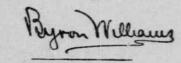
Divorce.-An antidote for matrimony. Ex.-"He was cold and cruel and she hit him with a custard pie. Then they tried to beat each other to the 'divorce' court."

Love.-What calves have, Ex.-"The calves in the cow-lot chewed each others' ears in 'love.' "

Clubman .- One who smokes stogies except at the club, where he buys "two for 50c." Ex.-"The policeman saw his 'club' hanging on a peg and he went to it. Did you think it would come to him?"

Sausage. (Sometimes pronounced "skissage") .- A guy around town. Ex. -"The 'skissage' is a lobster."

Bloomers .- A word used in the bicycle era to designate a pair of exhaustions. Ex.-"His breath came and went in short pants."



A Sharp Answer. "I am not happy with my husband. Can I get a separation?" asked a lady of a lawyer. "His life is insured in your favor, isn't it?" "Yes; I made him do that before we married." "Well, don't separate. He'll live longer away from you!"

Daily Thought. The human heart concerns us more than poring into microscopes, and is larger than can be measured by the pompous figures of the astronomer .-

Refreshing Sleep.

to take a warm bath, into which a lit-Best Method of Obtaining Sound and the rock salt has been dropped to countes you will be so sleepy that no will- best. There are, for instance, Hole Real fatigue may be divided into from your bedroom and lie flat on after prolonged physical effort, the and Long closes. The last is one of the mental and muscular varieties. your back. Do not close your eyes and paramount issue is to get to sleep im- the shortest of these, and in that re-The latter is decidedly the simpler of think desperately of going to sleep. In- mediately, and to sleep as long as pos- sembles Crooked and Turnagain lanes the two. Where one has so overworked stead, devote yourself entirely to the sible. physically that one cannot sleep, the subject of keeping your eyes open. If first thing to do is to learn to relax. they close, open them; if necessary, In such a case the first thing to do is even prop them open with your fin-

Cure for Muscular Fatigue.

Streets With Queer Names. Edinburgh has some queerly named sibly turn again.