

**Robberies
that Never Happen**

Why should a man rob himself? There are various reasons.

When a person gets short in his accounts, he is now and then caught combining the dual role of robber and victim. Cashier Gould of Bellwood is suspected of cracking his own safe, which piece of work got the public eye to glaring in his direction. In Lincoln the event has happened so often that it occasions little comment in police circles.

Dissipation and shortages, misfortune and ill luck, are some of the causes. But there are some cases where the motive of the plotters is never ascertained.

Not long ago Detective Malone and Chief of Police Hoagland drove out through the darkness to a spot in the country two miles east of Lincoln. A man had been held up. His loss was placed at \$50. An hour before the alleged robbery had taken place.

There were no traces of bandits, not a possible clue. In the hopes of getting an idea the man was asked to recite his adventure again.

He narrated the details with mechanical regularity. While riding along in his road wagon he had been seized from behind and dragged to the ground. Some one turned the horse about. A masked man went through his pockets. But the second time the story was told the officers told him to go home and come to town early the next day. They did likewise. Did they exhaust themselves looking for a robber or gang of wicked bandits? Not they.

Instead the deal was concluded in such a prosaic manner that its recital is liable to be monotonous. The next day the man had a heart to heart talk with the powers. After some weak and vain prevarication he admitted that he had blown considerable money with the boys and gambled away some more. Accordingly he left for home with a roll belonging to his wife sadly diminished. There were tears—yes tears from a great big six-foot man—expostulations and a whole brand new grist of resolutions which have been well kept. So this tale makes its appearance at this late day and for obvious purposes the immaterial details have been very slightly twisted, both to protect the reformed man and to avoid casting aspersions on the six other fellows who tried the same trick within a few weeks and failed.

Experience is a good schoolmaster but it takes the method considerable time to percolate.

Several months ago a gentleman from Nelson named Chapman deliberately told the authorities that he had been robbed, hoping that the officers would pounce on the accused and make them "divvy" rather than have trouble. He had everything to gain and nothing much to lose. He got wobbly at the critical moment and admitted that he had spun a yarn after the manner of Kipling. The motive was supplied by the authorities.

When you lend money to a relative you run a double risk, declare some people. This maxim deliberately and rigorously believed caused one of the heaviest auto-robberies in the annals of Lincoln hold up history.

A brother-in-law wanted to borrow the earnings of years. The capitalist did not want to lend it, neither did he want to create minced feelings in the family circle by a refusal, no matter how diplomatic. So he was held up. The town reverberated with the startling news.

Now when a knife penetrates a garment fairly and squarely it generally keeps on going. It doesn't stop abruptly at the point of contact with the flesh. Hence the undoing of the theory of two elaborately accoutred burglars. But the fellow got out of making the loan.

And so the modern detective has to steer clear of the auto-hold up for it is so hard to find the bandit and get any reward.

IN AND ABOUT NEBRASKA.

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says, and he has found it a very pleasant pastime. Even his hogs have caught the spirit of the sport and the other day one dug into the hole of a rat until he caught two and devoured them. Not only is it fun to pick them off with a rifle, but it is rich to release them from the trap and watch the terrier pursue and vanquish them.

Around the world on foot will go four West Point, Neb., young men, starting on their long journey on May 1. All the natives will watch them off and give them a banquet and plenty of good cheer before the hour of departure. The young men are Amandus J. Krause, Edward Clancy, George P. Meier and Will Gefeke. They will take the direction to San Francisco and with them will be taken a burro to carry their baggage and provisions. Odd work will be done wherever it can be found, enough to help them on to the next stopping place. Thus they will travel over the mountains and valleys until they reach the big coast city. There they will sell the donkey and do their best to ship on the same vessel, working their way at whatever

may be done. At Manila they will visit with the soldier boys from Nebraska, if any be found, and then go on to Hong Hong. It may take them several years to complete the circuit, but they don't care. No wager is connected with the enterprise. The only object is to see how big the world is and what is going on in the parts out of sight of West Point, Neb.

It doesn't often happen that a hold-up demand the use of the public telephone and nothing more. This happened the other day at Hamburg, not far from Nebraska City. Of course there was no gun play in it, but there was plenty of mouth play. A tough from Nebraska City in the company of some questionable women went to the exchange and demanded of Mr. Kinney, the manager, the privilege of using the phone to call up a friend in Nebraska City. Rightfully the demand was denied. It brought forth a tirade of abuse and Mr. Kinney at once telephoned for the marshal. The tough tried to get away, but he continued to profane the name of the telephone man as he went down the street and the marshal identified him by his language. A fine of \$5 was the penalty.

A well that weeps and wails and blows is situated on the farm of Henry Clapp, a few miles southeast of Alvo. It does things by contraries, to the bewilderment of the oracles of the neighborhood. Just before a storm bursts over the country thereabouts it begins to puff and a bucketful of water poured into it will issue at once in spray. It is the coolest kind of a breeze. In pleasant weather it moans and takes on like a weeping child. In the coldest weather it does not freeze but on moderately wintry days it freezes. Its depth is seventy feet.

Pauses in the music at Mrs. Sclatersby's dinner—fag ends of conversation:

"The decadents are simply the people who refuse to write twaddle for the magazines."

"The way to make a name in the world is to own a soap factory and ape William Morris on the side."

"I can tell when it is spring by watching the haberdashers' windows. It is so much nicer to watch shirts and ties blooming than flowers and those smelly things."

"The follies of a married man should be dealt with leniently; they are mostly of his wife's inspiration."—From The Imitator.

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