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 Formerly Gish & Jacobs

**MALFEASANCE IN THE MAIL.**  
 Duties and Doings of the Special Agents or Inspectors Employed in the Postal Department.

Spotting a Fingerprint or Fighting a Highwayman—Ways that are Daily Exemplified—Instanced Frauds.

The inspectors number about forty, and are under the charge of Chief David B. Parker, at Washington. Their care extends over every point in the United States where there is a postoffice, and his offices number 47,800, their labor is very great and the number of miles traveled enormous. The forty agents are not all employed in general work, as a number are assigned to duty in letter carriers' offices. The work of the special agent or inspector consists in looking up lost mail matters, examining postmasters' accounts and offices, catching thieves, detecting mail frauds, examining mail routes, and laying out plans for them upon orders from their chief. The letter carriers inspector looks after the offices which demand an increase of force, which is granted on proving up the required population, or looking over town, where a letter carrier force is demanded. He also suggests routes to the local superintendents, and tries to lighten the work of all by his plans. The money order man has his attention all taken up by the accounting of that division, and inspects the work of postmasters at any time when the accounts balance. He also supervises the work of hunting down the men who obtain money orders by fraud, sign for them and receive money to which they are not entitled. For this character of work the inspector receives a salary of \$1,500 or more a year and expenses while traveling.

**THE WAS HIMSELF.**  
 The inspector having this line of duty must of necessity be a first class man. He must possess the cunning to enable him to contrive nets for criminals, and must be gentlemanly in his meetings with the public. He must be a good auditor and accountant, and must possess a constitution which never breaks down with long travel, and a pluck and perseverance which never retreats until the job is caught. These points almost all of the special agents possess in full. They are as a rule modest, quiet men, whom an observer would never take for a detective. They never have their star exposed to the view of any one, and never walk around looking into the faces of the ordinary people whom the citizens fear. Their comings and goings are unknown to any one but themselves, unless perchance they have a man in the larger offices in whom they have implicit confidence.

The dealings of the inspector is with the better class of humanity, or at least those who wear the best clothes and talk and act like gentlemen. Men who act and dress in this way and who have criminal instincts are the very hardest class to handle, and are the shrewdest at their work.

**TRACING THE LOST.**  
 One great advantage in the service is that each man works from a chief of division and that chief receives his orders from the chief inspector. When complaints of lost mail are received in a postoffice the orders are that they shall be at once forwarded to Washington. Here the complaints are recorded and the information is sent to the division chief, who in turn either sends out one of his men or else sends out a tracer. The tracer starts at either end of the route traced by the letter or packet in transit and is signed by all the clerks to whom it is referred, and these clerks embrace all those who can possibly have handled the packet or who would receive it when it had lost its wrapper or address. If lost packet was mailed in New York for St. Paul, however, it would be handled by the officials in New York and put in a through pouch for Chicago; from there it would go in another pouch or sack to St. Paul. To provide against overlooking it, it would be traced in the Chicago office and by the railway mail service and by New York and St. Paul offices. The tracer would then be returned to the chief inspector with the information obtained. The majority of letters and packages which are believed by the sender to have been stolen are either without sufficient stamps or address, or else are unmailable. When the name of the sender is on the packet it is the duty of the clerks to return the package or letter to the sender, and when the address is on the same only, it is the duty to notify the addressee. In this way the losses are now less frequent than formerly. It is right to say that to the St. Paul office and Dr. Day belongs the credit of originating this practice, which he did in 1873. In the large postoffices, such as Chicago, the clerk in the dead mail matter division, to whom losses are reported, notifies the inspectors, who have their headquarters in the office, and they notify the chief inspector. These systems greatly diminish the work of the inspector, and save him miles of travel. When genuine stealing is going on the fact soon makes itself apparent to the persons receiving complaints, as well as to the inspectors. The inspector has, however, the advantage of receiving reports of division inspectors, and so he puts the reports all together, and tries to weigh probabilities as to whom among the thousands of clerks is doing the stealing. When pointers center on a mail route, and mail passing over it in both ways is taken, he then finds on whose run it is, and has to use trip reports to bring it down to the individuals. In offices losing mail he can find out his men without as much work, unless the office happens to be large, and the more help there is the more difficult the case. In case it is in a letter carrier office and the mail received there is being lost, he must first find whether mail stolen is handled by box collectors or is deposited in the office direct. If in the latter he must deal with the man who arranges the letters when they are thrown in, then the mail stamp cancellers, then the distributors and then the men locking the pouches. In the former case he adds the box collector and drops the man arranging the letters. If letters being received in an office are being stolen, he commences with the man opening the mail, then those who take it to the date stampers, then with the letter, then the letter carrier distributor and then with the letter carriers.

**FRAUDS DETECTED.**  
 In 1880 a letter carrier was arrested and convicted after months of hard labor. His plan was to steal mail from the carriers' distributors' cases or from other letter carriers' cases and put it in his own until there was a chance to dispose of it. In 1870 a clerk employed in the mail service on the Union Pacific running east from Sidney, was arrested and convicted by the inspectors. His plan was to see a packet over his own route, and then by

boarding another man's run or working point, steal it from him. When he was found, after a great deal of work it was known that all the other clerks on the road, except the chief, had been suspected and watched. Perhaps the most glaring case of misplaced confidence was that found in the Chicago postoffice, in 1879. The thief had at one time been a head clerk in the mail service on the route from Chicago to Cincinnati. He met with an accident and lost his arm while on duty. Every one there pitied Jake Gross, who was the thief, and he was given the position of night watchman in the Chicago office. He was also allowed headquarters in the postmaster's room. Some time after he was appointed letters began to be missed in large quantities. The inspectors were fearful, and were kept at their work all the time, yet could get no points. The man Gross was put on the watch, and his report was that many notes were being stolen. One day his reports went too far, and he was proved a liar in a statement which he had made in order to acquire the keys then held by two men only. He was given the desired key, but the inspectors determined to keep an eye on him. One night they announced that they were going out of town, but instead of doing so went where they could watch him. After hours of watching Jake was seen to put a package under his coat and go to the postmaster's room. The detectives in their stocking feet hastened after him, but it was of no use; he heard them coming and got inside the door, which he had sprung lock. If they delayed a moment their chance was gone, as he would get rid of his spoils. In the door was a large stained glass window. This was broken by a blow from a revolver butt and that weapon turned upon the traitor, who was told not to move. He sank down to the floor when the inspectors entered, and he prayed on his knees for mercy, but they had none. On his person was found over fifty letters, and in spite of political influence and attempted pardon, he was sent to work for the government in a state's prison.

**DOWN ON THIEFS.**  
 As to pardons, nothing does the inspector detest more than to see the rat caught, after hours of work, and then suffered to go through political influence. A case of this kind occurred a few years ago, and it is not long since the youthful thief appeared in St. Paul in a musical party, and became known to some of our citizens, though he did not occupy a high place as a professional. The young man was a nice boy, had a good record as a Sunday school scholar, and as a hard student. While he was employed letters were missed, and he was almost the last one suspected. Investigation proved that, though he was receiving a small salary, he spent money freely, and loaned a great deal to his associates. He also boasted of a fair Imperia who lived in a large hotel. It is needless to say that he was caught stealing, and confined where he hummed in, and even wrote out the confession and signed his name. He was found guilty by a jury. His friends of the church and men and women in the office pleaded for him. The judge sentenced him, but the influence of tales of the boy's piety and hard work and so he suspended sentence until pardon could be had. The pardon came much to the disgust of the inspectors and the curly locks of the pretty boy were not out by the prison shears. Another case of the pardoned unsuspected thief occurred in 1881. The man was over 75 years of age, and old and feeble, and was employed as a spreader of mail bags. Packages of third-class matter disappeared and a watch was kept. Other men were spotted, but finally he was caught in the act. His house was searched and in it a huge batch of stolen stuff was found. The tender-hearted officials sighed as they looked down on the bald spot on his head, and he got a pardon, and in a few weeks he was brazen enough to show up among his fellow clerks and talk with them.

**OUTSIDE WORK.**  
 The work of the inspectors is not all in the postoffices, however. Some years ago there was a stage coach robbery on the Niagara, and the gang who did it were known. Two famous special agents were assigned the task of bringing the thieves to justice. They were both brave men, fearless of nothing. One of them was Gen. Spurling. They visited the outlaw camp and were captured, but he went right into camp, and had no tell-tale evidence on their person, they were allowed to keep their arms. One Middleton headed the thieves, and it was decided to capture him. One bright day they informed him and his crowd that he was a prisoner. All drew their revolvers and a light occurred. Two men were killed, but the inspectors brought in the balance and secured convictions. One of the fine pieces of inspector's work was the capture of Col. Young, the money order counterfeiter. Young had served in the army, and was a genuine adventurer. He was employed in the postoffice in Chicago in 1874. Not satisfied with being in a good berth, he arranged his plans to counterfeit money, and did so, sending three orders to Ohio, having had the blanks printed in Chicago. He was captured after a long and severe struggle, by Inspectors Hawley and Blatner, and for his crime, received a five years sentence. The Minnesota thief who was captured last week ago, was not suspected until nearly every man's character had been looked into and all the time letters were being missed. Finally he was looked after and no taint could be found against him. A lookout was kept, however, and he was observed to finger the letters. An envelope of pronounced kind, so thick and so easily seen, was loaded with money and then dropped into the box where he was at work. The inspector hurried to the lookout just in time to see the finger, and then the letter disappeared. He was arrested when he left the office and denied having it. A search was made and nothing could be found in the envelope. He made a motion toward his vest and in an instant the inspector opened it and in an inside vest pocket the money was found. The "fingering" is spoken of in the above case and it may be well to state what it is. Every expert who is used to handling letters can tell their contents by rubbing the two sides of an envelope together and discovering the extra thickness in every part. If the contents are money, it is soft and pliable, but if any card or ordinary paper is inside it is hard to delicate fingers. When a man who is honest is distributing letters he never feels of them, all leaving to him the same value and requiring the same care. A dishonest clerk will, however, finger or rub an envelope to find its contents, and when he has once been seen by inspectors to do this his fate is sealed, for a man who once steals mail is never known to stop until he is captured.

The Scranton (Pa.) Steel Co. now have their works in operation in nearly full operation. The rail mill will roll three rails at once, and four will be rolled at once when the mill is in full operation. The cold mill, which is a new one, will roll a rail of the same size as a hot mill, but at a cost only 10 cents per ton at the mill.

**THE MARTIN MELEE.**

The Soldiers Who Thumped Him Will Be Brought to Trial.

Flying Beer Kegs and Abusive Wrath Fill the Purcell Place.

An interesting trial will take place in Justice Wright's court this morning at 10 o'clock. On complaint of Dennis Purcell, Constable Page went out to Fort Omaha yesterday morning and brought in under arrest four soldiers charged with riot, assault and battery, and various other offenses. The names of the offenders are Bentley, Mackafce, O'Day and Olliver.

It seems that on Sunday last these men went into a saloon owned by one Martin and resumed a quarrel which commenced at a picnic at Redman's grove some time before. They called for drinks, which Martin refused to let them have and ordered them out of the saloon. Whereupon one or two of them ascended the scaffolding of the said Martin and throttled him till his tongue lolled out. Martin escaped and came to town. He afterwards drove out to the fort and found his enemies still surrounding his house.

They again pitched into him, dragged him out of his buggy and over-turned the vehicle on top of him. Martin managed to extricate himself and fired two shots at his persecutors, neither of which took effect, thereupon he fled to parts unknown. Not content with vanquishing the immediate cause of this wrath, the soldiers proceeded to visit punishment on the owners of the building, the front part of which was occupied by Martin as a saloon, Mr. Purcell, the landlord of Martin, occupying the rear part as a residence. They threatened the life of Mr. Purcell and the destruction of his property. One of them seized a beer keg and banged it through a window. This brought Mrs. Purcell to the rescue, and in her efforts to defend her property she was knocked down and slightly injured, and was besides subjected to all manner of insult and abuse.

On the whole, there seems to have been a high old time, for which the soldiers were taken in charge by the military authorities and were about to be court-martialed but constable Page induced the commanding officers of the Fort to turn them over to the civil authorities.

H. D. Estabrook, Esq., appears for the complainant and Mr. Murphy for the defendants.

Since writing the above Mr. Purcell and those of his neighbors be returned to Gen. Carlin for his prompt efforts to suppress the riot and his assistance in bringing the offenders to trial.

**THE KNIGHTS' PILGRIMAGE.**

The Royal Arch Masons, En Route to the Coast.

The Bee yesterday contained a notice of the arrival and departure of the Tennessee and North Carolina Knights.

Another large party reached this city yesterday and proceeded west at noon in the special car "Silver City." It contained thirty-one knights and their ladies from Boston, en route to San Francisco, and stopping on their way to attend the general grand chapter of the royal arch masons of the United States, August 13, at Denver. The party was under the leadership of Sir Knight Alfred C. Chapman, acting grand high priest of the grand chapter of royal arch masons of the U.S. From a window of their Pullman hung a royal crest banner. The party is made up as follows:

Albert C. Smith, grand high priest; William A. Farnsworth, grand king; Albert L. Richardson, grand scribe; Rev. J. W. Dudson, past grand high priest; John Haige, M. I. grand master of R. and S. masters of Massachusetts; John R. Holbrook, past grand commander of the grand commandery of New Hampshire; Caleb Saunders, grand commander; C. C. Hutchinson, deputy grand commander; George W. Fay, grand generalissimo; Alfred E. Chapman, grand captain general, by proxy, and grand recorder; N. van Slyke, past grand commander; John Hough, grand standard bearer; Basil Sanford, past eminent eminent commander; Albert C. Smith, eminent commander.

Guards and Escorts—Chas. E. Thomas, James D. Robinson, Charles H. Baldwin, Noyes W. Fisk, S. P. Bartlett, F. B. Washburn, J. H. Gilbert, Othello A. Fay, James Smith, Samuel Smith.

Ladies accompanying—Mrs. Caleb Saunders, Miss Saunders, Mrs. John R. Holbrook, Mrs. Annie M. Perry, Mrs. Basil Sanford, Miss Irene G. Sanford, Miss Mary H. Scott, Mrs. James D. Robinson, Mrs. F. B. Washburn.

On the same train were also Sir Knights D. H. Wright, J. W. Hutchinson and D. J. Scampton, of the Robert McCoy commandery, Madison, Wis.; R. D. Pufford, of Mineral Point commandery No. 12, Mineral Point, Wis.; A. T. Pierson and wife of St. Paul, Minn.; and Dr. Clinton Locke and wife of Chicago. Dr. Locke has been the guest of Bishop and Mrs. Clarkson in Omaha, a few days. This is his second term as grand prelate of the grand commandery of the United States.

**THE BERNSTEIN BUSINESS.**

And Other Items Gleaned from Police Court Records.

Judge Anderson issued a body execution upon Bernstein in the police court yesterday morning, but upon examination of a late decision of the supreme court, the judge found that he was not warranted in committing him to jail, so he was released. There seems to be no remedy for a man who is maliciously prosecuted. The legislature has provided adequate remedy, but the supreme court refuses to sustain it on the ground that a person cannot be deprived of his liberty, without a chance to defend himself.

One disturbance of the peace was fined three dollars and costs, paid. Another discharged, also two suspicious characters.

**HOLT COUNTY.**

The Crop Prospect and the Defeat of the Bond Proposition.

Correspondence of the Bee.

O'NEIL CITY, Neb., August 6.—The small grain is out of danger, the potato crop is abundant, but the success of the corn crop depends largely on the future condition of the weather. With good weather extending well into the fall, the prospect is good; otherwise we can expect a small crop.

The battle on the "proposition to bond Holt county for \$22,000" is all over and quiet restored; and the "proposition" "sweetly sleeps low in the ground, low in the ground." You folks, down there in Douglas, would think nothing of voting \$22,000—why, you'd pay it for sand-stoning a few rods of a street—but, in Holt county it is T-w-e-n-t-y-t-w-o T-h-o-u-s-a-n-d D-o-l-l-a-r-s. About 8½ out of 10 (that was about the proportion of the votes) of the tax payers have strong misgivings as to the propriety of accumulating many shakels in the county vaults; and one writer (the question was fought with the pen, too) on the question, referring to the court house ring (we have that, too, here) went so far as to insinuate that there was something in "Denmark" that was not altogether sound. The "press" (beg pardon) of the county favored the "proposition," which accounts, in a measure, for its defeat. The "Frontier" has such a reputation for deception, dishonesty of intent, treachery, etc., that whatsoever side of a question it champions is sure to be defeated. The Banner is honest and truthful, but when that much, I say, everything it dares, it has no place in journalism.

The material for the fall political campaign is being collected, but has not taken shape yet. If time permit, I will keep you posted. Yours, etc.

**BOW LEGS.**

The Operation of Osteotomy Performed on Children at Bellevue Hospital.

New York Tribune.

In one of the surgical wards of Bellevue hospital a reporter of The Tribune was surprised to see about a dozen children lying on their backs, with their feet bolted up and their legs incased in splints and plaster of Paris. The oldest child in the lot was under 5 years of age, while the youngest was about 2 years old.

"Every one of these children has had both legs broken," an attendant said. "When were they injured?" the reporter inquired.

"Eight of them had their legs broken to-day in this room," was the reply.

A tall young man with fair hair and a smiling face, who was introduced as Dr. Fraser C. Fuller, a member of the Bellevue hospital surgical staff, said: "I am responsible for the treatment of these little ones. They all were either bow-legged or knock-kneed. Their limbs were so much out of shape that they were hardly able to walk. If they had been permitted to grow up without surgical attention, they would have become confirmed cripples. They have been subjected to the operation known as osteotomy. In the case of a bow-legged child an incision is made in the leg, between knee and the ankle. The skin and underlying tissues are cut through with a knife as far as the bone. Then an ordinary chisel is used. The bone is cut about two-thirds of the way through, the chisel being held somewhat obliquely. As soon as the chisel is withdrawn the leg is grasped firmly above and below the cut and the bone is broken sufficiently to permit the straightening of the limb. Bandages and splints are applied and set in plaster to keep the bone in the right position until the fracture is healed. The treatment is similar in the case of a knock-kneed child, except that the bone is broken above the knee."

"How long does it take a child to recover from such operation?"

"The bone is set within four weeks after the fracture, but the child is not permitted to use its limbs much for several days after the splints are removed. Walking is allowed by slow degrees. When the children are able to run about again, however, their legs are as straight as those of other boys and girls."

"Are not the children liable to lose their lives while under treatment?"

"There is comparatively little danger in performing such an operation on a child under six years of age, but the risk increases as the child grows older. I have been operating upon all the bow-legged children we could get here for a year. None have died, and those who have been in the hospital long enough to recover have gone away with straight limbs."

"Do the children suffer much under the operation?"

"They are put under the influence of ether while their limbs are being straightened, and they suffer much less pain afterward than a grown person would under like circumstances. Notice the way I strung their heels up above the level of their heads. That is to prevent too much circulation of blood in the legs. It prevents inflammation and lessens the pain."

The children, who lay on their backs, with their feet in the air, appeared to be rather comfortable. One or two were fretful, but the nurses said their uneasiness was caused by forced inaction. Most of the little ones were the offspring of poor Italians. It was said that their legs became crooked because they had been permitted to walk alone too early and because their bones are soft from lack of proper nourishment. Dr. Fuller exhibited photographs of several children on whom he had performed the operation of osteotomy within a year. Some of the pictures were taken before the operation and others after the children had recovered. A comparison of the pictures revealed wonderful improvement. In one set of pictures children were represented with both legs bowed so badly that their knees were a foot apart when they stood with their feet close together. The other pictures showed the same children with limbs straight and well shaped. An increase in height, as well as the removal of the deformity, caused a pleasing transformation.

**Space Thrown Away.**

Some of the Chicago papers which interview Dorsey in New Mexico might find profitable employment for their surplus energies in hunting up the inventor of that Colorado railroad disaster, and interviewing him. If he was talked to death, it would be all right.—Boston Herald.

The California Iron & Steel Co.'s new blast furnace, at Hollister, was started on Friday, with a stock of materials on hand at the furnace of 8,000 tons of iron ore, 300,000 bushels of charcoal, and 14,000 tons of wood. The furnace will give out, in and in every respect first-class.

**Bottom Prices.**

The third annual picnic of Omaha Brokers' Union will be held at Haskell's Park, Saturday, August 11th, dancing until 12 o'clock Saturday night. Tickets 50 cents. ad-2t.

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