JOLT FOR THE AFFINITY TRUST

Progress of Uncle Sam's Hunt for Soul Mate Swindlers.

GULL LOVELORN WITH PICTURES

Clearing House for Affinities Broken Up, and Bunches of Beautiful, Rich Widows Left in the Lurch.

Uncle Sam has found some hard nuts to crack since he began smashing the trusts, but he never set for himself a more peculiar task than when he undertook to crush the "Affinity trust."

It was a comparatively easy problem to follow the trail of petroleum from a hole in the ground in Ohio to the tin can from which the world's farmer fills his kerosene lamp. It is a long jump, however, from freight rates on oil shipments to tariffs on love missives; from a prosecution in which there were rebates to blaze the way to one wherein nobody outside the trust ever got anything at all, except now and then a homely wife or a husband with a wart on his nose.

In the beginning of what shall constitute some day the history of the government's war on the "Affinity trust" there was no inkling of the organization of such a monopoly. Chicago clergymen, to be sure, had reported a constant diminution of marriages effected through the ordinary channels, but this condition was ascribed to young men's growing aversion to contracting additional responsibilities in days when salaries seemed out of proportion to the cost of living.

Nobody suspected that the old-fashioned method of courting—holding hands on the settee of an inglenook or cooing in a hammock on the front porch, when there was one—had been superseded to a large extent by a trust system.

The Searchlight club was the means of awakening the government to the destruction of competition and old-time rivalry in lovemaking. In the course of a long court contest Uncle Sam learned through this "club" that it was only one of hundreds of the same kind in various cities and towns, that all were allied to a central headquarters in Chicago and that all would guarantee to discover the affinity, the genuine soul-mate, of any person who would pay their fees. A marriage was also guaranteed.

The Soul-Mate Provider.

The pretty town of Elgin, Ill., hugging the banks of the Fox river and famous as being the focus of the Watch trust, was the home of the Searchlight club. The president of this organization, which was no organization at all except as it formed a part of the "Affinity trust," was Miss Marion Grey, dashing, handsome, apparently possessed of a great deal of money and for a long time a mystery. If she had confined her operations to finding soul mates for the thousands of girls in the watch factories of the town she might have amassed a fortune. But she sought fame as an affinity joiner in a larger field. Using the United States mails led a postoffice inspector to her richly furnished suite of offices after she had taken in about $2,000 in three months.

The postal inspector pretended to be in search of an affinity. He did not make a misrepresentation. He was hunting for the "beautiful young widow, possessed of $32,000," whom Miss Grey had selected as the affinity of William Graybell, a lank farmer of Dearborn, Mo. The Missourian accepted and married the woman to whom Miss Grey had introduced him by mail, but he said she was homely, penniless and misrepresented. He had wooed a beauty by mail, but wedded a plain affinity at the altar.

This Missourian had paid the Searchlight club $5 to "discover his affinity." After he married her he complained to the government that he had been swindled. He wanted Miss Grey punished. He took his wife to Chicago during Miss Grey's trial. Although it was shown that hundreds of others had paid Miss Grey $5 each without even being introduced to a possible affinity, it was on the specific complaint of the Missouri man who wedded the one she provided that Miss Grey was found guilty by a jury and sentenced to prison.

Miss Grey's offices were raided and she was arrested when the postal inspector failed to get a clue to the identity of the "wealthy and beautiful young woman, unincumbered," who had been promised to the Missouri farmer. Thousands of letters were seized in her offices. She had kept several stenographers busy. They were subpoenaed as government witnesses.

Miss Grey confessed that she had sent the photographs of a Mrs. Cline of Omaha to 1,000 men who sought wives, but none of them was able to win the "beautiful, rich widow."

A Paralyzed Affinity.

Scores of men and women were taken to Chicago as witnesses for the government. Among them was William Griffith, 63 years old, who lives at Amsterdam, Pa. Miss Grey had sent him a picture of his affinity and promised to bring about a marriage, he testified, and he was so tickled with the prospect that he at once mailed Miss Grey her $5 fee, but he heard from her no more. Miss Catherine Bolen of Belleview, O., had seen her soul mate in a picture of John A. Logan of Carmi, Ill., supplied by Miss Grey. She corresponded with him several months. She saw him for the first time in the court room, and learned then that he was a helpless cripple, both his legs being paralyzed. Miss Bolen was a vivacious, handsome girl, but she could not be induced to believe that her natural affinity was a young man who could not move without crutches, although she believed in the theory of opposites.

Miss Grey was convicted of operating a confidence game, but was freed on bail pending argument for a new trial.

It was discovered that the literature sent to "affinity seekers" by Mrs. Scott was almost identical with that sent out by Marion Grey. Apparently it had been revised after her conviction, but in every instance the "marriageable person" was represented to be worth from $1,000 to $5,000.

Photos Bring the Fee.

Miss Grey had represented her patrons to have amounts running from $500 up to $25,000 and $40,000. Mrs. Scott thought a smaller sum was sufficient to induce anybody who wanted a "soul mate" to start a-wooing. Among the photographs which Mrs. Scott sent out to men patrons was one of Miss Julia Sanderson, the actress, wife of Ted Sloan. When this picture was sent to a lone man who wished a wife it was sure to bring a $2 or a $5 fee, Mrs. Scott's charge for an introduction by mail, especially if it was accompanied by a description like the following, taken at random from the many found among Mrs. Scott's papers:

"Thirty-four years old, 130 pounds, light hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, American and Protestant, income $54,000 a year, good looking and does not care for society."

The capture of Mrs. Scott brought her daughter into the limelight. It was learned that she had been employed by Harry Hart. The government's spies had heard of him as being the organizer and directing head of the whole Affinity trust, owning the headquarters and at least a dozen of the branches. The search for Hart led to No. 351 Wabash avenue, Chicago, and a raid on the sumptuous offices there of the Leaman club. Isadore Meyers was the manager of the club. When arrested he said he had conducted the club for Hart and his chief associate in the trust, Hugo Morris.

Method of Operation.

The authorities uncovered fifty or more of these "clubs" in Chicago alone, all operating under the same plan, with identical lures, except that each had its own pictures. Hart and Morris fled. Their principal tools are under bond awaiting trial. Meantime the government is seeking to discover and suppress the branches in cities other than Chicago. One of these is said to be the New York Correspondence league, Toledo, O. Another, which advertised, "Join our affinity club; we will find your other half," gives its address as Lock Box 106, Lestershire, N. Y. Another has its mail sent to Lock Box 586, Vassar, Mich. The Select club of Tekonsha, Mich., under the title, "Special Selections, D—XX," offers any man a bargain in wives in inducements like this:

"14—Me. Here I am, boys; have $10,000 and will inherit $20,000; handsome blonde of 38 summers, golden hair and blue eyes, fair complexion, graceful form, mild disposition, good education, can play piano and violin."

What appears to the authorities as most extraordinary is that so many men and women patronize these matrimonial snares. Questions relating to this point elicited unexpected answers.

"Are most of your patrons giddy boys and girls?" was asked of Mrs. Scott.

"This is undoubtedly true in some instances," she replied, "but I'll tell you many would be shocked to know the high class people who are anxious to win soul mates. Why, there's one good fat check among my effects that I'd like to keep; it's a fee for getting a wealthy railroad man a pretty young wife."—New York Tribune.

NOW FIRELESS LOCOMOTIVES

Construction and Utility of a Novel Switch Engine in Use in Germany.

The fireless locomotive follows the fireless stove into the list of twentieth century wonders. It is "made in Germany." A special agent of the United States, in a report to the Department of Commerce and Labor, gives the following details:

As the name implies, the locomotive is fireless. There is no fire box. In general appearance the machine resembles the ordinary type of locomotive minus the fire box, funnel and sundry other attachments. It must be understood that this type of locomotive is unsuitable for uninterrupted railway service, but is essentially a yard shunting machine; in other words, it must keep near its base of supply, and this base of supply is the boiler of some local power station. At this local power station the tank of the locomotive is filled with steam, and on this steam supply the machine will run from four to five hours doing ordinary switching work.

Speaking generally, this fireless locomotive is really an accumulator engine, the necessary power for which is supplied by a quantity of heated water, the temperature of which is equal to a certain steam overpressure. This water supplies the steam for the engine. It goes without saying that in default of fire the steam development is effected at the expense of the heat contained in the water, and the engine works with a constantly decreasing power. When steam is brought from the boiler of the stationary plant to the locomotive it is precipitated in the cooler water of the engine boiler and gives up its heat to the same until the temperature and pressure in both boilers are nearly the same. This is the exact reverse of the evaporating process during the working of the engine, and it results therefrom that, putting aside the probable water losses through leakages and such reasons, the water level in the boiler, after filling up, will always remain the same without the water being actually admitted. Since each engine is only provided with a certain amount of energy its radius is limited.

There is no question but that the fireless locomotive is in demand by European firms; and for some of our government plants and at those private establishments where fire protection is a first consideration this type of motor power should prove of great value. Summed up briefly, this type of engine offers absolute safety against fire which might be caused by flying sparks and all smoke nuisance is eliminated. This permits of the machine being used in sheds and other inclosures. There is marked economy, since the cost of producing steam in stationary boiler plants is less than than when produced by ordinary fire locomotives. The fact must not be lost sight of that only one man is required to run the engine, and when the machine is not in operation the services of this man can be utilized.

Practically there is little or no repairs needed on one of these machines; since there is no fire box, the strain on the boiler is practically nil. The engine can be made ready for service in a very short time, and when once charged is ready for work at a moment's notice. If it is not required constantly the machine may be left standing without supervision, and even after the expiration of several hours it can be brought into play. From this it will be seen that the special province of this type of machine is interrupted work.