

A CONSPIRACY CHARGED,

Harry N Tucker of the Uncle Sam Oil Co indicted

He asserts that it is the jealousy of a competitor that caused his arrest

Harry H. Tucker, secretary and treasurer of the Uncle Sam Oil Co., was arrested at Kansas City, Mo., under a warrant issued on an indictment from the federal grand jury at Topeka on three counts charging him with using the United States mails to defraud in the conduct of the company's business.

He was taken before Judge Pollock and his bond fixed at \$15,000.

"I expect to have 100 signatures on my bond," Mr. Tucker said. "I could as well make it a thousand, but I am anxious to have the bond fixed up as quickly as possible, perhaps in three or four days."

"I am not seriously alarmed over the charges upon which the indictments against me were returned," Mr. Tucker said. "But I don't want it to hurt the company. I am going on the theory that the postoffice inspectors who investigated the company's affairs found some things they thought were wrong; but I want to show the people who have invested their money in the Uncle Sam company that things are all right. So we have decided to call a meeting of the stockholders within ten days. We want to bring them in to show them that their investments are all right. Then if they are not satisfied I am willing to turn the affairs of the company over to them and let them manage things."

"I have got every dollar of my own money in the concern, but I shall not consider my own personal interests when it comes to protecting the interests of those who have put their money into the company."

"How many of your stockholders can be reached by such a call?" the reporter asked.

Mr. Tucker smiled. He said the company had 2,600 stockholders in Kansas and 1,400 in Missouri, 500 each in Iowa and Oklahoma and 700 each in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

At the home office of the Uncle Sam Oil company in the Wyandotte building, the routine of business was apparently undisturbed yesterday.

"We intend to continue in the oil business just as we would if nothing had transpired," one of the office men said. "We have sent letters to all of our agents and employees to this effect and our operations at all of our wells, refineries and distributing stations will go on just the same. You see, it is this way—"

Here he explained the Uncle Sam company's methods of distributing oil in a number of Kansas towns.

"We are becoming a strong competitor of the Standard Oil company—we are hurrying the Standard's sales," he said. "That's what is hurting the Standard. Within the last year the company has sold only \$92,000 worth of oil."

Referring to Mr. Tucker and his management of the company's affairs, one of the office men said:

"We will stick to Mr. Tucker to the end, believing that he is innocent of any attempt or design to defraud our stockholders. He has all of his own money invested in the company's business and he never appropriated a dollar of the stockholders' money to his own use."

At Palm Beach alone in all America can women gamble "decently"; that is, not simply play bridge but roulette and such, in temples dedicated particularly to chance. One must dwell on such dreadful sin hereabout, since how can we claim a Riviera without a Monte Carlo? The Florida legislature allows it, for a proper price, and in proper hypocritical fashion. The place is called the Beach Club, run by two brothers well known to the New York tenderloin and several district attorneys. Election to membership is extremely difficult. The qualifications are a dinner coat and an acquaintance who has bucked the wheel in the "club" at least once before. You enter with him, sign your name and his to a slip of paper, and receive a yellow "membership" ticket, "not transferable," to be shown when requested, bearing the autograph of the clerk at the desk.

The man who has attained self-control over his own passions can be tolerant toward those of others.

MR. TUCKER'S STATEMENT.

The Trust Jealous of the Uncle Sam

In a typewritten statement prepared by Tucker he declared his indictment to be due to the jealousy of the Standard company. "As long," said Tucker, "as the Uncle Sam Oil company was selling stock and its refineries, pipe lines, distributing stations and other appurtenances and paraphernalia for the conduct of the oil business were in an embryo state the emissaries and employes of the Standard Oil company in Kansas contented themselves with yelling fraud. They did not do anything more serious because they were not hurt. But the very minute when the Uncle Sam Oil company got in the market as an active competitor of the Standard Oil company, the very minute when the Standard Oil company began to lose business in Kansas it began to get busy and this indictment is the result. It is their answer to the saving of nearly five million dollars yearly to the people. It is the way the Standard Oil company always answers. They never have fought fair and they never will."

"When it comes down to a question of my guilt or innocence the books of the Uncle Sam will show for themselves. If I have ever got a dollar which was obtained dishonestly I am willing to go to jail. I have never obtained a dollar in my career in the oil business that was not for the purpose of building up the greatest independent oil company in the West. I have never received a dollar that was not applied for that purpose. I have been told more than a thousand times that were the Uncle Sam Oil company grew to just the extent it has that it would be crushed. I have been told for two years that the Standard Oil company was just playing with me and whenever I got big enough to hurt them they would show me a thing or two."

"Last Saturday evening I was informed by one of the most prominent politicians in Kansas that I was certainly going to be indicted by the grand jury which met at Topeka Monday and that it was useless for me to try to stop it, that everything was so fixed that it could not be stopped. I was then told that if I would consent to the appointment of a 'friendly' receiver that everything might be fixed up all right. I am the officer of the 9,000 stockholders of the Uncle Sam Oil company scattered through every state in the Union; I am their servant. I am not absolute and I told this politician that I would fight to the last ditch to protect the interests of these stockholders who had invested their money at my solicitation. That is my position now. I have committed no crime in the eyes of God or man."

"This whole proposition is a scheme to rob the stockholders of the Uncle Sam Oil company of their property, which has cost more than \$1,000,000. It is a plot to have a receiver appointed and then sell the property to the Standard Oil company for a song and thus rid this audacious and conscienceless trust of the most formidable opposition it has ever had in the West."

Sarah Bernhardt has locked horns with her publisher, and, as neither party will give way, there seems to be nothing for it but a lawsuit. The trouble arose in this way. The publisher, no less a one than Mr. Heinemann himself, arranged with the divine Sarah for 200,000 words of memoirs, naturally supposing that the intimate recollections of one who had been in the confidence of kings would be the liveliest kind of "copy." As an earnest of his good will he, and various other publishers who shared in the enterprise, including Appleton's of New York, paid a very large sum of money in advance. Great was Mr. Heinemann's consternation to find that the forthcoming material was in no way what was expected. There were no revelations and no recollections, no real memoirs at all, but simply "bogus scrapbook stuff," as Mr. Heinemann irreverently calls it. He therefore notified the great tragedienne that it would not do at all, and that he would expect the real article, with prompt delivery and full weight. So madame refused to write anything more at all, which was a very real tragedy for Mr. Heinemann and full justification for the suit that he brought at once and that is now pending.

Even Pegasus flies at the prick of golden spurs.

Without the aid of a glass, an Australian is said to have written 10,061 words on a postal card.

Gardens for the Workers.

"The great value of my little garden to me has not been the fine vegetables it has yielded all summer and the good time the children have had in the open air, but the glasses of beer and absinthe my husband hasn't taken," observed the mother of a French workingman's rather numerous family to an investigator last autumn.

"Quite right, mother," echoed a man near by; "you will never know the evil we men don't do while we are busy in our little gardens."

This conversation took place in France, on one of the workingmen's gardens, a movement for self-help which is growing each year. A similar movement was started in Detroit in 1894 under the name of the Pota Patch farms; later carried out successfully in New York and other cities in the vacant lot farms, while today Philadelphia is beginning her eighth year of successful effort.

Mme. Hervieu, a charitable woman in Sedan, tired of aiding the poor by gifts of money, attempted to rouse them to self-help by an offer of doubling any sum of money which they should deposit in the local savings bank. She rented a small tract of land and said to the poor people: "Now go to work."

They did, and as they worked the taste for it grew; they kept steadily at it, especially as they knew that the fruits of their labor would belong to them, that the vegetables they raised could be taken to their homes or sold.

Such was the humble beginning in 1899 of a little movement, but one so simple and practical that it grew until last October, in Paris, there was held a congress of workingmen's gardens, attended by 700 delegates, under the presidency of M. Aynard, of France.—Century Magazine.

The Hawk's Eyesight.

A hawk can spy a lark upon a piece of earth almost exactly the same color at twenty times the distance it is perceptible to a man or dog. A kite soaring out of human sight can still distinguish and pounce upon lizards and field mice on the ground, and the distance at which vultures and eagles can spy their prey is almost incredible. Recent discoveries have inclined naturalists to the belief that birds of prey have not the acute sense of smell with which they were once accredited. Their acute sight seems better to account for their actions, and they appear to be guided by sight alone, as they never sniff at anything, but dart straight at the object of their desire.

In Bed for Thirty Years.

The world's laziest man is believed to be an Irishman, named Thompson, living at Clare, near Lurgan. In 1877, when he was 11 years of age, he went to bed, and there he remained until a fortnight ago. It was then that his mother, who had attended him all the years, fell ill, and was taken to the infirmary. Left to himself, Thompson was compelled to leave his bed and go to the workhouse. The only clothes he had were those which he discarded nearly thirty years previously. He was so tired with the exertion of dressing though two neighbors helped him, that he refused to walk. An ambulance was brought, and he stayed in the union until his mother's recovery, when he followed her home. This time he was compelled to walk, for the authorities only laughed at his laziness. He is now in bed again.

Geologically not much is known of Greece of the prime. The region which subsequently became known as Hellas had been believed to have been thrown up by the sea about the end of the cretaceous epoch, or after it. Recently fluted mollusks that inhabited the immense oceans of the trias period have been found in great numbers in the Peloponnese giving evidence that the sea still covered the country in the first ages of the mesozoic period. Some stones that struck a resident of the district as strange were some time since sent to M. Negris, an eminent Greek geologist, and he hastened to the spot for further examination. The result has been to reveal the existence of trias rocks, with brachiopods and other petrified remains possessing all the characteristics of the Alpine trias.

Never judge a man by his looks. Many a man looks as if he had been caught in the act of stealing corn from a blind hog.

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MRS. W. H. SIMMONS, 1119 E. 8th St., Kansas City, Mo., member of the National Annuity Association, writes:

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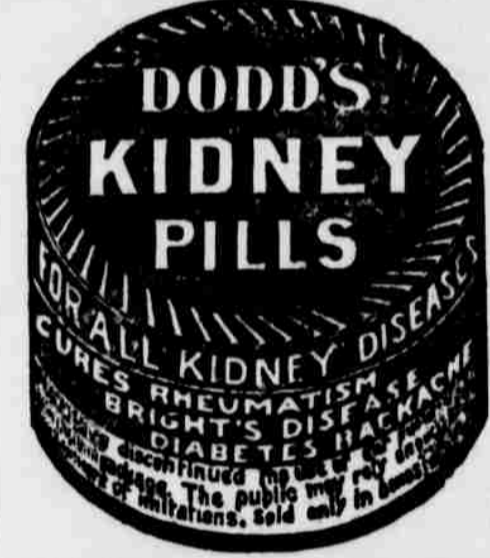
"I was advised by a friend to try Peruna, and eventually I bought a bottle. I took it and then another, and kept using it for three months."

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Franklin—Does your wife read the riot act to you when you go home at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning?

Penn—Not any more; she is afraid of waking the baby.



No, Maude, dear, French isn't one of the dead languages, although it is frequently murdered by the people who try to speak it.

Congressman Scott of the 25th Kansas district, has ended the controversy over the postmastership of Kansas City, Kansas, by recommending the appointment of Wm. R. Childs for the place.

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