

FATE'S VENGEANCE ON CORRUPTIONISTS



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CHARLES KRATZ



R. M. SNYDER

St. Louis.—The violent death of Robert M. Snyder, a Kansas City millionaire, has written the final chapter in the world's most remarkable crusade against bribery. The death of Snyder is the climax of a series of misfortunes and tragedies that has pursued so relentlessly the men who were caught in the boodle trap sprung by Joseph W. Folk four years ago, that the question has been asked whether fate has not joined hands with the law to heap punishment upon their heads.

Twenty-two men were indicted by St. Louis grand juries for participation in three great bribery cases, in which more than \$300,000 was paid for the votes of assemblymen. Misfortune of some kind—death, insanity, want or loss of fortune—has visited the families of 16 of them. Three of them are dead.

Snyder, whose case was probably the most celebrated of all, was under indictment in St. Louis when he was thrown out of his automobile within a few blocks of his magnificent home, on Independence boulevard, Kansas City, on the night of October 27, and killed. When the circuit attorney of St. Louis a few days later entered a nolle prosequi in the case the docket of the criminal courts was cleared of all the boodle cases which Folk instituted during the two years that he had bribed under investigation.

But seven men were sent to the penitentiary for bribery. One other is under sentence, but his case is pending in the supreme court. But not one of the men—even those who escaped the penitentiary by turning state's evidence—would pass through the experiences of the last four years for all the bribe money that the wealthiest corporation of the country could put up to buy votes. The lawmaker who is tempted to sell his vote may learn something to his advantage by studying carefully the unpleasant experiences of the men who gave and received bribes in St. Louis.

Began Boodle Crusade.

If the St. Louis boodlers sowed the wind they reaped the tornado. Next to Snyder, Charles H. Turner, who died broken-hearted in New York last summer, a virtual outcast from St. Louis, where he made a fortune amounting to millions of dollars, was the most lavish bribe giver exposed during the fight against corruption. He was the first man caught. When the late "Red" Galvin, a veteran newspaper reporter, walked into the office of Folk early in January, 1902, and told him that Charles H. Turner and Philip Stock, his legislative agent, had placed \$147,500 in escrow in two trust companies' vaults to bribe the municipal assembly to pass a franchise bill for the Suburban Street Railway company, the boodle crusade began. Two days later Turner was virtually on his knees before the circuit attorney begging for mercy. The only alternative to the penitentiary was to go on the witness stand and tell the whole corrupt and shameful story. He chose the alternative. At the time of his exposure he was president of a big trust company as well as of the street railway company. He was promptly retired, and pretty soon the stockholders of the trust company decided that they needed another man at the head of the institution.

Turner found that he could not remain in business in St. Louis, in spite of his big fortune. He went to New York and was almost forgotten in his old home—save for his perjury in bribing the city's lawmakers—when he died, of a broken heart.

Snyder's last days were full of trouble. Within the month of his death the bleaching bones of his son, Cary M. Snyder, were found in a lonely spot near Hillsboro, Ore. The young man, a fugitive from justice for two years, had probably been mur-

dered by one of a band of robbers of which he was a member. On the very night that the elder Snyder died the widow of his son confessed that her dead husband was a member of an organized band of robbers, who had been cracking safes throughout the western country. Cary Snyder kept his father in constant trouble for nearly three years before he was killed.

R. M. Snyder went to St. Louis in the spring of 1898 and consummated a daring and colossal bribery, in a street railway franchise bill, says the New York Herald.

Snyder Convicted.

After one of the most notable legal battles in the west, in which Folk fought against an array of the finest legal talent that money could hire, Snyder was convicted and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. The case went to the supreme court and was reversed on a technicality. Before it could be tried again Folk went out of office, having been elected governor. The Snyder case was one of the few that he passed down to Arthur N. Sager, his successor. Last May Sager nolle prossed the case and issued a new information against Snyder. The case was called for trial in September, but owing to the absence of material witnesses for the state, it was again nolle prossed and a new information sworn out.

This case was standing against Snyder when death entered the final nolle prosequi. The cases against Utthoff and Ritter, growing indirectly out of a bribery committed some years ago, are the only entries on the court docket to remind St. Louis of her famous municipal scandals.

Ed. Butler, the boss politician, who was three times indicted and twice tried for bribery, has had his troubles, too. Butler was first indicted for attempting to bribe members of the board of health to award him a contract for handling the city garbage. He was tried in Columbia, Mo., convicted and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary, but escaped when the supreme court decided that as the members of the board of health were not officials they could not be bribed. He was next indicted for handling a boodle fund of \$47,500 to have passed a bill providing for the lighting of the streets with gas instead of electricity. He was acquitted of this charge at Fulton, Mo., and in that respect considered himself lucky. Soon after his first indictment his son-in-law, John Parle, died. Before he was tried on the second indictment his favorite son, John R. Butler, who had been faithful to the old man's interests, fell sick and died. This blow broke Butler's heart and hurt him worse than all of Folk's prosecutions.

Kelly's Evidence Needed.

There was one man only among the former members of the house of delegates who knew where the \$47,500 came from that was paid for the votes of the combine members in the city lighting deal. That was former Speaker Charles F. Kelly. It had been developed that Kelly received the money from Edward Butler, and Butler was promptly indicted. But in this transaction Butler was simply acting as a "friend." Kelly's evidence was necessary to establish the identity of the man who stood in Butler's shadow. Folk knew who he was—so did the public, but Kelly had the only evidence that would indict the man—who was ten times a millionaire.

Folk had Kelly before the grand jury on the afternoon of September 8, 1902, and was gradually forcing a confession out of him. emissaries of the boodlers were at once dispatched to the four courts where the inquisition was in progress to get into communication with Kelly. While Folk was in the Grand jury room these men

reached Kelly's ear and he quietly slipped away. A few minutes after Kelly left the anterooms of the grand jury's headquarters his absence was discovered and deputy sheriffs were sent in every direction to find him and bring him in. Kelly probably never will forget his experiences of the next 12 hours. He was held a prisoner by the men he was about to betray, and hustled off to a quarry in a remote portion of the city. One of the men who was subsequently sent to the penitentiary for bribery was left to guard him. He spent the night in a shed that stood on the brink of the quarry pond. Early the next morning Kelly was put on a train at one of the suburban stations and was hurried off by the most direct route to Canada. He did not stop there, and upon reaching the Atlantic coast took the first steamer for Europe. Not a word was heard as to his whereabouts during the next two months. On November 29, one day after the statute of limitations had become operative against the participants in the city lighting bribery deal, Kelly landed in New York and was met by a son of Edward Butler, who conveyed to him the news that three days before his 12-year-old son, his favorite child, had been buried and that his wife was then lying at the point of death.

Mind Broke Under the Strain.

Kelly hastened home. Whatever testimony he might be able to give was then of no value to the state. He had no sooner reached St. Louis than he was arrested, an indictment having been voted against him by the very grand jury that he ran away from. A few weeks later Kelly became insane and was confined for months in St. Vincent's asylum. Careful treatment in a measure restored his mind. Folk took pity on him and permitted him to turn state's evidence in a minor case.

The indictments against him were nolle prossed. With this burden lifted from his mind his mental faculties underwent a gradual rehabilitation, and he is now trying to build up again the business that went to ruin during the time that he was involved in trouble.

Of the seven men sent to the penitentiary only three are in stripes, the sentences of the others having expired. Gov. Folk has announced that two of these men, both of whom he prosecuted when he was circuit attorney, will be pardoned. The two men who will be the recipients of executive clemency are Julius Lehmann and Emile Hartmann. Lehmann is serving a seven years' sentence and Hartmann six years for bribery in connection with the city lighting bill.

In Permanent Exile.

Ellis Wainwright, a millionaire brewer, who was a director in the Suburban Railway company when it attempted to buy up the council and house of delegates, has been exiled in Paris for more than four years. An indictment for bribery is pending against him in St. Louis and he dare not return.

Charles Gutke, a former member of the house of delegates, was indicted for bribery in September, 1902. So many of the boodlers had run away to escape punishment that the courts would not accept bail at less than \$20,000. Ed. Butler signed bonds until he would not be accepted on more. As

Charles Kratz was the first member of the city council to be indicted for bribery. He was charged with participation in the Suburban deal, and, like Murrell, he fled to Mexico before his case came to trial.

After two years' persistent work Folk succeeded in influencing the United States government to make a treaty with Mexico covering the crime of bribery. The attorney general of the United States construed this treaty to be retroactive, and under its provisions Kratz was extradited. Scarcely had he returned to St. Louis. In the spring of 1903, when he was attacked with appendicitis and for months hovered between life and death. His sickness, however, might have been considered a turn of fortune in his favor, because it enabled him to get his case carried on the docket until after Folk was elected governor, and when he was tried at Butler, Mo., he was acquitted. Before he was tried one of his children died.

Never Saw His First Born.

Charles E. Denny was considered one of the brightest members of the old house of delegates. He was a railroad employe and had an excellent reputation until Folk caught him and slapped three indictments on his back—two for bribery and one for perjury. Denny had just been married, and a few months after the wedding bells rang he was bundled up by the sheriff and hustled off to the penitentiary. While he was a prisoner a babe was born in his household, but he never saw the face of his first born, as death carried it away before its father's term ended.

Louis Decker, a liveryman, is the only member of the old house of delegates combine who was convicted after Folk quit the circuit attorney's office. His conviction hastened the death of his aged mother, which occurred a few weeks after the jury found him guilty.

Edmund Bersch, once a prosperous insurance broker, was the first of the house of delegates combine to begin a term of service in the penitentiary. His mind gave way under the strain, and he spent the greater part of his 18 months imprisonment in the hospital. When he left the penitentiary he was broken in health—a mental and physical wreck.

One Man Escaped Fate.

Just one man—John Schnettler—who elected to stand trial on the charges preferred against him, has escaped without some misfortune other than the penitentiary sentence imposed upon him. He has served out his sentence.

These are what may be called the tragedies of the St. Louis boodle crusade. The facts are strange—almost startling. The boodler's punishment in the penitentiary was the least of their suffering. They saw their children scorned by other children in the schools and on the streets. They saw their faithful wives, heartbroken, fall at the feet of the law their husbands had outraged, and plead for mercy that could not be given. These men were haughty, brazen; when in the zenith of their power as corruptionists, they sacrificed every interest of the people for the money of franchise grabbers. But they have had their punishment. The man who is about to sell his vote for money may determine for himself whether fate joined hands with law



a consequence Gutke was confined in jail for six months. During that time his 19-year-old son Eugene was stricken down with galloping consumption and died. Gutke was later permitted to turn state's evidence and escaped prosecution.

to scourge the recreant public servants in St. Louis. He may at least find in their unhappy experiences some lesson that may put a check upon him when he reaches for the forbidden gold—a lesson that will impel him to hew straight to the line of duty.

A Toast For The New Year

Henry M. Hyde

TO THE True Pioneers of Progress—to the men with chain and sextant, drill and shield, hoist and riveter—burrowing through mountains, spinning, spiderlike, across dizzy chasms—making the world smaller and Man larger—
A Happy New Year and Many of 'Em!

TO THE Gentleman Adventurers—to the men who tempt the vengeance of the upper air, dare the sunless dangers of deep seas, track to their secret lairs the wild beasts of disease and pestilence—risking their own lives that the life of Man may be made safe—
A Happy New Year and Many of 'Em!

TO THE Poets and dreamers of the Present—to the men who harness the tides, bridle the west wind, put a yoke about the neck of the glaciers, drive the sun and moon tandem—making the forces of nature toil that Man may enjoy—
A Happy New Year and Many of 'Em!

TO THE Masters of the Future—to the men who know, to the men in earnest—rejoicing in their knowledge and their strength, looking with clear eyes, unafraid, into the face of fate—crowned with the high happiness of work well done—
A Happy New Year and Many of 'Em!
—Technical World.

New Year Gleanings.

Interesting Bits Appropriate to the Day Gathered from Everywhere.

New Year's Is a Candy Day in France.

Boxes of Sweets Are Favorite Gifts with all Classes in Paris.

Once it used to be very popular to give New Year's presents; but now so much more attention is paid to Christmas, and every one receives so many lovely things then, that our American boys and girls cannot complain if they do not get presents a week later, as did their mothers and fathers.

However, if they lived in France, New Year's day would be a great occasion, especially for girls, for there every man or boy gives some gift, no matter how small, to his friends. No one paying a call would think of going empty-handed, and little French girls at school on the 2d of January count up how many presents they received, just as our girls do after Valentine's day.

A favorite gift is candy. Sometimes this candy is made into temples, churches or playhouses; or all sorts of queer forms like bundles of carpets, boots and shoes, musical instruments, gridirons, saucapans, lobsters, crabs, books and hats are made of colored sugar, hollowed out and filled inside with chocolates, mints and other bonbons that can be eaten.

Don't you think the little French children must feel pretty sick the next day, after so much sweet stuff? For, of course, they would have to sample each kind; that is, if they are like American boys and girls in their fondness for candy.

The Origin of New Year's Calls.

Like Many Others of Our Customs, They Were Imported from China.

The custom of making New Year's calls, which had a long run in America, and is still extant, came originally from China, where such calls are one of the main features of the brilliant and lengthy New Year's celebration.

Every Chinaman pays a visit to each of his superiors, and receives one from each of his inferiors. Images of gods are carried in procession to the beating of a deafening gong, and mandarins go by hundreds to the emperor and that apparently much-maligned sovereign, the empress dowager, with congratulatory addresses. Their robes are gorgeously embroidered, and are heavy with gold. The younger people call upon the elder.

Children call upon their parents. Pupils pay their respects to their teachers. A light collation is offered every visitor, but it is to be noted, no wine is served. Tea takes the place of any stronger drink. In China gentlemen never call upon the ladies, but upon each other, and the women also make social visits among themselves. Nor is one obliged, happily, to make all his calls in one day, for all calls made before the 15th of the month are considered correct. These calling customs have obtained in China from earliest ages.

No Chan es Needed in the Brown Family.

Proposed Resolutions Brought Emphatic Objections from Both Sides of House.

"This is the new year," said Mrs. Brown, as she and Brown sat down to dinner, "and perhaps we ought to make some little changes for 1907."
"I am willing," he replied. "Yes, I have been thinking that I would make a few changes."
"That is nice of you. You know that you swear and that I don't like it at all. It will be so sweet and kind and considerate to give it up for my sake."
"Give up swearing! Not on your life!"

"What, then, did you mean by change?"
"Why, I have been allowing you five dollars per week as pin money, and I know that you simply fool most of it away. One of the changes contemplated was to cut the sum in half."
"Samuel Brown!" exclaimed the wife, as she knocked on her plate with her fork to emphasize her words, "don't make any mistake on your wife, May. You will continue to swear as hard as you wish, and as often as you wish, and my five dollars pin money comes to me every Saturday night, or there won't be any glass left in the front windows to last over Sunday!"

A June New Year's on the Nile Banks.

The Ancient Egyptians Started the Year with the Raise of the River.

In all ages and all lands much importance has been attached to New Year's day. In Egypt the new year fell between the 17th and the 20th of June, and was called the "night of the drop." The sacred Nile was thought to flow down from heaven, and at its lowest ebb—about the middle of June—a tear from Isis fell into the stream and caused it to rise.

Consequently at this season the priests and people kept a sleepless vigil at the river's shore, watching for the miraculous rise which should bring such riches to the whole land. When the "night of the drop" came, the priests cleared the altars of old ashes and lighted the sacred fires for the new year.

Every one of the faithful carried a coal from the altar to light the fire at his own hearth, and from end to end the land was ablaze with light. The people put off their old garments and arrayed themselves in white, anointing their heads with sacred oil, crowning themselves with flowers and bearing palms in their hands, while chants and songs and fasting and processions filled the homes.

Passing Humor of the New Year.

Would You Blame Him?
Mina—Did your husband, at New Year's, swear off?
Lena—Yes, off and on—whenever a bill came in.—Town Topics.



Appropriate.
Coal Dealer—We will start 1907 with a clean slate.
Consumer—I think you might leave a little coal in it!—Town Topics.