

"SUCKER" BUSINESS EASY

PROFITABLE VOCATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO.

PLANTATION FRAUD THRIVES

There are no Actually Paying Coffee, Rubber or Banana Plantations for Sale on the Share of Stock Basis. Warning to Northern Men.

[From The Norfolk Daily News.]

Guatemala, Aug. 12.—Special correspondence to The News: In Central America and Mexico are a large number of Americans who spend their time fishing for suckers, and the large amount of money in the northern states seeking investment, and the large number of people with moderate savings which they would like to increase rapidly, makes the "sucker" business easy and profitable.

The favorite scheme is a combination coffee, rubber and banana plantation, and frequently the only investment made by the operators is in postage stamps and attractive circulars. Not a mail goes north that does not contain letters and circulars exploiting these fraudulent schemes, and on most north bound steamers are individuals who have fabulously rich plantations which they are willing to sell out on the share stock basis. The opportunity to buy is usually offered to people of the northern or middle west states as they are less likely to travel south to investigate the schemes.

Instead of exposing these fraudulent schemes and protecting American people, it is a deplorable fact that down here and in South America many of the official representatives of the United States are deep in the same sort of work, using their official positions to fill their pockets with fraud money.

A case of this sort which was made the subject of official investigation about three years ago, is a good sample for northern investors to ponder over. A company was formed called the "Boston and Gomer Rubber Co." It was chartered under the laws of Maine, and the operators down here commenced work. That is, they commenced advertising stock in the great company for sale. It was represented that the capital stock was \$500,000. An American consul was president of the company, and there was a list of six directors with resounding names.

The laws down here require that stock companies shall have at least two-thirds of their capital stock paid in. A local inquiry developed the fact that the six directors had each taken on share of stock at \$10, and that the total purchase price of the fabulous \$500,000 plantation was really only \$245. This and the charter fee and printing bill represented the total investment.

The local authorities notified the president of the company that the required two-thirds of the capital must be paid in before any more business could be done. This was easy. The next day the American consul subscribed for \$300,000 in stock, and a couple of street loafers named Drummond and Fisher put down their names for \$40,000 more. This was pretended to be paid in gold. In reality not a cent was paid, and the whole gang could not have raised a thousand dollars, as the later investigation showed. But the schemers imagined they had sufficiently complied with the local laws, and they went ahead.

The American consul soon after got leave of absence and went home to the state where he could perform some political services for his party, and incidentally superintend the raising of some "sucker" money. While he was in the states a further investigation was made into the affairs of the "Boston and Gomer Rubber Co.," and the complete details of the fraud were contained in an official report sent to Washington. It is needless to add that the American consul and president of the great company, did not return to Central America. He was a favorite of Senator Quay, and was transferred to a post in Europe. A report showing that he had violated the consular laws, and had used the mails for fraudulent purposes, was not sufficient under the political spoils system to cause his removal from the consular service.

This sample plantation fraud is not an unusual one, and indicates how some of the American officials abroad really "represent" their country. The hint should be valuable to any Nebraska people who are thinking of investing in southern schemes on the recommendation of United States officials. On the ground where the schemes are being hatched our Spanish-American neighbors look on with much amusement while Americans fleece each other, but it is no wonder that they regard American officials with contempt, and shirk their own obligation occasionally when they are contracted with Americans.

The facts are that there are no actually paying coffee, rubber or banana plantations for sale on the share of stock basis, as prospective investors would learn on proper investigation. There is no lack of legitimate capital to operate all such plantations without cutting them up into small shares of stock. But the northern man who has a thousand dollars or so to invest, and concludes to visit the south land to investigate for himself is likely to waste both his time and his money. Unless he can speak Spanish and can spend a long time in the plantation country, he will learn little of value. In fact he may be shown a good plan-

tion and then invest his money in a swamp or a barren mountain side. This would not be such a wonderful trick down here among strangers, when it is remembered that at Omaha people have been fooled into buying city lots located out in the Missouri river, and that at Lincoln an interminable lawsuit has been grinding in the courts over the contention that a purchaser was shown a fine residence addition and then received a deed to a plot of ground on Salt creek bottom, inhabited only by snakes and ground squirrels. F. A. Harrison.

SUBMARINE THAT CAN SEE

WONDERFUL BOAT IS CREATED FROM BIT OF FICTION.

IT BROUGHT AUTHOR FORTUNE

Morgan Robertson Will Never Write Any More Books. For He Has Found Better Money in Turning His Stories Into Practical Shipbuilding.

"That is the most improbable story I ever read," a man might exclaim over Morgan Robertson's latest magazine story, "The Submarine Destroyer."

The story did look a bit improbable, but Robertson has been paid a fortune for only one of the ideas embodied in his little piece of fiction. He told of a queer craft that would revolutionize warfare, that would sink twenty submarine boats in a minute and make the now dreaded ships of war no more feared than a common wash tub.

Inventor Quits Typewriter. It is the last story Robertson ever will write unless his mind is completely changed. He is now connected with a submarine boat company that manufactures the Holland submarine torpedo boat. It is said he got \$50,000 in cash for the idea that first appealed to the Holland company, an idea he had developed to go in the magazine story without any thought of practical application.

From now on the fiction writer will devote all his energies to putting his literary creations into the form of practical inventions. He believes firmly it will not be long before he can send every submarine in the world to the bottom of the sea.

That he is no impractical visionary is proved by the big price paid for his periscope, which is now controlled by the Holland company. In his last story Robertson has equipped his submarine destroyer with a fluorescent searchlight to light up the waters of the sea. So far scientists and inventors have been baffled in all attempts at making a searchlight that would light up the waters.

"An Invisible Searchlight." "I have invented an invisible searchlight," is all Robertson will say for publication. It is declared to be a light that will be as a torch for two miles around, and yet cannot be seen, though it stands high above the surface of the water.

Robertson expects this light to be transmitted through the waters so submarines of the enemy may be discovered a mile away. He will not tell how the light is constructed. In his story he gives only a vague hint, calling it a fluorescent light. It is known that the illuminating agent will be electricity. Robertson is careful in guarding the secret formula by which he veils the light so that it may be unseen.

Robertson's debut as a practical inventor is as surprising to the public as if H. G. Wells were to build a warship of air, such as he used to such good effect in the imaginary battles in the "War of the Worlds."

Just about ten years ago Morgan Robertson began to write tales of the sea. Robertson knew how to write stories of the sea for he has been a sailor. He sailed before the mast for years and had positions on nearly every sort of vessel afloat. Before he went to sea he was a cowboy, hotel clerk, miner, prospector, railroad man and nearly everything else. He has worked all over the world and knows it like a book.

The development of submarines appealed to Robertson's imagination. He began to write stories of submarines. Not long ago he wrote a story of a Japanese submarine that was equipped with a wonderful periscope. This periscope enabled the submerged vessel to see the horizon for miles in every direction. In fact, it gave a complete picture of the water and everything above. The story was called "The Mistake."

Holland Co. "Bit" on Tale. Submarine boat people have wanted a periscope that would show all the horizon at the same time. One of the officials of the Holland company became interested in Robertson's story. He got in communication with the writer. To his surprise he learned that Robertson had not stopped at imagining a periscope, but had gone ahead and invented it. Robertson even had gone so far as to patent his invention.

The Holland company bought it. The price is said to have been \$50,000 cash, \$500 for each boat equipped with a periscope and \$300 for each boat sold without the equipment. This, with other inducements, has persuaded Mr. Robertson to give up story writing for more lucrative business of building submarines and submarine destroyers.

RACING AT BATTLE CREEK

GREEN THREE-MINUTE HORSES GO IN 2:18.

FIVE HEATS TO DECIDE RACE

Locket, the Horse From Albion Driven by Howell, Took the 3:00 Race and Made Whirlwind Time—Free-for-all Will be Speedy.

[From Thursday's Daily.]

With green, three-minute horses going a mile in 2:18, and with five heats in the race at that before its winner could be picked, Battle Creek opened its three days' attraction yesterday afternoon with a good crowd for an opening matinee. Old horsemen on the grounds declared that the races were the best they had seen in many a day and the start of the racing indicates that today and tomorrow will bring some of the prettiest stepping ever seen on a northern Nebraska race course.

The 3:00 Race. Two heats in the 3:00 race were made in 2:18—as fast as the free-for-all in Norfolk last week. Locket (Howell) won the race, Macanatta (Santz) second, Bob Nibbs (Miller) third, Miss Pactona (Kay) fourth, Poverty (Pickard) fifth. The score by heats: Locket 3 1 1 2 1 Macanatta 1 2 2 1 2 Bob Nibbs 2 3 3 3 4 Miss Pactona 5 4 4 5 5 Time: 2:23 1/4; 2:18; 2:18; 2:22 1/4; 2:22 1/4.

2:30 Trot, 2:35 Pace. There was a horse race in the 2:30 trot, 2:35 pace class. Four heats were necessary to get the winner. Lovely May (Helphry) was winner; Moore (Moore) second; Brave On (Kay) third; Gale Blenett (Young) fourth. Best time 2:29 1/4. The score by heats: Lovely May 2 1 1 1 Moore 1 2 3 2 Brave On 3 4 2 3 Gale Blenett 4 3 4 4 Time: 2:29 1/4; 2:29 1/4; 2:29 1/4; 2:29 1/4.

With nine heats in the two harness races, it was necessary to postpone the pony race until this afternoon. A 2:18 race has also been placed in the racing for today.

Tomorrow's Racing to be Fast. Tomorrow's racing will be fast. Coney, with a mark of 2:02, and Bald Hornet, with a mark of 2:05 1/2, are already on the track for the free-for-all event. Besides these are Plenty, 2:09; Captain Mack, Nibbs, John A. Hicks and a number of other fast ones. The track yesterday was very fast, the slight rain of the morning having put it in excellent condition. There are things doing all over town for amusement, there is music in the grandstand and excitement all the time. Big crowds are on hand for today and a multitude is expected for tomorrow.

SCHOOL BEGINS TUESDAY. Rumor That it Would be Postponed is Emphatically Denied. School will begin in Norfolk next Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock. A rumor on the streets has been going for a day or so to the effect that school would not open for a week but this was put to flight today by an emphatic and positive denial from Superintendent O'Connor. "School will begin Tuesday morning," said Mr. O'Connor, "and there is no foundation whatever for the rumor."

The board of education expects to hear today from Miss Thomas, an Iowa teacher, who has been elected to fill the seventh grade vacancy. It is believed that she will accept. The examinations tomorrow will be particularly for pupils who failed in their examinations last spring, and on Saturday there will be examinations for those, particularly, who have just come to Norfolk and who are entering, for the first time, the Norfolk schools.

EIGHT HUSBANDS HER RECORD. Woman Spoken of in Yesterday's Dispatches, Still in Jail. Mrs. Nelthercott, Mrs. Quinn, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Pierson, Mrs. Maloney and Mrs. Helper awoke in Moyamensing prison in Philadelphia this morning and found herself alone. Not one of her eight husbands, who are all alive, had come forward to offer the \$800 ball which holds her on charges of bigamy and perjury.

Elmer Smith, husband No. 3, who is good at mathematics, has prepared a table, proving that Mrs. Helper took eight husbands in seven years: Names. Where married. Year George Nelthercott, Elkdon, Md. 1898 Dennis Quinn, Philadelphia. 1899 Elmer Smith, Philadelphia. 1900 William Cox, New York. 1901 Walter Mitchell, Philadelphia. 1901 Frank Pierson, New York. 1903 John Maloney, New York. 1904 John Helper, Philadelphia. 1905 It was Smith who informed Helper that only one-eighth of Mrs. Helper's affections really belonged to each of them. These two caused her arrest, and they appeared against her before Magistrate Harris in West Philadelphia. Mrs. Helper, knowing her power, threw her arms around Helper as he entered the courtroom. Tears dropped from her big, baby-like brown eyes, her hair, becomingly disheveled, tickled Helper's nose as she kissed him.

"Let me talk to him alone for thirty seconds," she pleaded. "Prisoner to the bar," answered Magistrate Harris, a Spartan judge. Smith testified that he married this captivating woman in July, 1900. He lived with her nine months, and then discovered that George Nelthercott, a hat finisher, was her husband. Smith swore he left her then, but that he, at least, had never been divorced from her.

The shipping and fresh meat demand will take all the good smooth hogs at good premiums while the packers will continue as indifferent buyers of the other grades as at much discount as they are able to obtain. Present prices are high and while they may rule somewhat higher at times during the coming month we again advise our readers to market their hogs just as fast as possible. Take a good price when it is offered and your stock is

ready for market and your average will be satisfactory. Today the trade ruled about steady, the bulk of the hogs selling \$5.75@5.90 with choice hogs selling \$5.90@5.95. Sheep and lambs continue in good demand and prices are about at the top of the season. We will doubtless have an occasional reaction during the next two months but it still looks like high prices for everything in the wool line for some time.

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Battle Creek.

A large lawn party was held Tuesday night at the commodious Thomsen residence. All kinds of delicacies were served and the guests enjoyed dancing, cards, etc.

Saturday at 3 o'clock republican caucuses will be held for Battle Creek and Highland precincts.

Fred Newerck was at the county capital Monday.

Miss Elsie Simmons has been elected teacher at the Blakely school, vice Miss Clara Rudat of Norfolk, who resigned to accept a position in the Norfolk schools.

Mrs. Owen Wade of Norfolk was a Sunday visitor with friends here.

Miss Minnie Zimmerman, who is matron at the Lutheran hospital in Sioux City, made a brief visit here Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman.

John Risk, Jr., who went to the Pacific coast about six months ago, arrived home Sunday from Walla Walla, Wash. He walks with the assistance of two crutches on account of rheumatism.

Misses Mamie Preece and Bosale Flood gave an ice cream social and a little evening to their friends at the Preece home on the north side Saturday night.

Earl Cartney was a business visitor at Newman Grove Saturday.

Mrs. Annie Severa and Mrs. Ludwig Kerbel were down to Beemer Saturday for a visit with their sister-in-law, Mrs. Ludolph Kerbel, who is seriously ill.

Mrs. Mike Wade is here on a visit with relatives, from Colorado.

Contractor Charles Werner and a gang of carpenters are west of town building a large new barn for James Clark, whose old barn was recently destroyed by fire, from a stroke of lightning.

M. L. Thomsen has rented his old store building on the north side of Main street to the Fairmont Creamery company.

Matt Mink, a former resident of this county who is in the cattle business in Oregon, visited here the latter part of last week with relatives.

Rev. J. Hoffman will deliver a sermon on the occasion of a missionfest near Pierce next Sunday.

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