

The Clew of the Liquor Bottles

Edited by William J. Bacon

A True Story of the Secret Service, as Told by Capt. Dickson



SOME years ago, before I became connected with the United States secret service in the east, I was engaged by a member of the western express companies to do some special work for them," began Capt. Dickson. "My headquarters were in Denver and my work, on the whole, was decidedly interesting. One adventure in particular made me proud of my service for our company, although it was largely a matter of luck that brought about my success in that instance. I am a firm believer in luck, for it plays an important part in every man's life, and it has figured to a large extent in my own affairs. I am free to confess.

"A daring express robbery had been committed in the western part of the state, near the Utah line, by three men. The messenger had been murdered and the passengers throughout the train robbed of all their money. The hold-up men secured something more than \$15,000 from the express company's safe and fully \$5,000 from the passengers. They took nothing but money, however, leaving valuable jewelry, diamonds and watches with their owners, and ignoring the parcels in the express car. This circumstance showed that the gang was composed of experienced thieves, for money is the hardest thing in the world to trace.

"I was notified of the robbery on the afternoon of the second day after it occurred, and although I hastened to the scene with all dispatch and made my arrangements by wire, it was noon of the third day before I alighted at the nearest station. Here I had arranged for two horses and a prospector's outfit, deeming it best to follow the bandits in the disguise of a miner, as the robbery had been made at a point near the mining region of southwestern Colorado, and I expected to find the criminals at some of the numerous mining camps.

"I have never been a believer in disguises except as to clothing. All efforts to change the face with grease paints and wigs and the like only tend to attract attention and direct suspicion to the man thus togged out. The casual observer might not notice the deception, but the criminal, and especially the hunted criminal, is no casual observer. He has formed the habit of noticing everything, and he will detect the least false point in a man's appearance and shun him as if he were afflicted with the plague.

"A change of dress will work wonders in a man's appearance. If a man can wear other clothes than those he is accustomed to, and wear them easily and naturally, he can more effectively disguise himself by this means than he can with all the wigs and paints and whiskers in existence.

"Coming across the continental divide, I had suffered a slight attack of indigestion. I sent the porter after a flask of whisky, asking for a certain brand. He returned in a few minutes with one of the diminutive little bottles customarily sold on sleeping cars at a quarter a bottle. It was not the kind I had ordered, but the porter explained that this was the only brand of liquor the company sold, and I had to be content with it. The label of the bottle stated that it was put up expressly for the company.

"On reaching my destination, I immediately assumed the character of a miner and set about my inquiry. There was little information to be gathered beyond what was contained in the express company's report of the robbery, of which I had a carbon-copy. Satisfied that time spent here would be wasted, I set out for the scene of the robbery, riding a wiry little pony and leading another on which was packed my outfit of grub and cooking implements and miner's tools.

"The place was a desolate spot. The road ran through a broad alkali valley which had not, at that time, been brought under cultivation by irrigation. It was easy to pick up the trail of bandits and follow it across the valley in a southwesterly direction to the foot-hills of the Rockies, where the trail disappeared, the rocky ground leaving no trace of hoof-prints.

"From this point on it was to be a matter of luck and guesswork. I believed my men had made for Telluride, Oursay, Silverton or some other mining camp, but I was not rash enough to venture a guess as to which it might be at that stage of the game. These camps, with their rough, shifting population, offered capital retreats for criminals, and from past experiences I knew that my three rogues would, in all probability, remain in one of these camps until the excitement from the robbery had subsided, and then make for civilization to spend their money.

"For three days I drifted at random through the mountains, following trails and paths, for there were no roads, endeavoring to pick up some clew or find the place where my party had spent the first night after the robbery. The hold-up had occurred about noon, and, by hard riding, the three highwaymen could penetrate some ten or twenty miles into the fastness of the mountains before it became too dark to travel further. It was out of the question for any one to advance through that region after dark. I hoped to find the place of their camp, and felt sure I would do so by persevering.

"Late the third afternoon I stumbled on the ashes of a campfire, and close beside it, among the firs and cedars, I found where horses had been tied. This was what I had searched for, and I felt sure that I would here find something of value. I camped a short distance from the place so I would not disturb it, leaving my examination until the next morning, when I would have a good light, it then being too dark to attempt such a thing.

"That night, by the light of my campfire, I read again the report of the robbery as given by the train hands. Near the last of it was the account of the sleeping car porter who related, with evident grief, that he had been relieved of \$6.15 in silver, and that the bandits had rifled the liquor cabinet of the buffet, taking with them all of the whisky and a few bottles of the rarer and stronger wines.

"Early next morning I examined the deserted camp of the highwaymen. There was nothing but a burned-out pile of ashes and charred sticks and a few empty bottles. The bottles gave the clew for which I searched. The highwaymen had certainly made their



ONE OF THE MINERS THREW THE DOOR WIDE OPEN

camp here. Each bottle bore the label of the sleeping car company, and some of them were the diminutive flasks of which I had drunk one on the trip from Denver. There was not a scrap of paper anywhere else to be found.

"Elated with my success, I made a survey of the country and discovered a half-obscure trail leading farther into the mountains. I took up this trail and followed it as best I could until nightfall. Often I lost it, and sometimes I spent an hour or more casting about to pick it up again, as I have seen hounds baffled on the trail of a fox. About three o'clock that afternoon I found something that made my eyes sparkle. Shattered into a thousand pieces was the remains of one of the small whisky bottles on a large flat rock beside the trail where it had doubtless been cast in a playful mood induced by its contents. Among the fragments I found the label of the car company.

"It was the dry season, and this was in my favor, for no rains came to obliterate the trail. For five days I followed the bandits across the hills and through the valleys, verifying my route from time to time by fragments of broken whisky bottles along the way, and at the places where they had camped for a night. The buffet-car must have been well stocked, for I found many bottles in this journey.

"The trail eventually came to a well beaten road, which, from my map, I learned was the stage and mail route from Montrose, the nearest railroad point to Oursay, then a rather insignificant mining settlement. I lost no time in getting to Oursay, for it was impossible to trail my men along this road and I was sure they had headed for the mining camp.

"Two days were spent at Oursay without finding a trace of the three

men. They had not stopped there certainly, so I took the trail to Telluride, a mining camp farther on in the mountains. Telluride was then a camp of 800 or 1,000 souls, and there was a bit of a mining boom on which daily brought new prospectors to swell its citizenship, fatuous souls brought there by the greed of gold—a lure that never fails to attract victims in vain through the saloons and dance halls and other places where the rough miners congregated without finding a trace of my three rogues. That infallible sixth sense of mine was doing its best to keep me longer in Telluride, although my judgment told me to move on to Silverton; but in the end my intuition won the fight and I remained.

"One evening I was drinking with a raw-boned miner. The whisky was abundant. The distillery where it was made would never have recognized its product in its present form. I complained of the poor quality of whisky and asked my acquaintance if there were not some better stuff to be found in the camp. He said there was not, at any of the bars, but that he had been given an amazingly good drink by a miner, whose name he mentioned. He said it had been in a little bottle which held just enough to tease one, but it was the best liquor he had drunk since he left Kentucky many years before. He licked his lips in pleasant memory of the drink.

"I almost gave myself away, so keen was my pleasure at this chance remark. I inquired about the gen-

"It would have been the rankest folly to have attempted their arrest without assistance—although I did tackle such a job once in my salad days, as this scar will testify," and he pointed to an ugly wound at the back of his neck, partially covered by his flowing gray locks. "But that is another story. I decided to call on the United States deputy marshal, a man of Algerian bravery, for assistance. There was no chink or crack in the door through which I could gain a peek at the interior of the cabin, so I dropped down on my hands and knees and crawled around to the back of the cabin where I thought there might be a window. There was a window, but it was closed with a heavy shutter, and I could not find any point to peep through; but I did find something on the way around. My hand touched something round and smooth, and I clutched it involuntarily. It was one of the little whisky flasks. After I had felt the cabin I struck a match and examined it. The label of the car company was still on it.

"The deputy marshal was found at one of the dance halls and he soon summoned a reliable posse. We surrounded the cabin, from which still issued the sounds of revelry. The men were stationed at every point about it. Then the marshal and I rapped on the door. In response to our summons one of the miners staggered across the floor and threw the door wide open. We tripped him up and rushed over him into the cabin. The men were too drunk to make any resistance, and we captured them without



Alfalfa is growing in favor as a rotation crop.

Poor food and bad teeth are fruitful sources of cholera in horses.

The sponge for washing buggy or wagon can be made to last a long time by sewing it up in a piece of bagging.

If the cows find a little feed in the boxes in their stalls when they come in at night they will not delay in coming in. Try it.

Clean feeding pails, clean quarters, plenty of sunlight, fresh air and pasture as soon as the calves are old enough will insure gratifying success.

We all like fruit, but too little of it is found on the farm, many times. Put in more fruit trees and bushes. The health of the family will be better if there is a generous fruit diet.

Better to spray once than not at all. But the only right method is to be systematic and spray at the prescribed intervals. It is well to follow the spray calendar, which are furnished by experiment stations.

Plant more trees. In a few more years they become a big-paying investment. Utilize every available space on the farm for this purpose. Plan to never let a year go by but that you have put in a few trees. It is too late to set any out now but make up your mind that you will put some in in the fall and next spring.

The department of agriculture is experimenting with a view to securing a single germ beet seed. Last year's investigations were successful in increasing the percentage of the single germ seed to 50 per cent, as compared to 26 per cent for the year previous. By methods of selection from single-seed plants this percentage may be still further increased. The ultimate establishment of a single germ beet will revolutionize sugar beet growing, since the several sprouts sent up by the ordinary seed, all but one of which must be carefully removed by hand, constitutes the most difficult problem in beet raising.

A large pocket knife with a sharp blade should be carried when going through the orchard. With it one can cut out small branches and do a vast amount of good pruning that will save much work later. With the big blade of a large, sharp pocket knife a branch nearly an inch in diameter may be easily and quickly cut off. To perform this operation, pull the branch to the tree with one hand and cut with the other. The bending of the branch makes the cutting easy. Let the cut be clean, leaving no stub, or only a very short one. Branches of pear trees that have been killed with blight should be cut out and burned. When they are promptly removed the remainder of the tree not infected will assume vigorous growth and produce a heavy crop of good fruit. A pear tree with more than half of the large branches killed by the blight may be saved in this manner and become a perfect, healthy tree.

It will be well for the fruit grower who does not believe in the efficacy of spraying to study the following tables which set forth the results of experiments in two fruit-growing counties of New York state—Orleans and Niagara, made by the state experiment station. The orchards in these two counties have been placed in two groups. The first group includes all orchards, whether well cared for or not; the second group includes only the orchards which have received good treatment. Both the yields and income per acre of the orchards in the two groups is shown:

All Orchards, Good, Indifferent, Poor.

Niagara Orleans County, N. Y.	Bu. In. Bu. In.
Unsprayed	261 425 245 292
Sprayed once	384 537 317 316
Sprayed twice	509 611 345 327
Sprayed three times	571 711 325 318
Sprayed four times	280 353 520 311

Only Well Cared For Orchards.

Niagara Orleans County, N. Y.	Bu. In. Bu. In.
Unsprayed	295 395 225 218
Sprayed once	353 446 345 329
Sprayed twice	422 467 374 343
Sprayed three times	449 521 415 354
Sprayed four times	285 328 520 311

In the first group it is noted that the unsprayed orchards in every case yield very much less merchantable fruit than those sprayed even only once, and that as the number of sprayings increases the yield of merchantable fruit also increases. In the case of the well cared for orchards the difference is perhaps less striking, yet not the less convincing.

Made Provision for Speaker. The office of speaker, important as it has become, is mentioned but once in the constitution, Article I, section 2: "The house of representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers." No legislation has affected that provision in any degree whether of limitation or of expansion. In that instrument it was not considered necessary to make any definition of the word speaker or delimitation of his powers, for the office was already in existence by inheritance from the

Lucky is the farmer now who has wheat to sell.

Owls are vermin destroyers. Encourage their presence on the farm.

An unprofitable farm hand is the fellow who is brutal with the stock.

The people who are looking for trouble are seldom disappointed—ever notice that?

An occasional day off does not do the boys lots of good, even if it's only a fishing trip to the creek.

You would find a portable forge on the farm will save you many a trip into town for small repairs.

Charcoal is good for the pigs and the chickens. Be sure that there is a supply always accessible for them.

It is poor economy to pasture the grass too close. Don't try to keep more stock than you can successfully pasture.

A Jersey man has discovered that box kites flying over his chicken runs protect them from the attacks of hawks. Worth trying.

Look after the horses teeth carefully. If defects have developed it is easier to fix at once than to let them develop into serious conditions.

Cheer up says the robin. There is always a bright side to even a cold, backward season, and many a backward season has a good ending, remember that.

What would the merchant be who did not plan ahead and have the stock he is going to need ordered ahead. So with the farmer if he is going to be successful, he must plan far in advance.

The condition of the horse's neck at this stage of the farm work is pretty good evidence as to whether the collar was made to fit when the hard work was begun in the spring, and whether it has been kept adjusted as the shoulders have settled to the hard work.

Handle the colt just as you would the growing boy in your home. Who would think of leaving the boy until he was 21 before teaching him what it meant to obey and perform certain duties? So with the colt. He should not be allowed to get his growth beyond being what is called broken. It is much easier to begin from the first to accustom the colt to being handled and to lead and drive. Try it.

Many a farm can be made to yield a larger profit by laying out the fields differently and planning a rotation of various crops. The government will be glad to send pamphlets to farmers suggesting how this may be done, and will furnish special information for individual cases where desired. Farmers ought to avail themselves more fully of the splendid services of the government agricultural experts than they do.

To throw a horse easily try this method. Take a three-quarter-inch rope about 40 feet long, double it at the center and at this point tie a loop about two feet long. This forms a sort of collar which is slipped over the horse's head. The free ends of the rope are then brought down and between the front legs and each passed under the fetlock joint of a hind leg (preferably from within out), passed once around itself and the end then run forward through the collar. Assistants now pull backward on the ropes while the horse is backed. This draws his legs well forward and up on his sides. As soon as the horse is down the feet can be tied in this position with the rope.

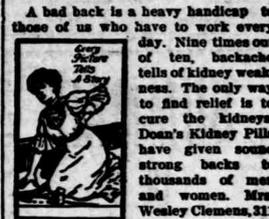
The large cities are becoming more and more strict as to the conditions of the dairies from which their milk supplies are obtained, and this fact is an indication of the raising of standards of production which dairymen must recognize if they are going to continue in the business. Pittsburg is one of the latest cities to adopt stringent rules and she has her inspectors out looking after the dairies which ship milk into the city. The conditions which the city imposes upon dairies are as follows: Tight stable floors must be provided, preferably of cement construction, provided with a gutter immediately behind the cows; proper ventilation of stables, provision of at least 400 cubic feet of air space for each cow, not less than one square foot of window area per cow. Windows may be very cheaply constructed of muslin instead of glass; that walls, ceilings and floors be kept clean and that the stable be whitewashed throughout at least twice a year; that stables be cleaned twice daily and that the manure be removed at least 30 feet from the stable; that the cows be kept clean, no accumulations of manure upon their flanks, sides, udders or tails; that the milking be done with clean, dry hands; that the milk pails be clean and sterilized by boiling water or other sterilization previous to milking. A narrow top milk pail is highly recommended; that the milk be removed at once from the stable and properly cooled; a temperature of 50 degrees or below is preferred; that the milk be placed in clean vessels and kept cool until delivered; that no person having an infectious disease, be allowed to milk the cows or in any way handle the milk.

English system of popular and representative government. The historic speakership having always been filled by selection from the membership of the body over which he was called to preside, it was not necessary to make such stipulation in the constitution.

Not Likely. "You called me a crook." "I did." "Then I'm going to kill you!" "Do you imagine that that would make me change my opinion?"

BURDENS LIFTED

From Bent Backs.



A bad back is a heavy handicap to those of us who have to work every day. Nine times out of ten, backache tells of kidney weakness. The only way to find relief is to cure the kidneys. Doan's Kidney Pills have given sound strong backs to thousands of men and women. Mrs. Wesley Clemens, 311 Marion St., Manchester, N. H., says: "Constant work at a sewing machine seemed to bring on kidney trouble. The kidney action was irregular and the pains in my back and loins so severe I could hardly endure it. Doan's Kidney Pills made me feel better in a short time, and I took them until entirely free from my trouble."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

THE HINT GENTEEL



Mr. Saphed—By Jove, it's nearly 12 o'clock. Perhaps I had better be gone.

Miss Smart—Well, they say "Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day."

Sheer white goods, in fact, any fine wash goods when new, owe much of their attractiveness to the way they are laundered, this being done in a manner to enhance their textile beauty. Home laundering would be equally satisfactory if proper attention was given to starching, the first essential being good Starch, which has sufficient strength to stiffen, without thickening the goods. Try Defiance Starch and you will be pleasantly surprised at the improved appearance of your work.

A Significant Test. "So you don't think the common people have the nerve to defy those who seek a system of financial oppression?"

"I am sure they haven't," answered Mr. Sirius Barker. "Look at me. I'm just as sensitive to injustice as anybody. And yet I never hesitate about handing a head waiter a comfortable tip for doing nothing except look haughty."

To Check Spread of Trachoma. It has been reported that the disease known as trachoma, or granular eye, has been spreading rapidly among the Indians. To check this trouble congress appropriated \$12,000, placing it in the hands of the commissioner of Indian affairs, for the immediate investigation and treatment of the disease and to check its spread.

With a smooth iron and Defiance Starch, you can launder your shirtwaist just as well at home as the steam laundry can; it will have the proper stiffness and finish, there will be less wear and tear of the goods, and it will be a positive pleasure to use a Starch that does not stick to the iron.

His Professional Habit. "How did that sculptor leave his affairs?" "In a strictly professional condition." "What do you mean?" "In statu quo."

Lewis' Single Binder gives the smoker what he wants, a rich, mellow-tasting cigar.

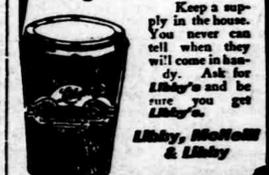
Occasionally a dressmaker gives her husband fits.



Never Vary in Quality or Taste because the utmost care is taken by Libby's Oils to select only the choicest materials, and put these up in the same careful manner every time. You are thus assured of uniform goodness, and this is the reason that the use of Libby's gives such general satisfaction to every housewife.

- Try these Libby's Foods:
- Dried Beef
 - Mexican Tamales
 - Ham Loaf
 - Thin Corn Cakes
 - Vienna Sausage
 - Evaporated Milk

For luncheon, spreads or every day meals, they are just the thing.



Keep a supply in the house. You never can tell when they will come in handy. Libby's and be sure you get Libby's.

SAYS BRAIN DOES NOT FEEL

French Professor Declares Stomach is Emotional Center.

The solar plexus is the emotional brain, says Prof. Francois Guyot. An emotion that attacks us is felt there first. Thus, if we feel anxiety it may give us, if severe, a positive stomachache. It may even be productive of nausea.

Prof. Guyot opines that it does not feel. The cerebrum, the major part of the brain, is the intellectual, but not the emotional center. The brain represents the intelligence. The spinal cord and the cerebellum, the latter the little brain, not yet well understood, and attached to the brain proper, govern equilibrium and the muscles of the body. But the emotions are located in the sympathetic nervous system ramifying through the body. Their chief center is the great plexus of nerves which lies against the backbone and embraces the stomach. This does not think, but it feels. What it does not feel is not felt at all, apart from pure intellectual cognition, and its purely passive and subjective sensations may often be regarded as warning of danger or possible mischief.

tem ramifying through the body. Their chief center is the great plexus of nerves which lies against the backbone and embraces the stomach.

Trap for the Piano Tuner. "No, now don't you take that piece

of chamois," said the man at the desk, as the hand of the woman wandered in his direction. "I know it's a nice looking piece, but I bought it specially for a purpose. I telephoned the man to come to-morrow and tune my piano. In the morning before I come down here I'm going to lay this piece of chamois across the keys. Then when I get home I'll know whether he has tuned it or not. If it's gone, he has; if it's still on the keys, he hasn't."

Perfect Fiend to Quote Statistics, According to Writer in Harper's. The Pittsburg man can carry more figures of large denomination on his person without your suspecting their existence than any other citizen of the United States. He is a reservoir of decimals and statistics. He must have ample justification, however, before he turns the spigot, but when he does there is a torrent no man can stem. If provoked and inclined to extend himself, in a five-minute talk he can fill you so full of miscellaneous indus-

tries—natural gas, steel rails, tin-plate, petroleum, steel pipes and sheet metal, fire bricks, tumbler, tableware, coke, pickles, and all that sort of thing—that you will begin to feel like a combination delicatessen and hardware store.