

DECLINE IN BANK BURGLARY

Modern Inventions Deprive the Cracksmen of Paying Business.

BIG HAULS NO LONGER POSSIBLE

Many and Varied Operations of Jimmy Hope, Master of the Craft, and a Crafty Case He

Modern inventions have completely crushed the professional bank burglar. The associations formed by the banks for their mutual protection and the watchfulness of detective agencies have wiped out a profession which used to reap a lucrative income from the repositories of public funds.

Time was when the most successful of the bank burglars were the men with the broadest shoulders and the shortest arms. In the past a job of this sort was only attempted by a burglar of thieves, half a dozen of them at least, and armed with implements so complicated and expensive that they weighed hundreds of pounds.

With every advance made by the burglar to work the destruction of the bank there have been added inventions for its protection, until now the profession, and as regarded by the public, is a thing of the past. It has become so hazardous that not even the bravest care to risk their precious liberty in robbing rates. True, the "yeggman" as he has come to be called, has seemed to fill in the vacancy caused by the retirement of the professional burglar, but his work is small compared with such masters of the craft as Adam Worth and "Old Man" Jimmy Hope. These men looked down upon such small fry, and would have nothing to do with them.

Out for Big Heals.

The "yeggman" is content with breaking into postoffices and taking what stamps and small coins may be left in the vaults. In robbing banks, however, he has the heartiness of this craft, when it was in its prime, disdained anything short of \$50,000, and sometimes he hitched his kite to a higher star than that.

An instance of this was the great Manhattan bank robbery, which took place in 1924, in which almost \$2,000,000 worth of securities and cash was abstracted from the vaults. "Old Man" Jimmy Hope was suspected of this crime, but nothing could be proved against him, although his son was convicted and sentenced to Sing Sing for a term of years.

No such robbery had been attempted before that time, and none has since assumed such magnitude in the amount of property lost at one time. For years the robbery had been planned, and the perpetrators waited for a favorable opportunity to put their scheme into operation. From the confession of Patrick Shevellin the whole story of this remarkable robbery was brought to light.

According to Shevellin, who was night watchman at the bank, he was approached three years before the robbery by two men who had been schoolmates of his in his boyhood, and of whose subsequent career he knew nothing. One of them was a well known cracksmen, nicknamed "Little Tracy," and the other man was almost usually famous, bearing the sobriquet of "Big Kid." They called his attention to the great chance that he had of making money easily, and also represented the small risk that was to be such proceeding, egging him on by such proceedings, egging him on by such proceedings, egging him on by such proceedings.

He at first rejected their proffers of assistance, but finally consented to a meeting, when he agreed to become a party to the crime. "Little Tracy" and the "Big Kid" were to give him the work, and he was to do the work. They called his attention to the great chance that he had of making money easily, and also represented the small risk that was to be such proceeding, egging him on by such proceedings, egging him on by such proceedings, egging him on by such proceedings.

In this new gang there was not a burglar, and several times they were within an ace of making the break, but somehow they always failed to give it up. Finally, after many meetings, the members became disheartened and decided that it was not feasible.

So Near and Yet So Far. Hope, however, did not lose faith in the scheme, and some six months after the forming of the gang again called on Shevellin. This time the arrangement was to associate "the Big Kid" and Johnny Dobbs with himself, and the trio went to work in dead earnest.

On the first available Sunday Hope visited the bank and examined the vaults. Then he gave Shevellin some time to take an impression of the outer door key. This being done he had a key made which, when tried, operated the lock quite easily.

The next Sunday he took Johnny Dobbs along. They drilled a hole under the combination lock back, opened the door and entered the vaults. Here for a time they were in doubt just what to do, as there happened to be two steel safes, both with combination locks. Fifty minutes was all the time that could be allowed in which to do the job, and they concluded that it could not be done with safety in that time, so they gave up the attempt.

confederates then started a plan to make the break, but the prime mover, Mason, being arrested and sent to Sing Sing on an unrelated charge, brought the attempt to an untimely end.

Then matters rested quietly until Jimmy Hope was liberated from jail at Bangor, Me., when he hunted up Shevellin and insisted on making the break at once. They made several times, and Hope said that he had the men together to do the trick but it was fully six months after that before the robbery was consummated, as they desired to test Shevellin's reliability.

Preparing for a Job. One Sunday Jimmy Hope appeared, and after examining the vault, went across the street and was joined by another member of the gang who was waiting for him, and the pair took the safe. Three weeks later, Saturday, October 26, the gang met on the corner of Mulberry and Biecker streets. They were prepared to do the work, and had agreed to begin at 8 p. m., but Shevellin told them that it would be impossible for them to start then, as another man would be on duty on that day, and that he did not come on until the morning.

At the hour appointed the men gathered and after leaving some of their number posted around the building to give warning entered the janitor's room, and at the point of a pistol, forced him to give up the keys of the bank and the combination key of the safe. They handcuffed the janitor and his wife, and leaving one of their number to look after them, the burglars entered the bank and opened the safe.

After effecting an entrance into the safe another problem presented itself for the cracksmen. The outer door of the vault was long open space where five or six men could stand single file. On either side of this space were compartments, which in reality were separate safes, with heavy fastenings, bolts, bars and combination locks. This, then, was the problem presented by the burglar's previous work would count for naught.

With their well appointed kit of tools, however, they succeeded in wrenching off some of the doors and securing their contents. But one compartment, in which was kept \$50,000 in bonds, resisted all their efforts to pry it open, although the marks around the frame of the door showed that they did not give up without a desperate struggle.

Unprofitable Securities. From the fact that the burglars were forced to leave their expensive tools in the vault it was surmised that they had been instructed to do this, and that the marks before they had completed the gutting of the bank. As it was, they got away with cash and securities amounting to \$2,470,700.

About a week after the robbery the gang met and divided the cash, and to the unfortunate member of the gang who was to wait for an offer from the bank for the securities before any further division could be made. This the bank refused to make, and a bill was introduced into congress providing for its relief by issuing duplicate government bonds. Notwithstanding the fact that the bank had gained a corruption fund, and claimed to be able to defeat the bill, it was passed five days afterward and signed by the president on February 20.

The New York legislature followed the lead of the national government and passed a law which annulled the securities of the county and city bonds and annulled the value of the originals.

The work of running down the criminals was an interesting piece of work, and while it shows with what care the criminals operate, and how they plan for months and years, it also shows the care and watchfulness and untiring watchfulness can accomplish in the unraveling of these seeming mysteries.

The only clue the police had to go upon was the tools left in the vault after the job was completed. Each man of the force had a key made, and the work was done by whom. Early in the affair Captain Byrnes came to the conclusion that Jimmy Hope was implicated in the case, and an exhaustive search was made for him, but without results.

Tracking the Crooks. All this time Captain Byrnes kept his eye on Shevellin, the night watchman of the bank, and it was soon found that he appeared to have plenty of money and was spending it quite freely. Investigation revealed the fact that before the robbery he had been a well known gambler, and he was now receiving. Detectives were placed on his track and his every movement was watched. Soon results became apparent.

He was discovered one day talking with Shevellin, a well known criminal. Kelly was then watched, and it came to light that he had been seen standing on the corner opposite the bank the morning of the break, when he should have been at work, and that from the date of the robbery he had been seen in the neighborhood of the bank. It was then that Kelly was taken into custody, but he would not give up a word for a lawyer. Now, you possibly didn't get over \$20,000 out of that break, and they cleaned up hundreds of thousands.

Shevellin was so taken by surprise that he blurted out: "So help me God, captain, I didn't get but \$400."

POLITICS IS A POOR TRADE

A Farmer Mayor Says So, and He Has Had Much Experience.

FEW ADVANTAGES FOR YOUNG MEN

Feeling of Insecurity About Public Jobs and Chances of Advancement Not Good-Range of Government Salaries.

NEWS FROM OMAHA SUBURBS

West Ambler. Mrs. J. Higley was been quite ill the past week with a severe attack of malaria.

Mrs. Lena Carlson Talbot was the guest of her mother, Mrs. E. J. Talbot, this week. Miss Myrtle Blake is planning to attend the chautauque at Glenwood, Ia., the coming week.

Miss Ruth Cunningham left on Friday to make the acquaintance of her new friends.

Mrs. L. Darling, accompanied her friend, Mrs. Spoerle, on a drive to Forest Lawn on Sunday.

Mrs. Henry Olsen and little daughter have returned from their trip to Hastings, where she visited her father.

Mrs. Noel Perry entertained informally Friday afternoon for the home of Rev. Joseph J. Lamps, with further arrangements for the home of Rev. Joseph J. Lamps.

Charles Henderson came down from Sioux City Saturday evening to spend a short time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pratt of Omaha and Mrs. M. Emory of New Jersey.

M. M. Paverly and sons, Allen and Albert, have purchased a 100-acre farm in Illinois this week, and the probability is that his son will go there in the spring and work it.

The bridge company has completed the bridge on Forty-sixth and Francis streets, and the residents of West Omaha are now able to cross the bridge.

J. E. Augie celebrated his twentieth birthday on Thursday, July 19, by taking Mrs. A. Cavender and her guests at dinner at the home of Mr. Vanderploeg.

Mr. Ormsby removed his family from Fifty-fifth and Center to Nineteenth and Sprague streets Monday, where he has work to do on the new Union Pacific building.

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Table listing various professions and their salaries: National bank examiners, \$10,000 to \$15,000; Customs house inspectors, \$10 to \$5 a day; Marine hospital surgeon, \$3,500; Assistant surgeon, \$2,500; Superintendent of life saving service, \$2,000; Keeper of life saving station, \$900; Bureau of life saving stations, per month, \$60.

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Advertisement for TAPP CONSTRUCTION CO. featuring 'A Cement Wall' that is 'Artistic, Durable, at Moderate Cost'. Includes contact information: Office 303 Neville Block, Omaha, Neb. Phone Douglas 6785, 5063.

For London, where they will visit relatives. The Dundee Sunday school picnic, which was to have been held on Thursday at Elmwood park, was postponed on account of the rain. Mrs. Ida Willard of Galesburg, Ill., is stopping at the home of Rev. Joseph J. Lamps until further arrangements are made for the family.

NEWS FROM THE ARMY POSTS. Fort Robinson. FORT ROBINSON, Neb., July 21.—(Special)—Muelson Nicholson of Company L, Twenty-fifth infantry, attempted to commit suicide last night, but was rescued through the left arm near the shoulder and is in a serious condition. Little hope is entertained for his recovery.

ECHOES OF THE ANTEROOM. Ancient Order United Workmen. The degree team of North Omaha lodge No. 123 reported that all arrangements had been completed for the moonlight excursion which all members and Degree of Honor members and their families and friends are invited. The boat leaves the foot of Douglas street at 7 o'clock.