

HELD AS GEM THIEF AFTER SLIP OF PEN

Surplus S on Card Leads to Arrest of Van Alten, Expert "Pennyweighter"—Police Present His Record.

New York, Dec. 4.—Victor Van Alten, who is sought by the police of three cities in connection with diamond thefts, was arrested at the offices of Steele-Gelb-Gorn, Inc., by Detective John Barron of the Fifth avenue squad. Van Alten called on the jeweler shortly before 4 o'clock and presented a card on which he had written Klein & Sons, Alabama. He asked to see diamond rings set in platinum. The member of the firm who waited on Van Alten knew that the name of the firm was "Klein & Son," and becoming suspicious, he summoned Detective Barron. When under arrest Van Alten threatened to bring suit against the detective for false arrest, but, according to the police, finally acknowledged his identity.

Van Alten, the police say, uses the aliases Noble, Martin, Ford and Fawcett, and is one of the cleverest diamond thieves in the country. His method, they say, is to pose as an out-of-town jeweler, and after buying a quantity of goods on credit to disappear. He is also said to be an adept in the art of "pennyweighting" or substituting cheap imitations for gems.

It was during June, 1921, according to police records, that Van Alten first came to the attention of the New York police when he visited this city and disappeared after swindling a number of prominent firms. His first appearance was the offices of Ingerman, Goldsmith & Co., where, after representing himself as a retail jeweler from Beltingham, Wash., he pulled a loop and pair of tweezers from his pocket and examined several stones with the aid of a connoisseur. After selecting several stones, valued at about \$6,000 Van Alten asked to be recommended to a reliable mounting manufacturing house, and was referred to S. Brand & Sons, 18 East Twenty-third street.

Jeweler Recognizes Visitor. When Van Alten entered the Brand office he was recognized by Mr. Brand as the man who had appeared at his store nearly a year before and represented himself as a jeweler of Easton, Pa. After selecting several thousand dollars worth of jewelry which he said he would call for in the morning, Van Alten went to the telephone presumably to make a call but did not lift the receiver from the hook. He did not return on the following day and it was not until some time later that Mr. Brand discovered the loss of a diamond ring valued at \$250. On the same day, Van Alten went to the office of Abel Brothers, 16 Maiden Lane, where he asked to see some diamond rings. A tray containing about 200 rings was set before him, several of which he said he would call for in the morning. Van Alten stated that it was too late to cash a check at the bank that day; but that he would return in the morning for the goods. When he did not return an examination was made of the contents of the tray and it was found that a ring valued at \$925 was missing, an imitation having been substituted.

Headquarters records further show that on March 15, 1920, Van Alten was arrested at Springfield, Mass., charged with stealing a pearl and diamond pendant, and fined \$50, that on his release he came to New York, visited the firm of A. Suderov, 49 Maiden Lane, and made off with a quantity of jewelry valued at \$3,000; that he victimized R. H. Macy & Co., for which he was arrested at Springfield, Mass., on June 12, 1920, and "kipped" bail; that he again bobbed up, this time in Seattle, Wash., and again he jumped bail, and was next heard of in New York in December, 1921.

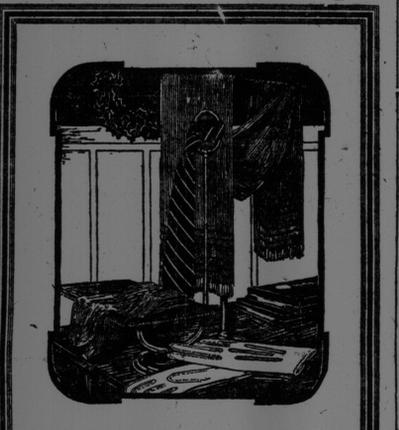
This time, the police say, Van Alten visited the firm of Hans Bressler, at 83 West Thirty-eight street, and presented the card of a Sharon (Pa.) jeweler. After consulting a credit list Mr. Bressler found the Sharon jeweler's credit listed at \$20,000, and Van Alten had no difficulty in charging \$5,000 worth of diamonds. When arrested yesterday Van Alten was charged only with the theft of jewelry valued at \$5,000 from Hans Bressler. His photograph has been shown to the other jewellers, all of whom have identified him.

The prisoner gave his New York address as 2 East 125th street. He said that he was a native of Sweden and gave Vancouver, B. C., as his home.

The firemen were called out on Saturday night about 11 o'clock to a house in Carmarthen street, near Princess, to extinguish a small chimney fire. The application of a little salt put out the fire before any damage was done.

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Specialty Shop for Men—and Women Who Shop for Men.

For 40 years the same quality and flavour has been a delight to me
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The old reliable
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the wooden peg guarantees the quality—beware of imitations

ign nobility derived from stocks, bonds or property held in trust in Illinois.
Marquis Curzon, as the husband of Mary Victoria Leiter of Chicago, daughter of Levi Z. Leiter, became wealthy through the marriage and has gained more wealth through his marriage to Mrs. Alfred Duggan, another American heiress. Mary Leiter Curzon died in 1906.
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Chicago, are annually sent overseas for the support of cars, dukes and other members of the foreign nobility," Alderman Byrne said.
"Curzon, who has consistently opposed American interests, was made by American dollars which he received from the Leiter estate by virtue of the marriage settlement and will of Levi Leiter. Yet Curzon, who was a poor under-secretary in the British Foreign Office when he married Mary Leiter, has said publicly that both his American marriages were beneath him.
"European nations do not have to send a Clemenceau to the United States looking for money. All these nations have to do is to raise broken-down dukes, counts and no-accounts and send them over to this country to marry American millions. Curzon is one of the pompous popinjays who rose to such royal honors at Viceroy of India on American dollars."
Alderman Byrne's resolution was referred to the council judiciary committee.

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DUMBWAITER VOICE THAT OF LOST WIFE
Druggist Asks Separation from Woman He Trained to a Bronx Apartment House—Listened at the Shaft.

White Plains, N. Y., Dec. 4.—Unable to find his wife after searching for her for four months, George Rauh, a Mount Vernon druggist of that city, heard her voice from the bottom of a shaft in an apartment house at 66 Vermlaya avenue, the Bronx, while she was informing the janitor, whom, the plaintiff said, he had "gotten next to," that her garbage was descending in the dumbwaiter. Rauh said he had followed his mother-in-law to this address and at first was refused admittance to the apartment. So as to be sure of his ground Rauh consulted the janitor, who conceived the plan of listening to the women's voices from the section of the house to which Rauh said he had followed his wife's mother. This was part of Rauh's testimony in his suit for separation. Rauh said that the first four years of married life, spent at 1420 Hancock street, Brooklyn, and the next four years were all right. Rauh decided to go into the garage-business with Frederick Shippey of Mount Vernon. The plaintiff

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"The first thing to reach for"

says he owned half the stock and found it necessary to obtain the assistance of his wife, Theresa. Then the trouble started. According to Rauh his wife and Shippey developed more than a platonic friendship. They spent much time together in the garage in the early hours of the morning, he said, with only a sputtering kerosene stove for illumination.
On Nov. 11, 1918, Rauh said he left his wife after a quarrel over "early hours." Rauh told the court "she struck me in the face and knocked my glasses off and I hastily struck her back in the fact, and then she took a mirror reflector from the table and crashed it over my head. She also tried to hit me with a beer bottle and a chair, but her mother and the janitor intervened."
On another occasion Rauh said he was out hunting for his wife when he discovered her coming down the street with Shippey. Rauh says he told his former partner there was going to be no more going about with his wife. Shippey had an opposite view, Rauh says. After it was all over, Rauh testified, he washed the blood from his hands.

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LADIES' FLEECE-LINED BLOOMERS 59 cents
MEN'S MUFFLERS—\$3 value 98 cents
MEN'S TIES 19 cents
MEN'S SWEATERS 98 cents
MEN'S TROUSERS 98 cents
MEN'S WOOL RIBBED UNDERWEAR 75 cts.
BOYS' MACKINAWs—\$8.00 value, ideal for Xmas \$3.45
BOYS' SWEATERS 69 cents
BOYS' SUITS \$2.95
Children's Flannel Drawers 19 cents
Children's Fleece-lined Bloomers 49 cents
Table Oilcloth 25c. yd. Limited Quantity
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