

New York The Port of Missing Men

HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS LOSE THEMSELVES EACH YEAR AMONG THE CITY'S MILLIONS. DROP OUT AND LIVE ON UNRECOGNIZED, WHILE THEIR FAMILIES COUNT THEM DEAD.

Let us take the case of John O'Rorie (that is not his real name), 32 years of age, married, who disappeared in this city just two years ago, on Nov. 29, 1910, says the New York Evening Post. O'Rorie's case will help us to answer the question, "Is New York the port of missing men?" O'Rorie was last seen by any one who knew him, on the day named. He had not been successful in business, but had not been despondent. The circumstances indicated that he had wished simply to drop out of the ken of those who had known him. The pink slips of the police department, the agencies of the various missions throughout the city—the O'Rories were too poor to employ private detective bureaus—yielded no trace of him, and he is still listed in the index at headquarters among the missing. But ask any one of the men whose business it is to search for the lost one: "Do you think that O'Rorie is still in New York city?" The answer will be, "He probably is." Ask again: "Do you think there is any chance of his being found?" the answer will be, "No."

That is the best opinion of those who have been concerned for years with just such cases as O'Rorie's. Instances like it are not uncommon. Last year 708 residents of New York city "dropped out," as they put it; 548 residents or other places were reported to the police department here as missing, with the possibility of their being found in the city, and these are still registered among those not recovered. More than this number were found and returned, but the majority of those found had been convicted and sent to prison, and so were discovered. That great number of others, who wished to be forgotten, did drop out successfully, probably a yet larger number drifted away from all who knew them, and were not reported as missing, and the city holds them all.

Among Those Present.
At headquarters, and at the Salvation Army headquarters, at the Bowery mission, they will tell you that New York is really the port of missing men. The Bowery will add that 95 per cent. of the hotsam and jetsam of men on that street of last resort might be listed among the missing—more of this later.

For this city of 5,000,000 of people shakes a sieve and meshes so coarse that men and women need search no farther for a place which shall let them drop through. It is far easier to fall through the hopper than for who see your friends daily, can imagine. You might be surprised, if you were to question the possibility of disappearing in the city, at the readiness with which detective and mission worker will assure you that it can be done, and is done. New York is a big city, they will tell you, but in nothing is it larger than in this—the number of those who drop out. The thoughts of those who wish to be among the missing apparently turn here as a refuge.

Before taking up the question of figures, and the reasons for disappearance, look for a moment at the case of Peter Bartlett. That again is not the man's real name. It was only last Sunday that he was returned to his wife and family in Brooklyn after being lost for twelve years. You might think that the instance of Bartlett pointed the wrong way; actually it is the best example of how one may disappear in his city. With those who are lost for all time, there is always the suspicion that they may have been killed, or have gone to other countries. Peter Bartlett left his wife and two children in Brooklyn, where he had lived for many years, and remained unaccounted for in this city for twelve years, most of that time on the Bowery. When he did return, he went voluntarily. So let us call him as a witness.

Why Bartlett Left Home.
In May, 1900, Bartlett left his home. He had been dissatisfied with conditions, but had not been a drunkard, or

ill, or despondent enough to end his existence. He simply wished to leave all he had known in his life. To escape, he came no farther than New York. When a man leaves home in that spirit, it is an axiom of the Bowery to look for him "down" instead of "up," with respect to his former life. Bartlett took another name, but changed his appearance no more than a month of dissipation, idleness, and a rough life would change any one, and he reached the level of the Bowery's floating population in less time than a month. There he remained, making no especial effort to keep hidden. When he earned enough by odd jobs of a mental sort, he slept in one of the cheap Bowery lodging houses; at other times he put up with the cold hospitality of doorsteps or hallway. After a time he pulled up a bit, and from there on lived the life of the Bowery lodging houses regularly. One year ago he was helped further up by a mission worker, but it was not until two weeks ago that he gave his real name, and returned to his family. Peter Bartlett, lost twelve years in New York was found; but he found himself, and, except for that, he would be still listed among the missing today.

There are hundreds and thousands of Peter Bartletts in New York City, as any one who knows will tell you. Another instance of the same sort was testified to by the same mission worker. This time it was a man who had been lost in New York for more than sixteen years. He came from a small town in the suburbs of the city, and he left there his wife and three children, the youngest less than six months old. Search was kept up for him for months, but nothing was heard or seen of him. Sixteen years later he returned voluntarily. In that time he had been on the Bowery constantly, except for one short stay in Philadelphia. He had seen others who had known him from time to time at first, but to avoid them had been easy, and after a year or two of Bowery life there was no need of avoidance.

These, then, are facts. Every Bowery lodging house has story after story to tell of the same sort, and back of the disappearances are tragedies and romances enough to stock the portfolio of a weekly yellow magazine for years to come. In Peter Bartlett's case, the reason was simply a wish to break up his past, to begin anew, or, rather, to forget and be forgotten, and the incentive was the dissatisfaction of unsuccess. With others, the breaking point is, perhaps a release from prison, or to escape punishment which they fear is coming. All the various disappointments which bite into a man have their victims in the record of the missing, and these are too many even for Scheherazade's telling. In the cases of women, there may be said to be but one reason.

The Potter's Field and the River.
Among those who do not return are those who go to unnamed graves in the potter's field—a number considerable over one hundred yearly. The potter's field will give up its dead at the appointed time, even as the sea. There is another of the Bowery's sayings—"beyond the Bowery—over the dock." That street is the last refuge; and the East and the North rivers are beyond. Perhaps then the lost one is found, but there are no means of identification; he who was lost among the living is surely lost among the dead; and it is one thousand to one that the pink slips of police headquarters will not give the lost one a name. Maybe those who drop out "over the dock" are victims of violence, done away with for a purpose; and then identification may follow. The rule runs the other way.

So far the story has been all about those who have disappeared and have gone down in life. What chance is there for one in a station far removed from the Bowery to drop out? The recent case of Dorothy Arnold, whose parents were wealthy, shows you that it can be done; and others have gone away, their story never to be told. Some of the missing put aside their past life and climb upward and are unknown. There was an instance of this when a man, who has been much in the public eye, and had attained wealth, was found to be one who had disappeared from humble surround-

ings many years before, changed his name, and been successful. There is no corner of New York's sieve where one may not drop through.

For the statistics of the missing, so far as they can be compiled, the police records are available. Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 1 of this year, 1,555 men and 766 women were reported to the police as missing. Of these, 1,088 men and 766 women were reported to friends or relatives, either through the police's efforts or voluntarily. There are yet to be accounted for 497 men and 211 women.

Over a Thousand Missing.
From places outside the city there came requests to look for 579 men and 296 women, who were missing and were thought to have come to New York. Of these, 372 men and 176 women are yet to be accounted for. The total is 1,256 missing, men and women, residents of New York, and others. Ask those who know, how many of these may be now in the city, and they will tell you that more than three-fourths are probably here. Besides, these, there are perhaps an equal number whose disappearance is not reported. There is not a well-known mission here that does not get daily letters from people out of town who are seeking the missing ones. The percentage of those found is small.

Among other stories back of mysterious disappearances there is the one of persons whose names have appeared in the list of those dead after some disaster; and these, although living, have chosen to take this opportunity to be forgotten. This is so infrequent, according to those who know, that it ought not be numbered among the probabilities; if any one wished to be reported as dead, the simple method of leaving clothes and a farewell letter at the end of an East river dock would be far better. Oddly enough, however, the newspapers of Wednesday told of a case in which a woman, reported dead in the Iroquois theatre fire in Chicago several years ago, and believed to be dead by her relatives, had returned. For months she had been in a hospital, and the shock of her experiences had temporarily effaced all recollection of her past associations. Such instances are rare, and few of the missing can be accounted for this way. Of those listed under the unidentified dead, there is a greater number; only conjecture can estimate these.

The Salvation Army, the police department, and various agencies maintain a special bureau whose duty it is to look out for missing men in this port. The Salvation Army and the Bowery mission are appealed to mainly by people from out of town, although they receive hundreds of requests yearly from residents of the city. When these do meet with any success, it is because the missing one chooses to make himself known voluntarily. At the Bowery mission it is said that at least 90 per cent. of the men who attend the bread-line meetings are numbered among the missing. By this it is meant that this percentage are separated from their families, either as son or as husband, and probably have changed their names to escape old associations. They have fallen, or become disgraced in one way or another, and to remain unknown is easy—this is the Bowery incognito's story.

Search Daily.
The police department's special bureau for finding lost persons is called upon many times daily for aid, but not so often as in times past for several reasons. There are two men of the detective bureau who start out from headquarters daily on their rounds and the search is carried on by precincts also. Persons reported missing are described on printed slips with photograph, if possible, and these slips are sent to detectives in each precinct, and perhaps to other cities. Detectives search in hotels, perhaps in a "tip" is given, for the persons described on the pink sheets; and the superintendent of the morgue makes a daily report for purposes of possible identification. Suspicion may point to the theory that the lost one has been convicted and sent to prison, but the police have no authority to enter any state prison to make search. Hospitals are the most likely places in which to find missing persons, and the authorities of these institutions are always ready to co-operate with the police department in the work of identification.

In years past the number of people



FRINGE AND BRAID HELP TO MAKE THIS COAT LUXURIOUS.

Sealette, one of the clever substitutes for sealskin, was used to make this handsome carriage or limousine coat which is intended for afternoon wear above gowns of a formal character. The coat is braided in a graceful design, the braiding suggesting a draped effect, though the material really hangs perfectly straight. The worn silk fringe, in combination with the black braid produces a very luxurious wrap.

CELEBRATION OF CENTURY OF PEACE

reported missing to the police was far greater. It was a common trick then for women on the East side, who wished to be gone from their homes for a day to take their young children and abandon them on the sidewalk near a police station house, watching from nearby until they saw that the young ones had been picked up by a policeman. Then they would go away, and in the evening would come with their girls and boys, and their child had been lost—it had been left in the care of a neighbor's child and was gone. Station houses in certain precincts were dubbed "day nurseries" by the force.

Another trick worked upon this bureau of the police was by wives whose husbands had left them, and who wished to get them back, but not to prosecute for abandonment. Perhaps the husband, if he were in some other place, would connive at the plan for the purpose of getting back to the city free, for, of course, the officer who had the warrant sworn out by the wife would pay the expenses of bringing the delinquent. The wife would "tip off" the police that the missing one was here or there. When the husband was brought back, she would let the warrant drop. This practice became so frequent that the judges of special sessions took notice of it. Now, in such cases, the woman is sent immediately before the grand jury, and an indictment is returned. If convicted, the man is sent away for three years. This class of missing persons is much smaller now.

The police search is mainly carried on in the places where the person may be found dead or injured, but they look also for the living. An index of all who are reported lost is kept at headquarters, with records of the cases; and it is an axiom of the department also that those who ask aid in this respect are also the most ungrateful people with whom the force has to deal. One of the first questions asked is "Will you tell us as soon as you hear anything yourself?" and generally the promise to do so is faithfully broken. The majority do not come back to say that the lost one has been found, or to give thanks. The police are readiest to give the answer that if a person wishes to lose himself in New York's millions, this can be done. To them it is the port of missing men.

Three Killed at Toronto.
Toronto, Ont., Dec. 18.—Two C. P. R. men were killed this morning at Byng Inlet at the approach of a bridge. A heavy locomotive while crossing the bridge went through, with the result that the engineer and a brakeman were instantly killed. The train crew were all residents of Sudbury. Their names could not be ascertained.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—A collision took place this morning between two Canadian Pacific freight trains near Iramho, resulting in the death of Fireman M. Richardson.

GRAIN GROWERS

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Sportsman Shot By An American Woman

INVESTIGATION OPENED THOUGH MUMM FAMILY TRIED TO KEEP AFFAIR QUIET.

Paris, Dec. 19.—A sensation was created here today when it became known that Walter Mumm, a well-known sportsman and member of a prominent family connected with the wine trade, had been shot Thursday night and seriously wounded by an American woman. The bullet, it is said, entered mumm's chest and penetrated a lung. No arrest has been made and no charge has been preferred against anyone for the shooting. The Mumm family tried to keep the shooting from becoming known, but the public prosecutor's office has opened an investigation of the affair. The woman, it is understood left France this morning. The Petit Parisien, in its version of the shooting of M. Mumm, says that his assailant, who, it understands is a divorcee, took a sumptuous apartment in the Rue des Belles Feuilles, a fashionable quarter. She was young and attractive, equipped with good introductions and soon began to entertain extensively. Among her most frequent visitors, according to the newspaper, was Walter Mumm.

Thorpe Is Outstanding Star of Athletic Year

INDIAN SET UP A NEW STANDARD IN ALL-ROUND COMPETITIONS WHICH HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN TOUCHED—GREAT WORK ON FOOTBALL FIELD.

New York, Dec. 19.—With the greatest athletic year in history just going into the discard, it is interesting to select some men who made athletic history during the year. Some great events were held the world over during 1912, but the Olympic games at Stockholm topped the whole list of amateur athletic events.

The one figure that stood head and shoulders above the rest of the athletic world after the Olympic games had been cleared away, was that of Jim Thorpe. Aside from his recent marvelous feats on the football field, Thorpe proved himself unquestionably the greatest all-around athlete that ever started on any field. He not only beat his competitors in all-around showing with a good performance in each and every event, but he won a majority of the different events of the decathlon and pentathlon series with a performance that would have won a national championship in this or any other country. Jim cleared over 23 feet in the long jump, over 6 feet in the high jump, ran his high hurdles in 35.35 seconds, and ran 109 yards in 11.15 seconds, and all that while under the heavy strain of all-around competition.

The proof conclusive that Thorpe is the greatest of all-around men that ever wore a spiked shoe came in the 1,500 metre performances that he showed in the decathlon and pentathlon series at Stockholm. After the terrific physical and mental strain of days' continuous competition, Thorpe went to the mark for his final event in the decathlon looking as fresh as when he started the week before. When the pistol cracked there was a streak of white. That was Jim. He ran his first quarter in a trifle worse than 58 seconds, and by that time was so far ahead that he started to grin, the stroke through, and finished the 1,500 metres, which is just 120 yards short of a mile, in 4:40. Had Thorpe gone on through a full mile he would have beaten 5 minutes all to pieces, something that has never been done by any man in an all-around competition. Did Not Specialize.

It is safe to assert too, that he had not specialized. Thorpe might easily have won any one of several events on the Olympic programme. Jim appears to be best in the high jump, but there's no telling what he would do in the hurdles or the running broad jump if he was to do the one event act. The truth is, Thorpe doesn't train for any one event, and yet he is good in any of them.

Old Country Football.
London, Dec. 18.—(C.A.P.)—To qualling games were played for the English football cup and resulted as follows:—
Gillingham 3; Spennymoor United 0.
Rochdale 1; Darlington 0.
Gillingham will play Barnsley and Rochdale will play Swindon Town in the first round, January 11.

SCOOP The Cub Reporter Scoop Has A Ding Dong Good Idea By "Hop"

