

BEATING A RAILROAD.

How a Dishonest Traveling Man Tried to Swell His Pocketbook.

A drummer for a St. Louis clothing house tried to play a low-down trick on the Alton road at Dwight one day recently, and but for the chance observation of a female passenger who was awaiting her train his scheme would undoubtedly have succeeded.

The fellow, says the Chicago Herald, held checks for two pieces of baggage, a trunk and a satchel. Obtaining permission from the baggage-man, who was at work on the platform, to go inside and place an extra sample in his trunk the traveling man shortly emerged from the baggage-room protesting that he was unable to find his satchel. Search was at once instituted, but to no effect; the missing grip for which he held a check was nowhere to be found. As it was not forthcoming when the train arrived the drummer made a formal complaint to the station agent and put in a claim of one hundred dollars against the road to reimburse him for his loss.

After the man had left, a lady who sat in the waiting-room, and who had been a quiet but interested observer of the proceedings, walked toward the ticket window and inquired of the agent if the drummer had actually claimed that his valise had been stolen. She was told such was the case.

"Well," said the woman, "I am convinced that the fellow is a fraud, for from where I sat I had a clear view of the baggage-room, and I distinctly saw that man go in there, look in his trunk and place his satchel inside. Then after pretending to hunt around the room he rushed out and began abusing the baggage-man."

The agent whistled thoughtfully. It was a new dodge on him. Then he sent a dispatch to the operator at the P. P. and N. Junction, to which place the drummer had checked his trunk, in which he outlined the circumstances, and urged that the agent call two or three reputable citizens and in their presence open the trunk.

The St. Louis man was up-town when the telegram arrived, but his baggage was at the station. Hastily calling in the city marshal and the nearest blacksmith, the lock of the trunk was skillfully picked, and there, just beneath the tray, lay the missing satchel.

The entire particulars have just been sent in to the general office of the Alton, together with the very saucy letter demanding one hundred dollars. In reply an answer was sent the St. Louis drummer to the effect that if he ever dared press his claim any further he would be vigorously prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law.

Since the exposure of this well-laid scheme to raise the wind it transpires that the artful dodger has been working the plan on other roads, but as the man's claims had not been paid, owing to the usual red tape that obtains in such cases, the chances are that he will never press any of them for final settlement.

DEATH STOPS THE CLOCK.

At Least That Is the Supposition of Superstitious People.

The sentimental and superstitious who are given to tracing the laws of coincidence, says the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Times, will find an interesting subject for their attention in the recent death of a jeweler in Bucyrus, O. For many years it has been the office of a skillful German watchmaker whose name is Frank Kehrer, to attend to the town clock. During the last few months the health of Mr. Kehrer has been poor, and the clock, deprived of his careful attention, has been keeping indifferent time.

One Monday morning recently the timepiece struck five o'clock and a few moments later it stopped. Early risers who heard the chime say there was something indescribably weird and peculiar about it. Later risers noticed that the clock hands pointed to 5:03.

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When the late State Senator J. B. Smith, of Hancock county, W. Va., passed away, his family looked at his watch to see the time. The hands pointed to 12:02. When S. G. Smith, son of the late senator, began house-keeping in Wheeling, his father gave him a family clock which he had always attended to himself. After the funeral Mr. Smith returned to Wheeling. As soon as he saw the clock Mr. Smith turned to his mother and sister and asked them if anything in the room had attracted their attention. "The clock," said the sister, and the mother nodded assent. The clock had stopped at 12:02.

A "Dog Modiste" in Paris.

Lovers of pet dogs will be interested in the visit of an American lady to the store of a "dog modiste" in Paris. The sights were very amusing. The place was not so much a store as an establishment, with halls and rooms richly furnished. Ladies tripped in and out all day long, most of the visitors having with them pugs or terriers. The pet dogs were scattered through the rooms, each awaiting its turn. Many small mats and rugs were around the waxed floors, and every bit of carpeting of the kind was occupied by some pretty little creature. These dogs have various dresses. The robe used in the morning is a garment of dark blue cloth. It is called a paletot, and is lined with red flannel. From a leather collar little bells jingle as its wearer walks along. Sometimes a bunch of violets is fastened on the left shoulder of a dog. On very cold days the pet is clad in sealskin of the same pattern, the collar being of fur, mounted in silver.

A Divided Town.

The town of Texarkana is on the line between Texas and Arkansas, with a street-car track dividing the two. This has been thought to be very funny at first, but now it has to have two sets of city officers, has lost the county seat and criminals escape from one state to another by going six feet. The man who staked out the town is dead, however, and nothing can be done.

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CORNER OF BROUGHTON

A GIRL'S MISTAKE.

The Clever Base by Which She Robbed a Rich Californian.

"During the month of September, 1889, I was employed on a confidential case in St. Paul, Minn.," said Detective Ainge, of the New York, Ontario & Western railway service to a Utica Herald reporter, "and was one day standing in the Union depot watching for a suspected party, when a train came in well filled with passengers. Among those who alighted was a wealthy gentleman from the Pacific coast. Just as he stepped on the platform a handsome young woman, apparently about twenty years of age, rushed into his arms saying: 'Oh, papa, papa, I'm so glad you've come,' and with that she began to shower the bewildered Californian with kisses. Then she gave a short, frightened scream, rushed through the crowd, entered a hack, and was driven away. We all supposed it was a case of mistaken identity. The Californian enjoyed the mistake.

"He came to me and the railway officer, who were talking about some business, and said it was a good joke, and he guessed we had better take something on the strength of it, as the kisses were worth considerable. We proceeded to the hotel, and he took his smile while the officer and myself took a cigar. When the Westerner came to pay for the wine and cigars he discovered that his pocket-book and two hundred dollars were gone. Further search developed the fact that his fine gold watch and diamond shirt stud were also missing. The Californian could not imagine where or when the things had been taken. I examined his shirt front and discovered teeth marks where the diamond stud had been. There was no doubt that the handsome girl who gave him such an affectionate embrace had done the work. The Californian was mad, and called the policeman a dolt. After telling him that I was a detective, he asked me to take charge of the case and find the girl and he would pay me for services and all expenses. After placing my special agent on the case I was then engaged with I proceeded to Minneapolis, where I located the woman at one of the hotels. She had registered from Milwaukee. When I arrested her she told me her history. She had been a member of a wealthy family in Colorado. I told her that if she would return the money, watch and diamond stud the Californian would likely not prosecute her. I wired him and he answered the telegram in person. The woman gave him all the plunder, and then she told him her story of misfortune. He was much impressed by the recital, and I saw him with her at the theater about a week afterward."

THE MALE FLIRT.

Who Is the More Detestable in a Woman's Estimation?

One can not pass through a flirtation—man or woman—without lowering the tone of one's mind, writes Felicia Holt in the Ladies' Home Journal. I know that I seem to thus put mind before the affections; but in the prosaic nineteenth century hearts seem out of fashion. Cupid has taken a holiday and left us to our own devices; he loves an age when pounds and pence play a less conspicuous part, for love laughs at calculation. So our mental development becomes our highest consideration, and it must suffer in a game where only the sly trickster holds the trump card.

Dignity and trifling put each other out of countenance, as does the bishop and the clown; and when a man and woman enter with deliberation into the unworthy joust of tilting one's attractions against the other with no other aim than the gratification of his or her vanity, then, I say, neither party can come out unscathed, either mentally or morally.

If one is more detestable than the other, it is the male flirt; for since custom has given him the power of making the advance, he can do the most harm, particularly should he practice his cruel arts upon an unsophisticated girl; she may fall a victim to his cruelty.

A man may recover from a bitter encounter of this sort a sadder and a wiser man; his trust in woman may be terribly shaken, but he does not succumb, as does the woman, whose heart, once wiled from her keeping, grows weary of the world.

And, incredible as it may seem, women are quite as much to blame as men for the sin of flirtation. For if they condemn the sin, they invariably smile upon the sinner, specially if he is handsome and attractive.

The Bagpipe in Asia.

The bagpipe is almost universal throughout Asia, though at present not so much in use as it seems to have been in former ages. It is used among the Chinese musicians, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, and is met with in Persia, where it appears to have been more general in former ages than at present. There is also a Hindoo bagpipe, and in Egypt it was used to some extent, but is now rarely met with. In Italy it is common. It is said that the Italian peasant believes that it is the best beloved music of the Virgin Mary, also that it is the instrument upon which the shepherds expressed their joy when they visited the Saviour. When the Italian peasant visits Rome on the anniversary of the birth of our Saviour he always carries his bagpipes with him. The Romans are said to have been acquainted with this instrument, and most likely the Greeks also. In Scotland it is the national instrument, but even there its use is dying out. Bagpipes are known in Scotland, England, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Italy, North Africa (at least I find a name for them in a Turkish vocabulary) and in Syria. Probably many other countries have them.

He Solved It.

A Michigan farmer who drove to town on certain days of the week always arrived at a railroad-crossing the same time an express train did. For three years he debated as to who had the right of way, and to settle it he started to drive across the other day and next moment found himself in an old cornfield with a broken leg, while horses were dead and wagon smashed.

DOMINION DAY.

Plans Propose to Celebrate Birthday of United Canada.

Vancouver Celebration—Pedder excursion, Picnic at Langford Plains—Oak Bay.

There is an unwritten law that the celebration of the 24th of May in British Columbia shall be left to Victoria. Vancouver assisting by coming for the day; while, in return, all in their power to assist in observance of Canada's birthday by going over every year for Dominion Day sports held in the terrace.

exception to the rule, and to the demonstration in the C. P. R. city one. Both the Islander, sailing three hours later, had filled, while many were glad to see the chairs for the trip. Altogether 500 Victorians will spend the day with their friends in Vancouver. These include the Wanderers, thirty strong, who will put on a regatta, Tiedemann, Kear and the truck. They have little to do of the thing. The second twelve Victoria Lacrosse club will give an match with the second twelve of the river club, and the Victoria Lacrosse club, consisting of Messrs. J. C. R. Sargison, A. R. Langley, C. W. Newbury, J. L. Mortimer and A. Sullivan. The team, whose names were published, will try conclusions with the master team to-day, but have their engagement for Vancouver. Victorians expect to make a regatta at the Vancouver regatta, the running and other kindred sports. J. D. Frantz's yacht Freya is in the race for which she is betting is also lively on the regatta contest between DesBrisay.

who do not go to the Terminal for lesser attractions have the Gorge Road, James Victoria West Methodist Sunday school, which will make a picnic. Pedder Bay—the spot chosen for the picnic. Here an excellent field sports will be presented, and else will be done to ensure the success of the picnic. The Pandora Street Methodist, Presbyterian churches, as well as the district Presbyterian schools, spend the day at Langford for the picnic. The advantages for picnic are well known in every part of the city.

At 10 o'clock in the morning until 11 a.m. on the Port street line will be the street of Oak Bay Avenue for the beach, which will be in service for the first time. Beach numerous private picnic will enjoy themselves; while the Sunday school will go into camp to accommodate all who wish to day at the many beautiful spots on the beach. A double train will be operated, return tickets at a single fare.

The only sporting attractions baseball match at Beacon Hill. Driving Park, a shooting of the blackbirds will take place, the Union and the Victoria gun at the Lion bay, a golf match will be played during the afternoon. A class programme of athletics will attract a few visitors, at all on Victoria, while the annual regatta is to draw a crowd from the evening. Miss Katie Eber original and carefully selected present the successful melo-drama "New York," at The Victoria. A good one, and no doubt the best of the season.

RETURNS FOR JUNE.

Relating to Customs, Fire, Police, Library and Other Matters.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

For the month of June, as reported by the Victoria Customs authorities, are as follows:

Imported goods, \$82,694 04
Exported goods, 11,588 50
Re-exports, 1,469 52
Total, \$95,752 06

For the year, \$1,403 06

EXPENSES.

Office of Customs, \$49,063
Office of the produce of Canada, \$5,595
Total, \$54,658

FIRE MATTERS.

For the month of June there were five fires in Victoria, involving a loss of \$1,000.

THE MONTH'S MORTALITY.

For the month of June there were 16 deaths, one of which was a Chinaman, the other being white people.

POLICE BUSINESS.

As collected in the police court for the month of June, the offenses were as follows: 61; vagrants, 5; supplying liquor, 4; Indians, 3; aggravated assault, 2; larceny, 3; aggravated assault, 2; defaulting witnesses, 2; unlicensed, 2; fighting, 2; insanity, 1; for safe keeping, 1; burglarious driving, 1; had conduct on the street, 1; keeping disorderly houses, 4.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

A number of books issued was sent out to ladies, 1,203; to gentlemen, 1,203; to children, 1,203. The largest number of books in any one day was 151, the average being 102. During the month there were issued, 25 to ladies and 36 to gentlemen.

The Arm Brewery Burned.

The Arm Brewery has been received of the burning of the Arm Brewery, about three miles from the city. When the flames were at 2 o'clock, Sunday morning, the fire was so far gone that it was impossible to save it. George Wood, of Van der Meer, and there is \$2,000 on the building and contents. The estimated at somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000.