

THE CASE OF A PRIVATE DETECTIVE

BY DAVID CORNELL

3—The Hollister Jewel Robbery

THE STORY OF A MYSTERIOUS THEFT

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The news of the burglary had not been made public so, after introducing myself as a real estate man whom Col. Hollister had approached with a view of making extensive investments, I found no trouble in furthering my avowed mission—that of obtaining a confidential opinion on the state of the Bureau Detective Agency. The broker, Glavis by name, pulled his mustache and smiled easily.

"Cornell," said the manager to me, "you have had some experience in the burglary insurance line, but I guess you can handle the work. Go over and see what's up. And, say, Cornell, remember this, this agency is retained by the year by this insurance company. One of our big customers. Treat their work accordingly."

I found the offices of the Independent Company at a Forty-second street building not far from Fifth avenue. On presenting my card I was ushered at once into the private office of the vice president, Mr. Blaney. "All the man from the Bureau Agency?" said Mr. Blaney. "Cornell is the name? Ah, yes; glad they sent you, Mr. Cornell. We've heard something of your work. You've never handled any of our cases, have you?"

"Not any," I said. "Well, fortunately this isn't a complicated case, or at least we don't think it is. It's merely a case of the propriety of a policy holder's claim. A mere matter of form, almost. We always investigate all claims for payment, you know. Sometimes we are convinced that something is wrong; then we instruct your agency to find something for us to start a fight on. In this case, it isn't anything like that. In brief, Col. Malcolm F. Hollister, with us for \$50,000, was robbed. There is scarcely the slightest possibility that there is anything wrong in the case. Col. Hollister is a fine, high-minded man, a gentleman of the old school. He has paid this company thousands of dollars in premiums for the last ten years and never presented a claim before this. We are all of the opinion that he will pay his claim in full, in due time. But—as a matter of form, you understand—we're sending you down to look the thing over. Being new to the city, but an expert in all our interests as well as the feelings of Col. Hollister and his family. Assure yourself that the burglary was committed, that Mrs. Hollister's jewelry was stolen, and report. That is the case."

That was enough, for before I had got through with it the Hollister case had developed into a case so sensational, so full of strange twists, that the Independent Burglary Insurance Company never dreamed of, that even today it is spoken of in the office of the agency as "the Hollister job." I ran over the full of strange twists, that the Independent Burglary Insurance Company never dreamed of, that even today it is spoken of in the office of the agency as "the Hollister job."

I ran down all the information I could score up in New York; then, next morning, I bought a ticket to the station on the Long Island Road, where the Hollister home was located. I arrived at the station, Sound-burst, near noon and registered at the little hotel in the village. The clerk at the hotel fined at my table and I led him to talk about the Hollister family. I was surprised to find that even there the news of the burglary had not become known, and the clerk did not hesitate in discussing the people who lived in the big house on the Sound.

"I've got a cousin who takes care of their launches and boats," said he, "and I know about all that's going on up there. And I'll tell you, mister, those rich folk don't have so much smoother sailing than us poor ones. No sir, they have their rows just like we do. Why, here two months ago this spring, Mrs. Hollister had some of her old theatrical friends out for a visit, and they were raising Ned out in one of the big launches, and Old Hollister came running out in a smaller launch and ordered the 'hole' lot of 'em back to shore. They had a merry row that night, him and her, and she was going to leave him,

and then he cooled down, and at last she agreed to stay. I guess he had given in to her because she's had that bunch of show people out every Saturday since. And believe me, they have some times, then. One of them is her brother. A young fellow, great sport. After the rest of 'em got home at night, the brother comes down here and has a few drinks with the 'unch in the bar here. Great little fellow."

"Do you know anything about Mrs. Hollister's brother?" I asked. "Yes, I know of him, came the slow answer. 'He's a little no-good. Tries to be an actor sometimes, and a press agent occasionally, and falls down on both jobs.'"

"What does he live on?" I asked. "Search me. He always has money. There were heard of him Hollister sort of takes care of him. Don't leave it, though. The boy is a cheap, bright-light sport."

"I went back to the hotel and sat one thing for you to do. Shut down on Mrs. Hollister. Don't let her handle a dollar. Otherwise you'll be selling that happy home of yours up on the Sound."

"And he shut down?" I asked. "Yes, yes. Closed down on her tight. For about a year she's had to go to the colony for every cent she got, and believe me, sir, the colony has been careful, very careful, indeed. O, yes, the colony is safe as steel financially. Anything up to a million I should say."

"Instead of going at once to the house I walked twice around the place string it up as if I were a burglar looking for a place to enter. One could hardly imagine a harder prospect from the burglar's point of view. The house was upon a bluff overlooking the Sound. All around it ran a red brick wall 12 feet high. On top of the wall were long thin spikes. On the side facing toward the Sound was the lodge of the boatman; in the opposite corner of the grounds was a small living house, evidently the home of the gardener, while in another corner were the stables and garage, with living quarters for coachman and chauffeur. To enter that house a burglar would have to scale the wall, or enter by the side of the three outlying houses, cross a long open space, and break into the house which obviously was well protected by the gardeners' quarters. I looked at the house the more I became interested. If a burglar had entered and stolen their jewelry he must be a man whom it would be an injustice to the gardener to let go. But had a burglar entered? Were there any burglars out of prison just then who would venture such a task?

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HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION

(Continued from Page Eight)

First—Kerrison Floral Co.
Second—Campbell Floral Co.
Section 35—Collection of Island poppies.
First—G. A. Tichhurst.
Section 36—Collection of Shirley poppies.
Second—G. A. Tichhurst.
Mackenzie's special challenge cup, value \$35, for collection of vegetables.
First—Williams Bros.
Class 12.
Section 2—Cauliflower.
First—E. Marshall.
Section 3—Cabbage.
First—W. R. Hull.
Section 4—H. G. Burrows.
Section 5—Flat and round.
First—W. R. Hull.
Section 6—Cabbage.
First—W. R. Hull.
Section 7—Red cabbage.
First—W. R. Hull.

Section 6—Savoy.
First—G. A. Tichhurst.
Section 7—Brussels sprouts.
First—W. R. Hull.
Section 8—Kale.
First—H. G. Burrows.
Section 9—Khol rabi.
First—G. A. Tichhurst.
Section 10—Collection of potatoes.
First—H. G. Burrows.
Section 11—Twelve potatoes.
First—G. A. Tichhurst.
Section 12—Collection of peas.
First—H. G. Burrows.
Section 13—Broad beans.
First—G. A. Tichhurst.
Section 14—Beans, round.
First—W. R. Hull.
Section 15—Beans, kidney.
First—James Williamson.
Section 16—Demonstration Farm.
Section 17—Celery, red.
First—E. Marshall.
Section 18—Celery, white.
First—W. R. Hull.

First—E. Marshall.
Section 19—W. R. Hull.
Section 20—W. R. Hull.
Section 21—W. R. Hull.
Section 22—Rhubarb.
First—H. G. Burrows.
Section 23—C.P.R. Demonstration Farm.
Section 24—Tomatoes, ripe.
First—Kerrison Floral Co.
Section 25—C.P.R. Demonstration Farm.
Section 26—Tomatoes, green.
First—Kerrison Floral Co.
Section 27—C.P.R. Demonstration Farm.
Section 28—Collection of peas.
First—H. G. Burrows.
Section 29—Broad beans.
First—G. A. Tichhurst.
Section 30—Beans, round.
First—W. R. Hull.
Section 31—Beans, kidney.
First—James Williamson.
Section 32—Beans, round.
First—E. Marshall.
Section 33—Beans, kidney.
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CONGRESS; LITTLE ACCOMPLISHED

Senate is Republican; House Democratic; Fights Have Tied Up Appropriations

Legislation Has Been Impeded by Many Political Differences

Many Appropriation Bills That Should Have Been Passed Are Still at Issue

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—Congress is about to terminate a session that has run more than 90 days. The session has been fruitful of much general legislation, but from the standpoint of the public, it has been a failure. It has been a failure because it has not accomplished what it was expected to do. It has not passed the many appropriation bills that should have been passed. It has not passed the many bills that have been introduced. It has not passed the many bills that have been passed.

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CONGRESS; LITTLE ACCOMPLISHED

Senate is Republican; House Democratic; Fights Have Tied Up Appropriations

Legislation Has Been Impeded by Many Political