

whole attention is absolutely required to follow the customer's whims and his own calculations.

This is exactly what has been striven for by the "stall," and his eminence in his profession is in just the proportion to his ability to accomplish this, whatever be the means he may employ in doing it.

But before this "stall" begins playing the "trustee" or other game, three of his companions, or pals, called "pipers," are on the look-out for the approach of any of the bank officers or employees, and are ready to sound a signal at the approach of the slightest cause for alarm; and sometimes other "stalls" are stationed in the bank wherever necessary; while, at a given signal the "sneak," who is generally a nimble little fellow, slips behind the partition through some open door, or sometimes through open windows, and thence into the bank-vault, where he secures his plunder, which is usually large, because the thieves have taken time to make the operation a success.

After the "sneak" is well away, the "stalls" draw off, so as to not excite suspicion, and the "trustee," after thankfully receiving the teller's calculations and agreeing to return with the bonds to effect the desired exchange before the close of banking hours, takes his departure. The entire job is done in ten or fifteen minutes, and frequently the loss is not discovered for days.

Another game of the "bank sneak gang," but one which requires far more nerve, assurance, and personal bravery, though far less tact and skill, is to become cognizant of parties making heavy deposits at a late hour, when everything is rushing about the bank, and the check-desks are crowded.

In this instance the sneak, with a bogus bank-book in his hand, and with a business-like air about him, taps some gentleman with a flush deposit in his hand lightly on the shoulder, and politely calls attention to the fact that he has dropped some money. Looking upon the floor, the latter sees a genuine ten-dollar bill (which the sneak has dexterously dropped there, of course), and bends over to pick it up, leaving his book and deposit upon the check-desk.

In an instant the polite gentleman has the money left upon the desk and is upon the street, while the robbed and astounded

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