

Our Special Feature Page

HUNT FOR THE JEWEL THIEF IS RELENTLESS AS FATE

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A MAN may commit a murder and slip out of sight and knowledge pretty easily.

A man may swindle his fellow men out of hundreds of thousands of dollars and have an excellent chance to get away.

But the man who cracks a jewellers' safe—that is another question.

There is a power that will follow this kind of malefactor to the ends of the earth, never resting, never pausing—as inevitable as destiny, as cruel as fate, as patient as the water that wears away a stone.

He may go north or south, east or west, but he cannot avoid it. He may hide himself away in a village or in a great city. He may change his name, his habits of life, his appearance. He may cut himself off from his family and all his friends. He may seek to baffle his pursuers by an open and carefree way of life that simulates innocence itself.

All in vain: Justice will find him out at last and drag him back to pay the penalty of his crime.

To travel across a continent only to find one's footsteps dogged just as before the journey, to hunt out some obscure spot and settle down for a while in fancied security and suddenly to come broad awake with the knowledge that a stranger in the village is regarding one with an extraordinary pertinacity, to make a successful disappearance and be hidden until the hunt goes by only to find an emerging from one's seclusion that it hasn't gone by at all, but is waiting there with entire complacency and a perfect faith—after a while this gets on the thief's nerves. The most stoical purveyor of jewels cannot live by jewels alone. He is a man with human sensibilities, and what are jewels for, after all, to such a man? Not to use in exchange for pleasure? At last, in desperation, he settles forth to make a little of the "joy of living"; he takes one little impatient false step; he weakens to a human confidence.

And then they have him.

No Hope for the Repentant. Groping beneath the burden of his plunder he decides to make restitution. He will give the things to their owner. He will be free man again.

But the Jewellers' Security Alliance, which is an organization of jewellers formed for the purpose of bringing thieves who rob jewelry stores to justice, says "No, my lad."

And the repentant burglar who had thought to restore at least a portion of the pelf and go free in consequence finds that it isn't to be that way at all. He is going to be punished to the full extent of the law. Restitution doesn't do for the jewelry burglar. He is to be made an example of, so that other burglars who are contemplating a "crack" will think twice before they attack the stock of those jewellers on whose stores are posted the little signs which denote membership in the Alliance.

The jewellers have discovered that to deal most wisely with those who want to relieve them of their stock without paying for it is to pursue the thief



Covered by the Thieves, the Salesman and the Porter Were Taken Behind a Screen, Where Lay the Owner of the Store, His Son, a Watchman and a Boy.

relentlessly, relentlessly until he is landed, and quite without regard to the amount that he has stolen. Money is spent freely in this task. It doesn't matter in the least that the amount spent to get the man is twice as much as the price of his loot. The thing is to get the man.

This policy steadily pursued has done more to discourage the robbing of jewelry stores than any other that has ever been tried. There are two organizations of jewellers which pursue this policy. One is the Alliance, which is composed of retail jewellers, and the other is the Jewellers' Protective Union, which includes the wholesale men, who send out agents on the road with millions of dollars' worth of jewelry to be sold to the dealers throughout the country. The value of the jewels which are moving about the country in this fashion varies between thirty and forty million dollars. The forms of robbery with which these salesmen have to contend are sneak thieves, knockout drops and hold-ups. The retail jewellers who are protected by the Alliance, in addition to the genuine burglar who cracks the safe, must deal with the store thief, sometimes a burglar, sometimes a sneak thief, the hold-up man and the window smashing thief. In the case of the indoor job, however, a safe has been left open or an employee has been an accomplice of the thief.

One of the reasons why the organizations of jewellers are so much more effective in their pursuit of criminals than are either private firms or the police of the cities in which the robberies take place is that their detectives are stationed in every State in the Union ready to take up a case the minute that a telegram is received stating that robbery has been committed and the suspects are supposed to be in some one particular territory. The individual jeweller could not sustain such universal espionage in the result of thieves without the expenditure of vastly more money than he is usually willing to put out, and the police of any one city can track their man after

only a short distance. The pursuit soon weakens therefore when left to individual sufferers from the robbery unless the plunder has been so extraordinarily large that it is wise to spend great sums in the hope of its recovery.

One of the most astonishing forays of jewel thieves in which the Jewellers' Protective Union succeeded in tracking down the men concerned in the robbery, the chase had gotten closer and closer to the thieves, who, at last believing that escape was impossible, had sent word to the Jewellers' Protective Union that they could have the goods back if they would call off the pursuit. This was refused, however, and at last all of those concerned in the robbery in any way were arrested. The advance was not sufficiently strong to compel some of the men, but the two leaders of the band were laid by the heels for life, for the Illinois law, which provides that a man who commits such a crime and is proved to be a habitual criminal, gave the opportunity to the union to make a striking example of those men. This was one of the first occasions in which an automobile figured as a first class assistant to the robbing of jewelry stores. The automobile thief and the window smashing thief are both Chicago developments, although they were both speedily copied in less enterprising communities.

Robbery with a Comic Side. A case of diamond larceny which had certain elements of humor, although probably not to those who suffered from it, occurred several years ago in a sleeping car in which a jewelry salesman was traveling. He carried about \$35,000 worth of loose diamonds. The diamonds were kept in a pocket sack as most salesmen have made for the purpose, and this pocket was placed in the pocket of a garment worn during the

night. The salesman knew nothing about the robbery until the morning, when he found his jewel pocket had disappeared. The porter of the car was suspected, but although the detectives of the Jewellers' Protective Union worked indefatigably on the case to solve the whereabouts of the vanished jewels could be found.

SIX MONTHS "HOPSCOTCH" IN ST. LOUIS A negro entered a jeweller's shop and said that he would like to have some diamonds set. The agents of the Union immediately became cognizant of this fact. The information which had already been gathered as to the disappearance of the jewels warranted their suspicion of the negro and he was arrested and searched. He was found to be one of the most skillfully jewelled individuals ever seen. Not the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo or an East Indian nabob could have surpassed him in the prodigality of gems with which his person was bedizened. There were diamonds inside the seams of his trousers, diamonds sewed into his coat and shirt, diamonds concealed in cotton in the toes of his shoes and diamonds in his razor box. He had \$10,000 worth of loose diamonds on him, but the others he had disposed of before he was caught, and most of them never were recovered.

A little more than a year ago in Atlanta, Ga., a jewelry salesman went to the station to be checked. When the trunks were carried out of the hotel a man standing at the door signalled to a man at the corner. This second watcher signalled to a man who stood still further along the block. When the transfer dray which carried the trunks came up to this third man he stopped the driver and said he had a couple of trunks he wanted to have taken to the station, and "wind" like the man to take them along in his truck

been down grade, but this was not known to their associates. The fact that a salesman who carried, as they knew, this large stock in diamonds could so easily become their victim, the thought of so much wealth almost within their hands, had somehow brought out in all of them the violet dark spot of criminality and had brought them together for the plotting of the deed as quickly and surely as if they had all been members of a professional gang of thieves.

After close detective work the three men concerned in the robbery were traced. One was a medical student, another was an idle posing as a medical student and the third man had been assistant clerk in a hotel at which the salesman had stopped on previous trips to Atlanta. The clerk had a passion for diamonds and had bought one or two of them of the salesman on other occasions. The \$25,000 worth of diamonds was planted in different places. The medical student immediately got married on the strength of his share of the loot and was arrested in New Orleans while on his honeymoon. One of the other men was followed to Mount Vernon, N. Y. He was arranging to go to Europe. The third man was taken at Birmingham, Ala.

After the capture a peculiar situation arose, for it was discovered that in Georgia the penalty for committing a robbery even of this magnitude is only one year's imprisonment. The penalty for stealing a horse is so much greater that the Union tried to have the men tried for stealing the transfer company's horse. As the horse had been taken only a few blocks and then recovered by the company this was impossible, and the Union had to be content with the short term sentence and the recovery of the jewels.

Work of the Alliance. The Jewellers' Security Alliance has recently run to earth the thieves, who in February last broke into the establishment of Philip Preston, on the second floor of the twelve story Chamber of Commerce Building at Rochester, N. Y. The men escaped with \$3,000 worth of jewels from salesmen's trunks, but had their plans carried they would have gotten away with much more valuable property, for they had taken steps to blow open the safe, which was protected by an accident to one of the band.

Five masked bandits swooped down upon the building in the dead of night. They first smashed a lock on the massive iron gate which guarded the entrance. They then placed a lock on the inside of the protecting gate to secure themselves from interruption. After they had thus protected themselves from intrusion from without the robbers stole upon the engineer and freeman in the engine room and surprised and overpowered them. Leaving one of their band on guard, the four men stole up to the second floor, where they placed a charge of dynamite around one of the largest safes, which contained thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry. Using heavy blankets to muffle the explosion, they proceeded to blow open the outer doors. At this point one of the burglars was so badly injured, presumably by the explosion, that the others lost heart, and without waiting to force open the inner doors of the strong box they departed in haste, taking with them what they could gather from the exposed jewels and salesmen's trunks.

A grip containing a woman's photograph, which one of the burglars had left in the station in his haste to get out of town, was the slender clue on which the detectives worked in this case. The chase led to Youngstown, Ohio, where the picture was identified as that of the wife of "Bert" Donaldson. Through watching the woman's mail the route taken by the burglars was discovered, and after a chase of nearly five months the Alliance has now another triumph to its credit.

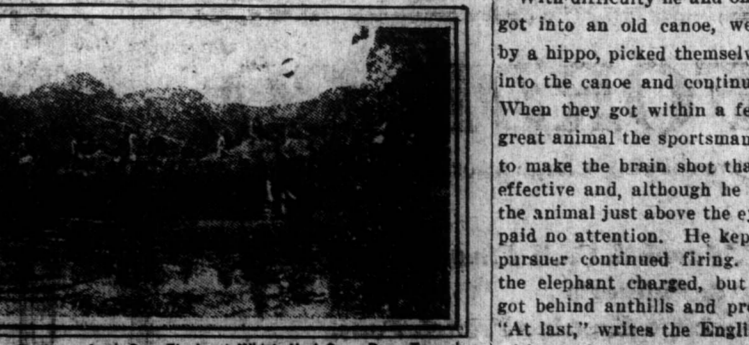
Stirring Incidents of the Great Elephant Hunt at Mysore, India.



The Wild Elephants, Being Driven from the Water, Take to the Jungle Again.



Bull Attempts to Break Away.



Picture of a Cow Elephant Which Had Once Been Tamed.

EVERY five years there is a great elephant hunt in Mysore, India. The operations connected with the recent hunt cost the government more than 50,000 rupees. For months beforehand native keepers and beaters were employed in gradually but persistently working the herds up from remote and difficult jungles to an enclosure forty miles away. According to a prearranged scheme, the elephants are driven into such a position that they cannot get water except at a great tank enclosed by timber palisades. The elephants may hesitate for a long time to enter this pool but finally, driven by thirst, they enter and the gates, of which there are five in number, are dropped in place by men concealed in the trees, who release the ropes as soon as they see the elephants within the enclosure. Then men on elephants and beaters drive the animals into a smaller enclosure, where they can be caught and roped. The last drive lasted two days.

The tame elephants have an important part in the pursuit of the wild ones, not only obeying the orders of their riders with great docility and intelligence, but performing feats of strength and dexterity. Three tame elephants are attached to one wild one in the enclosure to drag it away; perhaps to be lashed to a great tree trunk, where it struggles to free itself are in vain. The tame ele-

phants, too, are of great use in removing the stocks with their trunks so that the roped elephants may be dragged away.

A queer cry is uttered by the men in the efforts to capture a cow elephant which has once been tamed. "Woot, hutt, mutt, mutt, butt, butt" call the beaters, and the elephant pauses in her flight, listens and turns.

Elephant hunting in Soudan is becoming immensely popular. More than a hundred men started from Khartoum this year, many of them being on their honeymoon with their brides. A writer in the London Sphere gives an interesting account of the pursuit and final capture of a game old elephant, one of whose trunks weighed 115 pounds, and the other 108 pounds. When he had sighted the elephant about four hundred yards away, in

With difficulty he and one of the natives got into an old canoe, were tipped over by a hippo, picked themselves up, got back into the canoe and continued the pursuit. When they got within a few yards of the great animal the sportsman was too-shaky to make the brain shot that he attempted effective and, although he saw he had hit the animal just above the eye, the elephant paid no attention. He kept going and his pursuer continued firing. Several times the elephant charged, but the sportsman got behind anthesis and protected himself. "At last," writes the Englishman, "almost with my last gasp and swearing I would never smoke again, I got up level with him, both my pattens gone, my bootlaces untied, and my shorts in ribbons from the thorns of the dom palm. I let go both barrels for his heart; again he swung around and charged. The boy with the cartridge bag fled straight down wind, I fled across wind for a big anthesis; the elephant followed the boy. Loading hastily, I got in one more shot; the first and only shot at his right side. This stopped him; very slowly he turned and stood still. I turned on top of the anthesis and gave him two more shots. He swayed to each of them and sank down. I approached carefully, found him struggling, went up close and gave him the last shot through the back of the head, from which he died."

The man was bitten almost to death by mosquitoes on his way back to camp, but, as the natives say, nothing matters if one has killed an elephant.