

## AN ELECTRICAL DETECTIVE

he said shortly. "It was after he went out that I returned the box to the safe. But, if it's any good to you — he was in here from about five-thirty to ten minutes to six, and was talking with one of the boys in the outer office when I left."

"And Mr. Black, were you outside during the time Smith was in here?"

"No, I — Yes, I was, too. About a quarter to six I was over at the speaking-tube for a minute.

"But enough of this nonsense," the manager added sharply. "The box was in the safe when I closed it. Don't bother me any further with your pretense of investigating. I don't believe it is sincere."

Despite this cutting declaration Jack turned away with secret satisfaction.

Just outside the office door he made a second discovery — a small one, but one which further strengthened the theory he had formed.

It was a small coal cinder and an ash stain in the shape of a heel, apparently overlooked by a careless sweeper.

They could only have been left by a foot which came from the cellar!

Promptly Jack turned toward the cellar door, and made his way down into the big basement.

Going directly to one of the rear windows, he carefully examined it. The cobwebs and the dust on the sill had not been disturbed for months.

He turned to the second, and instantly emitted a shrill whistle of delight. Its cobwebs had been torn