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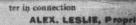
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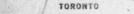
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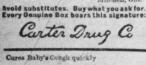
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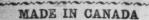
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*********************** The K. and L. EXPRESS ROBBERY By W. BERT FOSTER ******

One of the most peculiar cases that ever came under my notice, said Cantain Spink, was the K. and L. express robbery, which occurred when I was a member of the old steamboat squad. My work consisted mostly in investi sharp eye upon that small but exceedingly active fraternity of smugglers who operate in New York harbor.

The K. and L. Express company had an office on Long wharf, at the foot of/ Jones street, and, doing a foreign bust ness only, as they did, their storage rooms were on the wharf too. The storage shed was a two story

safe, however.

ilding of brick. The office, which had gone to sea since 6 o'clock the precorrugated iron.

Craft were passing the end of the wharf all night long. There was a ferry slip near by. Every vessel at the lock had its keeper, and the property of the company itself was watched by an old and trusted watchman. Be-sides, the gates of the wharf were locked at 7 o'clock in the evening, and if a lighter had left the place it would have been spled by one of the police The Carson Medicine Co'y patrol boats which ply up and down the river all night long. with elaborate accounts of the robbery

Yet that shanty was broken into, and out of it was removed a safe weighing a couple of tons and containing money packets and valuables to an amount that made the entire downtown pol department wake up with a decided shock.

of gilded wood I carried around with me was the clew to the true explana-The K. and L. people were wild, and well they might be. The chief took hold of the matter himself, and I was would be likely to land upon her re-turn from her trip outside with the "And five hund" "And five hund" "An' five hund" "An' five hund" "An' five hund" one of the men selected to go down to the scene of the robbery with him. And I tell you frankly I was sorry to Rotterdam. I was on the wharf when be put on the job, for as soon as I the tug came in. heard the circumstances surrounding this break it looked to me like a blank I went aboard and saw the captain. "Mister," I said, "I've come to hear about it. Have you got the safe?" wall that would be mighty hard either to climb over or dig through. The first report we got was that the

two story office had been blown half to pieces by the force of the charge of dynamite which the robbers had used to try to force the safe. And yet no-body along the water front had heard morning." I said. Then he laughed and showed me the

safe and several bits of broken office the explosion! That was bad enough for a beginfurniture, which he had covered with a tarpaulin up forward. And his story ning. And when we got to the wharf we learned that, despite the wreck of the building, the burglars had evidentwas interesting, as I supposed it would When the fog showed promise of liftly been unable to force the safe and ing and the wind changed the tug had pulled the big steamship clear of her dock and started down stream. But the kent had had finally carried it away with them. The corner of the structure was torn away, and as soon as the chief learned that the safe in question had stood they kept inshore, and just off the K. and L. Express company's dock a ferright there where the floor was gaping ryboat ran out and got in the way of the bar. and the walls blown out he declared it to be his belief that the force of the "We had to slack our engines," said charge used to open the safe had blown the iron box clean through the the captain of the tug, "and of course the towline dropped. The tide swung wall and that it was at the bottom of

the river. He was so sure of this that he sent over to the Navigation company's offices for a diver to go down and poke about in the mud near the It was between 7 and 8 o'clock in the morning when we had first been informed of the mystery, so the job was not many hours old. The company's watchman was already in custody and age. But the corner of the shanty came with it, and I reckon a good deal

was scared blue. It seemed that he had been sitting up daytimes with his sick child for the better part of a week. and he had just keeled over on this might and slept like a log in the storage building-was sleeping, in fact, fault, when the longshoremen came to work. "Wh He swore the robbery could not have captai THE TOILER

GAMBLER

0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0 lag as many of the watchmen or sail ors who had been in the cleinity dur-ing the night as I could find. GENTRY, I learned several things. First, there had been a heavy fog during the even ing and for at least two hours after midnight. Then the wind changed and the sun had risen clearly. LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE It was quite true that nobody seemed to have heard such an explosion as Copyright, 1908, by T. C. McClure must have occurred when the safe of

man on a cattle ship two slips from the ing down his cards.

express dock had heard a noise be "That puts me out," remarked the tween 2 and 3 o'clock which he had not lean Yankee from the Cross Triangle attributed to the mystery of the lost outfit. The third man, Davies, as he e, however. Twere no explosion. officer." he his knuckles indifferently. He was told me. "That I'll be willin' to swear ahead of the game and could afford to lose the pot. What did it sound like?" I asked

There remained old man Lorry. To /Sure. 'twas more like a heap o' lum-ber fallin' down. I thought 'twas in souciance. Having dealt the cards, the the lumber yard on the next block." souchance. Having near the doubts as "Was anything going on out in the to Lorry's action. He would raise and ver at the time?" "Bure, iv'rything was quiet. I'd goue dow to licht me nice at the cook's deal, it is true, but Gentry had reversed below to light me pipe at the cook's lantern when the noise came to me." I telephoned the ship news office prise, Lorry was uncommonia Nevertheless, to the gambler's -sur-

building of brick. The office which I telephoned the ship news office adjoined it, was at the extreme end of down on the Battery, and soon 1 had the wharf. It was built of wood and joined to wood and joined to wood and battery of the vessels that had gone to sea since 6 o'clock the prehad gone to sea since to clock the pre-vious evening. Among them was the iron bound glasses, and he chewed Rotterdam of the Bremen and New York line, and, although she should tobacco stained mustache. Finally he York line, and, although she should have sailed earlier. I learned by call-ing up the office of the company that, owing to the fog, she had not started for the Narrows in charge of the tug for the Narrows in charge of the tug the discard.

Old man Lorry swore abandonedly. By this time it was midforenoon, and the early editions of the afternoon pa-ners, ware balance in the interference in the int "See yer twenty

with elaborate accounts of the robbery of the K, and L, safe. Oue enterprising sheet had even "faked" a picture of the diver going over the edge of the dock into the river to bunt for the lost safe. into the river to bunt for the lost safe. Nevertheless I believed that that bit "Steady non" a

"Steddy, pop," cautioned Healy, pro-prietor of the saloon. "Mind ver own business," responded

tion, so I called up the towing com-pany that owned the Charles B, Good-"And five hundred better," Gentry

"An' five hundred."

Lorry glanced defiantly about the table. Healy had turned his back. As for the rest, startled out of their com-posure by this abrupt change in the Mister, Have you got the safe? "What safe?" asked he, looking breathlessly. "Call yer!" exclaimed the old man, "Call yer!" the remainder of his for-

"The one your tow happened to car-"The one your tow happened to car-ry away from the K. and L. dock this tune in the pot.

an oath, as Gentry displayed his cards. "Better 'n my kings up an' jacks"- He broke off, staring blankly at the gambler as he calmly raked in his spoils and passed the cards to Dugan. The latter shock his head, with an air of

"Nope," he said. "No more for me." "None in mine," agreed the lean Yanface. kee briefly, and Davies nodded assent to the judgment of the others. Lorry shambled dispiritedly toward

"Gimme some 'ski, Billy," he demanded. Gentry arose and placed a fifty in the bartender's hands. "You can pay for the bow of the Rotterdam plumb into the drinks out of that. I'm going to

by hokey, you should have seen later, gentiemen." He paused on the it! Her bowsprit punched a hole in one of the express company's buildings like a spear into a fat hor. We store like a spear into a fat hog. We steam-ed ahead quick, and that yanked the ahip's bow out before it did more dam-apology for a road which fo He walked a few steps along the

apology for a road which formed the main street of the half deserted mining village, then halted suddenly. of what was in the office clattered down on the old Rotterdam's for'ard deck. The Bremen and New York line of the wrong he had done old man down on the old Notterdam's for ard contorting dimesi against the thought deck. The Bremen and New York line will have to pay a nice little sum for damages, I suppose. But it warn't our fault. If I hadn't got it some other fellow "When we got down the harbor the would." captain of the Rotterdam told me that Gentry lighted a cigar, stuck his

of keeping with what the beauty of the girl's voice had led bim to expect. And, now that he could see her, there was positive refinement of feature the face, wholly charming, upturned to him. "Yes," he answered her.

The girl regarded him with uncon-cealed curicsity. "An", what might be yer name, stranger?" "Mason" he lied without wondering why he should lie, lacking a reason.

"Oh," she sighed, with evident re-"I didn't know-from yer style, Bof ver know-but what yer might be Gen-

Who's Gentry?"

"Aw-a gambler what I heerd had come to town. Pappy went down early tonight to get in the game with Say, Mr. Mason, did yer see my pappy down there?" 'I don't know, really. Who"

"Lorry," she interrupted. "Ole man Lorry they calls him, mostly. Did yer see him around?" to think of it, I did." He smiled blandly upon her to conceal a

rising uneasiness Was he drunk?" she continued frankly.

"N-no. I didn't notice that he was." warn't gamblin' with that hound Geniry, was he?" "No," said the hound heartily. "Gen-

try left town today. I hear.' "That's good!" She smiled at the gambler, shading her beautiful eyes

with a deep fringe of upcurled lashes. "He'll only come home drunk, then," she added pensively. "I don't mind that. Never had to manage a man, did

yer, stranger?" "Only myself." he laughed.

"Then yer don't know nothin' about it-the trouble, I mean. Pappy's an the early editions of the afternoon pa-pers were being cried on the street with elaborate accounts of the robbert duced a roll of bills which the gambler ole fool. He don't know no more about playin' poker 'n a tenderfoot, an' he thinks he knows it all. He-he"- She

besitated. 'Well?" he encouraged her. "Aw-nothin', only he made a strike

a little while ago. It warn't much of a strike, only a couple of thousand, he promised to send me back east-to strike, only a couple of thousand, an' home folks, you know-next week. "And?" said Gentry softly.

"That was the money he took to gamble with," she laughed, a triffe harshly. "Said he'd send me back in style-with his winnin's. Well, so long's Gentry ain't there I reckon I may get a chance to get some book learnin', after all, if

I can keep him home till next week. Goin' already, stranger?" * "Yes; I must hit the trall early tomorrow, Miss Lorry."

"Aces up an' queens!" he added, with Thanks, an' good night to yer, Mr. Ma-

son." Some distance down the trail the gambler stumbled over the prostrate form of a man. With something of a strong presentiment Gentry turned the body over and lit a match to see the

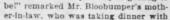
It was old man Lorry, hopelessly intoxicated, sleeping the dead sleep of al-

"There's most of my fifty," remarked the gambler grimly. "It's like throw-ing good money after bad. I'm a darned fool."

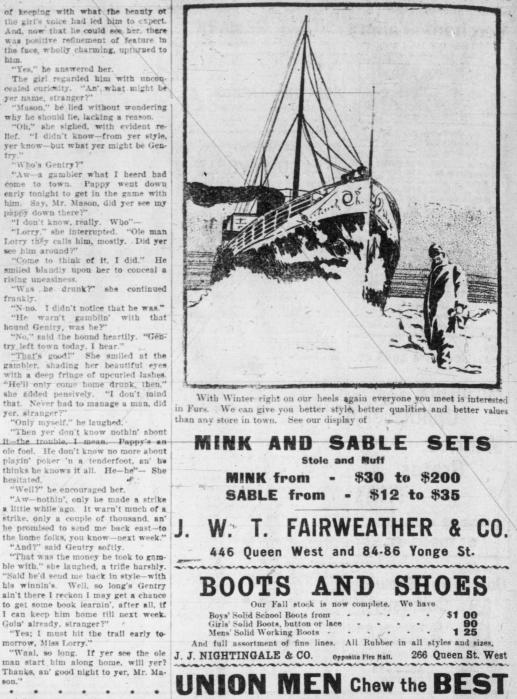
robbed the miner and stuffed them in the latter's pockets. Then he helped him to his feet, meaning to see him home. To his wonder Gentry found that the man, once afoot, was able to walk after a fashion. He lurched along unsteadily, but made progress to-

ward his cabin. The gambler followed him to the

Bright Benny. "What a fine boy Benny is getting to



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er that hour.

dock.

Then I made the discovery by talk-ing to the first clerk who had arrived "Thought they on the scene that the door of the office building had been locked the same as usual, nor had there been a window unfastened. Therefore, added to the rest of the mystery, was the question, How had the robbers entered the office and mounted to the second floor, where the safe was kept? But the chief was so confident that the safe really had not been stolen, only blown through the wall and had fallen into the water,

that he would do nothing until he had seard the report of the diver. But I looked over the wreck again. The force which had carried the safe away must have been irresistible.

Chairs were smashed: one desk was a mass of wreckage. I picked up in a corner a piece of what I supposed to be a part of a picture frame, for one side of the stick was heavily glided. "Where's the rest of the picture?" 1

where s the rest of the picturer 1 asked the head clerk, and I showed him the bit of gilded wood. "Why, there wasn't a picture on the wall," be declared. "I don't know where that came from."

Now, that was a little thing, but it My son has entered upon a profession where he will go down to his grave wept, honored and sung or unwept, unhonored and unsung. was too odd to be overlooked. my mind at work upon that broken

ce of wood. As it was not a picture frame and

there had been nothing in the office that was gilded, I could not understand Phone Main 2837 38-40-42-44 DENISON AVENUE how it got there. As I stood in the sat down and looked through the father: ragged hole in the wall which gave me My De ragged hole in the wall which gave me a clear view of the river my eyes rested upon a big vessel being towed in the her dock. At another time, when Captain Per. to her dock.

It was a clear day, and the sun flashed from her brass work and trimmings shipmen's warrants, a son of another and glittered upon her massive figuread. And the sight sent an illuminating ray into the fog of my mind.

The diver had arrived with a truck load of paraphernalia, but I took a trip along the docks, going aboard each ves-sel in the neighborhood and interview-

hese committed before midnight. He along with the other wreckage which hands in his trousers pockets jauntily had made his regular rounds until aft- had fallen on his deck was the safe and retraced his steps toward Healy's. yonder, and I took it aboard before But he did not stop there. Through its

pened along this river front.'

shipman.

Not Honor Men.

left her outside. "Thought they'd been burglarized, ment floated to his ears, punctuated did they? Well, I reckon it was about with old man Lorry's voice, bleating es queer a case of piracy as ever hap- that he had been shorn. That was quite true, but the gambler did not And he certainly was right. A queer-erthing never happened under my no-since of necessity it would mean eventice, nor did I ever evolve a theory tual bloodshed. He stepped quickly past from a more unpromising clew than the fan of light which the doorway from that bit of gilded wood which, as threw across the road and began an I suspected, had been broken off the ascent of the mountain trail. He would figurehead of the outgoing vessel. figurehead of the outgoing vessel.

quieted, saddle his horse and ride on to the next camp.

One of the characters of the old nayy was Captain Percival, familiarly called "Mad Jack." whose waggish and iras-cible sayings amused his contempo-raries. At one time the son of one of his old friends was appointed a midhis face. His thoughts were too near to the earch for contemplation of the firmament. As he left the straggling As there was no Naval academy in those days at Annapolis, the lad was village behind him he entered upon a great sweet solitude whose essence was drafted to Captain Percival's ship. The father wrote at once to his in the mystery of night upon the moun friend to announce the fact that his tains. The road wound temptingly on, son was on shipboard, and after the a forest aisle empty, dusty, now white

usual parental recommendations to in the glare of the heavens, now black-mercy he closed the letter with: in the glare of the heavens, now black-ing shadowed by massed pines, through whose interstices the starlight fell.

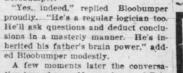
Presently the gambler came upon a little clearing in which, set at a distance back from the road and sur

The young midshipman had not been rounded by a dilapidated picket fence, on board long before he aroused the was a small cabin, vine clad. Its win-wrath of his commander, who at once dows shone dimly with yellow lamp-sat down and wrote to the lad's light, this although the hour was

At another time, when Captain Per-ly rich in intonation and clear-and at cival was a member of the board for that he made out a slender figure swaythe examination of candidates for mid: ing upon the gate of the fence. tes ed away his smoke, removed his

friend came before the board. After slouch bat and approached. the examination Percival, wishing to announce the result to the boy's father. wrote, with delightful implication: "Good evening," he said courteously. "Howdy, stranger. Be you from Hammels, down yonder?"

Dear Old Measurate Tour boy has passed. Gentry failed to repress a start. The uncouthness of the words, the strong humbus out of deck? She just grazed



tion turned upon Mormonism, and Ben-ny, in his search for knowledge, asked, "Papa, what is a Mormon?" "A Mormon, Benny, is a man who

0

marries more than one wife.' "Then you are a Mormon, ain't you, papa?" asked Beany, anxious to display the deductive powers which his father had commended. "I a Mormon, Benny! Why, how in

the world did you get such an idea in your head as that?" "Why, I heard you tell Mr. Spratts yesterday that you had married all

your wife's family." "Mrs. Bloobumper," said that gen-tleman, turning to his wife, "I think Benny had better be sent to bed. He's been up quite late enough."

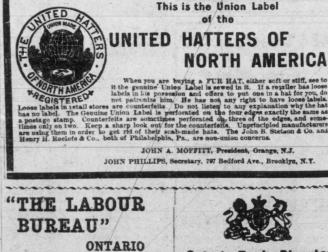
Revenged.

He was asking the old man for his By an 'Act passed at the 1903-1 session of the Dinario Legislature a Buresu of Labour has been stabilistic for the purpose of collecting, assori-ng and publishing information relating to Em-loyment, Wages. Hours of Labor throughout the Province. Co-operation, Strikes, or other labor ifficulties : Trades Uniors, Labor on Capital, and the relations between Labor and Capital, and ther subjects of interest to workingmen, together with such information relating to the commercial industrial, and sanitary conditions of wage work-en, and the semanant property of the industries daughter in marriage. He was talking tremblingly, hesitatingly, as you read in story books. Now came the old the old man's turn to speak, and as he began his face was white with passion and his voice shook with excitement. "You want to marry my daughter?" e said. "Ah! Twenty years ago your he said. father crippled me in a business den

gather. For which purpose the co-operation of Labor Organizations and others interested in the genoral presperity of the Prouince is invited. and I swore to be revenged, and now my time has come." He paused for breath, and the aspir-

the maiden's hand was about to beat a hasty retreat in the face of supposed defeat, when the father broke forth again:

"Yes, sir; I swore to be revenged and I'll now strike the father through the son. Want my daughter, eh? Well, take her, and may she prove as plot, and the young man fainted.



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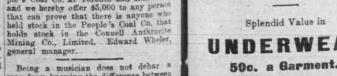
d the permanent prosperity of the industri Province, as the Bureau may be able

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Well, take her, and may she prove as expensive to you as she has to me." The old man dropped into his chair. worn out with the excitement of his plot, and the young man fainted. The old man the provide the section only under a new name. This is entirely plot, and the young man fainted. The old man the provide the section of the sectio





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