

PICKPOCKETS IN CHURCH

They Deftly Puffer Purse During Services.

POSE AS WORSHIPPERS

They Dress Their Part and Generally Escape Detection—A New Class of Thieves Developed by the Changed Conditions in the Metropolis—Trained Impersonators.

New York pickpockets do not confine their operations to street cars or crowds in public places. They ply their trade in churches. A young woman relates the following:

"In company with another girl and her grandfather, who several years ago was a prominent police official, I attended the evening service of a church on the upper west side of Manhattan Island. In the pew to which we were assigned came another young woman, whom I did not know, but who looked perfectly respectable. She sat down beside me. I was carrying a purse over my arm, and when it came time to pray, as the purse was a silver one and made a jangling noise when moved about, I slipped it off my arm and laid it on the seat of the pew. There was very little light of value—a two dollar bill, some silver coins and a few trinkets. When the prayer was over and I resumed my seat I picked up my arm, and when I looked in it, naturally, and saw that the two dollar bill was missing? I then noticed that the young woman who had come in and sat beside me had also left the church. She did it very quietly while we were at prayer.

"After the service I spoke to my friend's grandfather, the former police official, and told him of my loss. He had sat in the pew right behind us and he said that undoubtedly the young woman who sat next to me had been the pickpocket, as her face was familiar to him. He remembered having seen it in the Regent's Gallery.

"He also told me that he had been informed of the prevalence of this sort of thieving, and that it had in the last year become a very serious matter."

Investigation has shown that the annoyance this young lady was subjected to is a very common one and a growing menace to the security of church worship. It is certainly not a pleasant thing to attend devotional exercises with the haunting fear that a pretty pickpocket is masquerading next to you as a devotee.

According to the New York police a new class of thieves has blossomed out. They are scarcely more than children, are exceedingly adept, so sly and expert in their sleight-of-hand craft as to defy detection. To extract the contents of a purse or chatefaine bag while the owner is absorbed in prayer is considered high art—an accomplishment for any lady thief to be proud of.

In the old days clear eyed professionals had the monopoly of most of the fancy crime of the metropolis. Now, with skyscrapers, subways and million dollar dividends and other modern improvements a new class of thieves swarming like insects into nooks and corners of the city where the best people congregate. Men of travel and business are usually able to take care of themselves when toughs and tramp-crowd against them in cars or other public places; but this invasion of churches by quiet woman trained to every kind of impersonation, from demure chit of an errand girl to the sharp eyed, mousy miss of eighteen schooled from childhood to every phase of crime known on the calendar, is a novelty—a menace to the wiver and daughters of families who habitually attend church.

But this is not all. These sneaky thieves fix themselves up so as to attract little attention and harmful places of entertainment, such as fairs, church exhibitions, and particularly weddings and funerals.

In the case of an extraordinary theft in a fashionable church in Orange, N. J., it was a business man having an office in New York who had a hundred dollar overcoat and a silver-mounted twenty-dollar umbrella stolen almost before his very eyes.

He was very much interested in the wedding, as the bride was a friend of his family. He arrived at the church rather early and, seeing a friend across the way, seatly folded his coat and laid it on an empty seat near the pulpit with his umbrella and gloves, to mark it as his own. Becoming interested in his conversation with the friend while the guests were filling the church, he remained on that side of the aisle until the ceremony was over and then made his way to the seat where he had left his coat to find it gone.

It required a couple of weeks for the police to find it, but they discovered it in a pawnshop, where the owner recovered it on payment of the \$20 advanced to the smooth talking young man who pawned it. This case was an exception for women had no hand in it.—New York Herald.

Every month about \$,700 articles are left in the Berlin street cars by their owners, about 100 of them being women's purses.

Advertising is like a carriage—the progress is impeded by getting into a rut.

ON PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Figures That Alarm Tax-payers in England.

A FEW ILLUSTRATIONS

Higher Municipal Taxes Due to Cities' Public Trading Enterprises.—Public Management of Gas Works Less Economical Than Private Ownership.

Great Britain has been for fifteen years or more the pioneer in experiments in municipal trading. The believers in the principle of municipal management of certain forms of trade and industry have had a remarkably free hand in London and the principal large cities of England and Scotland. The public purse has been open to them almost without restriction; their control of the large enterprises in which they have embarked has been absolute and their reports of the results of their stewardship have been such as they chose to make, says the New York Sun.



Oscar Hammerstein.

"But I learned the trade and became a cigarmaker and had my own bench, and made enough money soon to be able to look around a bit. I was of a mechanical turn of mind and studious, and I wondered whether some of the work of cigarmaking could not be done by machinery.

"It took a long time to prove that a cigar could be made that way," he said. "It was 1870 when I made my first machine.

"It was so funny, only it was very serious at the time. You see, I thought that the fillers of the cigars could be punched by machinery, and I made a machine that would punch them, and so simple that a girl could operate it. It looked good, but when the machines were put in operation it was soon found that the girls would soon choke, and they could not stay near them for half an hour.

"One day I was down in my shop trying to find a way to suck out the air and still prevent the wrapper tobacco from being taken up. I saw the lid of an old shoe-blacking box lying on the floor, and an idea suggested itself to me. I picked it up and punched holes in its top with a nail. Then I fitted it on my suction machine over the tobacco and turned on the air. The wrapper tobacco flew up again and was held against that lid of a shoe-blacking box. I was discouraged, angry. Here was another defeat.

"Then, as I was looking at that wrapper tobacco held against that perforated box another idea came to me.

"That idea revolutionized the making of cigars. From that time on air has been used for the most delicate work of cigarmaking. Up to that time it had been necessary to employ persons with only the most delicate touch to handle the wrappers, and even the most careful of them wasted a lot of valuable tobacco, while the waste of time was enormous.

"When I looked at the tobacco on that old blacking box lid," he said, "I saw a delicate leaf held tightly against it, and not only that, but held firmly and smoothly. 'Why should a man have to smooth out the leaf and hold it while he cuts the wrapper if air will do that for him?' I asked myself. And so I made my first machine that used air suction in handling the leaf tobacco.

"For a year nobody would touch it—and I needed money very badly. Then a shrewd Yankee named Williams came over from Newark, and said he had heard about the machine. And he knew what there was to it, but he gave me only \$6,000 for it. He is a millionaire many times over now, and all through my invention. The American Tobacco Company alone paid \$60,000 a year royalties on it while the patent was in effect.

"But I still had my dreams," he said. "So I went on inventing, and it was not long till I had made my stripping machine. This was one of the best. I did not sell that for a miserable \$6,000. I got \$200,000 for it. That made a great difference.

"When Mr. Hammerstein was asked where he obtained the capital to build half a dozen theatres and a grand opera house he smiled and said:

"I landed in America with just \$1 in my pocket." "I was a runaway from home. My father wanted me to be a man of learning. He insisted on cramming algebra and Latin and Greek and French into me. I learned a lot of it, but I never liked it.

"After landing, I went to a boarding house in Greenwich Street, New York City, and the first day found a German paper which contained an advertisement calling for boys to learn the cigarmaker's trade. It seemed only a chance to make a living then, and I had no real fancy for it and no idea of what it would mean. I went to a shop in Pearl Street and they took me in and gave me \$2 a week—and I lived on that for a long time.

The English people are among the most patient in the world in bearing their public burdens. They have endured with little grumbling the heavy increase in national taxation made necessary by the Boer war. Like the American people, they pay greater attention to the management of national than of local affairs, and this tendency has been emphasized during the crisis of the last six years.

The debt of the municipalities of Great Britain has increased from \$965,000,000 in 1884 to \$2,345,000,000 in 1904. The amount of local government expenditure in Great Britain in 1892 was \$380,000,000; in 1902, the last complete year available, it had increased to \$720,000,000. The explanation always given for the vast growth of municipal indebtedness has been that it was incurred for remunerative purposes.

But Englishmen have found that the rate per year of local taxation in the country has increased no less than 63 per cent. This, of course, is entirely inconsistent with the explanation offered.

The impression generally prevails in this country and abroad that municipally controlled tram lines, gas and electric supply, water works, &c., in Glasgow, London and other important cities show a considerable improvement in the matter of economy and efficiency over privately managed enterprises of the same nature. It will be a considerable surprise to the general public to learn that the exact contrary is true.

The accounts of forty-eight municipalities working tramways show only thirteen make any contribution to the rates, seventeen make no depreciation allowance, and only eleven, allow more than 2 per cent. We all know how disastrous the steamers of the London County Council have been and continue to be.

It is no answer to say that private companies also make mistakes and lose money. No doubt they do; it is inevitable and is an additional argument, not for but against municipal trading; but the difference is that in one case they are losing their own money, in the other the ratepayers.

It will be supposed that in the matter of gas supply if in nothing else municipal management would be able to compare favorably with private or company enterprise. Comparative returns without exception show the contrary.

The Manchester municipality reports an annual profit to the city of \$330,000 on its gas works. If the London company charged the same price as Manchester its customers would have to pay \$1,940,000 more a year for gas. If Manchester charged the same price as the London company their customers would pay \$395,000 a year less and the so-called profit would be turned into a loss of \$65,000.

It is in the management of tramways that most credit is claimed for municipal trading experiments in Great Britain. Lord Avebury analyzes the so-called successes, and the result becomes quite another story.

There are in London two tramway systems, one north of the Thames, the other south of the river. The County Council became possessed of both in 1900.

The capital value was approximately the same, \$4,250,000 on the north, \$4,480,000 on the south. The council leased the northern lines to a company and worked the southern lines itself.

LONG-LEAF PINE

Young long-leaf pines, according to an official of the Bureau of Forestry, protect themselves against forest fires in a most interesting and curious manner.

For four or five years the stems of the infant trees attain a height of only as many inches above the soil. During this time their bark is extraordinarily thick, and that alone gives them some protection. But in addition, the long needles spring up above the stem, and then bend over on all sides in a green cascade which falls to the ground in a circle about the seedling. This green barrier can with difficulty be made to burn, while the shade that it casts prevents inflammable grass from growing near the protected stem.

The official quoted thinks that it is owing to this peculiar form of self-protection that the pine seedlings have developed that the growth of evergreen oaks in Florida has been restricted in regions where fires have raged while pure pine forests have taken their place.

Tourists' Postal Cards in Germany.

There is no city nor hamlet, no place of historical interest but has cards embellished with some design appropriate to the locality which offer convenient means of communication with friends at home. Last summer, according to post office returns, 20,808,313 cards were mailed in one week, 46 per cent being tourists' cards. The postage collected daily on these cards averaged about \$16,000. Berlin furnished the largest quota—137,000 cards.

New Chemical Degree.

A French Ministerial decree institutes the degree of "ingenieur-chimiste" to replace the old title of "chimiste" granted by the university. Thanks to funds voted by Parliament and the Paris Municipal Council, the Institute of Applied Chemistry will shortly be endowed with new and improved apparatus, and in the general chemical institute, transferred to the Rue d'Ulm, will be united all the chemical services and laboratories that are now too crowded at the Sorbonne.

The Shape of a Manhole.

Says The London Engineer: In a certain technical college, when the question, "Why are manholes made elliptical, and not circular?" was put to the class in examination, the majority answered by describing the shape of a man's head or body, or in some other manner going into the details of the human anatomy. The others answered that the reason for making them elliptical is that the covers may be placed on the inside, as operation which would be impossible with a circular manhole.

To Lessen Infant Mortality.

According to The London Engineer, among the suggestions placed before a Blackburn committee that is making inquiries with a view to lessening infant mortality in the town is a novel one by Dr. Bamister. He considers that much could be done to restore natural feeding by establishing a "cribble-room" or creche at each mill where mothers are employed, in which they could attend to the wants of their infants. He does not see why this should not be practicable from the employers' point of view.

Art in America.

Little by little our most precious works of art are going to America, where they obtain a most magnificent reception. Among the latest acquisitions of the great transatlantic collector, Mr. Pierpont Morgan, who has not only the means of buying everything, but the taste to choose well, are some admirable pieces of the middle ages, from the splendid collection of Baron Albert Oppenheim of Cologne.—Paris Figaro.

Trusts in Japan.

In addition to controlling the camphor, salt and tobacco interests and nationalizing the railways the Government of Japan, says the Anglo-Japanese Gazette of London and Tokio, has now attacked the question of trusts, and has mapped out a policy of State ownership as a means to acquire wealth.

English as Meat Eaters.

The English are becoming more and more meat eaters. The amount of meat imported increased from three pounds a head per annum in 1853 to fifty pounds in 1903. Evidently the vegetarians have a hard battle to fight.

How Brandy is Aged.

Ordinarily brandy, before being bottled, is aged by keeping for the requisite length of time in small oaken casks, from which it absorbs certain ethers and essential oils contained in the wood and necessary to its perfection.

Cock-Crowing as Sport.

Cock-crowing competitions are popular in Belgium. Such contests usually last about an hour, at the end of which time the owner of the bird which has executed the largest number of crows wins the prize.

China's Chamber of Commerce.

Most of the larger towns in China, says the larger towns in China, are establishing chambers of commerce; these are semi-official bodies being under the supervision of the local bureau of agriculture, trade, industry and mines.

THE ADVERTISEMENT OF MARTIN & MARTIN'S

A CARD

The advertisement of Martin & Martin's going out of business at 69 State Street, next door to us, has occasioned much confusion with our patrons and friends, who by letter and phone are constantly making inquiries as to our plans. We desire to state most emphatically that we shall be with you for years to come at the home of

"The Old House," J. W. Martin & Bro.

Martin Block, 73 State St.

G. CLAY COX, Manager

25 CENTRAL ST. BOSTON, MASS.

SAWS

Have you noticed the display of saws in our show window? It is certainly a dandy. We always carry a large assortment of such well known makes of saws as Sisson, Atlas and Disston. We would be pleased to have you step in and look over our stock. It is very complete.

Louis Ernst and Sons

129 Main Street East

Are You Going to Build?

Do you want your home to be comfortable?—do you want it to be better than the one you have now, not in the outward appearance but in inward convenience? If so, get your plumber to connect the furnace with the kitchen tank—you certainly can not fail to see the advantage. Hot water without a cost for fuel day and night for about seven months out of the year. Have him put a radiator on this system to heat your kitchen.

When you plan for this very economical and time saving arrangement you are also providing a way to use gas for cooking. With a furnace connection for heating the water and radiators you have Model Kitchen indeed. No need to carry ashes to empty—no kitchen fire to build or wood to split and put on the fire to watch—the furnace does it all.

It's Worth Doing Isn't It?

Rochester Railway & Light Co.

34-40 Clinton Avenue North

The Rochester Trust & Safe Deposit Co.

The Largest Trust Company in the State outside of New York located in their new building on State Street, New York. Offer the best service combined with great facilities. Interest on deposits at the rate of

FOUR PER CENT.

Per Annum Calendar Months. We have unexcelled facilities for the transmission of a General Business and especially solicit your account.

Special Department for Women

Safe to Test in our Safe Deposit Vaults at \$2.00 per year and upward. CAPITAL SURPLUS (earned) RESOURCES over \$1,000,000.00

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