ALIENS VICTIMS OF SWINDLERS

Lots Under Water and Railroads Among Things "Sold" to Immigrants.

New York.—Flagrant swindles, ranging from the sale of lots under water for $49.50 each to the sale of a half-interest in the Pennsylvania railroad for $500, have cost immigrants to this country many millions of dollars annually, Deputy Assistant District Attorney James J. Wilson told the legislative committee on exploitation of immigrants recently at a hearing at city hall.

Mr. Wilson said that more than $12,-000,000 had been obtained from immigrants by the under-water lot swindle. Among the other frauds of which new arrivals were victims, he said, was the sale of bogus concessions under the Brooklyn bridge, which were guaranteed to be granted by the mayor personally. Mr. Wilson said he had specialized on cases of exploitation of immigrants for the last two years.

High Prices for Poor Lots.

"About two years ago," Mr. Wilson said, "the district attorney's office was informed of a large practice going on among the foreign-speaking population of the city in reference to real estate transactions. The real estate shark knew the appeal which the innate love of a home must have to a foreigner, and preyed upon it. Large tracts of land in the metropolitan area within a 50-mile radius of New York were sold as lots. In some cases lots purported to be worth $200 or more were disposed of at from $37 to $49.50, the latter price being just 50 cents shy of the grand larceny limit. When the immigrant went to build a house he found usually that the lot was heavily encumbered not only by a mortgage which was part of a blanket, but by liens in the form of a judgment against the real estate corporation owning the lots. In other cases where immigrants had purchased lots on the installment plan, paying from $500 to $700, the lots were not worth $10."

One of the most common practices to induce immigrants to buy lots, Mr. Wilson said, was through agents speaking their own language. Prospective purchasers were told of a wonderful opportunity to purchase land at a low price. If interested, arrangements were made to have three or four meet the salesman somewhere on Sunday morning. They were taken to Jersey or Long Island, where an automobile was waiting. By fast driving, 25 or 30 miles would be covered within a comparatively short time. The immigrant, thinking that he was only a few miles from the city, was readily induced to buy worthless land at exorbitant prices.

Suggests a Remedy.

Asked by Senator Salvatore A. Cotillo, the chairman, if he had any remedy to suggest for the present situation, Mr. Wilson said that he would make it compulsory for every person selling real estate on the installment plan to file an installment contract in the office of the register for the protection of the buyer. "I would make it compulsory by law that the contract be filed within two or three days after the contract is executed," he said.

He told also of two Italian bootblacks who had made a little money out of their stand on West Thirty-sixth street and were induced to buy a half interest in the Pennsylvania railroad for $500. They were taken through the concourse of the Pennsylvania station, he said, where a row of stores was pointed out to them. They were told that they would share also in the profits accruing from these stores.

Mr. Wilson said that when the salesman later was brought to his office, he denied that he had sold a half interest in the Pennsylvania railroad to the bootblacks. The salesman, Mr. Wilson said, explained that the money was toward a gigantic industrial venture which he was about to launch and in which he planned to buy up whole blocks around the station. This, Mr. Wilson pointed out, would include the purchase of the Pennsylvania hotel and other property running up probably into the billions.

Herman G. Robbins, attorney for the creditors of the American and Foreign Securities corporation, formerly located at 16-18 Exchange place, told of numerous bond frauds which have been practiced on foreigners, especially those unable to speak English. He said that he had filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States District court for the American and Foreign Securities corporation upon the application of one Joseph P. McDonald, and charged that the corporation had been selling exchange lire on the installment plan like furniture and that the drop in the market had caused them to go bankrupt.

Woman Victim of "Con Man."

Giuseppi Gudi, operating a brokerage house and steamship agency at 66 Baxter street, was called upon to explain why various sums of money paid over to him to be transmitted to Italy were delayed in many cases from a year to 18 months. His explanation was: "If it is convenient I send it at once. If not, I wait until it is convenient." Gudi admitted that only recently, after a conference with Senator Cotillo, had he forwarded the money.

[illegible] 282 South Second [illegible], Brooklyn, told the committee [illegible] had paid $100 to have her [illegible] admitted to the United States [illegible] said that when her [illegible] Ellis Island [illegible] been [illegible] by a man that he would "fix things" for $25 if she would accompany him to the battery. She paid the money. Arrived at the battery, however, she was informed that her daughter could only be admitted through a special order to pay $75 more, covering expenses from Washington.

A few days later, she said, she was informed by the "fixer" that he had been to Washington, but that only three people remained on duty there, all the others being on a vacation at the time. Under the circumstances, he explained, nothing could be done.

Many Lose Savings.

A fraud practiced in 1912 by a small Italian who undertook to compete with the express and steamship agencies in transmitting money to Italy, was revealed by Senator Cotillo. "Some years ago," he said, "A. Bolognesi, engaged in the transmission of money orders abroad. He appointed a number of agents and subagents without any bond or security and distributed his draft blanks to grocers, shoemakers, etc. The American Express company and the steamship companies nearly lost all their business, and through the state industrial bureau forced Bolognesi to qualify as an express company or go out of business. Bolognesi acquired a half-mile tract of land, bought a railroad car and an engine and operated the same at leisure. In this way he qualified as an express company. The final result was that he failed and thousands of people lost their savings."

Miss Marion K. Clark, chief of the alien division of the state labor department, told the committee that aliens were living in labor camps in this state under conditions that amounted practically to peonage. These immigrants, she said, were without legal protection as a result of the abolition in 1921 of the state bureau of immigration. Since 1911, she said 24,-844 complaints were disposed of and 51,140 cases investigated and $205,000 collected from persons who had exploited immigrants.

"Thirty-two per cent of the citizens of this state are aliens," said Miss Clark, "who we hope will evolve into American citizens and shed their blood for their country, if need be, and they are without statutory protection. We have records of aliens being shipped to camps from which they have to walk 100 miles to get back to civilization."

Winnebago Indians Like to Wear Fancy Clothes

As clothing the early Winnebago wore a breechclout, moccasins, leggings and robes of dressed skins. The advent of the French trader added to their dress, but at all times we find both men and women combing their hair straight back, parted in the middle and tied behind their heads in braids, later decorated by ribbons. Thomas Anderson, who spent a winter trading with them on the Rock river in 1802, said that they were the most filthy, most obstinate and bravest people of any Indian tribe. When the French came they added blankets to their garb, white for winter and bright colors for the summer.

In the governor's reception room in the state capitol at Madison, Wis., the surrender of the noted Chief Red Bird, which ended the Winnebago war in 1825, is cleverly depicted. Red Bird, the prisoner, is pictured as having one side of his face painted red, the other intermixed with green and white, clothed in a Yankton suit of dressed elkskin, perfectly white and as soft as a kid glove. It consisted of a jacket, ornamented with a fringe of the same material and enriched with blue beads.

On his feet he wears moccasins, and on each shoulder, in place of an epaulette, is fastened a stuffed red bird. Around his neck hang strands of wampum of various lengths, and he holds a war pipe in his hand, ornamented with dyed horse hair and feathers of birds.—Detroit News.

Made-Over Bush Nut Can Be Easily Opened

For many years the delicious bush nut of Australia, known variously as the Australian, Queensland and polar nut, has baffled horticulturists. It had a rare and delicate flavor, was a food for an epicure, but its shell was about the hardest known to mankind.

The size of a small pigeon's egg, brown and shiny, one might jump on it and hammer it with one's heel without leaving the faintest impression save on the heel. Something in the nature of a blacksmith's hammer and anvil was required to smash the shell.

After years of disappointing experiments in various parts of the world official word comes that J. S. Waldron, who lives on the south coast of New South Wales, has produced a thin-shelled bush nut. Several plant generations have demonstrated the success of the new nut, according to the Queensland government botanist and the director of fruit culture, who inspected the Waldron farm.

The made-over bush nut is said to retain the flavor and the indestructible shell has been replaced by one that may be opened with reasonable facility.—Detroit News.

Better Than Lawyer.

A popular comedian was a witness in a suit for slander, and the opposing counsel said: "You are an actor, I believe?"

"Yes," replied the comedian.

"Is not that a low calling?"

"I don't know; but it's so much better than my father's that I am rather proud of it."

"What was your father's calling, may I ask?"

"He was a lawyer," said the comedian.

Tailteann Games May Attract 100,000 Americans To Ireland

Dublin, March 8.—Rapid progress is being made in the preparations for the Tailteann Games in the summer. A committee has been appointed in Dublin to decorate the city for the occasion. The Dublin Horse Show will synchronise with the Games and an international motor race in or near Dublin is also projected.

Literary, athletic, professional, and commercial organizations are co-operating to make the Games a success.

Mr. M. F. O'Hanlon spent 3 months in the United States and Canada as an organizer for the Games. He reports that he got both sections of Irishmen in the United States "to agree to cooperate in some degree." Before his departure from the States an active organization was formed. At its initial meeting the organization decided upon a definite scheme for selecting, equipping, and financing the athletic teams to participate in the games.

Every effort, he says, is being made to bring over the band of the famous 69th Regiment to lead the American athletes on the field. Mr. O'Hanlon estimates that 100,000 visitors will come from America.

Free Sightseeing Tours of Chinatown By Catholic Paper

New York, March 15.—Arrangements have been made through "The Mission", the Catholic paper published in Chinatown, to conduct parties through that picturesque section of the city without payment of the customary donations which for many years have been offered to the pagan priests and thus used to support a pagan cause.

Guides working under the direction of "The Mission" are now able to show the visitors all the sights of Chinatown. The offices of the publication are at 5 Beekman street.

No Pure Guaranis Left

While there are plenty of wild Indians in parts of Paraguay, no living man ever saw a pure-blooded Guarani. Inhabiting the alluvial and easily accessible sections, they were conquered and assimilated by the Spanish centuries ago, ceasing to exist as a separate people.

The common people of Paraguay however, speak Guarani more readily than Spanish and nearly all place names are in the language. It is a very simple tongue with a total vocabulary of less than 900 words. The only numerals are 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Cleanliness was a virtue of the Guaranis. No matter how ragged and dilapidated a Paraguayan peon may be his clothes and his person are clean. That he was not unskilled in certain artistic crafts is shown by the exquisite nanduty lace, peculiar to Paraguay, the most sheer, cobwebby, delicately beautiful thing of its kind in all the world. The art of making it has been lost.—Detroit News.

The Inside

Maude—What a beautiful new gown Helen is wearing. She says it's imported, doesn't she?

Maire—Not exactly. It's her last season's dress. The dressmaker has turned it inside out, and now she says it's from the other side.—Passing Show, London.

Something Wrong

Proud Father—Well, Tommy, what do you think of your new bouncing brother?

Tommy—Something's the matter with him, paw. I dropped him as hard as I could on the floor but he wouldn't bounce.

Why March Is Most Dangerous

March is the most dangerous month of the year because the change of season is more than a good many systems can stand. Too often it is true that the sick "last only till spring." But if the system is fortified, if the impurities are driven from the blood, and the nerve tissues fed with wholesome and strength-giving pure food medicine, there is no danger in the change of seasons. Father John's Medicine is invaluable as a tonic in the spring. It strengthens the system and drives out the poisonous waste matter—builds up the body. It is this power that has made it so successful in treating colds and throat troubles. No weakening stimulants, morphine or other dangerous drugs.

"Your Druggist can get Father John's Medicine for you if he does not have it in stock, or we will send a large size bottle by express prepaid if you send your order with $1.20 to Father John's Medicine, Lowell, Mass. Over Sixty-Eight Years Of Success

A. O. H. President Asks Congress To Reject Laughlin Findings

Philadelphia, March 15.—Michael Donohue, national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, has sent to all members of the United States Senate and of the National House of Representatives the following letter in connection with Laughlin report of the Carnegie Foundation submitted to the Congressional Committee on Immigration:

"A Mr. H. H. Laughlin, delegated by the Carnegie Foundation to seek information for a Congressional Committee on Immigration, has spread his alleged findings on the pages of 'The Literary Digest' and other perodicals.

"The Laughlin report pretends to be an examination of 445 custodial public institutions, out of a total of 667 such institutions in the United States, and the so-called investigation has been so managed as to convey the impression of 'scientific research.'

"The statistics themselves, in so far as they relate to the Irish element in the citizenship of America, are false, and have on more than one occasion been so proven. Still, hostile statisticians of the Laughlin type continue to quote them and interpret them under the guise of 'impartial investigation.

"Laughlin tabulates his results under such headings as Insanity, Crime, Feeblemindedness, Dependency, Epilepsy, Tuberculosis and Defectives. The aim of the report is evidently to manoeuvre the Irish and Hebrews into the most discreditable summaries. The whole effort is manifestly a part of an anti-Irish campaign, and will be rejected by unbiased men of intelligence and capable of sound reasoning, especially in these days of un-American racial and religious intolerance.

"These false statistics present a plausible face, and under the guise of philosophical truth, place Irish immigrants and their descendants at the top of the column of Insanity, Dependency and Defectives, while it is a matter of official record that no element of our population in the recent World War had fewer rejections for mental or physical defects than the boys of Irish blood.

"A Congressional Committee is thus given the report of an 'investigation' conducted in a secret and doubtful manner and a report, too, that is obviously partial. Is it not an innovation for Congress to invite individuals, under the protection of a committee, to offer insult under the semblance of 'scientific research,' to any part of the citizenship of the United States?

"I consider it an affront to propriety that the evidence and the judgement should be given by the same person. For Congress, or even a Congressional Committee, to accept the Laughlin report would be to flout all our axioms of political philosophy. It is insufferable that such insult should be officially flung in the face of a race that has done its full share to establish and preserve this nation.

"My experience as a member of the 62nd and 63rd Congresses inspires the hope and belief that the Laughlin report will be rejected by the fair-minded members of the present Congress."

Knot and Mile

The statute knot contains 6,082.66 feet, the British admiralty knot, 6,080; while a mile contains 5,280 feet. The statute knot is determined as follows: The circumference of the earth is divided into 360 degrees each degree containing sixty knots, therefore, there are 360 by 60 or 21,600 knots to the circumference. Twenty-one thousand six hundred divided into 131,-385,456, the number of feet in the earth's circumference, gives 6,082.66 feet.

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Deaths of the Week

Cahill—Mrs Elizabeth Cahill died March 21. Funeral will take place March 22 at 207 Chestnut street and 9 o'clock at the Immaculate Conception Church. Interment at Holy Sepulchre cemetery in the family lot.

Spickerman—Eberhard, aged 6? years of No. 71 Ackerman st., died March 19. St. Francis Xavier, March 21.

McGarity—Mrs. Mary A., aged 71 years, died March 18 at St. Ann's Home, St. Ann's Chapel, March 20.

Cozzolino—Theresa Marie aged 65 years died at 105 Joiner st., March 18. St. Bridget's Church March 21.

Barrett—Thomas, died March 19. Funeral from Immaculate Conception Church, March 21.

Howard—Hannah Howard died Wednesday evening at her home, No. 557 Smith street. Funeral March 22 at 8:45 o'clock from her home and 9 o'clock at Lady Chapel of the Cathedral. Burial in Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

Klan Pastor-Editor Accused Of Misuse Of Mails In Contest

St. Louis, March 15.—Evidence purporting to show a misuse of the mails in connection with a slogan contest contucted by "The Patriot", Ku Klux Klan paper of this city, has been placed before Allen Curry, United States District Attorney. George C. McCarron of Kansas City, who describes himself as an Imperial Representative of the Klan, presented the evidence to the District Attorney. His action, he says, represents "the results of an official investigation conducted by me as Imperial Representative of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, involving possible violation of the federal statutes against use of the mails to defraud."

The evidence includes a statement by Rev. C. G. Crawford, pastor of the Fourth Christian Church and an editor of "The Patriot", relating details of a plan whereby a $25,000 Illinois farm, offered by his paper as a prize, was, by prearrangement, awarded to a nominal winner, Howard W. Bowers, who immediately reconveyed it to its former owner. The slogan upon which the award to Mr. Bowers was based, it is revealed, was one written by Mr Crawford himself. A statement by Mr. Bowers, attached to the other evidence, admits his connection with the transaction and declares that he was "rushed into the affair" because of his desire to serve the Klan.

Bowers it was disclosed, held nominal title to the farm only for a few moments, just long enough to transfer it back to L. E. and Mary E. Slick, the former owners. Subsequent developments have disclosed that the Slick farm was so heavily encumbered at the time as to make the possibility of a real transfer doubtful.

District Attorney Curry has announced that the evidence placed before him has been turned over to Federick W. Reuter, post office inspector, with a request for a thorough investigation.

"If I am given sufficient information on which to proceed", Mr. Curry said "I shall prosecute the individuals named in the statements as active in the slogan campaign. If it can be shown that there has been a violation of federal postal laws, I shall act as energetically and as quickly as possible. In fact, I hope I shall get such information."

James Howell's Poetry

The value of Howell's faded finery is that it reminds us of that many-colored world of music and idleness, and gallantry and romance, where the great Elizabethan poets had their nurture. Howell is one of the choristers of the days of Shakespeare's youth, when "wild music burdened every bough," when lutes and gitterns hung in every barber's shop for the use of the customers, and when every gentleman could bear his part in a glee or madrigal. The ordinaries of London and the aisles of St. Paul's were frequented by young gallants who wore their fortunes on their backs and stuffed their heads with legends and fantasies. . . . Every noble family maintained its journeyman versifier. If Howell deserves to be remembered as a poet, it is because there were hundreds like him, and because Shakespeare gained the better part of his education not on the benches of an academy, but at the court, and in the tavern, and on the street.—Sir Walter Raleigh.

Deaths of the Week

Funeral services were held from the respective churches on dates given. May their souls rest in peace.

Neary—William Edward Neary, son of Thomas and Edna Neary, Ridge road, Greece, N. Y., aged 1 year, died March 16. Funeral March 18. Interment in Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

Nold—Louis Nold, aged 62 years, of No. 28 White St., died March 15. Funeral from St. Salome's Church March 18.

Reulbach—Joseph A., aged 57, of No. 397 Ruman st., died March 15. Funeral from St. Andrew's Church March 18.

Byrne—Mrs. Eliza Farrell, aged 57, died March 17. Funeral from Immaculate Conception Church March 21.

Laughren—Margaret Welch, aged 67 years, died March 18. St. Monica's Church March 21.

Loughlin—John H., aged 65 years of No. 410 Hawley st., died March 17., SS. Peter and Paul Church March 20.

Miller—Eleanor Gertrude, of Penfield died March 18. Funeral March 20 from Holy Trinity Church Webster.

Sentiff—Joseph, aged 72 years of No. 267 Webster ave., died March 17. Funeral from Corpus Christi Church March 19.

Winters—William J., aged 54, years, died March 13. Funeral from St. Boniface Church, March 17.

Holford—Mrs. Mary C., of No. 143 Sherwood Ave., died March 15. Funeral March 18 from St. Augustine's Church.

Fraley—Miss Olive M., of No. 33 Wentworth st., died March 16. Funeral from SS. Peter and Paul's Church, March 20th.

D'Argento—Joseph, aged 62 years of No 17 Hilton st., died March 17. Funeral from St. Lucy's Church, March 20th.

Mersdorf—Mrs. Lottie, of No. 102 N. Union st, aged 28 years died March 16. Corpus Christi Church March 20.

Lamford—Teresa Margaret Lamford, aged 2 months, died March 20, at the Rochester General Hospital. Funeral March 22. Burial in Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

Hyde—John Henry Hyde died at Memorial Hospital, Canandaigua, on March 20. Funeral March 22 at 9 o'clock from St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua. Interment at Holy Sepulchre cemetery, Rochester, N. Y.

McDermott—James, died at Clyde, N. Y. on De Zeng street. Funeral March 22 at St. John's Church.

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