



STORIES OF THE SECRET SERVICE

Capt. Patrick D. Tyrrell

The MISSOURI LAND LEAGUERS

Being an Account of the Operations and Conviction of the Band of Land Thieves Operating in Missouri in the Early Seventies.

By CAPTAIN PATRICK D. TYRRELL

Tracing the careers of these men, I found that in 1877 President Grant not only made his friend James Lindsay registrar of the Ironton land office, but made Carroll R. Peck receiver at the same office.

At the time I went to Ironton I found Carroll R. Peck installed as postmaster and his brother-in-law, another son of James Lindsay, a mail clerk on the Iron Mountain railroad.

While the investigation there had fallen into my hands the letterheads and advertising matter of the ring, The Real Estate Loan and Trust company, of St. Louis, was operated from the Olive street offices of Lindsay; while the International Land Agency was directed from Lindsay's private office in Market street.

After some work had been done at Ironton and St. Louis I went east. In Pittsburg I found the four principal members of the ring to be Addison F. Burns, his father, William Burns; George W. Nelson, and H. R. McClellan, a notary. A large and profitable business in the sale of these lands had been carried on there for years.

This price had ranged from 50 cents to five dollars an acre. It was clear that the lands along the proposed road would immediately jump to a much higher figure if the gullible public could be convinced such a road was to be built, and I formed the opinion that the "Missouri and Arkansas" railroad would never go beyond the paper stage of construction.

While there remained much detail work to be done, I believed we had a pretty good line on the activities of Lindsay. In addition to the points I have mentioned, I had learned from a Col. Grayson, a banker, that James Lindsay had a large number of old land patents concealed in the safe of an Ironton lawyer.

There was no doubt of the elder Lindsay's having connived at the removal from the land office of thousands of patents by his son while Lindsay, Sr., was registrar, and it is still a question in my mind whether the father had not been the actual originator of the steal and turned the execution of it over to his son.

But, clear as these conditions were, there remained two important facts confronting us. One of these was that while Robert Lindsay was the head and front of the great conspiracy, there were conspirators almost as important. The other was that sound legal cases against all of them were yet to be made. I had abstracts of title made to 24 parcels of land, and by following these and others through the records of the Washington land office had clearly established the forgery of signatures to applications and deeds. This record searching was tedious and surrounded with many technicalities—so many in fact that at one stage of the investigation I suggested that another man more familiar with them be assigned to the work.

From the appearance of the name of Orlando Van Hise as secretary of the "Missouri and Arkansas" railroad it was naturally to be inferred that this person either stood high in the confidence and operations of Lindsay, or was a dummy who was allowing himself to be used. The former was found to be the correct theory, and here I wish to introduce in his real identity the visitor who had gone over Lindsay's scheme with him in the St. Louis office in 1872, Orlando Van

Hise, a Cleveland real estate dealer of good standing. After having had the beauties of the plot expounded to him by Lindsay, Van Hise had become one of the chief eastern agents for the Lindsay syndicate, and the member of the ring second in importance only to the Missouriian. I found Van Hise had made frequent trips to south-western Missouri and thoroughly familiarized himself with the "lay of the land." The base of his operations was Cleveland, where there were associated with him George Linn; John K. Corwin, a notary public, and John F. Gardiner, a banker.

During the investigation there had fallen into my hands the letterheads and advertising matter of the ring. The Real Estate Loan and Trust company, of St. Louis, was operated from the Olive street offices of Lindsay; while the International Land Agency was directed from Lindsay's private office in Market street.

The letterhead of the latter concern named George W. Nelson as the eastern agent at Pittsburg and Baltimore; Robert L. Lindsay, the western agent; W. A. Brown, the selling representative in London, and John Gensler, the agent at Kissington, Germany.

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Nelson had been a particularly active sales agent. He was partially paralyzed, and went among his friends representing himself as "land poor," the owner of vast, unproductive tracts, part of which he had to dispose of in order to support himself in his failing physical condition. There was an element of sympathy in some of Nelson's sales, but he was cheerfully disregardful of the sympathetic feelings for him in unloading worthless titles to thousands of acres on his friends.

Addison Burns lived in Pennsylvania avenue, Pittsburg, and, in addition to handling Missouri lands, was a dealer in oil properties. He and his father made frequent trips of inspection to Missouri. They were both church members in good standing. Like Van Hise, they had learned the profession of land grafting to a nicety, but, unlike Van Hise, they had done some business in the line of actually making

fraudulent deeds on their own hook. McClellan was a notary joining the same kind of work in Pittsburg as Corwin did in Cleveland.

The activity of Addison and William Burns in using their own chirography in the manufacturing of deeds rendered it comparatively easy to establish a case against them, it being necessary only to prove the forgery. Some of this work was done so cleverly that at the trial of these men persons whose signatures had been forged claimed the forgeries as their own writing.

The case against the Pittsburg contingent was established principally by comparisons in the government land office. These members of the ring were therefore made a secondary issue of, pending the execution of a plan to catch Lindsay and Van Hise in such a way they could find no loophole for escape.

Developments up to this time had revealed not less than 20 active members of the land league. As might be expected, they all were in close touch with one another, and with the ring-leader, and it became apparent that in order to capture all and effectually smash the ring some plan would have to be devised whereby the federal authorities could move against them all simultaneously. Still placing most importance on making sound cases against Lindsay and Van Hise, I called to my assistance E. M. Stedman, a secret service operative of much ability.

"Assume the role of a lumberman looking for a site to operate a mill," were my instructions, "go to Shannon county and open negotiations with Lindsay personally for a tract of timber land, holding the deal open till we are ready to act."

Stedman followed instructions implicitly. Attired as a sawmill man of much means, he began negotiations with Lindsay for Shannon county lands. Lindsay took the bait and offered to sell him a fine tract of 25,000 acres at 50 cents an acre. These negotiations were conducted personally. Lindsay claimed to own the land, assuring a good title, and representing himself as the owner of thousands of acres of other land in different counties in Missouri. Stedman left Lindsay without closing the deal, and went to Vinton, Ia., his supposed home, to which place he told Lindsay

he had been called by important business. From Vinton he wrote asking for descriptions of other tracts. The purpose of opening such a correspondence was to get Lindsay on record in writing. Again the arch conspirator swallowed the bait, sending to Stedman in his own handwriting descriptions of various tracts he thought might be suitable for his correspondent's supposed purpose.

While in the east working on the Pittsburg angle of the case I wrote from Erie, Pa., to Orlando Van Hise in Cleveland, representing myself as James Hall, a sawmill owner, looking for a new business base. Van Hise's advertisement of timber lands had attracted my attention, I wrote. Van Hise answered that he could sell me 25,000 acres of desirable timber in one tract, and suggested that I come to Cleveland to talk the matter over with him. So to Cleveland I went immediately. Wearing the rough suit of a lumberman, and with my trousers tucked into the tops of my boots, I registered at the Weddell house under still another name.

While the land ringsters up to this time had no reason to believe they were being watched, they had acquired the trait of suspicion and alertness common to all criminals, great and small. I could afford to take no chances of having my identity discovered by Van Hise, and therefore at every turn covered my tracks as well as I knew how. In line with this policy, I even took a roundabout course to Van Hise's office in Superior street. I introduced myself as the Erie party who had written to him.

"I'm glad to meet you, Mr. Hall," said Van Hise, effusively. After the customary small talk that precedes getting down to business he said: "So you are looking for timber lands. Well, I believe I can furnish what you want."

"Have you much land of this kind?" I asked. "Plenty of it."

"At what price?" "That depends on the land. If you are prepared to take a large tract, I can probably make you a price of 50 cents an acre for land that will suit your purpose."

"What arrangements can you make for time? I have a certain amount of money. I have sold my 'muley' mill, and am thinking of buying a portable circular mill. Until I decide on this point I don't know just how I will be prepared to pay down on the land."

"Those matters can be arranged to suit you. If you take the land and put a mill on it, I will have no fear of your getting away from me without paying the balance."

Our conversation was of the pleasant kind that marks a deal about to be closed. Van Hise showed me elaborate maps of the Missouri districts in which he had lands for sale, and marked off the tract he proposed to sell me. But I did not close the deal then, pleading that I wanted a little time to decide on the style of mill to use and to arrange other details. I told him I would go to Missouri to look at the lands, and asked for descriptions, which he cheerfully gave me.

He went further, instructing me to make myself known to the clerk of the Missouri county to which I was supposed to be going. This clerk, he said, would be glad to show me the land at his, Van Hise's, expense, and would give me all the information relative to this and other points I might desire. This bit of accommodation on Van Hise's part indicated clearly the hold the leaguers had on certain county officials, and the part the latter played in the marketing of the stolen goods.

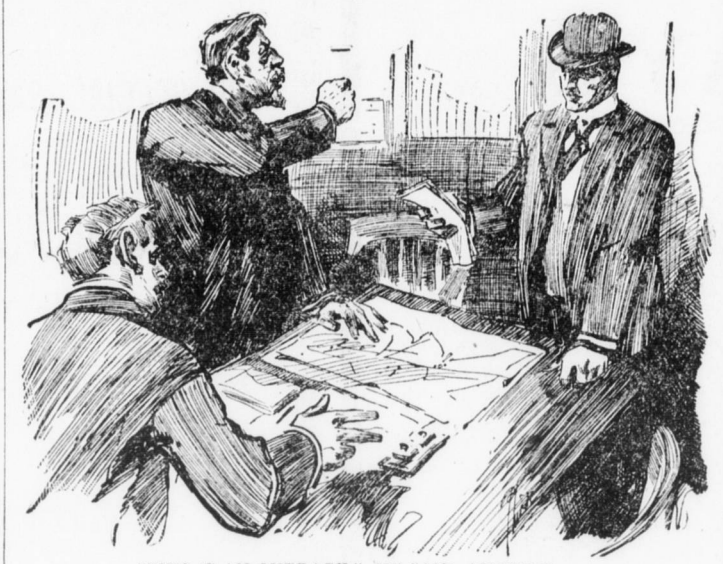
[To Be Continued.]

Chinese Etiquette. Very curious are some of the rules of etiquette observed by Chinamen. Emile Bard, who has written a book on the subject of Chinese life, says that in nine cases out of ten, however, the form of etiquette has replaced the substance, with the Chinese, a refusal or unpleasant truth must be expressed evasively. If a Chinaman does not wish to accommodate a friend he never gives the true reason for his refusal; that would be discourteous. He lies politely. The ceremonious forms of expression used in ordinary conversation seem very amusing to the European listener. It is a fixed rule that one must speak of himself and of all belonging to him in the humblest of terms and use the most exalted language in referring to the person or property of another. Whether two mandarins or two beggars meet and accost each other this is a sample of their conversation: "What is your honorable name?" "Your insignificant brother's name is Wang." "Where is your noble dwelling?" "The hovel in which I hide myself is in ——" designating the place. "How many precious sons have you?" "I have only five stupid little pigs."

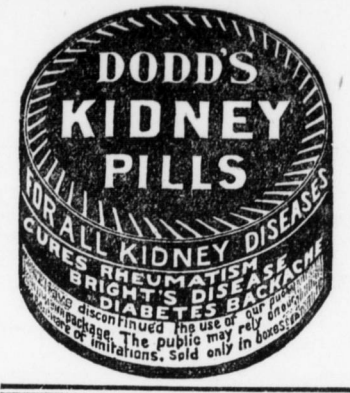
Father Had Failed. Gabriel Rossetti, poet and painter, was once visited by an East Indian prince, who wanted a portrait of his dead father painted. As no photograph was in existence the painter declined the task. The prince insisted that it was possible, as Rossetti had painted pictures of Mary Magdalen, John the Baptist and others whom he had never seen. Rossetti at last consented. He painted an ideal head that was certainly oriental and also regal in its bearing. The prince came to the studio in great state to view it. When the canvas was uncovered he looked at it steadily and then burst into tears. "How father has changed!" he cried.

In New York. "I'm afraid I ain't ready in society, after all," moaned the multimillionaire.

"Why not?" "Nobody has attempted to blackmail me yet."—Louisville Courier-Journal.



"THIS IS AN OUTRAGE," HE SAID, ANGRILY.



NOT ONE, BUT QUITE LATE

Lover's Plea Answered by a Voice That Carried Conviction with It.

Prof. G. A. Hill, of the national observatory, was describing the duties of an astronomical corps during an eclipse.

"The eclipse," he said, "may only last five minutes. Each man in the party has a certain line of work mapped out for him during these precious minutes. One man makes hurried pencil sketches. Another man photographs. A third man takes observations, while a fourth jots down his remarks."

"And so it goes. An astronomical corps during an eclipse is a very busy body. An interruption would be as unwelcome to it as—as—" Prof. Hill smiled.

"An interruption would be as unwelcome to it as it once was to a young friend of mine in Elizabeth."

"My friend, according to the story, was calling on his sweetheart, who lived on Elizabeth's outskirts. 'As the young man was taking leave for the night, his voice, as he stood on the piazza, rose passionately in the still air.' 'Just one,' he said, 'just one.' 'Then the young girl's mother interrupted, calling from her bedroom window: 'Just one? No, it ain't quite that yet. But it's close on to 12, so I think ye'd better be goin' just the same.'"

TERRIBLE SCALY ECZEMA.

Eruptions Appeared on Chest, and Face and Neck Were All Broken Out—Cured by Cuticura.

"I had an eruption appear on my chest and body and extend upwards and downwards, so that my neck and face were all broken out; also my arms and the lower limbs as far as the knees. I at first thought it was prickly heat, but soon scales or crusts formed where the breaking out was. Instead of going to a physician, I purchased a complete treatment of the Cuticura Remedies, in which I had great faith, and all was satisfactory. A year or two later the eruption appeared again, only a little lower; but before it had time to spread I procured another supply of the Cuticura Remedies, and continued their use until the cure was complete. It is now five years since the last attack, and have not seen any signs of a return. I have more faith in Cuticura Remedies for skin diseases than anything I know of. Emma E. Wilson, Liscomb, Iowa, Oct. 1, 1905."

"De man dat gets mad easy," said Uncle Eben, "is liable to waste so much energy on his indignation dat he ain't got enough left to make out any kin' or an abnegation."—Washington Star.

An instantaneous cure for Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Toothaches, Headache, Lame-ness, Backache, is Dr. Bayer's Penetrating Oil. 25c a bottle. Take no substitutes.

Fashion writer says: "One can get a real cute layette for a baby for \$8,000." Wouldn't that make you join a Race Suicide Club?—N. Y. Herald.

You Won't cough long if you use Shiloh's Consumption Cure, the Lung Tonic. It cures Colds, Coughs, and all irritations of the air passages almost instantly.

You won't lose anything if it fails to cure you, for then your dealer will give you back what you paid for it. If you use Shiloh

You Will agree that it is the greatest medicine for Coughs and Colds in the world.

"We have used Shiloh's Consumption Cure for the last twelve years, and think it one of the best cough remedies on the market."—Mrs. A. Schaefer, Santa Cruz, Cal.

"I can recommend Shiloh's Consumption Cure as one of the best cough remedies."—A. A. Glick, Elyria, Ohio.

"Have used Shiloh's Consumption Cure for coughs and colds with most satisfactory results."—Minnie Howe, Portland, Oregon.

SHILOH 25c. per bottle. All dealers guarantee it.

Advertisement for UNION PACIFIC OREGON and WASHINGTON, featuring an illustration of a woman with a basket and a train.

Advertisement for MOTHER GRAY'S SWEET POWDERS FOR CHILDREN, featuring an illustration of a child.

Advertisement for GREGORY'S SEED, featuring an illustration of a seed packet.

Advertisement for PATENTS, featuring an illustration of a patent document.

Advertisement for Garfield Tea, Mild Laxative, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for Shake Into Your Shoes, Allen's Foot-Ease, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for A Guaranteed Cure for Piles, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for How to cure Biliousness, Stomach Disorders, Chronic Constipation, Bladder, Liver and Kidney Irregularities, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for Many a man whom we think has a big heart only has a patient ear, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for If you enjoy muffins and waffles, try Mrs. Austin's Pancake flour, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for Many fail through success, while others succeed through failure, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for THE BEST COUGH CURE, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for A well-known Rochester lady says: 'I stayed in the Adirondacks, away from friends and home, two winters before I found that by taking

Advertisement for Kemp's Balsam, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for I could subdue the cough that drove me away from home and seemed likely to never allow me to live there in winter, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for SICK HEADACHE, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable. SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE.

Advertisement for Genuine Must Bear Fac-Simile Signature, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for REFUSE SUBSTITUTES, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for Twenty-Five Bushels of Wheat to the Acre, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for 160 ACRE FARMS IN WESTERN CANADA FREE, with text describing its benefits.

Advertisement for The Canadian Government gives absolutely free to every settler 160 acres of such land.

Advertisement for Lands adjoining can be purchased at from \$5 to \$10 per acre from railroad and other corporations.

Advertisement for Already 175,000 farmers from the United States have made their homes in Canada.

Advertisement for For pamphlet 'Twentieth Century Canada' and all information apply to SUPERINTENDENT OF IMMIGRATION, Ottawa, Canada, or to the following authorized Canadian Government Agents:

Advertisement for H. M. WILLIAMS, Law Building, Toledo, O. Mention this paper

Advertisement for The Short Line to OREGON and WASHINGTON

Advertisement for Chicago \$33.00

Advertisement for TWO TRAINS DAILY Through Sleeping and Dining Car Service

Advertisement for QUICKEST TIME Inquire of W. G. NEIMYER, G. A., 120 JACKSON BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, ILL.

Advertisement for MOTHER GRAY'S SWEET POWDERS FOR CHILDREN, featuring an illustration of a child.

Advertisement for GREGORY'S SEED, featuring an illustration of a seed packet.

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