

WORKING THE ORDERS

Enormous Sick Benefits Secured by Poles and Russians.

FALLING SICK AS A BUSINESS.

Great Scheme for Hoarding Beneficial Societies Unearthed.

A BIG COMBINATION ILLNESS SYSTEM

PHILADELPHIA, April 26.—A scheme to defraud, starting in its details, has just been unearthed in this city, and an investigation is now being conducted, which it is anticipated will in a few days result in a number of arrests.

The charge is made that numbers of Poles and Russians in this city have united in an organization to defraud beneficial societies by feigning illness and drawing large weekly benefits. This scheme, it is said, is engineered by a number of shrewd speculators, who, it is believed, make a large amount of money out of the ignorant beneficiaries as well as out of the societies.

Owing to the enormous percentage of sickness recurring in the Polish and Russian branches of such organizations as the Universal Order of Security, Saxeian League, Order of Tont, Order of Unity, Order of Amity, Union Endowment, Iron Hall, Order of Peace, Order of Vesta and others, searching investigation is being conducted which has so far revealed one of the most remarkable systems of making money ever invented.

Claims for Sick Benefits. It is claimed that 80 per cent of the Russian and Polish members of these orders put in claims for sick benefits, while only 10 per cent of the other members have been ill. Of this 80 per cent, it is claimed that only about 25 per cent are genuine cases of sickness; yet the remarkable prevalence of illness in the Polish and Russian colony down town has assumed the proportions of a frightful epidemic, which should receive the attention of the Board of Health.

On the Evidence of Criminals. William Harrison Kent, convicted of burglary at Scranton, Pa., who was arrested by a Scranton detective while leaving the doors of the Western Penitentiary, was convicted of burglary in court yesterday, the jury having been out over night. The trial was remarkable from the fact that the Commonwealth, to convict Kent, was forced to rely wholly upon the testimony of criminals.

One of the men who peached upon him had served 15 years in the penitentiary, and another 10 years, while Kent himself, who had spent 18 months in confinement, he will now be tried for arson.

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