

Uncle Sam's Secret Service

Work of Government Detective Bureau, Which Is Bone of Contention Between Congress and the President.
Sketch of John E. Wilkie, Chief of Sleuths.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

THERE is no government department concerning which less is known than the secret service. At the same time there is none about which there is greater public curiosity, which is just now heightened by the row between the president and the congress.

The secret service is Uncle Sam's Sherlock Holmes. It catches counterfeiters and now and then bags a congressman or senator who has not been content with making laws, but has started to breaking them also, thus working both ends of the line. It was this fear of getting a few legislators into jail that caused all the trouble between Mr. Roosevelt and the present session. Congressmen do not like to be imprisoned, for which we can scarcely blame them, considering the other inflictions they have to bear, such as associating with each other and listening to each other's oratory.

President Roosevelt charged in effect that it was because the secret service had exposed Senator Mitchell and an Oregon representative in the land fraud cases that congress cut down the appropriation for the secret service and prohibited its use outside of the treasury department, whereat certain members of the house, dignified senators and others not so dignified regard themselves as grossly insulted. Come to think of it, there is something in the nature of a personal insult in sending a man to jail or even in intimating that he ought to be there, though most men do not base their objection to imprisonment on this ground. Now, the president did not say that all members of congress should go to jail, but only that the law they had passed helped nobody but criminals, and the chief argument in its favor was that it keeps members of the two houses from being investigated and prosecuted.

He went further and intimated that

All of these things and some others made congress forbid the further leading out of Hawksaws. There are stories and cartoons to the effect that a governmental spy system has grown up in Washington. This the administration denies, but at any rate there will be an investigation.

Wilkie Started as Reporter.

The head of the secret service started life as a reporter. He is John E. Wilkie of Chicago, son of a famous newspaper man in his day who was Wilbur F. Storey's chief editorial writer on the Chicago Times. Young Wilkie started as a fire and police reporter and was so intensely in earnest in the role that he bought a fireman's helmet and outfit and went to all the fires to help out, receiving much chaffing therefor both from the real firemen and the other reporters. He showed the same spirit in his police reporting and in at least one instance succeeded in unearthing a sensational crime. A store burned in a manner to show that it was fired by incendiaries. The proprietor was out of town at the time, but came in on a train soon after. In rummaging about through the ashes Wilkie came upon a charred photograph, evidently taken of the owner of the store when a much younger man, but on the back of which was a Philadelphia address and a name different from that by which the merchant was then known. On being confronted with this witness from the past the man supposed the jig was up, broke down and confessed that he had set fire to his own store, using a time fuse that would allow him to get out of town. This was not the only piece of sherlockholmesing done by the young police reporter. Every available moment he was lounging around detective headquarters picking up ideas.

Some time later the elder Wilkie was placed in charge of the London bureau of the secret service and was soon in command of the secret service of Great Britain. He went further and intimated that



JOHN E. WILKIE, HEAD OF NATIONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES BUREAU, AND WILLIAM J. BURNS (IN CORNER), FAMOUS HAWKSawH.

If they did not want to be investigated—if they had records that would not bear investigation, I presume he meant—they might exempt themselves by a special provision, but should not cripple the whole detective agency of the government. That is talking some, even for Roosevelt. Congress waited a few days, and then the senate passed some mild mannered resolutions, adopted amid oratory not so mild and accompanied by thoughts positively unspeakable, directing the committee on appropriations to investigate the secret service, the message and everything else with a handle on that looked as if it could be used to cause trouble. The house merely asked him for the facts on which the president based his statements, evidently wanting him to show his hand before it did any bluffing. The head-on collisions the house has had with Roosevelt on former occasions have apparently taught it caution.

Hunted Down Land Frauds.

The secret service proper belongs to the treasury department, and its chief duty is to catch counterfeiters. For twenty years, however, it has been the habit of the chief of the service to lend his men to other departments whenever needed. Among those so borrowing Uncle Sam's sleuths was the secretary of the interior, who used them in hunting down land frauds, in which they gathered in the United States senator and congressman before mentioned. It is also whispered that the secretary of the navy used one of the detectives in hunting down an absent naval official, and the place where he was found laid the basis for a divorce suit. That caused another row.

reau of the Chicago Times, and the son accompanied him, each of them sending several columns of cables and letters every week. One day Storey fired the elder Wilkie by cable, and the son went to the head of an American commercial agency in London, where he remained almost two years.

Returning to Chicago, he re-entered the newspaper field and soon became city editor of the Tribune. Frank E. Vanderlip was financial editor of the paper at the same time, and the two became chums. When Lyman J. Gage was made secretary of the treasury he took Vanderlip along as private secretary and in a short time made him assistant secretary of the treasury. Vanderlip remembered his friend Wilkie, tried him out on some work for the government and succeeded in getting him appointed chief of the secret service. This is the story of John E. Wilkie's rise as I have it from the lips of a newspaper man who used to work with him as a police reporter. While much of it has seen the light, I think it has never been printed before in all its details.

"Secret Service" True to Name.

In office Mr. Wilkie is one of the most democratic and easily accessible of all government employees. There are two rooms in the treasury building with the legend "Secret Service" over the door. Anybody can walk right in and will usually find Chief Wilkie in his shirt sleeves going over reports or considering some knotty case. In the same room is his assistant, W. H. Moran, and in the adjoining room are a number of clerks. Nothing mysterious about all this, but the most prosaic and matter-of-fact routine of every

day. Yet the visitor will take a mistake if he jumps at conclusions. Let him try to find out who are the detectives employed by the bureau and he will begin to understand that the word "secret" is not a false label. Nobody outside of Wilkie, Moran and possibly one or two others knows the names of these men, what they do or even how many of them there are. They go about as ordinary citizens, never disclosing their connection with the department, except to police officials, district attorneys or others who may help them. As they are shifted around the country and passed from department to department, the criminal element is thus left in the dark as to the identity of the men with whom they have to cope. There are thirty-seven branch secret service offices throughout the nation and probably a couple of hundred men employed. Not only counterfeiting cases, but violations of the internal revenue laws, of the anti-trust laws, of the land laws, of the post-office regulations and of the thousand and one details of governmental rules, may come in for investigation at their hands. Rather they might have done so before congress interfered. Now the service is handicapped, and there is joy among the crooks in consequence.

The secret service man of fact and the secret service man of fiction are about as much alike as a real estate agent's description is like the dirt he sells you. The detective of romance is wonderfully made, with a brain like a machine and a personality that to the average American boy looms bigger than that of the president. The real detective—But why shatter an ideal? I never knew anybody the worse for believing in Santa Claus, and the popular conception of the average sleuth not only delights the juvenile heart—and some hearts that are not juvenile—but possibly scares some would be criminals into being decent.

Sleuths' Strenuous Lives.

Fairy tales aside, there are spots in the lives of most secret service men that are sufficiently exciting for "mysterydrummer." It is a wise one among them who knows what his next assignment will be, whether to run down a gang of counterfeiters, look for moonshiners in the Carolina mountains, trace land steals among the catlemen or lumbermen of the west or break into world politics by spying on a foreign government or shadowing the spies of a foreign government here. One of Chief Wilkie's notable achievements was in breaking up the spy system maintained by the Spanish government in America during the late war. No; the life of Uncle Sam's detectives is not without adventure and movement. For example, one of their many duties is to guard the president of the United States and accompany him every time he sets foot outside the White House. With the cross country gallops and tramps through blizzards and rainstorms indulged in by the present chief executive, this is not the mildest of occupations. The strain on those detailed for the leg racking duty will probably ease down after March 4. Now their lives seem like one long dream of looping the loops and bumping the bumps.

In their ordinary work of detecting crime the secret service men are divided into two classes, "shadows" and "ropers." A shadow follows a suspect in all his comings and goings. It is not an easy task for the reason that the shadowed one must never have the faintest hint that any one is on his trail. Roping is still more difficult. Here the detective becomes a boon companion of the criminals, learns their secrets and collects sufficient evidence to convict them. In doing this he must have no scrap about his person that would reveal his identity. The old idea of disguises has largely passed out. Indeed, it never had existence among real detectives outside the lids of novels. Change of garb and the perfection with which a detective lives up to the character assumed furnish all the disguise necessary. That is the beauty of a service made up of members unknown to the criminal element. Few of Chief Wilkie's men were originally detectives. Many of them came from the claims departments of railroads and express companies. They are from all walks of life—indeed, chosen after the most rigid scrutiny into their characters and fitness for the work. One of the most famous of their number is William J. Burns, concerned in the land fraud investigations and now in the San Francisco graft inquiry. Burns is not now in the secret service, having resigned to help Heney fight Schmitz and Ruef.

Vast, Complicated System.

Mr. Wilkie assigns these men much as he assigned reporters when on the city desk of a newspaper. The principle is the same, although the system is infinitely more vast and complicated. The men work under the direct supervision of the various departments to which they are assigned or under the subordinate secret service bureaus in whose territory they happen to be placed, although the Washington bureaus keep track of them all. In this way the head of the system has a more thorough inside view of the workings of the entire nation than any other one man outside of the president and his cabinet advisers.

What Will Be the Upshot of the Present Investigation?

In office Mr. Wilkie is one of the most democratic and easily accessible of all government employees. There are two rooms in the treasury building with the legend "Secret Service" over the door. Anybody can walk right in and will usually find Chief Wilkie in his shirt sleeves going over reports or considering some knotty case. In the same room is his assistant, W. H. Moran, and in the adjoining room are a number of clerks. Nothing mysterious about all this, but the most prosaic and matter-of-fact routine of every

WOMAN AND FASHION

A Simple Street Hat.

The charm of this hat lies in the fact that it is extremely simple. It is a delft blue felt. The brim folds up on the left side to form a



OF DELFT BLUE FELT.

revers. It droops in the back and opposite side. Self tone blue velvet and blue silk are crushed around the low crown. Two large wings of brownish gray and white decorate the right side.

Frocks For the Debutante.

Charming evening frocks are made of painted chiffon trimmed with ruchings of cream colored valenciennes lace made with a soft lace edged fichu and high, tightly draped girdle, with its long empire sash ends of silk covered with tiny ruchings of lace. The new printed and painted chiffons have backgrounds of a soft shade of pink or blue, over which the flowers trail in delicate contrasts or blending of tones.

Brussels net is a practical uncrushable material and in white is particularly pretty for girls, made with slightly fulled skirt, trimmed about the edge in some form of the Greek key pattern carried out in ruches of liberty or of the net.

The bodice may have a bertha, with a smaller copy of the trimming fastened at the bust by rosettes or bows of ribbon. There should also be a ribbon waistband with long sash ends.

Wrist Bags of Cloth.

Instead of a wrist bag the latest fancy is to have a bag of quaint form made of material to match the costume suspended from the corsage or the top edge of the skirt by wide ribbons; also the great muffs are utilized as a sack into which is poured a variety of objects that once belonged in the wrist bag. Inside the muffs are pockets of all sizes and shapes. The purse is in one, the cardcase in another, and all the useful vanity box belongings are separately stowed away. Old muffs belonging to last year, too small for this, are cut into pieces and with the help of wide ribbons and frills or bands of mousseline de sole are turned into fascinating great muffs wholly up to date.

A Practical Blouse.

A smart and practical blouse of dark red muslin's veiling, seen in a shop recently, was laid entirely in tucks from armhole to armhole and closed down the front under a narrow box plait.

The sleeves fitted the arms smoothly to the wrists and were tucked their entire length, graduating in size, the widest coming at the top. Ruffles of black chiffon trimmed the wrists, and a high collar of dark red satin, folded, edged with a ruff of black chiffon lined with white, finished the neck. A narrow cravat tied in a bow in the front, the ends weighted with gold fassels, completed a stylish waist.

Child's Party Gown.

The sketch shows a novel and attractively arranged model for a little girl's frock. The underslip is of mull

DAINTY FROCK OF MULL AND LACE.

and lace. The overslip, an apron arrangement, is of pink muslin, laced at sides with pink satin ribbon.

Outside Sleeve Frill Gown.

The little frill on the outside of the arm, which was a feature of the Shirred long sleeve early in the season is no longer seen on the smartest frocks, having had a tendency to thicken the arm, while extreme length and slenderness are things desired. A line of small buttons or other ornaments set along the outside seam is liked, and on many of the French frocks a plissé line of trimming is set into the Shirred sleeve down the outer seam.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lesson II.—First Quarter, Jan. 10, 1909.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Act II, 1-21—Memory Verses, 2-4—Golden Text, John xiv, 16, 17—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

[Copyright, 1908, by American Press Association.]

On that last night before His crucifixion He said, "It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart I will send Him unto you, and when He is come He will convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment" (John xv, 7, 8). As He left them on that ascension day He told them to tarry in Jerusalem until the Spirit came, as He said that He would; hence we find them in an upper room in Jerusalem, perhaps the same one where He had kept the Passover with them, continuing in one accord in prayer and supplication. The women are there, too, and Mary, His mother, and His own brethren (Acts i, 14), who had evidently come to the point of receiving their brother as the Messiah. Contrast John v, 5. I think this is the last mention of Mary, His mother. How blessed to say farewell to her till we meet her in glory at a prayer meeting! "With one accord" is a very important phrase in this book. It is used just seven times in a good connection and four times in a bad one (I, 14; II, 1, 46; IV, 24; V, 12; VIII, 6; XV, 25, and VII, 57; XII, 20; XVIII, 12; xix, 29).

This is suggestive also, for seven is the greatest number denoting perfection, while four is the worldwide number, and we know that the whole world lies in the wicked one (I John v, 19; R. V.). Seven is also a three and a four, the Trinity and the resurrection, on behalf of the whole world. If any do not see significance in numbers, let them be teachable and patient with those who do. If believers could only be of one accord, what great things might be seen in answer to prayer and patient waiting upon God! Whether the election of Matthias was of God or only of Peter and the others, we may perhaps not be able to decide till we know as we are known. We shall surely know when we see the twelve thrones occupied of which Jesus spoke.

Ten days having passed since He left them, which, added to the forty days between resurrection and ascension, completed the fifty of Lev. xxiii, 12-16, they being with one accord in one place, the Holy Spirit came as promised, accompanied by a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, which filled all the house where they were sitting. There appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (verses 2-4). Thus was His word before His ascension fulfilled, "Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence" (I, 5, 5). The women present must have been filled as well as the men. This filling was not sufficient for all future time, for we find some of the same people filled from time to time, again and again (Iv, 8, 31). In chapter x, 44, 46, we read that the Spirit fell on those to whom Peter was speaking, even as he preached the word to them, and they also spake with tongues and magnified God.

When tongues were given there was always a reason why. In our lesson story there were gathered at Jerusalem devout men out of every nation under heaven (5), and in their own native tongue they heard these men speak the wonderful words of God (11). In the Babel story of rebellion against God, all people being of one language, they were caused by God to speak many, to their own confusion (Gen. xi), but here at Pentecost people of one language were enabled to speak many languages, to the glory of God. There seems to be somewhat of the gift of tongues granted by God again in these days (1908), but it is to be feared that there is much that is not of God, much delusion by the wicked one. There is great need to study closely I Cor. xiv, with special attention to verses 5, 9, 19. A greater test of the Spirit's presence and power and working than any other gift is that of the love described in I Cor. xiii. The love that exalts the Lord alone, that unites believers in one great desire to magnify His regardless of all sects or divisions of the church and to give the glorious gospel to all the world as quickly as possible—this is the filling of the Spirit to be greatly desired.

At Pentecost many mockingly said, "These men are full of new wine" (verse 13), but Peter became the mouthpiece of the Holy Spirit to call their attention to the prophecy of Joel (and other Scriptures to be considered in our next lesson) and that this was a fulfillment of that prophecy concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It was said by a man of God that prophecy had many a germinant and springing accomplishment throughout the ages, while the complete fulfillment may be for some future period.

That the complete fulfillment of Joel's prophecy will be in connection with the return of Christ in power and glory is evident from our Lord's own words in Matt. xxiv, 29, 30. Joel III, 1, 2, shows that it will be in connection with the resurrection of Israel and the judgment of nations which precedes the millennium of Christ's personal reign to subdue all things unto Himself. The special word for every believer now is Eph. v, 18-21.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE HONESDALE NATIONAL BANK

AT HONESDALE, WAYNE COUNTY, PA.

At the close of business, Nov. 27, 1908.

RESOURCES	
Loans and Discounts	\$ 28,500
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	55,600
U. S. Bonds and S. Bonds	2,200
Bonds, securities, stocks	1,300,000
Banking-house, furniture and fixtures	40,000
Due from National Banks (not Reserve Agents)	3,500
Due from State Banks and Banks	1,000
Due from approved reserve agents	144,000
Checks and other cash items	2,000
National Bank notes outstanding	34,000
State Bank notes outstanding	1,000
Due to other National Banks	1,000
Due to State Banks and Bankers	1,000
Individual deposits subject to check	1,426,962
Demand certificates of deposit	25,169
Certified checks outstanding	18,840
Bonds borrowed	845,56
Notes and bills rediscounted	1,000
Bills payable, including certificates of deposit for money borrowed	1,000
Liabilities other than those above stated	1,000
Total</	