

BUYING "GREENGOODS."

DIFFICULTY IN PREVENTING THIS FORM OF SWINDLE.

How Realize to What Extent This Peculiar Calling of the Powers That Be Is Carried—Kings Among the Crooks—The Methods of the Sharper Are Many.

Perhaps every newspaper reader knows what a "greengoods" man is, but how many people who think that they were pretty well acquainted with the intricacies of metropolitan life have any idea to what extent this particular calling of the "powers that prey" is now carried? The trade of the "greengoods" man is one of the most puzzling and mysterious with which detectives have to deal. And what is most astonishing of all is that every day within a radius of a few miles from New York City hundreds of daring schemes are being carried on and brought to full realization.

A New York Tribune reporter was prompted to make inquiries as to the extent and workings of this practice by a Washington dispatch. This dispatch said that J. L. Bristow, fourth assistant postmaster general in his recent report, had advocated an amendment to the interstate commerce law which would prohibit telegraph and express companies or their employees from aiding and abetting "greengoods" or lottery swindlers, or any other scheme carried on partly by mail and partly by common carrier in violation of the postal laws. The necessity for such a law, together with the probable difficulty of its enforcement, was made evident by Theodore W. Swift, chief of the New York office inspectors. Mr. Swift said:

The "greengoods" man is one who promises to give a certain amount of counterfeit money for genuine money. He is one of the oldest individuals with whom detectives have to deal. He is difficult to apprehend, and when he is caught it is almost impossible to obtain sufficient evidence to secure his conviction. Every year he robs innocent, trusting men of large sums of money—how large we have no means of determining. He is a highwayman, a true freebooter, who handles his revolver with as easy an assurance as he does his chief weapon—his tongue. We have fought him sub rosa for years, and we are still learning his cunning ways. He is the trickiest, nerviest, most desperate ruffian in good clothes with whom we deal. I could talk to you for hours of his wondrous, his twisting and his burrowing, but perhaps a description of only one of a hundred different methods by which he makes his living will serve as an illustration.

Practically all the "greengoods" men of the country operate from New York. They work in this city because the great volume of mailing which goes on here makes detection more difficult. If after they receive replies they could be tracked and watched, and if we knew from whom their mail comes, of course we could more readily drive them out of existence. As the system is now worked we have no means of knowing who sends letters to them or at what point these letters to the sharper are really written.

Let's take the simplest case. The "greengoods" man sends out a circular to a man whose name he finds in the directory of some town. This circular may state that the writer has a son who once worked in the treasury department, who is perfectly familiar with the process of making money. The crook adds that further instructions may be obtained by telegraphing to, say, "J. W. Ellis, Greenville, N. J.," which, of course, is a fictitious address. The innocent is told not to use the mails, but to telegraph all communications to the crook under a signature, say, for example, "736."

No. 736 accepts the bait and telegraphs as instructed. In a short time a generous pile of messages from gullible persons, addressed to the crook, accumulates at Greenville. It is easy for us to find these telegrams at that office, but we can't find the crook. By collusion with the telegraph operator, copies of these messages are sent by mail, by express, or by hand to New York, where the crook has all along kept himself. This scheme prevents us from capturing him. It is practically impossible to prove that the operator, who receives \$50 for his share in the transactions, is an accessory to the operation.

Each of these copies of telegrams represents to the crook a possible "sucker." The greengoods man then writes again to No. 736, the weaking, and sends him a genuine one dollar bill as a specimen of the counterfeit money which he is to receive. He adds that for \$500, in good money, \$5000 worth of counterfeit money like the sample enclosed may be purchased. The innocent is then instructed to come to New York, but to first telegraph, always in cipher, to the sharper's real address in New York telling him when he starts.

A few minutes after No. 736, the innocent, goes to a room at an apartment hotel, the "steerer," or as some of the greengoods men appear. The "steerer" then pilots the man with the \$500 into the country, perhaps to a small Pennsylvania town, where the greengoods man meets them. He is told that safety requires such a move. The crook then actually gives the "sucker" \$5000 in genuine money for his \$500.

Then the crook tells No. 736 that it would be better if he did not take these five crisp one thousand dollar bills to his native town; that it would be far safer to submit them to a chemical process, invented by the crook, that would, after a few days of treatment, make them appear older and

MAKING AN ENVELOPE.

TEN MILLIONS TURNED OUT IN THIS COUNTRY EVERY DAY.

How the Trade Pronounces the Word—Preliminary Processes of Manufacture—Envelopes That Are Veritable Works of Art—A Very Pleasant Employment.

The word is spelled in two ways—envelope and envelop. The Envelope Trust spells it with the final *e*, in which case it should be pronounced as if it were an *en*-voh-lop. The French spelling is, however, enveloppe. The word without the final *e* pronounced envelop. Dean Swift made the following rhyme:

"Lead those to paper-sparing Pope,
And when he sits to write,
No letter will an envelope
Could give him more delight."

The trade does not say *ahn*-voh-lop, but *en*-voh-lop. The United States Envelope Company, with a capital of \$5,000,000, is the largest manufacturer of envelopes in the world, comprising more than nine big concerns in New England and one in Milwaukee. In the United States we have, all told, 30 large firms engaged in this manufacture, 20 of which do not belong to the trust.

Over 10,000,000 envelopes are made in this country every working day, or more than 2,500,000,000 a year. The tin product amounts to 30,000,000 a day, or nearly 10,000,000,000 annually. The American output of lead pencils is 50,000 gross or 720,000 a day, making the annual production of 215,000. Buttons we make by the million gross, and great quantities of steel pens.

In the latter product England is far ahead of us. It is said we do not make the right kind of steel for pens. The biggest little thing is the match, of which we make and use annually over 125,000,000,000. It is estimated that the consumption is five matches a day for every man, woman and child of the population, which makes 499,000,000 a day. A single machine turns out 500,000 matches an hour, or 5,000,000 each working day of eight hours.

The oldest envelope manufacturing firm in the United States is in William street, which boasts many ancient nooses in other lines. If you wish to see the old, the safe and the sound in our commercial life, go to William street, between, say, Liberty and Beekman. Samuel Raynor was the original envelope maker in New York. It is said the firm in William street is his successor. When he began business our fathers were folding their letters with the writing inside and concealing the contents by means of waters and sealing wax. That was about 50 years ago. For a long time envelopes were made by hand and the cost was considerable. The 80 machines in 1,200,000 every eight hours, and the present cost of envelopes is so small that we hardly take it into serious consideration.

I confess to a feeling of disappointment since going through this factory with Mr. Johnson. I thought an envelope machine could endow a woman with 700 sheets of paper at a single impression. They are then placed in the front of the machine, which picks them up one by one, gums the flaps, folds them, dries them and delivers them in blocks of 25 to the operator. The latter is invariably a woman. All she has to do is to keep up the supply of blanks and hand the envelopes as they are turned out. The smaller the envelope the faster the machine, the capacity ranging from 12,000 to 45,000 a day of eight hours.

Some of the envelopes made here are veritable works of art. Splendid examples of lithography are seen in immense sheets of paper, some with gorgesque pictures, and some with a Philadelphia lawyer to unravel the puzzle. The number of sheets to be cut into blanks at one impression must be of perfect register, else the envelope will be ruined in the folding. The old plan was to drive steel pins through the envelopes, as done by the lithographer with a hand press. So varied is the demand for envelopes that no factory could keep in stock a sufficient number of dies and machines for making odd styles, therefore the ancient hand work is carried on in a secluded corner.

A young man in a wire cage has a mallet and some queer shaped steel chisels, with which he cuts out these odd shapes and sizes, all of which are gummed and folded by hand. It is slow and tedious yet a necessary branch of the business. Gum arabic, dissolved in hot water or steamed, is used for pasting the flaps. Some of the envelopes are 10 by 15 inches, with the top flap closed by means of cord. Then there are little fellows, 2 by 3-1/2 inches, principally made of collections. Enormous quantities of official sizes are made for the government. The favorite and standard commercial size for business correspondence is No. 6-3/4.

Making envelopes is largely a woman's occupation, only the heaviest labor falling to men. And the work of attending to a machine is easy, clean and pleasant. The wages are fair, the hours short. The envelope salesman, whether at home or on the road, carries no *sans* case, but a

SMALL LEATHER WALLET IN HIS COAT POCKET.

IT IS SAID THAT THOMAS RILE, THE DEAN OF SALESMEN, DOES NOT EVEN CARRY A WALLET. TWENTY-TWO YEARS IN THE BUSINESS, HE HAS BUILT UP A TRADE THAT RELIANTLY PURSUES HIM WHEREVER HE GOES. HIS FOLIO IS A BIG PART OF THE FORTUNE OF HIS HOUSE. EVERY TIME HE SHOWS UP TO A CUSTOMER THE COMPANY BUYS A NEW MACHINE CAPACITY 45,000 A DAY.—VICTOR SMITH, IN THE NEW YORK PRESS.

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SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

MEXICO'S ORACLE.

Rules Over a Tribe That is Centered Behind the Times.

As is well known to all who have looked into the matter carefully, for instance, such men as Lumholtz, Starr and Saville—there are in more parts of Mexico—were in receipt of portions of tribes of Indians who are practically as much given to idolatry, superstition and witchcraft as were their forbears in the vanished years when the gleaming banner of Castile and Aragon glauced amid the peaks and valleys of Mexico, announcing the advent of a stronger race and more victorious faith.

The other day, while making a little trip over the inter-oceanic, that runs through so many picturesque Indian towns, I happened to meet in one of these villages a very interesting Indian, who told me the following. "Whether it is true or not I do not know," I tell the tale as 'twas told to me." He said that on the northern slope of Popocatepetl, near the foot, there is a large cave almost unknown to the outside world. In this cave lives an old white-haired Indian who is the oracle of a small tribe of Indians in that vicinity, whose language is unlike that of any of the neighboring tribes.

This little tribe has never been conquered either by the Spaniards or by the church or by the modern government of the republic. The Indians have preserved all their old customs and traditions until this day, and are practically as they were 400 years ago. One of the very curious institutions among them is that of the oracle, or seer, who dwells in the above-mentioned cave all alone. He is always the oldest and wisest man of the tribe. He is looked upon with the same superstitious reverence as were the oracles of Dodona and Delphi in the heathen days of the world.

In that cave are preserved rare gems of curiously carved emeralds, such as the great "Mallinche" sent home to Spain; idols of gold and silver and copper and stone, pearl necklaces from the far-off Gulf of California, and strange robes of feather work, of which but very few examples are known to-day outside the pages of Sahagun, Prescott or Clavigero.

There are also ranged in fitting order the ancient gods of this strange people, of whom this old man is the high priest. Once a month a commission of the oldest men of the tribe visits the cave and takes with it in the name of the people, offerings of fruit and flowers and establishes and incense in honor of the gods and their oracle.

Upon all affairs of importance to the tribe this old man is consulted, and his judgments are those of the Medes and the Persians. I asked whether it would be possible to visit him or see his cave, and he told me, not even members of the same tribe, outside the before-mentioned "commission" had ever seen the inside of that strange and mysterious cave. My informant told me that at a certain point all persons are stopped by a guard and that if they can proceed no further upon pain of death. And this is not a tale of 400 years ago, but of today.

The tribe and the cave are at the north side of Popocatepetl and every Saturday in Atlixco members of this tribe are at the market to buy and sell their simple necessities. All the tribesmen become a little more careful for a few encounters with cars showed them that their trucks could be knocked into kindling wood in a few minutes. Nowadays they get out of the way fairly expeditiously if rudely, but such an exchange of amities as was heard yesterday between the man and motorman is a record.

It was on Duane street and a heavy truck was keeping back a car. The motorman changed his bell loudly, and the driver of the truck turned around and said: "If you will wait until we reach the next corner I shall be very glad to get out of your way." "Thank you very much," answered the motorman. "You are most obliging."

"Gosh," said the policeman on the crossing.—New York Mail and Express.

Paid for One Goat, \$1000.
A three-year-old Angora buck goat, Pasha-Columbia, was sold at the Kansas City stock yards recently for \$1050, the highest price ever paid for one of his kind.—Kansas City Journal.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

The Ironing of Tablecloths.

All housewives like to have tablecloths ironed with only one fold through the centre. To keep them after this laundering they are best rolled on a stick. Each tablecloth has its own stick, as long as the cloth is wide when folded lengthwise through the centre, the sticks being neatly covered with several folds of flannel and afterwards with muslin. When the cloth is ironed in one fold, one end is evenly pinned to the stick and the cloth loosely rolled on it, so that it will not crease. Afterwards the whole is slipped into a long, narrow bag and laid in the linen closet, or in the long drawer of the sideboard, if that is kept for that purpose.

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A preliminary report on the turpentine and resin industry of the United States has been issued by the census bureau at Washington showing the extent of the industry in the census year of 1909 as compared with 1890. According to this statement, the total value of these two products for 1909 was \$29,344,888, against \$8,077,379 for 1890; the number of establishments, 1502, against 670; the capital employed, \$11,832,845, against \$4,065,379; the average number of wage earners, 41,874, against 15,264; the total wages paid \$8,296,632, against \$2,966,547, and the cost of materials used \$6,196,596, against \$2,874,693.

The Belgian Royal Meteorological Observatory has published the estimates made by various mathematicians and physicists regarding the depth of the atmosphere surrounding the earth. The calculations of the various savants upon the subject are widely divergent. Biot estimated that the depth was only about 40 miles; Bravais, 70 miles; Mann, 81 miles; Callandran, 100 miles; Schiaparelli, 125 miles; Marie Davy, 187; while Ritter stated that it reached to a height of 216 miles. In Great Britain, during the early part of the last century, the depth of the atmosphere was generally accepted as being 47 miles, but the fact that meteors became incandescent at a much greater altitude inadvertently proved that this calculation was fallacious. Sir Robert Ball states that meteors have been observed at an altitude of more than 200 miles, and since they become incandescent when they come into contact with the air, the calculation of Ritter appears to be the most correct.

Valuable Washing Suggestions.
A housekeeper makes some valuable suggestions about washing linen embroidered articles should be washed once at a time by immersing in warm suds, not hot, made of pure soap. The soap should be castile or some white, unperfumed variety. Add a teaspoonful of borax to the rinsing water, and the article should not be rubbed, but simply rubbed up and down, and it should be rinsed in several waters. Embroidered articles should be squeezed, not rubbed. To dry them wrap in a clean cloth, and remove it in a few minutes and dry quickly in the air, but not in the sun. When perfectly dry lay the embroidery face down on a smooth, fine sheet, and carefully draw the edges into place. Dampen the linen sections with a fine sponge, pass a hot iron over the cloth in the direction of the grain of the material. The iron should be hot and should move very quickly.

Meat and Potato Fritters.—One cup of cold cooked oatmeal, one egg, two-thirds of a cup of sweet milk, one cup of flour, one teaspoon baking powder, two tablespoonfuls sugar, pinch of salt. Drop in spoonfuls into a fat, well greased skillet. Cover, and when brown turn. Ten minutes will cook them.

String Bean and Tomato Salad.—Peel the tomatoes, cut out a round at the stem end, scoop out the seeds and fill with cold cooked string beans mixed with a little mayonnaise. Or just sprinkle a bit of salt over the outside of the tomatoes and dress the beans with French dressing. Have the vegetables both ice cold when serving, in either case.

Parissienne Potatoes.—With a cutter cut large potatoes into balls like marbles. Cool slowly in boiling salted water about ten minutes, or until you can pierce them easily with a fine skewer without breaking them. Drain and shake carefully until dry. Pour over them one tablespoonful of butter melted, and roll about until all are buttered; sprinkle with salt, pepper and minced parsley.

Pot Roast of Beef.—Take a piece of lean beef, four or five pounds, put in a vessel with enough cold water to half cover the meat; after it has come to a boil and the scum taken off, put in one small onion, pepper and salt, also a little celery; set it back on the stove so it will boil gently for four or five hours, or until tender. Drain the liquid with brown flour. Serve hot in a dish with gravy poured around it.

Rice Muffins.—One pint of milk, one quart of flour, one pint of boiled rice, three eggs, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, two heaping teaspoonfuls cream of tartar, thoroughly mixed with the flour, two teaspoonfuls soda dissolved in the milk. Beat the eggs, sugar and salt together, and add to the milk. Stir in the flour gradually. When a smooth light paste, add the rice. Beat thoroughly. Bake 5 minutes in buttered pans.

Quince Pudding.—Boil eight large quinces till very soft. Peel, core and wash them, then add the yolks of five eggs well beaten together with a pint of cream. Sweeten to taste and add a dash of powdered ginger and cinnamon. Butter the edges of a pie dish, put a strip of puff paste around the edge, pour in the quince mixture and bake in a moderate oven for an hour. Probably no sauce will be necessary with this pudding, but a bit of whipped cream served with it may serve to make it more delicious.



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Valuable Washing Suggestions.
A housekeeper makes some valuable suggestions about washing linen embroidered articles should be washed once at a time by immersing in warm suds, not hot, made of pure soap. The soap should be castile or some white, unperfumed variety. Add a teaspoonful of borax to the rinsing water, and the article should not be rubbed, but simply rubbed up and down, and it should be rinsed in several waters. Embroidered articles should be squeezed, not rubbed. To dry them wrap in a clean cloth, and remove it in a few minutes and dry quickly in the air, but not in the sun. When perfectly dry lay the embroidery face down on a smooth, fine sheet, and carefully draw the edges into place. Dampen the linen sections with a fine sponge, pass a hot iron over the cloth in the direction of the grain of the material. The iron should be hot and should move very quickly.

Meat and Potato Fritters.—One cup of cold cooked oatmeal, one egg, two-thirds of a cup of sweet milk, one cup of flour, one teaspoon baking powder, two tablespoonfuls sugar, pinch of salt. Drop in spoonfuls into a fat, well greased skillet. Cover, and when brown turn. Ten minutes will cook them.

String Bean and Tomato Salad.—Peel the tomatoes, cut out a round at the stem end, scoop out the seeds and fill with cold cooked string beans mixed with a little mayonnaise. Or just sprinkle a bit of salt over the outside of the tomatoes and dress the beans with French dressing. Have the vegetables both ice cold when serving, in either case.

Parissienne Potatoes.—With a cutter cut large potatoes into balls like marbles. Cool slowly in boiling salted water about ten minutes, or until you can pierce them easily with a fine skewer without breaking them. Drain and shake carefully until dry. Pour over them one tablespoonful of butter melted, and roll about until all are buttered; sprinkle with salt, pepper and minced parsley.

Pot Roast of Beef.—Take a piece of lean beef, four or five pounds, put in a vessel with enough cold water to half cover the meat; after it has come to a boil and the scum taken off, put in one small onion, pepper and salt, also a little celery; set it back on the stove so it will boil gently for four or five hours, or until tender. Drain the liquid with brown flour. Serve hot in a dish with gravy poured around it.

Rice Muffins.—One pint of milk, one quart of flour, one pint of boiled rice, three eggs, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, two heaping teaspoonfuls cream of tartar, thoroughly mixed with the flour, two teaspoonfuls soda dissolved in the milk. Beat the eggs, sugar and salt together, and add to the milk. Stir in the flour gradually. When a smooth light paste, add the rice. Beat thoroughly. Bake 5 minutes in buttered pans.

Quince Pudding.—Boil eight large quinces till very soft. Peel, core and wash them, then add the yolks of five eggs well beaten together with a pint of cream. Sweeten to taste and add a dash of powdered ginger and cinnamon. Butter the edges of a pie dish, put a strip of puff paste around the edge, pour in the quince mixture and bake in a moderate oven for an hour. Probably no sauce will be necessary with this pudding, but a bit of whipped cream served with it may serve to make it more delicious.