

railroad robbery ever known in the United States.

The Northern Pacific railroad owns and operates the Timber Line mines, about 110 miles north of Helena, Mont., and as they have the largest as well as the best mines in the locality the company is enabled to charge a much higher price for fuel; besides collecting their own rate for the haul, their tracks being practically the only line of road through that portion of the country. The coal and wood dealers of Helena complained bitterly, but there was no help for it. Two years ago, however, the price of coal from the Timber Line mines was lowered by a number of merchants to a point where it was almost impossible to see where the local dealers made a profit, unless they gave short weight—a practice which they insisted they never indulged in, always pursuing a straightforward and legitimate business course and making their profits in the increased sales.

The detective who worked the case and brought about a settlement between merchants for stealing freight, was also detailed to the coal matter. The registered amount of coal taken out of the mines was not sent over the company's lines, judging from the number of miners required to do the work. The detective spent three months in the mines, and never to his knowledge was there any attempt at larceny. Arrangements were made finally, whereby the detectives were to obtain the number of cars each engine pulled from the mines. The night the list was handed to him he watched carefully and noted that while the train was being made up an extra car, which was standing on a side track was taken on the train ahead of the caboose, and the train moved toward Helena. The railroad officials at that point were communicated with and the cars were checked by a detective. To the surprise of all concerned the number of the flat car the detective had sent in did not arrive in the yard. That morning the engineer doubled the road and the identical car was returned—empty.

Where it went and how it was returned was a mystery. On the next trip the car was checked in every town along the road by a "spotter," and again it failed to put in an appearance at Helena. It could not have been left on the tracks or on a switch, which were both afterwards carefully guarded, and the car was seen at every point, but not at Helena—its evident destination.

Finally the case was worked by strategy. A detective, who played the role of a tramp, was sent to Bozeman, and from there walked to the mine, and climbed on the load of coal on the car on the side track. The regular down train came along, stopped and backed up for the flat car, hooked on to the caboose and proceeded to Helena. As before, the car was checked at every point, and a man was on it, bound to stay there until it reached its destination. In the yards of Helena a brakeman uncoupled the flat from the train and the caboose from the stolen

car of coal. The conductor applied the brakes on the caboose and it soon dropped in the rear, while the train went ahead of the flat. The detective then sat up and watched the proceedings. A switchman threw the switch and the flat car turned off on a side track alongside a coal chute. As soon as it passed, the switch was thrown to the main track and the caboose ran up to the train, which had stopped for a crossing. It was coupled on and the train proceeded to the freight depot, minus the stolen coal car.

The flat in the meantime ran a distance of about 600 feet, when a dark form was seen setting the brake, the car stopping along side a chute, when the detective slipped to the ground, and from the shadow of a distant car noticed a force of several men empty the coal into the chute. Then the car was shoved up the track until it was about 100 feet from the main track. When the same engine started on the return trip to double the road, the caboose was again loosened and the flat car pushed on the main track and the switch thrown into position. The train, though it had not stopped, was going slow, slow enough to permit coupling, and the car was taken back to the mines.

The story seemed incredible. That a switchman, brakeman, engineer and conductor would enter such a bold combination seemed preposterous. The men who unloaded the coal were employees of the coal dealers. A suggestion of the detective's was adopted, and when the same train reached the yard a few nights later another engineer was sent back in charge of it, and the empty car was left in the yards beside the coal chute. Not a word was said, and the following night, when the regular train crew went out, the mysterious car was taken with them.

About that time Ed. Fennell, a switchman in the yards, resigned and came to Colorado, buying an interest in a saloon in Pueblo, where he now is. Two weeks ago Thiel's manager at Portland, sent a man to Pueblo to locate Fennell, and while he was looking the man up several arrests were made in Helena, and the matter kept quiet until Fennell could be arrested.

Last week Charles M. Jeffries of Lewis and Clarke County received a dispatch to procure a requisition and proceed to Pueblo. Jeffries was in the city yesterday, applied to Governor Cooper and obtained a requisition for Fennell, and left on the 3 o'clock train for Pueblo, yesterday, for his man. His arrival in Helena will be like the casting of a thunderbolt. More arrests will follow, other robberies will be unearthed and a genuine sensation produced among a number of unscrupulous coal dealers, one of whom stole 150 cars of coal last spring, from January to June, by paying the train crew and a man at the mine a percentage of the profits.—*Denver News.*

The Samoan treaty negotiated at Berlin last spring, has not yet been transmitted to the Senate.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Edmunds Law Prosecutions.

Jacob Hews, charged with unlawful cohabitation, pleaded guilty.

John Dearing was tried for unlawful cohabitation but acquitted.

Thos. J. Jones, of Cedar, convicted of unlawful cohabitation, was given the full penalty.

Niels Hansen, charged with unlawful cohabitation, pleaded guilty; sentence was set for January 10th.

Fred Christensen and James Hansen, charged with unlawful cohabitation, pleaded not guilty.

The case against Henry Tingey, charged with adultery, was continued for the term.

Elias Blackburn was sentenced to pay a fine of three hundred dollars and costs for unlawful cohabitation.

Edward A. Bagley, unlawful cohabitation, also promised to obey the law and was sentenced to pay \$100 and costs.

Hyrum Peterson, convicted of fornication, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and a fine of \$100. The judge gave him a severe lecture.

Wm. Robinson, pleading guilty to adultery and promising, under the judge's construction, to obey the law, was given one year in the penitentiary without fine or costs.

Christian L. Christensen was sentenced to six months in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of three hundred dollars and costs for unlawful cohabitation.

Hans Torgesen, a Dane unable to understand the English language sufficient to fully answer the Judge's interrogations, but promising to obey the law, was sentenced to pay \$50 and costs.

Shortly after ten o'clock December 12 Deputy Marshals Vandercook and Cannon went to the undertaking establishment of Joseph E. Taylor, Counselor in the Presidency of the Salt Lake Stake, and arrested him on a charge of unlawful cohabitation. The indictment was found December 1, 1886. Bail was fixed by Judge Zane at \$3000. Mr. Taylor went before Commissioner Greenman and gave the required bond.

Royal J. Cutler, indicted for unlawful cohabitation, on pleading guilty had quite an interesting conversation with the judge when called for sentence, Judge Anderson informing the defendant that the court would not require any renunciation on the part of the defendant of his religious belief or belief in polygamy, nor that he should turn his plural wife outdoors totally unprovided for, nor in fact turn her out at all, but that the court would require a promise that defendant would strictly observe the law in ceasing to cohabit with and hold out women to the world as their wives; whereupon Mr. Cutler promised to obey the law, as he alleged he had been doing for the past two years, and Judge Anderson thereupon suspended sentence.