

Detectives Traps For Grafters

Story of How Francis J. Henry of Oregon Land Fraud Fame, and William J. Burns of the United States Secret Service, Broke up the Schmitz Plunderbund—One Weak Spot Found in the Arch of Corruption.

Special Correspondence.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 5.—Much has been written of the municipal corruption in San Francisco and the successful prosecution of grafting officials by Francis J. Henry of Oregon land fraud fame, and William J. Burns of the United States secret service. The story of results has reached every hamlet of America, but the story of methods employed to trap the hoodlums in their bribe-taking has heretofore been kept from the public.

Ordinarily this story of detective work would carry a thrill, but now with millions scurrying to cover, with 15 supervisors self-indulged as felons, with the political boss of the Pacific metropolis a confessed grafter, and the mayor on trial for extortion, it holds an intense interest for all who have followed the tremendous struggle in the city by the Golden Gate.

Ordinary methods did not accomplish the downfall of Eugene E. Schmitz and Abraham Ruef. The usual tricks of fiction writers were not called into play. Secret Service Agent Burns realized that he had arrayed against him a vast and minutely organized political machine, and all the great financial interests of the public service corporations that required any sort of official sanction. He understood that fortune would be spent to block his schemes and that scores of private detectives would be employed to watch his every move, so he brought all his remarkable ingenuity to bear when he mapped out his course and proceeded to break up a system of civic debauchery unsurpassed in any city of the nation.

STARTED LAST OCTOBER.

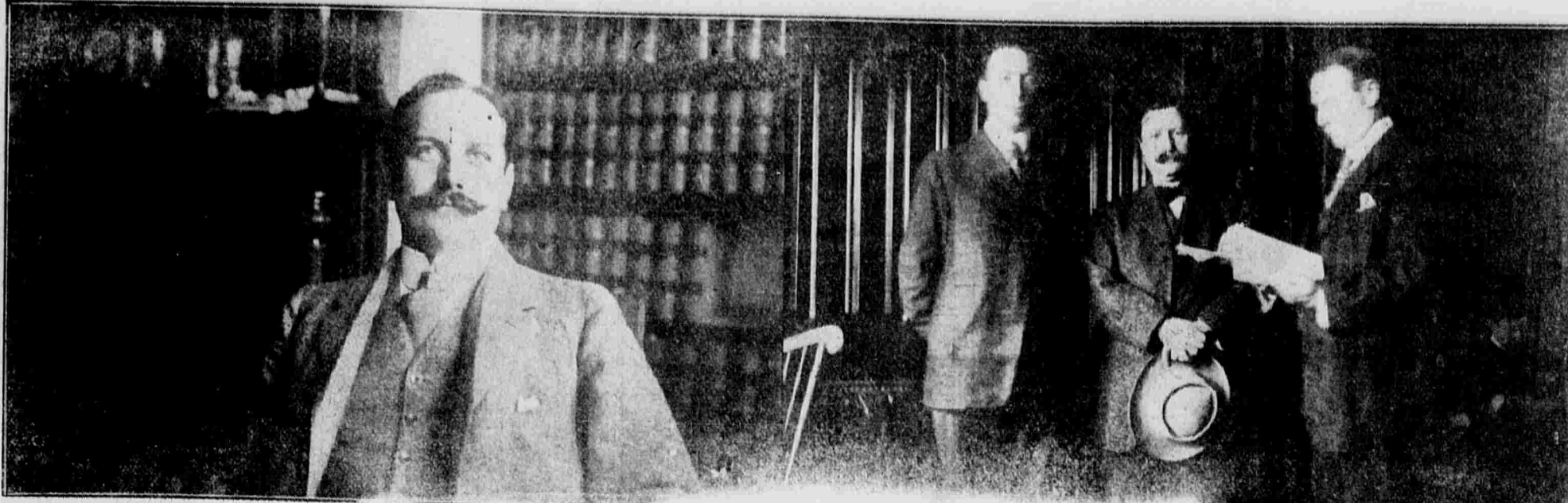
It was last October that Henry and Burns began their attack upon the grafters. Intrenched behind a machine in full control of the city government and dispensing at least \$4,000,000 each year in patronage and favors. Then the lawyer and his detective partner had no tangible evidence. All they had was the guarantee of a \$100,000 fund by Rudolph Spreckles, president of the First National bank. Henry had been appointed an assistant district attorney and a dependable grand jury had been drawn, but there was no evidence on which to proceed. Ruef was an absolute dictator. The mere suggestion that any man with interests amenable to police or supervisory regulation could be found willing to testify against him was the occasion for a fever. The public laughed at Henry and regarded the prosecution only half seriously as a legitimate pursuit of the municipal grafters. Plainly, it was up to Burns, and Burns accepted the responsibility with the quiet assurance that he would force a confession from the line of every official who had betrayed the city.

ONE WEAK SPOT.

Just one weak spot the astute detective found in the arch of corruption. A petty political jealousy had slightly estranged Ruef and Frank Maestretti, one of his most trusted lieutenants. Maestretti had served as president of the board of supervisors and was notoriously implicated in the city administration grafting.

He had been politically intimate with the mayor and the boss and had been placed by them at the head of the department where privileges were on sale and official permits had their cash value. For four years, Maestretti had served in such a capacity. Naturally he had gained knowledge that held unbounded possibilities for Burns. Promptly the detective comprehended the situation and wisely he began his work by leading toward the enlistment of the disgruntled district lieutenant as an ally of the prosecution.

Two years before, Maestretti had barely escaped conviction for participation in election frauds. The jury



LEADERS IN THE BIG GRAFT EXPOSE.

Rudolph Spreckles, Financial Backer of Graft Prosecution.

Dist. Atty. W. H. Langdon. Detective W. J. Burns, Dist. Atty. Francis J. Henry.

In his case voted for acquittal upon a technicality, but two confederates, Charles Wyman and Adolph Steffens, were convicted and sent to state prison for the same offense.

BURNS' FIRST OPENING.

A possible resentment on the part of these two convicts toward Maestretti was Burns' first opening. His agents reached them in their cells and learned that they would tell all if given their liberty. Immediately the governor was convinced that the men had existed their crime. So Wyman and Steffens walked out of prison to relate the story of Maestretti's part in the election frauds and to give any further information they could to the graft fighters.

To Burns the two pardoned convicts unburdened themselves. Then Burns approached Maestretti. The district leader was in a vindictive mood toward Ruef because he felt he had been politically slighted. He maintained his silence, however, until Burns broke the news of the arrangement with Wyman and Steffens and told him of secrets that involved him in numerous election irregularities of the Ruef-Schmitz regime. Under the persuasive influence of such disclosures and at the same time moved by a feeling of resentment toward Ruef, Maestretti took side with Burns. Night after night he met the detective in a house down by the Bay shore to reveal more and more of the corrupt administration's practices and suggest schemes for forcing the truth from other members of the Schmitz plunderbund.

HOW LEVER WORKED.

That was Burns' first notable achievement in the fight to corner the grafters. Soon with the knowledge he had gained from Maestretti, he had driven a number of the administration's favorites to the wall—among them three ex-police commissioners and two hoodle go-betweens. The confessions of each, however, he kept from the others. One knew not what his confederate in graft had done. With admirable tact the detective thus played upon the cultivated, guilty bribe-takers' until uncertainty bred fear, and fear generally led to an application for the prosecution's immunity bath. In such a way the detective laid a foundation for his operations against the mayor, the supervisors, and the boss of them all.

BROUGHT ROY TO HIS KNEES.

One of the men closest in Mayor



MAYOR SCHMITZ OF SAN FRANCISCO.

About Whom the Coils Are Rapidly Tightening.

Schmitz's confidence was a man known in San Francisco as G. M. Roy. From Maestretti, Burns learned that Roy was no other than Morris Golden, a fugitive from justice for two crimes committed in Oklahoma—one the forgery of the signature of Secretary of the Interior McKim's cabinet, and the other the embezzlement of \$500,000 placed in Golden's care by the residents of Guthrie for the purpose of securing an Indian agency.

In the favor of the Schmitz administration, Golden, alias Roy, had prospered. He had grown rich from illicit interests and thought he had left his criminal record years behind. He had come to be a political power and a leader of the society in which Mayor Schmitz was the central figure.

Then suddenly at an early morning meeting, Burns flashed a complete story of the past before Roy's eyes—a story intensified by accurate details and colored by pathetic applications to the fugitive's gay freedom and social sway.

ROY CONFESSED ALL.

"One thing," said Burns, "Confess all you know. Tell us everything." And Roy confessed the whole shameful story. He told of collecting the police corruption fund from the gamblers of the Chinese quarter, of dividing the swag, and of bribing the supervisors in the interests of public service corporations. He turned over all his intimate knowledge of graft to Burns and their retained subject to the detective's orders, cowed like Maestretti, by fear of criminal prosecution.

BRIBE-TAKERS TRAPPED.

But Burns kept Roy's confession secret that Roy might retain the confidence of his old associates and help at trapping them. This was a wise course. For two months later Burns and two of his assistants, concealed behind curtains, saw two supervisors, Thomas Longman and Dr. James B. Baxton, take a bribe of \$500 each from the hands of Roy in return for their votes against an ordinance excluding children from a skating rink in which Roy was interested. As the supervisors pocketed the bills the detectives confronted them. Longman and Baxton

tried to turn upon Roy, but were soon convinced that they had been caught, and that their only hope lay in making a complete confession of their hoodling operations. Within a week they had admitted all their crimes under oath and so implicated their associates that the confessions of 15 supervisors were soon in the possession of Burns.

HOW ROY WAS USED.

The logic of the detective's scheming is apparent. With natural social moves followed, as he carefully developed his plans, and brought to bear the information with which he first broke the bravado of the grafters. Convicts Wyman and Steffens made it possible to ally Maestretti with the prosecution. Maestretti gave the tip that brought Roy to terms. Roy was used to trap the supervisors and then the supervisors, with their avowals of confession, swamped Ruef and made him realize that longer plea of innocence would be folly.

That was the main plot, but all the time Detective Burns was working along other lines to learn the secrets of the men he had said he would make admit their guilt.

WOMEN DETECTIVES.

Handsome women, beautifully groomed and brilliantly jeweled, sought the society of city officials. As far as graft society knew they had just arrived from the east. San Francisco was new and interesting to them. They must be shown all the attractions of the city. The French restaurants, the all-night cafes, the Bohemian resorts of the long ocean boulevard, they had heard of but not seen. Here, hints that they desired to visit these places were effective, and gallant supervisors declined, hopes and prospects were unfolded. Flattered to utter abandon, the supervisors told many a story that was valuable to Burns, when a few hours later it was a cold written report and submitted to the famous detective.

There were three of these women. Little wonder, too, that millionaires see the penitentiary doors yawning, for Ruef and the supervisors have testified under oath and in subject terror of publicity, that bribes, aggregating millions of dollars, were paid by the street railway company, the two telephone companies, the gas company, a real estate company, and the Southern Pacific Railroad company. Facing a certainty of prosecution, as the result of Burns' clever work, are such men as Patrick Calhoun and Thorndell Mullaly, president and assistant to the president, respectively, of the United Railroads; Henry T. Scott, president of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company; John A. Britton, president of the California Gas & Electric corporation; William F. Herrin, chief counsel for the Southern Pacific; and a dozen other leaders of society and business. All are millionaires. The graft disclosures have reached into the proudest homes of San Francisco, and the most startling developments are yet to come.

Hermits Electric Cave.

A strange hermit has been arrested in a cave called "The Devil's Grotto," near Beauvoir on Royans. The cave was not known to be inhabited, and the residents of the neighborhood held it in superstitious awe. Lately they were terrified by reports of mysterious lights having been seen in the cave after nightfall and police assistance was sought.

A magistrate sent several policemen visited the cave, and on penetrating to the interior found a man with long matted hair and beard, who said his name was Andre Faure.

The cave contained an electric generator, and was brilliantly illuminated. Faure was fitting up shelves to accommodate some thousands of volumes which were stacked in the cave.—Paris Correspondence London Express.



FREAK FORMATIONS IN NEVADA.

Natural Arch or Bridge (on Left) and Quartz Outcrop (on Right) on Lexington-Concord in Blackhorse District, Nevada.

Some people have the idea that Nevada is nothing but a vast, dreary expanse of hot sand. A good portion of it may lack topographical features but there are sections which are as wild and broken and as fertile as the west. Here and there are really beautiful spots. The Blackhorse district has many of these features. The Lexington-Concord, a property owned by the Blackhorse district, is an example. This is on the Lexington-Concord at Lexington, and

while it does not appear large in the picture the arch on the inside is 250 feet high. At its base the cavity is 50 feet wide. The end rises from the foot of the hill to a total distance of 2,000 feet. The whole mass of rock is finely and variously colored, making the arch strikingly beautiful.

The picture on the right shows the outcrop on the Lexington-Concord, a property owned by the Blackhorse district. It is a mass of quartz, 30 feet wide, and is exposed for a distance of 3,000

feet. Indications in this rock lead to the opinion that the ledge follows the hill on its side and can be seen from hilltops miles. The photographs are two of a large number submitted with a report to the mine owners. They show that some portions of Nevada are anything but alkali patches or sand. The district surrounding the spots shown in these pictures is covered with good timber, and clear streams of cold water worm their way through the gulches.

Century's Horror in China.

HUNGER is at once the most acute and the most brutalizing of bodily ills. It makes men animals in ferocity; it clouds all moral sense; it makes food the chief end of man, woman and child—food, no matter what as to quality, source or supply; it has overthrown dynasties and wrecked civilizations; it knows no law social or political; it, as Napoleon said, an army travels on its stomach; then, certainly, people without food must retrograde into savagery and become a danger to the peace and prosperity of the world.

In that region of Northeastern China known as Kiangpoh, of which Shanghai is the commercial capital and principal port, six provinces are now affected by the famine the floods of last September brought about. In these provinces are 20,000,000 people of whom 15,000,000 are affected by the all-prevailing destitution while fully 5,000,000 are absolutely without food (save such scanty rations as foreign and native relief does out), without resources, without hope.

There are more people starving to death in China today—more by at least a million—than there were alive in America, north of the Rio Grande, when the Declaration of Independence was signed—and this includes the aboriginal Indians in the count.

More people will die in China of starvation, exposure and famine-bred disease within the next four or five months than were killed in battle, or died from wounds or disease in the Na-

poleonic wars, the great Civil war in the United States, the Boer war in South Africa and the late Russo-Japanese conflict.

More people died from lack of food in the province of Anhui in the first week of February, 1907, than were engaged in active operations on the American side in the Hispano-American war in 1898.

Famine conditions in China grow more acute, more terrible, more mortal as the days go on, and the sphere of destitution is daily enlarged. This famine commenced in September and has swelled in proportions and deepened in horror for six months.

The native government has done much by appropriation from officials, by reduction of taxes and by local distribution to mitigate the terrors of the time. Foreign relief has been prompt and efficiently applied. Foreign residents in China have subscribed, so far as accounts are at hand, more than \$100,000 to the relief fund. America has sent nearly \$200,000, of which \$151,000 is credited to The Christian Herald Chinese Famine Relief fund.

There is an international and a aviation side to which the United States government is awake, as is shown by

the following extracts from an Associated Press dispatch of recent Washington date:

"From Shanghai advices received at the state department it appears that the rulers of China are seriously alarmed over the spread of famine through the country, and the opportunity it offers to seditious societies to enlist converts. The suffering of the people is used as capital. The government's inability to relieve suffering, it is said, has been magnified, and the hardships of the people attributed to lack of sympathy by the government for the poor classes.

"The information received here indicates that a panic has been organized to further the circulation of stories of the character outlined, and state department officials fear that a spread of hysteria may cause a general uprising. The government might not be able to control the situation, and American and other foreign interests then would be jeopardized. It is the concern, that, diplomatic and consular officials in China have been instructed to keep Washington advised on every turn taken.

"A general movement throughout the civilized world, it is believed, will enable the Chinese government to strengthen its hands and possibly suppress uprising and riots. For the protection of foreigners in China, the United States and European countries are prompted by self, as well as humanitarian interest to come promptly to the assistance of the Celestial empire.

"That any movement which threatens the overthrow of the present dynasty in China gives alarm to the United States and every European nation which has interests and people in China is not denied. The life of every

white person in China is believed to depend upon the continuance of the Chinese government as it stands, the Boxer uprising being cited as an instance of what might result if the present government should be weakened."

Generous Americans do not need an appeal to their fears nor to their interests. It is sufficient to touch their human sympathies. None the less, it is fair to remember that a dollar contributed now may avert the necessity of spending many dollars, later, to save lives and property of Americans from hunger-crazed rioters.

In addition to its cash contribution of \$10,000, The Christian Herald Famine Relief fund is pledged to load the department transport Buford (5,000 tons burden), with foodstuffs to be carried direct from San Francisco to Shanghai, and thence distributed under the best and most careful auspices. If you will help to pay for this cargo, and will send your contribution (by check, money or postal order) to the Bible House, New York City, the money will be used instantly along the lines indicated, due acknowledgment of its receipt made, and the purchased supplies will do more to save life and avert riot and further devastation than you can have any idea of. The quicker the cargo can be bought, the quicker it can be sent on its mission of mercy. One pound of flour per week saves a life in China. The 5,000 tons would save a million lives if wisely used. R. E. JOHNSTONE.

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TEACHERS' EXAMINATION

An examination for Salt Lake City teachers will be held in the Lafayette school building on Monday and Tuesday, June 10 and 11, beginning at 9 a. m. the first day.

All teachers and candidates not holding certificates valid for 1907-1908 are expected to take this examination. Candidates for high school certificates will please notify the undersigned not later than Thursday, June 6.

Pens, ink, and paper will be furnished. D. H. CHRISTENSEN, Chairman, Board of Examiners.

EXCURSIONS NORTHWEST

Via O. S. L. June 3rd, 7th, 12th and 14th. \$21.50 to Portland or Spokane and return. Limit September 30th. at face value.

SIX BEST SELLING BOOKS FOR MONTH OF MAY

According to reports from the leading book sellers of the country, the six books which have sold best in the order of demand during the month are:

1. The Port of Missing Men.
2. Running Water, Mason.
3. New Chronicles of Rebecca.
4. The Lady of the Decoration.
5. The House Bowl, Vance.
6. The Flyers, McCutcheon.

In addition to the above we have a large stock of other popular books of the day.

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A musical drama with a local cast of children; Salt Lake Theater (by check, money or postal order) June 12th. Proceeds for the benefit of the ORPHAN'S HOME and DAY NURSERY.

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