

clothes and jewels, and I have never been detected. Why only last January I brought in a diamond necklace and sold it to a big corset manufacturer who wanted it for his wife. I got \$1,280 for that necklace and both the lady and myself made a nice thing off of it." While the young man was saying this, however, it happened that a special treasury agent was standing nearby. He inquired as to the smuggler's identity. He looked the latter up during the next few days and reported it to the collector. The manager of the exchange, the gentleman smuggler, received notice to come to the custom house, and before he left he paid \$300 for that drink and indiscreet remark which followed it in the Hoffman bar room. The detective, of course, got his percentage, and had the smuggler not been a man of promiscuity he might have gone to prison.

This man is by no means the first who has been discovered by the revenue officers by his boasting. Every year a number of smuggling operations are discovered by the criminals being too free with their confidences both on the way across the Atlantic and after they have arrived. An instance occurred not long ago of a politician from one of the western states who got a valuable diamond through without paying and then sold it for \$20,000. After doing so he boasted to his fellows about it. He had an enemy in the crowd and this man sent a note to the New York custom house. An inspector was sent out and the man was arrested. He had to refund, and instead of making a fortune he lost one. Diamonds are smuggled in all sorts of ways. They are so small that they can easily be concealed, and it is not unusual to put them into soap, to have them sunk between the soles of the shoes or in the padding of a coat. The treasury officials say that instances are known of men concealing diamonds and pearls under porous plasters, and cases have occurred where they have been put into raw meat and fed to dogs just before landing, and the dogs thus brought off with the diamonds inside of them. This last is something similar to a story which has just come out concerning the smuggling of opium from British Columbia into the United States. As the story goes it is doctored up and fed to old oxen, who are then driven across the frontier and killed in order to get the opium out of their stomachs. Any one who knows anything as to the horrible taste of opium and of the decided objection that any sensible ox would have to eating it would regard this story as decidedly fishy. At least it is so regarded at the Treasury Department.

Opium is smuggled, however, in all sorts of ways. The business has fallen off some since the reduction of the duty from \$12 to \$6 a pound. It still goes on, however, and great quantities are shipped into the United States every year. It is estimated that 400,000 pounds of the drug are used annually in the United States, and a treasury official says that more than 1,000,000 of our people have the opium habit in a greater or less degree. There are hundreds of men and women who use laudanum and opium who are never suspected, and the opium commission which was sent by England to India, and which has just made its report, states that moderate opium users are just as common in the far east as moderate drinkers are in this country, and that one can eat a lit-

tle opium all his life without becoming an opium drunkard. At any rate, there is a vast consumption of opium in the United States, and it is estimated that at least 100,000 pounds of that used are smuggled across the northern frontier from British Columbia. This escapes the duty, and at the old rate it would represent a loss to Uncle Sam of \$1,200,000 a year, and at the present duty of \$600,000 a year. The opium is brought in in the crude state from China or India and is manufactured at the great factories along Puget sound into opium for smoking and medicine. The British own the factories, but the Chinese, I am told, do the work. It is said that hundreds of thousands of dollars are invested in the business, and fortunes have, I am told, been made by smuggling the drug into the United States.

For many years there was a great opium ring on the Pacific coast. The department knew that it was in operation, but it could not get evidence against it. It was so strong that it bribed or intimidated the agents. About two years ago, however, sufficient evidence was collected for the demanding of a special grand jury at Portland, and this grand jury found indictments against twenty-seven persons, among whom were an ex-collector of customs and an ex-special agent. A few months later another grand jury found additional indictments, and forty persons were charged by the two juries with conspiracy to smuggle opium and Chinese laborers into the United States. As the matter went on it was found to be even more serious than had been suspected. The trials established that in the twelve months preceding 30,000 pounds of opium had been smuggled into Portland alone. This should have paid a duty of \$180,000, and it was also shown that the same ring had during that time smuggled in 1,500 Chinese laborers. In the ring were some prominent men of the states of Washington and Oregon, and of the forty, seven of the smugglers pleaded guilty and three others were convicted.

It is a curious thing that ex custom house officers frequently engage in smuggling. The ex-collector of this Portland ring was probably tempted by the money made in the successful smuggling of opium, which passed under his eyes while in office, to engage in the same business. A similar case occurred not long ago at Puget sound. An ex-official had smuggled in a lot of opium in cans. He was suspected, and the cans were captured, and put into a government warehouse. Upon being taken he did not deny having the opium but said that he had gone into the scheme in order to detect other smugglers, and that he was still working for the United States. This was not believed by the inspectors, and they kept a close watch upon him and the opium. It was afterward found that his friends had bribed the janitor, and they were discovered removing the opium and putting blocks of wood into the cans. This was found out before the trial. Had it not been so, the ex-officials would have said that they should open the cans in court, and upon the wood being discovered the story of his being a bogus smuggler for the sake of his detective scheme would have seemed true, and he would probably have escaped. Another case of a customs official becoming corrupt was that of a

man named Gardner, who was acting as chief inspector in the Port Townsend district, when four trunks came into Seattle checked to Portland. The inspector at Seattle suspected that they contained opium, and he telegraphed ahead that they should be detained. This man was a subordinate of Gardner's, and Gardner, hearing of this telegram, went on ahead and took charge of the trunks on the ground that he was the chief inspector and had the right to do so. He took these trunks back to Tacoma and secretly sold the opium, and then reported to the department that the boxes found in the trunks had no real opium, but only dummy packages of tar. It is estimated that there was \$10,000 worth of the drug in the trunk. Gardner was finally removed from office. He continued his smuggling in a private capacity, and was eventually arrested and sent to prison. A great deal of opium is brought in by Chinamen. Nearly every laborer who is smuggled into the United States brings more or less opium, and Chinamen aid the smugglers on this side of the border. Opium is sometimes hidden in the coal of the ships which land at San Francisco and other points along the coast. It is brought in the bottoms of trunks, and in many other ways.

I am told that a great many things are brought into the United States by naval officers. They are classed as personal effects, and they are not as a rule offered by the officials for sale, though such cases have been known. Not a long time ago a merchant vessel was sent by the Navy department to Havana to bring back to the United States some shipwrecked sailors. While there the officers in charge bought a great lot of cheap cigars. There were so many of them that they corded them up in a great pile on the deck and over this pile they threw a lot of old sailcloth. When the customs officers appeared and asked them if they had any dutiable goods on board the naval officers pointed to this pile and said that it contained cigars. They laughed as they did so, and the customs officers thought that they were being gayed. They had never seen cigars put up in that way, and they passed over the stack of sailcloth without further examination.

Liquors have been brought into Canada by naval officers, and one of the revenue marine corps told me once of an experience which he had at Halifax. He had gone into a large liquor store, and the man had offered him some very cheap cigars and showed him samples of fine wines, liquors and brandies. As he tasted them the merchant said: "Of course, you want to load up here with Scotch whisky and Hennessy brandy. You can get the goods here for half what they will cost you in the United States. We are doing a big trade with the navy. A number of your ships have called here, and I have sold the officers large orders." My friend of the revenue marine said that this was against the law, and that he could not take goods into the United States in that way. The merchant was much surprised, and he had evidently been doing a large business with the navy.

It is not often that our American consuls try to rob Uncle Sam, but they do it now and then. Some years ago a United States Senator was caught smuggling. His son was vice consul at one