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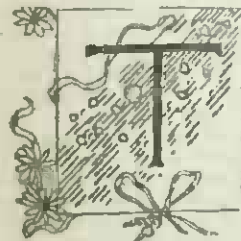
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TALES OF GOVERNMENT CRIME.

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THE RECORDS of the Post Office Department of the United States are blotted with crime. More than one hundred postmasters go wrong every year. Over one thousand persons are annually arrested for trying in some way or other to pilfer from the mails, and on the average more than two post officers are robbed every day year in and year out. Last year there was an increase of 35 per cent in post office burglaries, there being 426 more such crimes during that time than the year preceding, and within the past ten years there has been an increase of 247 per cent in postal robberies. The indications are that the present year will break the record, and that it will show more burglaries than any in our history.

The robbing of post offices is now reduced to a science. It is known that there are in the country a class of professional burglars who devote themselves to robbing post offices. They are experts in their line, and their stealings equal fortunes. They have their fences through whom they get rid of the stamps they steal, and everything connected with them seems to be systematically organized. They operate in all parts of the country, though the headquarters of one of the biggest gangs seem to be in New York. During the past two or three years they have become bolder than ever. The Post Office Department has for some time known of their existence, and the inspectors are working night and day to wipe them out. Two years ago the matter was taken up by Congress and an appropriation of \$10,000 was made to be used by the Post Office Department in the shape of rewards for the arrest and detection of such robbers. Last year this appropriation was increased to \$25,000, and the result is that the department now has standing rewards for noted postal burglars. They are now sending bills announcing such rewards to the different detective offices of the country, and two which were lately issued lie before me as I write.

One of these bills offers \$3,000 for the capture of the three great post office burglars—Killoran, Russel and Allen—who escaped from the Ludlow street jail in New York on the 4th of last July, and the other offers \$1,000 for the arrest

and conviction of Sidney Yennie and George Carson, two other celebrated post office thieves. It is thought that all of these men belong to the greatest of these gangs of professional post office burglars. The posters describing them contains half-tone portraits of the men. As the rascals are still at large, it is interesting to know how they look. Take Yennie, for whom \$500 is offered. The poster says his name is Sidney Yennie, and that he sometimes goes under the alias of Sidney Manning, and at others of Stephen J. Roberts. "He is a pick-pocket and a general thief, and is wanted on the charge of post office robbery. He is twenty-eight years old, five feet seven inches high, and he weighs 165 pounds. He is of medium weight, dark complexion, and his brown hair is thin on the top of his head. His left eyelid droops and his eyes are dark brown."

Carson is described as follows: "Geo. Carson is known as a bank sneak and general thief. He is wanted for post office robbery. He is forty-one years old, five feet one and one-half inches high and he weighs 165 pounds. His head is very bald, his mustache blonde, his complexion florid, his eyes hazel, and he has a dot of India ink on his right hand."

The other poster offers rewards of \$1,000 each for the capture of Joseph Killoran, Harry Russel and Charles Allen. These men are the princes of post office burglars. They stand at the head of the profession and belong to a gang of which Killoran is supposed to be the leader. Killoran has been robbing post offices for years, and it is said that he has stolen from two post offices alone within the past six months more than \$50,000. He was arrested for robbing the post offices at Springfield, Ill., and at Hoboken, N. J., and Russel and Allen were taken at the same time. The three men were entombed in the Ludlow street jail May 31, 1895. They escaped on the 4th of last July, and the Post Office Department is searching for them everywhere. There is no doubt but that these burglars have a large amount of money at their command. They have many confederates, and their capture will probably be exceedingly difficult. During their stay in the jail they tried again and again to bribe their keepers, and the manner of their escape has led to the belief that they may possibly have succeeded. They offered the jail cleaner sums ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to aid them in their escape. They told one keeper they would give him \$1,500 if he would allow them to knock him down and thus get out. This man was promised \$5,000 more if they succeeded in making their escape. They offered one of the jail servants \$500 for a revolver, and they tendered several

other bribes. In some way or other they did get revolvers. They covered the jailors with them, seized the keys from the hand of one of them, and locked him and his assistants in the reception room of the jail. They then ran out of the corridor into the street with a great crowd after them. They doubled this way and that. Two of them—Russel and Allen took to the roofs of the houses of some of the New York side streets and thus eluded their pursuers. Killoran distanced the men who were after him until finally he was pursued by only three. He drew his revolver on them and warned them to go back. They left. He then went to the elevated railroad and took a train going up town, and this was the last that was seen of him.

These men are worth a thousand dollars apiece. Uncle Sam will pay that to any one who will arrest them and hand them over to the government officers. The pictures on the posters are good, but the men were shaven just after their arrest, and this will increase the difficulty of identifying them. The government, however, is very full in its descriptions, and it is probable that they will be captured. Killoran is described as an Englishman, of fifty-six years of age. He is about five feet nine inches and a half high and he weighs 160 pounds. He has dark brown hair, a light beard mixed with gray, and his complexion is fair. There is a letter "P" and a round dot on his right forearm and there are three dots on his left forearm, which are partly burnt out. He has a slightly pockmarked dot between his thumb and the first finger on his right hand. The description of the other men are equally full, and the post office inspectors are scattering these circulars throughout the police and detective offices of the country.

These circulars are signed M. D. Wheeler, chief P. O. inspector. The inspectors may be called Uncle Sam's postal detectives. There are about one hundred of them, and they are scattered all over the country. They have charge of all crimes connected with the post office, and may be ordered by the Postmaster General to go to any part of the country at a moment's notice. A number of them are on duty along the line between the United States and Canada, and they are especially busy just now in keeping track of the robberies in the western states and territories. Every day or so there is a telegram from Oklahoma or the Indian Territory asking for the detection of some new post office crime. The inspectors are under the charge of Mr. M. D. Wheeler, who directs them from the Post Office Department here. Mr. Wheeler is a blue-eyed, gray-mustach-