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THE CRIMINAL'S DEFENCE

Trials in Which Attempts Were Made to Prove Alibis.

CASE OF GORTON TWINS

Where Lives Have Depended Upon Accuracy or Inaccuracy of a Clock—Striking Resemblance Between Two Persons—Criminals' Favorite Defence.

The alibi has always been a favorite defence with calculating criminals. It has, on the other hand, in hundreds of cases, extracted the innocent from the meshes of a net of circumstantial evidence which must otherwise have inevitably dragged them to unmerited doom.

Clocks have played an important part in these defences. Lives have depended on their accuracy or inaccuracy. In the case of a man named Hardy, who was accused of having taken part in a murder with others, one of the murderers, after the crime was committed, made his way home as fast as possible. It was night and there was no one in his house but a servant. Putting the clock in the hall back two hours, the man went to bed, and rising shortly afterward awoke the servant and ordered her to go down stairs and see what was the time. The girl did so, and once more retired to her room, when the murderer, stealing softly downstairs in his bare feet, once more put the clock right. The unsuspecting girl's evidence that the prisoner was in bed at the time when the crime was committed secured his acquittal on his trial. The truth was made known by a deathbed confession some years later.

Witnesses who come forward to prove alibis by the clock sometimes prove very unsatisfactory. In a murder case at the Central Criminal Court two witnesses swore most persistently to the prisoner having been in their company at the hour when the prosecution contended he was engaged in the crime.

"Are you quite certain of the exact time?" asked the counsel for the prosecution.

"Certain," replied the first witness.

"How are you so sure about it?" asked the barrister.

"We were in the Bear public house, and I saw the time by the clock in the bar," replied the witness. "It was 27 minutes past 9."

"You saw that time yourself?" asked the counsel.

"Yes."

One of the detectives engaged in the case here whispered something to the barrister, and he turned to the witness once more.

"You see that clock," he said, pointing to the clock in the court. "What is the time by it?"

The witness turned ghastly pale, scratched his head, gasped, and was silent. He could not tell the time. The alibi bubble was burst. The prisoner was condemned.

A young girl who lived with her parents in a lonely part of Kirkcubright was one day left alone in their cottage while her father and mother were harvesting. On their return the girl was found murdered. A surgical examination revealed the fact that the injuries inflicted must have been the work of a left-handed man, and the police discovered in the soft ground around the cottage the imprints of the boots of a young laborer named William Richardson, who was acquainted with the dead girl, and who also was left handed. Richardson, on being asked where he was on the day of the crime, declared that he was employed the whole day in the work of his master, a farmer, some distance away. This fact was borne witness to by the farmer and Richardson's fellow servants, and the police were baffled.

The alibi, in spite of all the other suspicious circumstances against the prisoner, appeared so strong as to be unassailable. But the police persevered, and at last one of the detectives discovered that Richardson and his fellow servants had that day been employed in driving their master's carts. These carts had been driven in a direction which took them close to the scene of the crime, and while they had been passing through a wood Richardson had requested his comrades to stop a few minutes while he ran to a smith's shop and back. They did so, and one of the drivers remembered that Richardson, when he returned, had been absent half an hour by his watch. This was ample time for him to run to the cottage, commit the murder and run back again. He had not been to the smith's shop. The alibi thus broke down, Richardson was found guilty, and, before his execution, he confessed the justice of his sentence.

An ingenious system of proving an alibi was that of a man named Gorton—at least, that was one of his 20 names—convicted of various clever tricks in the north of England. He had a twin brother, and while he was engaged in a robbery the twin kept himself in prominent evidence in another far removed place. When Gorton was arrested, the persons who had met the twin trooped into the witness box.

Their evidence was of course given in all honest belief that it was perfectly correct. The arrangement broke down at last, however, through one of those little oversights that even the most cunning rogues will fall into, and the ingenious twins came to their deserts.—New York Sun.

IMPURE FOOD IN NEW YORK.

Enough Destroyed Annually to Feed 5,000 Persons.

The food condemned by the board of health and destroyed in this city in a year, if accumulated in one spot, would make a pyramidal hill two hundred feet broad at the base and three hundred feet high. In quantity it would be sufficient to feed 5,000 persons throughout the year, supplying them with meat, fish, game and poultry, vegetables, groceries, all varieties of fruit and confectionery.

There is a ceaseless vigilance in New York to insure pure food for its inhabitants. This does not mean that thousands of tons of adulterated and harmful foods are not eaten yearly—for the channels by which they may reach the tables of rich and poor are many, and the carelessness of housekeepers and cooks are responsible for much. But at the gates of the city where food is admitted by rail and by water, at the wholesale markets, at stores and among the push-cart vendors of edibles the inspectors of the health department are always at work. During the ripe-fruit season they are most active, and their work is the heaviest. Their authority is almost supreme, and they can order the destruction of a train load or a ship load of fruit or vegetables, or a hundred head of cattle infected with disease, involving a loss to the owners of thousands of dollars.

In the last twelve months 7,172,347 pounds of food stuffs were condemned, seized and destroyed. Some of this—especially fruit brought in by ships—went out to sea and was dumped in the briny deep. The entire shipload was a loss through a delayed voyage in hot weather, causing fermentation to set in among the perishable cargo. Many a shipload of bananas have gone that way.

Of the more than 7,000,000 pounds of food destroyed in the last year, 4,639,090 pounds were fruit. Meat came next—more than a million pounds having been deemed unfit to use. Vegetables were a close third, 771,100 pounds.

In addition to this, solid food, the amount of milk destroyed in the year has been 31,000 quarts. This, seen at once in all its bulk, is a lot of milk. It is, however, but "a spoonful" out of the great river of the liquid food that pours into the metropolitan city. In a year 550,000,000 quarts of milk are consumed in New York, 1,500,000 quarts a day.

The effort to protect the city from impure or unwholesome milk has resulted through years of legislation and careful inspection in making the dealers careful that the milk they bring to the city meets the legal requirements. These requirements in one way place a premium on poor milk while guarding the city from milk that is unhealthy or entirely worthless. The law calls for not less than 3 per cent of butter fats in all milk sold in New York. This is not a high standard, and many dealers avail themselves of the small percentage required to reduce the nutritive quality of their milk to this low standard.

Many consumers of milk in New York pay dearly for milk that is above the legal standard of purity and nutritiveness. It will surprise some people to know that milk—not cream—is sold in this city as high as 90 cents a quart. A sworn statement accompanies this milk, as to its freedom from injurious qualities—bacteria, etc.—and as to its richness in butter fats. The cows from which this milk is taken are selected registered Durhams and Holsteins. The sanitary arrangements for the care of the cattle and the milk are as perfect as expenditure of money and scientific skill can make them. The milk is kept and delivered at a proper temperature.

Milk left uncovered in the living room of a tenement house for a few hours has been found to contain as many as 50,000,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. The expensive milk served by the expert dairymen may contain less than 500 bacteria to the centimetre. This milk is bought chiefly for feeble and ailing children.

Of the food condemned in this city by the health department but a small proportion is of adulterated food. Less than a hundred tons of groceries and confectionery have been seized in the last year because of harmful adulteration.

In addition to this vast amount of food condemned and destroyed by order of the city's health department, the people of New York are notoriously wasteful in the food they throw away—the refuse from dining rooms and kitchens that goes to the garbage barrels. This adds some hundred thousand tons to the condemned foods that find their way, in the iron tanks of the garbage boats, to Barren Island. The vast huge mass is "tried out," its gas extracted and its fertilizer elements reduced to powder and sold.

In the year 1904 half a million tons of food stuffs from the kitchens of the city and of the foods condemned by the health department were fed to the busy machinery at Barren Island.

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What About the United Judgment of Millions of housekeepers who have used LION COFFEE for over a quarter of a century?

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Confidence of the People and ever increasing popularity? LION COFFEE is carefully selected at the plantation, shipped direct to our various factories, where it is skillfully roasted and carefully packed in sealed packages—unlike loose coffee, which is exposed to germs, dust, insects, etc. LION COFFEE reaches you as pure and clean as when it left the factory. Sold only in 1 lb. packages.

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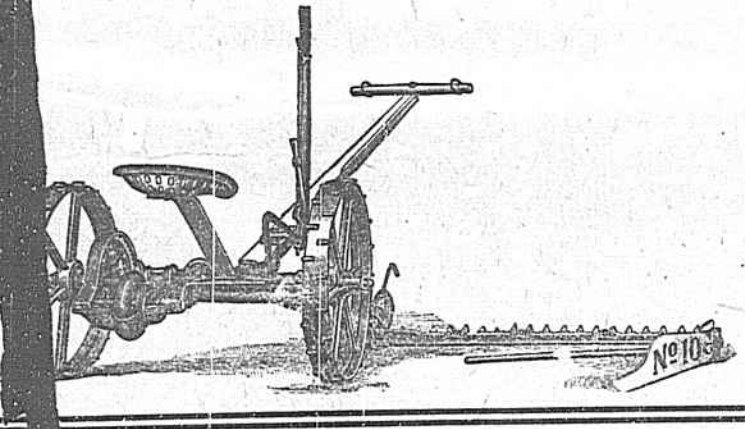
Carefully inspected shells, the best combinations of powder, shot and wadding, loaded by machines which give invariable results are responsible for the superiority of Winchester "Leader" and "Repeater" Factory Loaded Smokeless Powder Shells. There is no guesswork in loading them. Reliability, velocity, pattern and penetration are determined by scientific apparatus and practical experiments. Do you shoot them? If not, why not? They are

THE SHELLS THE CHAMPIONS SHOOT

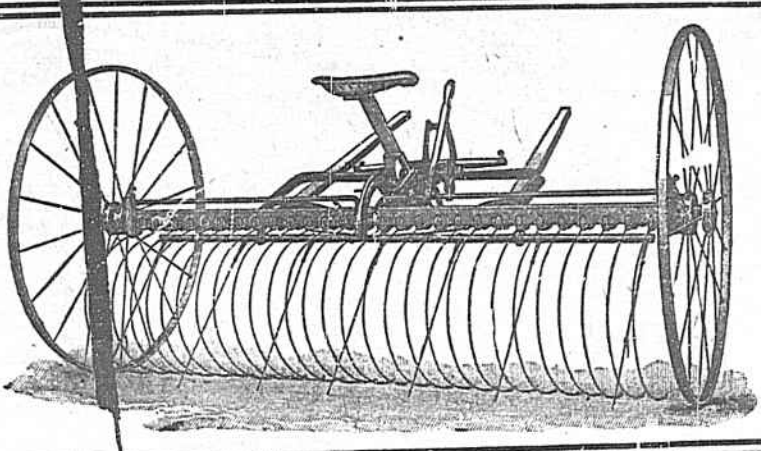
M. O. Dantzler, Furniture and Hardware.

What Shall the Harvest Be?

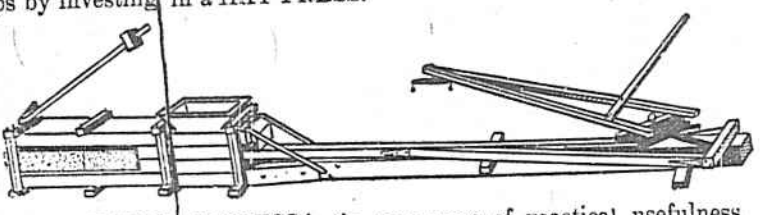
It depends a great deal on the MANNER OF HARVESTING; the MACHINERY used and the disposition of the crop after it is harvested. To harvest the crop with the least possible waste must be the object.



The three Machines shown on this sheet are absolutely necessary in successfully harvesting the small grain and hay crops.



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