

HUGE FRAUD SCHEME IS UNEARTHED

Banks, Bond Houses, Brokers and Wealthy Men Victims of Clever Band

OPERATE IN KANSAS CITY

Charles W. French and John W. Worthington Alleged to Have Been at Head

Chicago, Aug. 23.—Millions of dollars of worthless notes, stolen bonds, fraudulent deeds of trust and forged certificates of deposit have been flung on the markets of the country, federal agents declared today after investigation of a band alleged to have been headed by Charles W. French and John F. Worthington.

Banks, bond houses, investment security brokers and wealthy business men from coast to coast were declared to have been the victims or dupes of one of the most gigantic swindlers ever unearthed by federal agents.

Six million dollars worth of stolen bonds, nearly \$3,000,000 in worthless notes and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of trust deeds and forged certificates of deposit have been traced by Department of Justice agents, it was said.

The revelations resulted from a confession accredited to Alva W. Harshman who was declared to have been a private secretary to French and who surrendered today. He was alleged to have told of a deal negotiated by French for the purchase of a bank in the Middle West that involved the exchange of \$600,000.

How They Worked It

A Washington, D. C. man, according to Harshman, was to obtain certified checks for \$500,000 there. These checks, he said, were to be presented to the bank owners and when the bank gained control of the establishment, they were to cash all certificates of deposit the bank owned. The money, he said, would then be forwarded to the Washington man who would deposit it before the certified checks on the original transaction were cleared and returned. Many other similar deals were also described.

In another case, it was asserted, a large amount of stolen securities were placed with a small country bank in return for a certificate of deposit. The deposit slip it, was said, was cashed, and the bank left holding the securities which would be identified and reclaimed when it tried to realize on them.

Among names of the firms alleged to have been signed to notes used by the bank were:

- Curtis Printing Company, Akron, Ohio, \$9,000; MacKay Truck Company, Akron, \$18,000; Poreupine Mountain Lumber Company, Cleveland, \$10,000; Portage Market, Akron, \$21,000; Heninger Plumbing Supply Company, Akron, \$25,000; Schwartz Wrecking Company, Dayton, Ohio, \$100,000; Midwest Automobile Sales Company, Dayton, \$50,000; Dayton Financing Company, Dayton, \$300,000; Z. W. Davis, Akron, \$50,000; Apple Financing Company, Dayton, \$300,000; American Rubber Company, Chicago, \$85,000; H. M. Strong Metal Products Company, Cleveland, \$6,000; Cleveland Home Manufacturing Company, \$15,000; George B. Wickens, Loraine, Ohio \$103,000 and the Portage Packing Company, Akron, \$31,000.

Notes Not Yet Found

In addition about \$500,000 in notes supposed to have been signed by the American Rubber Company have not been found. The total notes known to have been issued was put at \$1,602,000 by federal officials today.

It was also revealed that the band was operating in Kansas City. According to John V. Clinmin, acting district attorney, all of the notes issued by the band were disposed of by the securities company of Kansas City.

According to the alleged confession made by Harshman, the band made considerable money disposing of real estate mortgages. Another deal said to have been made in Milwaukee by the band is being investigated by government agents. It was declared to have netted the swindlers \$500,000. It was said that A. E. Strelzin, who was arrested today in Milwaukee, will be questioned regarding this transaction.

Worthington was arrested some weeks ago and is being held in

SCHOOL OPENS HERE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

On Wednesday, September 14th, school will open for another year and the following teachers will be here to take charge:

Miss Catherine Earle of Landrum, S. C., and Miss Mary Thomas of Cope, S. C., will have charge of the first grade. Mrs. Bessie Lesesne and Miss Sallie Dixon of Blacksburg, S. C., the second grade. Miss Rives of Edgefield, the third grade. Miss Rives is a new teacher here but we hope she will soon feel at home. Miss Barnwell Huggins, the fourth grade. Miss Elizabeth Coskrey, the fifth grade. Mrs. George Williams, the sixth grade. Miss Roxie Dixon of Blacksburg, S. C., the seventh grade.

The High School teachers are Misses Rosa Mahaffey of Honea Path, Marie Dunlap of Hone Path, Eucelbin Shuler of Columbia, Mr. A. J. Richards of Heath Springs and Prof. Helms.

The Domestic Science teacher will be Miss Nancy Coleman of Shelton; the music teachers will be Misses Sue Sprott and Carolyn Plowden.

All children with back examinations will be given an opportunity to make them up on Monday, September 12.

HOUSE GUESTS ENTERTAINED

Miss Mary Lou Bradley complimented her house guests, Misses Mattie Lee Land, Virginia Coffey, Leona Rigby and Mattie Horton with a Rook party on Tuesday morning. As the guests arrived they were invited to the punch bowl. Rook was played at four tables. Potted plants and cut flowers were used for decorations. Those present besides the hostess and honorees were: Misses Gertrude Gee, Mildred Smith, Lucile Broadway, Frances and Louise Brown, Lillian Ervin, Lucy Matthews, Pearl and Ruby Bullard, Olivia Horton, Winnie Plowden and Hattie Breedin.

ANOTHER OFFER MADE

Sheffield, Ala., Aug. 23.—An offer of 4 per cent, on an investment of \$120,000,000 or \$4,800,000 annually, was made for the Muscle Shoals plant by Herman D. Ruhm of New York city, he stated here today. Mr. Ruhm declared that he had made the offer shortly after Secretary of War Weeks had asked for bids and that he had never received a reply.

\$100,000 bonds in connection with mail robberies totalling approximately \$6,000,000. French, alleged to be his right hand man, was arrested yesterday with several of his associates. Today C. K. Strobel was taken into custody in Akron, Ohio, and A. E. Strelzin was arrested in Milwaukee.

Letter From Millionaire

Begging the return of "at least a little of the millions—to be exact \$2,500,000," alleged to have been obtained from him by John W. Worthington, Charles French, and their associates, a letter from Z. W. Davis, former president of the Winton Automobile Company, of Cleveland forms the letter intercepted by government officials. It was addressed to French at a Chicago loop hotel where a suite maintained by French was raided yesterday. Federal officers say they recovered securities valued at \$1,000,000 in the raid.

Davis letter, of six pages, dated August 5, was a plea for others who are entirely dependent on him for a livelihood. Left without aid from those who obtained his fortune, the Cleveland former millionaire declared he would be "forced to the only alternative—suicide." Davis also was a former president of the Diamond Portland Cement Company and the Globe Stove Company. The letter addressed to French said:

"Please do not take what I am writing to you as a whim. I am not in the habit of crying after I have lost. If I were the only one to be considered, I would not care.

"But there are others who are entirely dependent on me for a livelihood. It is for that reason that I am now forced to beg you to return at least a little of the millions—to be exact \$2,500,000—which you and your associates have taken away from me in the last two years.

Worthington, French, Owen T. Evans and Alva Harshman are under indictment. Davis also is under indictment but has protested that he was made a dupe by the ring leaders of the ring.

News to Davis

Canton, Ohio, Aug. 28.—"It is all news to me," said Z. W. Davis, Canton and Cleveland manufacturer, when asked today regarding notes bearing his name as president of the Winton Automobile Company, of Cleveland which were used by Chicago men in an effort to borrow \$30,000 in that city.

GEORGIANS ARE BEATING THE BOLL WEEVIL

Mr. A. L. Luce, of the Clarendon Motor Company, has turned over to us two letters which he has received from two banks in Georgia. These sections are in the boll weevil districts of Georgia and shows how these people are alive to the situation and are striving to their utmost to pull themselves "out of the hole," in which the weevil has gotten them. It would be well for our people to read these letters carefully and each individual find just what crop to plant that he can successfully market.

We do not agitate the non-planting of cotton, (as this is a cotton country) but we do believe that our farmers should cut the acreage and get the seed in at the earliest possible time.

Moultrie, Ga., Aug. 13, 1921.

Mr. A. L. Luce, care Clarendon Motor Company, Manning, S. C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your inquiry of the 9th, we regret exceedingly that your section is suffering from a heavy infestation of the boll weevil. We, ourselves, are hit by them again this year, but we are not depending on cotton as we have in the past.

Our farmers have learned to diversify, and are taking advantage of the local enterprises which we are fortunate enough to have that will take care of their farm produce. We have one of the very best Packing Plants South of Omaha, Nebraska, operated by Swift & Company of Chicago. Our farmers have learned to raise hogs and cattle, and they find a ready market the year around.

We have a canning plant which takes care of the surplus stock of Sweet Potatoes, and at this season of the year they can quite a bit of Bell Pepper, which our farmers have learned to raise successfully and at a good profit.

We also have one of the very best Creameries in this part of the state, furnishing ready market for their sweet and sour cream. They are just completing a tremendous Condensing Plant, and will in a very short time be prepared to take care of any milk they might be furnished. A good many of our farmers have taken advantage of this opportunity, and are putting in small Dairy Herds which they are finding profitable.

Our Grain Elevators furnish a market for their surplus corn, peanuts and velvet beans, of which we raise a good crop each year.

We also have several sweet potato curing houses, and they are prepared to handle all the surplus stock of sweet potatoes which we grow, and which are sold by the producers at a good profit.

We have many other advantages which help our farmers out, and within a few more years we can farm successfully down here without planting a hill of cotton.

We enclose herewith a little booklet gotten out by the Moultrie Chamber of Commerce, which will give you a brief idea of our town and county.

We should be very glad to have you and your party visit Moultrie, and I will assure you in advance that you will be accorded every courtesy during your visit, and we believe it will be very beneficial, and that you will return to your section with information that will certainly help your community.

I will appreciate your dropping me a line in advance of your coming, and we will be on the lookout for you.

Yours very truly,
C. H. West, Cashier,
First National Bank.

Quitman, Ga., Aug. 12, 1921.
Mr. A. L. Luce,
Manning, S. C.

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of the 9th, if you come to South Georgia and do not visit Brooks county and Quitman your trip will not have been a success.

We do not depend on cotton, although some of our farmers have a few acres most every year.

We shipped from the county 2,500 cars of watermelons this season bringing in between \$250 and \$300 hundred thousand dollars in June and July.

We raise live stock, peanuts, potatoes, oats, cane and "Brooks County Hams."

We have potato curing houses and have had two grain elevators, but have had the misfortune to lose them by fire.

Be sure and come to Brooks County and come to Quitman and the First National Bank and Chamber of Commerce and we will take pleasure in showing you what we have.

Yours very truly,
L. M. Bradford, Cashier,
The First National Bank.

ROOK PARTY

Mrs. James Dickson entertained last Thursday evening at a Rook Party in honor of her house guests, Misses Myrtle and Pauline Humphries of Lynchburg, S. C. After the game Mrs. Dickson served a lovely ice course to her guests, who were besides the hostess and honorees: Misses Mary Dickson, Isabella Thomas, Leila Margaret Dickson, Mildred Thompson, Grace Nimmer, Georgia Sauls, Lynn DuRant, Messrs. Thomas Bagnal, Ellis Wells, Brownie Bagnal, Billie Prince, Ikey Bagnal, Oliver Land, Gene Bagnal, Burgess Sprott, Scott Bagnal, Charles Dickson, James Dickson.

HOSPITAL REPORT IS SAID TO BE EXAGGERATED

Washington, Aug. 23.—Reports of conditions at the Johnson City, Tenn., sanatorium for disabled war veterans in many instances have been "grossly exaggerated," Charles M. Pearsall, inspector general for the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, has reported to the board of managers, under whose auspices the sanatorium is operated.

Mr. Pearsall's report of a personal investigation, made public today by Representative Anthony, Republican of Kansas, said "there was a strong feeling and resentment by the men because of the abuse which had been placed on the sanatorium as a whole, which would indicate to their families that every man there was either drinking, taking drugs or running around with prostitutes."

"The men admitted," the report continued, that a small number of the men would get drunk, or drink, disregard their rest hours and treatment, that there were a few drug addicts who were being treated in the hospital and that some of the men were associating with prostitutes, but stated that it was a very small percentage and they felt that they should not be humiliated by being classed with this small number of men, no larger in percentage than would be found in other hospitals or of a like number in civil life. The further my investigation led and the more contact I got with the men thoroughly convinced me that the men had the right picture of conditions.

general stated, that developed in connection with his investigation was that a "number of men when closely questioned admitted that they had been in other government hospitals and had been dismissed for disciplinary reasons and were later sent to Johnson City by these hospitals discharging them." Great care has been exercised, the report said, not to dismiss from the sanatorium for disciplinary reasons any man whose life or cure might be jeopardized by depriving him of treatment.

The inspector general reported the food at the sanatorium was "most excellent, both as regards quantity, quality, variety and service."

"KID PARTY"

Mrs. S. Oliver O'Bryan and Mrs. J. B. Cante entertained at the home of Mrs. O'Bryan last Friday evening at a "Kid Party." The ladies were dressed in little girl dresses with their hair hanging in curls and with large bows of ribbon on it; the men came in short trousers with middle blouses or boy blouses with Buster Brown collars. As the guests arrived they joined in the game of "jumping rope" and later games of "dropping the handkerchief," "go in and out the window" and then had a little dance called "My Little Shoe Darling." The hostesses then invited the "children" into the living room where several contests were had and among them was "pinning the donkey's tail on;" Mr. Lucius Harvin and Mrs. Allan Bradham came the nearest to pinning it in the right place and they were presented with a package of "Eat Mores."

The feature of the evening was the arrival of "the baby," who was Mr. Joe Davis, dressed in a long dress and cap. He came running down the street crying because his "mama" (Mrs. Davis) left him at home.

The refreshments served were punch, boiled peanuts, animal crackers and all day suckers. Those enjoying this lovely party were: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rigby, Mr. and Mrs. Horton Rigby, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Coffey, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Mich Wells, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. Wideman, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Dr. and Mrs. Brockinton, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Bradham, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Sprott, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Sprott, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Plowden, Dr. and Mrs. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Harvin, Dr. and Mrs. Scott Harvin, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cante, Mr. and Mrs. S. Oliver O'Bryan, Mesdames Bagnal, Malcolm Smith, Bessie Lesesne, Shelby Davis, Wells of Washington and Mr. Lucius Harvin.

PERFECT'S NEW TORPEDO FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM

New York, Aug. 23.—A new system of torpedo fire control by which the firing of torpedoes in a curved course is automatically controlled, has been perfected by John Hays Hammond, Jr., he announced today.

By means of this system, he said, a battleship or submarine could fire a torpedo at a target in any direction without changing the course of the vessel. Submarine equipped with the system could attack two targets at the same time.

DR. LONG OF CLEMSON WILL BE HERE TOMORROW

Dr. Long of Clemson College to be here and in Summerton Thursday. Mr. C. R. Sprott, chairman of the Board of Trade, has for some time been endeavoring to get Dr. W. W. Long, of Clemson College to come to Manning to address the business men of the town. Mr. Sprott has at last succeeded and we will have Dr. Long here Thursday morning.

Dr. Long has long been greatly admired by the people of the State, and we feel that we are very fortunate in being able to hear him at this time. Probably no one in the State is more capable of giving the people of the Agricultural communities sound counsel and advice than he is.

Mr. T. B. Young of Florence, District Agent of Farm Demonstration Work will be with Dr. Long. Mr. Young is also President of the South Carolina Sweet Potato Growers' Association and Secretary of the South Carolina Tobacco Association. What Mr. Young has to say will be well worth hearing.

These gentlemen will speak in the Court House at 11:00 o'clock Thursday morning and at Summerton at 3:30 in the afternoon.

Every business man in each of these towns and other towns of the county is urged to be present at one of these meetings.

Don't forget the time, Manning at 11 a. m. and Summerton at 3:30 p. m., Thursday August 25th.

W. R. Gray, County Agent.

DRAFT FOR BIG SUM SENT BY STERLING

Chicago, Aug. 23.—Fred E. Sterling, lieutenant-governor of Illinois, recently indicted with Gov. Len Small and Vernon Curtis, Grant Park, Ill., banker, on charges of embezzlement involving \$2,000,000 of state funds, today forwarded a draft for \$391,386.28 to Edward E. Miller, his successor as state treasurer.

In a letter Mr. Sterling explained that this sum was "all the interest collected by me on state deposits since May 31, 1920," and that it included "interest to date on such collected interest items from the date when the same came to my hands."

CHARGE OF DYNAMITE UNDER LOCOMOTIVE

Talbotton, Ga., Aug. 23.—For the fifth time a charge of dynamite was touched off under an A. B. and A. locomotive driven by Engineer R. N. Downey, near here this morning. No one was injured and the train was not derailed.

Trainmen who ran to the scene of the explosion, were fired upon, they reported here. They said they saw six men climb into an automobile and drive toward Manchester.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS OF TWENTY YEAR GO

August 28th, 1901

Mr. E. C. Thames has returned to Manning from Alabama.

Mrs. A. B. Galloway of Clinton, is in Manning visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. A. Loryea and daughter, Miss Annie, have returned from Harris Springs.

Dr. C. B. Geiger, who has been on a visit to his parents in Lexington county returned home Sunday evening.

Miss Edith Ware of Adams Run, at one time a resident of Manning, is here on a visit to the family of Mr. A. H. Breedin.

Mr. D. Hirschmann will leave this week for New York and other Northern Markets where he will purchase his fall stock.

Died near Silver, after a long illness, on Sunday 11th, inst., Mrs. Ella Chewning, wife of Mr. Felix Chewning, aged about 27 years.

Mr. D. E. Turbeville of Turbeville, a son of S. C. Turbeville, received the scholarship appointment to the College of Charleston yesterday.

Died at Salem yesterday, at the home of his son, Mr. John Wilson, the aged father of Captain Thos. Wilson. The deceased was a native of Scotland.

Corn will sell for \$1.28 per bushel next spring is the prediction of a traveling man who has just passed through the grain growing section of the West.

Judge Windham says he has spotted the fellow who painted such a true word picture of his appetite at the Salem picnic, but on that occasion he was a little off, and if the correspondent was amazed then, he wonders what he would say when his appetite is good and strong. Windham was not the only county officer at that picnic; the other fellow had to go to Glenn Springs right afterwards, so there were other big eaters at that picnic.

SEARCH FOR BODIES IN RUINS OF HOTEL

Believed That Death List Will Be Increased by Dozen When Inquiry is Completed—Four Known to Be Dead but One Man Not Yet Identified.

Macon, Ga., Aug. 22.—Work of exploring the ruins of the Brown House, which was completely destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning and where more than a dozen bodies are believed to be buried, stopped at sundown tonight.

Building Inspector F. Joe Bishop, in charge of the hunt for bodies, announced that the search will be resumed at daylight tomorrow morning with a force of 100 convicts from the county and city chaingangs.

"We will know before noon," he said, "just how many bodies are in the debris. We expect to find at least 12, possibly more. I can almost put my fingers on the spot where I believe there are two bodies."

Coroner Lee Wages announced this afternoon that the coroner's jury had concluded that an explosion of escaping gas in the basement of the Brunner Drug company caused the fire.

The blast cut a hole through the hotel from the basement to the roof, tore out the stairways and wrecked the elevator after driving it upward. Fire escapes at the rear of the building were enveloped in flames an instant later and fire also was bursting from every window in the big brick structure.

It is understood that the state fire marshal will arrive here in the morning to aid in the investigation that is under way. Facts obtained by local city and county officials and the state fire marshal will be laid before the Bibb county grand jury at its next session.

Four Bodies Found

Tonight, when work of exploring the ruins of the burned hotel stopped for the night, four bodies lay in a local undertaking establishment, only three of which had been identified. Eight persons were in the Macon hospital suffering from serious burns and broken bones received from the fire and in jumping from second and third floor windows. Three other persons, whose names have not been obtained and who are known to have jumped from the blazing structure, were attended by private physicians and left on the train for Atlanta during the forenoon.

The list of known missing mounted tonight to seven, but there were many inquiries from all parts of Georgia for persons whom it is feared were in the hotel.

Horace Weems, clerk at the Brown House, son of the proprietor, said that 88 of the 97 rooms in the hotel were filled, some with two beds in each room. He said that there were more than 100 guests, many of them tourists who were passing through the city. The tourists are the ones that are causing the most concern locally, for there is no way to obtain a check on them, the hotel register being destroyed in the fire.

Thousands of persons watched the fire and visited the scene throughout the day. They refused to give up their vigil even after a thunderstorm broke over them and rain began to descend in the late afternoon.

Only Wall Left

There was nothing left but a blackened brick wall at the front and jagged columns in the center of the structure. The entire side wall on the Plum street side had been completely demolished, by the force of the explosion and by the collapse of the floors.

Only a small section of the original building, built long before the Confederate war, remained intact, with floors still clinging to the side walls, although the ceilings had fallen. It was in exploring one of these ledges, this morning that firemen came upon two bodies, one of which was identified as John L. Collins. The other body, which lay only a foot away with hands clasped and outstretched, has not been identified. The unidentified man is that of a person weighing 200 pounds and about five feet eight inches in height. His hair was black.

Firemen worked continuously on the blaze from 1:35 o'clock this morning until late in the afternoon. They were recalled to the scene at 7:20 o'clock when flames broke out again in the ruins.

It was this heat, which caused the second fire, Building Inspector Bishop stated, that caused the abandonment of the hunt for bodies tonight.

Harry Swansberg carried a \$1,000 diamond, his gold watch and a wallet with a big sum of money, leaving his clothing behind, when he leaped from a third story window, sustaining injuries which later caused his death. He clung to the articles named and delivered them to a doctor at the hospital with the injunction: "Call my wife from Atlanta; I must see her before I die, but if I die before she arrives, give these to her." Then Swansberg, surrounded by a small group of veteran engineers and conductors at the hospital, cried continuously for "Boss, Boss." That, it was learned, was the favorite term he used in addressing his wife. Swansberg died at 10:56 this morning. His wife arrived here at 12:20 this afternoon.