

HUGE FRAUD SCHEME UNEARTHED

FEDERAL AGENTS SOLVE GIGANTIC SWINDLE.

Millions Involved.

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

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 declare after investigation of a band alleged to have been headed by Charles W. French and John F. Worthington, says a recent dispatch.

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 swindles 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 recently. He was alleged to have told of a deed negotiated by French for the purchase of a bank in the middle west that involved the exchange of \$800,000.

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 band 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 deeds 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 Publishing Company, Akron, Ohio, \$9,000;
- MacKay Truck Company, Akron, \$18,000;
- Porcupine 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;
- 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.

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.

It was also revealed that the band was operating in Kansas City. According to John V. Cline, 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 state 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 in Milwaukee, will be questioned regarding this transaction.

Worthington was arrested some weeks ago and is being held in \$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 Winto Auto-

GHOST WITHOUT MANAGER.

Concern Being Formed to Handle Problem.

Bristol, Va.-Tenn., Aug. 28.—In connection with steps that have been taken to form a company for the promotion of Bristol's ghost, it was learned today that the promoters were having difficulty in finding a manager to take charge of the enterprise.

The family that has been in the so-called haunted house for the past three months today moved out and plans for forming a company to exploit, investigate and control his ghostship were immediately taken up. It has been suggested that the new concern be called the Bristol Ghost Incorporated. The company will specialize in ghost-craft, the promoters said.

Jesse Carter Should Win.

This is a day and age of propagandas. The latest is a boost for Governor Cooper, on the supreme bench. It is a political scheme, pure and simple. The News and Courier wants Harvey in the gubernatorial chair and it figures, correctly, that it will be about the only way to get him there. Not that Mr. Harvey is not a good man, but he is not of sufficient rough and tumble caliber to win in a primary, for such an office. But, will the scheme pan out? We doubt it, and yet nobody can tell. We plead guilty to a strong desire to see Mr. Carter, of Bamberg, elected, for several reasons. We do not know him, personally, but we have heard nothing but the best about him. He is self-made, learned in the law and of high moral character. He has a judicial mind. With all this as a safe and secure foundation, we were charmed to see the legislature, for once, attempt to get above and beyond its own membership, for a high and responsible office. In addition to this, we can see no reason in the world—everything being equal—why the lower part of the state shouldn't have some show in the sharing of an important position. You have a stumpy road ahead of you, Mr. Carter, but you deserve to win and our best wishes are with you.—Cahoun Times.

New Fertilizer.

Urbana, Ill., Aug. 27.—The University of Illinois is conducting experiments at its experiment field at Newton, the results of which are said to be marvelous, according to an announcement here recently.

The experiments deal with soil fertility, drainage and crop fertility with the use of lime and rock phosphate. The field on which the experiments are being made was deeded to the university in 1912 and was said to be one of the poorest pieces of land in Jasper county. It is the largest soil experiment field in southern Illinois. Such results, the statement says, as were made in treating land for growth of crops will convince the most skeptical that there are great possibilities in improving southern Illinois farm lands.

He Has Ideas.

"You will never get anywhere unless you have higher ideals than this," preached the woman to whose door the tramp had applied for assistance. "Are you really content to spend your life walking around the country begging?"

"No lady," answered Weary Willie. "Many's the time I've wished I had an auto."—American Legion Weekly.

mobile 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 former Cleveland 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 Glove Stove Company. The letter addressed to French said: "Please do not take what I am writing you as a whine. 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 leaders of the ring.

NO TITLE FOR HIM.

Would Rather Be a Plain Ordinary American.

Suppose you got a cablegram from England saying an uncle had died, leaving you heir to \$2,000,000 and a dukedom?

Wouldn't you grab the first boat? "Not on your life!" says 'Squire Phillips.

Here's a man who turned down a rosy bequest just like that! Because he'd rather be an American citizen and a country 'squire.

His full name is Thierry Van Castle Phillips, of Weston, Pa.

"What do I want to be a duke for?" demanded 'Squire Phillips. "I'd have to give up my American citizenship. And I'd have to resign as justice of the peace. And I'd have to give up my old home and my elm trees and my flivver. No sir, no flunkies calling me 'Your Grace!'"

"Why, my gosh, I only just achieved my ambition to be elected justice of the peace! Oh, no, I don't work at the job. Haven't held court yet. Haven't even performed any marriages." "Heavens, how could you?" put in the ducal 'squire's wife. "There isn't even a Bible in the house. And the maiden ladies down the road probably wouldn't lend you one because you've got a reputation for swearing too much."

"How do you figure a 'squire's job better than a duke's?" I asked.

"Not for the fees; I don't need them," said Phillips. "I've been pinched so often and hailed before a J. P. for violating some pesky village ordinance that I yearned to be a J. P. myself. And, believe me, I'm waitin' for the first squire that comes flivvering down this road. I'll plaster a fine on him—just to get even."

So the title and the estate of the recently deceased Duke de Moro go begging while the hereditary duke sits, unshaven and vestless, on his old-fashioned front porch, and waits for his prey.

"Duke" Phillips is the oldest nephew of the deceased Duke de Moro. His grandfather was the Grand Duke Sharvaloski Phillip de Moro, a Polish nobleman, who fled Warsaw in 1848, later making a botch of an attempt to kill the czar of Russia, and changing his name to S. Moro Phillips, became an American citizen, married a Philadelphia belle and became the "fertilizer king," leaving a fortune of \$15,000,000.

"Grandfather was against titles," said 'Squire Phillips, "but when he died in 1885, Uncle Moro went to England with his share of the estate and assumed the title as grandfather's eldest son. He played the duke, all right, and he looked just like a butler."

The 'squire boasts of another title. He says his mother's father was Abraham Thierry Van Castle, made a baron by a former king of Holland, but who also disliked titles and called himself A. T. Van Castle.

"You see abhorrence of pomp runs in the family, except for Uncle Moro," said the 'squire.

"Even down to me," says Alexander, the 'squire's youngest son.

The 'squire is forty-six, married and has two sons. He likes to wear old clothes and collect antiques. The house he lives in used to be a school house and he bought it because he liked the six big elm trees in the front yard. It's 30 miles west of Philadelphia. He only has an acre of ground because he thinks farming is too hard work.

His sister, Mrs. Julie Van Castle Thompson, who lives in Europe, has just become engaged to Viscount Furness, wealthy British shipping magnate.

Battles With Snake in His Room.

George W. Paul, of 1216 Hickman Road, this city, fought the Hun overseas, but it remained for him to have the most exciting battle of his life right in his own home and in his own bed.

Paul went to bed as usual Thursday night, only to awake after midnight with the sensation of something cold and clammy across his body. He opened his eyes, closed them again and tried to sleep. We was wide awake when he felt the creeping sensation a second time, and glancing down he saw a red-colored snake in coil across his breast. With a motion of his body he flung the snake from him, but the reptile clung to his arm and wound its body tightly about him. A mad fight ensued, which ended with the snake being hurled beneath the bed.

Paul turned the light on at this juncture and called members of the family to his room. The snake had coiled about the young man's shoes and the reptile again showed fight when Paul, reinforced by two men, attacked him with a broom and fire poker.

The snake, finally killed, measured three and one half feet, when stretched across the floor.—Augusta Chronicle.

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Indigestion

Many persons, otherwise vigorous and healthy, are bothered occasionally with indigestion. The effects of a disordered stomach on the system are dangerous, and prompt treatment of indigestion is important. "The only medicine I have needed has been something to aid digestion and clean the liver," writes Mr. Fred Ashby, a McKinney, Texas, farmer. "My medicine is

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for indigestion and stomach trouble of any kind. I have never found anything that touches the spot, like Black-Draught. I take it in broken doses after meals. For a long time I tried pills, which griped and didn't give the good results. Black-Draught liver medicine is easy to take, easy to keep, inexpensive."

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