

PETTY GRAFT FOLLOWS WAKE OF CRIME WAVE

City Rube Is Found Just as Gullible as His Rural Relative.

SHREWD SCHEMES USED

NEW YORK CITY.—The idea, usually so popular with city people, that all rubes live in the country, seems to lack force in New York this season. Too many people are being cleverly separated from their small change. For in the wake of the crime wave has come an epidemic of petty graft, to which the shrewd sophisticated New Yorker has succumbed as easily as he did to last year's flu, showing himself to be quite as gullible as his rural relatives.

Hardened shop-keepers of long city training have been buying fake furs and paste jewels with a reckless good nature that would astonish a subversive thousands of even Brooklyn residents have been contributing to fake causes with a sentimental abandon rarely exhibited by the citizens of small towns. In spite of all the talk about money being tight, beggars and fraud specialists are having a nice time in New York this year than they have ever had before.

Here is the sort of thing which is suddenly happening to enliven the atmosphere along Broadway and Fifth Avenue.

The other night, a friend of the reporter, a shrewd young business man in Wall street, was on his way home when he was accosted by a well-dressed, well-built stranger, who stretched forth a gloved hand in delighted recognition.

"Don't suppose you remember me," said the stranger with an admirable mixture of cordiality and reserve, "but I have seen you so often on the street I'm employed in the next office building, you know. Here in New York we don't speak to people so readily as we do in my home town, but I've often wanted—

"Well, I'm awfully lucky to run into you now, and I'm in need of help. Just had an accident and have had my car in a garage about three blocks from here, and now I find I'm just \$5 short on the repair bill. Worst of it is I promised to meet my wife at the station this afternoon. She'll be loaded down with Christmas junk and won't have a cent left. As soon as I caught sight of you, though, I vowed to you that you might be able to help me out."

NEW METHOD OF FRAUDULENT GAIN.

At this point the stranger drew forth his wallet and disclosed a fat roll of small bills.

"I've got \$5 here," he smiled drolly, "but the rest is in my pocket. I'll exchange my frankness: 'I am going to ask you if you can let me have the extra five until tomorrow morning. I can run right over to your office from mine in a few minutes and hand it back to you.'

"That's all right," interrupted our friend uneasily, but agreeably, taking a few steps from his much smaller roll of bills. "Glad to see you have a roll of money here myself at this time."

And that was the end of the incident—except that the cordial stranger has never been seen since, and inquiry in the next office building revealed no information concerning him. But a few days later, the morning papers warned their readers about this particular form of "ouch."

It is extraordinary to what lengths the small fraud artist will go to obtain a five cent, as the young assistant of a well-known woman philanthropist here can tell you. This young woman was quietly cataloguing in her office, the other day, when a nice-looking young man, with soft brown eyes and neatly combed pompadour, atrived in immaculate clothes, dashed exuberantly in the door and said, "Mrs. J. J. Young's office."

DECLares 8,000 VETS HAVE NO HOPE IN FIRE

Heads Alumnae



POLICE BUREAU FOR NATION IS TIMELY MOVE

Crime Wave Has One Good Result in Awakening Interest in Proposal.

TO IDENTIFY CROOKS

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The proposed national police bureau at Washington supported by the Federal Government for the identification of criminals is the one constructive suggestion which has come forth as a result of the crime wave which is sweeping the country.

The present reign of banditry has had at least one good effect in that it has caused the American public to some extent to the fact that their police systems are utterly inadequate. That major crimes such as murder and robbery are many times as prevalent in the United States as in any of the principal European countries; that life and property are to be safer in some of our frontier cities than they were in the far West in pioneer days, are unsavory facts which are just beginning to come home to us.

There are a number of reasons for this. One of them is undoubtedly the fact that our statute books are cumbered with useless laws which have long since fallen into contempt and which tend to make of the policeman a sort of moral censor instead of a criminal catcher. Another reason is that we have a heterogeneous and shifting population, which presents one of the most difficult police problems in the world.

But one of the most important reasons is that we have always put up with inefficient police forces. They are largely dominated by politics and are usually run by men who have no training as police executives, but are chosen for reasons of political expediency.

Then there is the reason usually held only for brief periods, so that they have no opportunity to learn by experience the difficult profession which they approach without training. Finally, there is little cooperation between the various police departments, and it is this lack of cooperation, of any national system for combating crime, which the proposed Federal Bureau would seek to remedy.

The committee in charge of arrangements included Mrs. T. A. Stroup, chairman; Mrs. Walter Hilton, Miss Edith Harshman and Mrs. Clifton Ferguson.

Hehens in New York are the hat-checking parlors, where surprising frauds of one kind and another are always coming to light. Most astonishing of these was one discovery recently made when a man discovered that his checkers got into a fight. When the guests rushed into the check room and succeeded in separating the irate principals they found that the cause of the hostilities was a spool of white thread.

By degrees the story came out, and it was found that the hat-checkers were dishonest, and the spool of white thread was the only item of value in the hat-checkers' possession. The boy was permitted to get just as far as the door. Then a boy politely requests him to stop. Rushing up to the guest's back the boy begins to brush off the clothes which the hat-checkers had at the same time been kissing that such a well-dressed gentleman should be so careless. This is where the white spool of thread comes in, and also its immediate result—a dime. Always a dime, and sometimes, if the guest is more than a little tipsy, a half dime.

There don't be too impressed when you hear about the sanguine invulnerability of the New Yorker. Live here for a few months yourself and you will find out.

JUDGE LINDSEY TO GET NO FAVOR

District Attorney Says His Case Same as Any Other.

DENVER, Feb. 5.—District Attorney Philip S. Van Cise told today it would be several weeks before the case of Judge Bert B. Lindsey, under sentence for contempt of court for refusing to obey the order of the House to appear before the committee, would be heard.

Representative Bedgood, the author of the bill, declared that the bill had not been announced, according to the House rules, before it was read.

The admiral, in announcing its budget, is expected to ask appropriations for capital ships, although the building program is a carefully guarded secret.

ITALY ANNOUNCES NAVAL BUILDING

ROME, Feb. 5.—Italy's naval program, for which contracts were placed during the war, is to be continued by the ministry of war.

Italy's naval budget for 1921 is to be

15,900,000 for the same purpose.

Apparently there is a good chance for this bill becoming a law.

The public health service needs an appropriation of \$35,000,000 for constructing hospitals and for providing other accommodations for the care of soldier patients," LaPorte declared.

Music Notes

A program of special interest will be given Monday evening at the Athenaeum.

This will be the first appearance of the recently organized women's chorus.

So far, according to this number will be Mrs. Christine Roush, pianist; Miss Ruth McClure, violinist; and Mrs. Francis Wilhite, Webber, harpist. Arthur Kraft, tenor, will be the guest soloist.

The men's chorus will give a group of numbers.

NOT TOO FEDERAL

This department would by no means constitute a Federal police force. It is recognized that, especially in this country, the police problem is a local problem. The national organization would be a national bureau of identification.

Arthur Woods, the author of the bill, was recently established in Washington by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and it is hard at work today gathering identification data.

It is merely a private enterprise, but it is a fine example of the work of the Canadian government.

It provides the nucleus for a national police department, such as has been recently suggested in authoritative quarters.

It has been suggested that such a national organization might be a new Governmental department, but it is not.

It is a national bureau of identification.

It is a national bureau of identification.