

Behind the swindling of the gang is the story of wealthy old men's desire for young and beautiful women and rich married women's desire for handsome young men to play with while hubby is busy clipping coupons.

William Butler, one of the members of the alleged syndicate, explained his ideas on the workings of the gang in this manner to Hinton G. Clabaugh, local agent of the dept of justice:

"You have an idea my conscience bothers me? Not a bit. Why should it? I rob men who can afford to be robbed—men who pose as religious, highly moral, eminently respectable members of society. They are 'whited sepulchers.' They give me their money because they are afraid I will expose them for exactly what they are. They are shams. At heart they are as bad as I am—worse, I think, because I sail under my true colors. They are crooks."

The alleged members of the gang caught in the raid on the fashionable Grand blvd. apartment building and now held under bonds aggregating \$250,000 are: Edward ("Doc") Donahue, Mrs. Edw. Donahue, Mrs. Helen Evers, alias Mrs. Geo. Brown; Henry Russell, James Christian, alias H. J. Cross; Geo. Bland and Mrs. Frances Allen.

Clabaugh has been on the trail of the gang since the case of Mrs. Regina A. Klipper, a Philadelphia woman, came to the attention of the dept of justice. Mrs. Klipper was shaken down for \$3,500 after becoming involved in an affair with a handsome young member of the gang whom she met at a tea dance in a Philadelphia hotel. Later she complained to the dept of justice, and Wm. Butler and George Irwin were arrested. Later they kidnapped her and took her to Canada to prevent her appearing at the trial.

A few weeks ago attaches of Clabaugh sighted Russell on the street. They trailed him and discovered the

whereabouts of the gang in the Tyson apartments. Russell has been seen frequently in the company of Mrs. Noel Loeb, young wife of a prominent southern physician. It is believed the gang was preparing to blackmail her.

Pretty young women, some of them ex-chorus girls, and men, many of them college graduates, were used as baits for the gang. The girls played the biggest and most fashionable hotels. In Chicago their hunting grounds were said to have been the Congress and the Hotel Blackstone.

The girls drew their victims into compromising situations. Many of them were trapped in the girls' rooms in negligee attire. At the psychological moment the girls' confederates would appear and represent themselves as gov't agents. Arrest was threatened. The victim, fearful of publicity, would "come across."

The lure of the tango and the fox trot were used by the gang to trap women. The young fashion plates would frequent the tea dances, spread the impression they were the sons of wealthy men and begin their search for prey.

A flirtation with wealthy married women would take place. Then would follow dancing and expert lovemaking. The woman would become infatuated. The man would persist in his avowals of love until the woman would forget her marriage and place herself under the schemer's control. Then the shakedown would take place.

A multimillionaire of New York was fleeced out of \$40,000 because of an affair with a young girl. Mann act prosecution was threatened. He is said to be president of a big New York bank, prominent in society and a generous contributor to churches and organized charity.

A wealthy married woman of Philadelphia, a leader in society, met one of the members of the gang at a hotel tea dance. He fascinated her, Highballs and dancing caused her to