She Says Washington is Easy

"Washington—the easy city." "I have worked this town to a finish," said a "girl hobo" here recently, "and I intend to work it over again. It is the easiest city I have seen in a long while." Exactly one week after she made this statement her game was exposed and she was arrested by the police. She was sentenced to several months in the workhouse a short time later.

Washington is easy, if the word of professional "girl hoboes" may be relied upon. It is worked to a finish, not once in a while, but almost daily. The police will tell you these workers of petty swindles are hard to catch. Not because they have brains and plan good, but because their games are seldom reported to headquarters.

The average human being does not like to admit he has been "done." It may be only a matter of a dollar or so, but he would rather stand the loss in silence than to report the matter and have the criminal caught. "Girl hoboes" are well aware of this weakness and it is their chief stock in trade. Their game has to be worked many times a day to be profitable, and they know that if the public is warned, the city is not safe for them to work in.

"Most of the "girl hoboes" stay well within the pale of the law, and work their games for petty larceny amounts only. Many of them are attractive and fair, while the largest asset the others have is their deformity.

"How do we work in Washington?" said one of these girls in answer to the same question a short time ago, to a person who had befriended her in trouble. "And what do we think of the town? Well, you have been good to me, and I will tell you.

"Washington is the easy city. It's worked day after day by us 'girl hoboes'—that's the name we like to be known by—and some of us, I am sorry to say, tell the old, old story, but it always woes. A girl with any kind of sense can work this place to the limit. Dangerous, you ask? Well, not much. If you know the ropes you can't get more than six months or at the most a year at the workhouse. Sure, I have been pinched, but not lately, it happened when I was green at the business.

"This Is a Hard-Luck Town"

"You see, this is a hard-luck town There are more disappointed persons to the square inch in this burg than you can find anywhere else on earth. And that's the reason they listen to every hard-luck tale that comes along.

"The easiest game I ever saw worked was done right here in town, and is probably still being worked. One of us girls hit this town a year or so ago broke. She had never been here before, so to get a line on the place she started out by asking for the simplest thing she could think of, and that was that was a car ticket. She asked the first man for a car ticket, and got it. Then she asked a woman. The woman gave her two. The tale she told was that she wanted to get to work in a distant part of the city, but could not get there because she did not have car fare. If the listener had the 'ready ear,' she spoued a lot about a sick child, and how she would lose the work if she did not reach the appointed place on time.

"Well, this game went so good, that the girl continued to ask for car tickets. At first she thought she would only stay here for a week, but things went fine and she remained a month. Now she has been here for many moons and is still working the same old gag.

"Maybe a few folks have gotten wise, if she happened to ask the same person twice, but say, who would report to the police that he had been done out of a car ticket? Why the cops would laugh at him.

"Then I used to know a kid who worked the 'going far away with me sick child and haven't enough money' gag in all the depots. She would hire a baby as soon as she hit town, dress up as if she was going away, take a suit case, and go to the depot. She would keep her eye on the train board and just about fifteen minutes before a train was going to pull out for distant parts, she would go out and stand in front of the gate. Then whenever any one would come along that looked easy, she would tell the guy that she was a poor widow, and was taking her only child home, to where her folks lived. Then, sobbing a bit, she would say she had lost part of the fare. Sometimes she would only be a dollar short if the fellow looked stingy, but if it was an old man, she needed five dollars.

Plenty of Places to Hire Babies.

"Of course the game couldn't be worked often. But she used to make a good $10 or $15 a day. Where did she get the baby? Well, there's places in this old town where they can be hired the same as in other burgs. They usually cost about 50 cents a day, but a very good-looking one can't be hired for less than $1. Once in a while some fresh fellow would step and ask her a lot of embarrassing questions but she always reminded him that it was near train time and tears can open the strongest wallet.

"Now, I intend to hand out the straight goods for a time, and be one of your 'real ladies,' and I'll shell out some dope for the benefit of those who ain't wise. The easy way to keep the pot boiling, if you have the wanderlust and unfortunately happen to be some 'skirts,' is to do these newly married females. The only experience most of them have had in keeping house they learned from a correspondence school.

"When we work the 'inside' game, which means we can't be pulled, because we have something to sell and are safe to flit from door to door with our tale of woe and some small article for sale. That is if we don't want to take any chances. It's the best way, but I could never see it. It's too slow for an old one like me, but it pays best in the end. The cops can't run you in.

"Well, as I said before, I got onto the weepy subject about my past, all you have to do is to tuck your little sample under your arm and sally forth.

If you are successful in striking 'tender hearts you reap a good harvest. The woman who comes hobbling to your door, rings the bell timidly, and is ready with the story of the paralytic husband, who will die unless she gets assistance immediately, has got you sized up the minute the door is opened. If the person who answers her summons looks 'likely' she begins to reel off her heartrending tale. If they look 'n. g.' she offers whatever she has to sell and passes on.

Beware the Fair-Haired "Lady."

"The neat and fair looking 'hair and manicure' lady is to be viewed afar by the easy marks. Her dye would kill the wool on the back of a sheep, and what it would do to hair isn't worth doing.

"Once upon a time there used to be a girl here who did the deaf and dumb act. She couldn't hear a street car with a flat wheel on East Capitol street. That is, when she was 'working,' but, say, if you whispered 'have a drink out of business hours, she could hear you a block off. Anyway, she worked the city 'selling' soap, and she said she made about $6 or $7 a day. Most persons, after trying to make her hear that they didn't want any soap, 'and, besides, they didn't wash, anyway,' would give her the money to get rid of her. Few took the soap.

"Yes, I am going to take a rest from the biz for a time. If I can make good in this new game I won't go back, either. I'm going to try the straight life and really work. I'm sorry I can't tell you more, but it ain't right to go back on old pals. Only if you write this up, friend, I hope these soft guys will read it and get wise. I ain't wishing those in the graft any hard luck, but I wish business would get so bad they would all have to leave it. You always have that uneasy feel, friend, and every time you read about one of your pals being pinched, you wonder to yourself, 'Maybe I'm next.' I hope your story will put them wise, friend, but say, you won't squeal on me, will you?"—Washington Post.

FASHION NITES.

Black is very smart with a touch of gold to relieve it, while black satin is much used to trim gowns of navy blue.

The body-and-sleeves-in-one idea prevails in all classes of under and outer garments, and often is seen at its best in waists.

Some of the new large hts are very decided in their down-curving lines; others are flattened out, and all carry very low crowns.

Real Irish crochet collar and cuff sets come in heavy effects as well as in the baby Irish, and they are as desirable as they are durable.

An innovation shirtwaist sleeve is a leg-o'-mutton with a copule of groups of tucks that run from shoulder to cuff along the outside.

On some of the new French hats aigrettes are used in profusino, some fusion, sometimes as much as $100 worth of aigrettes appearing on one hat.

FREE TO YOU—MY SISTER Free to You and Every Sister Suffering from Women's Ailments.

I am a woman.
I know woman's sufferings.
I have found the cure.

I will mail, free of any charge, my home treatment with full instructions to any sufferer from women's ailments. I want to tell all women about this cure—you, my reader, for yourself, your daughter, your mother, or your sister. I want to tell you how to cure yourselves at home without the help of a doctor. Men cannot understand women's sufferings. What we women know from experience, we know better than any doctor. I know that my home treatment is a safe and sure cure for Leucorrhœa or Whitish Discharges, Ulceration, Displacement or Falling of the Womb, Profuse, Scanty or Painful Periods, Uterine or Ovarian Tumors or Growths; also pains in the head, back and bowels, bearing down feelings, nervousness, creeping feeling up the spine, melancholy, desire to cry, hot flashes, weariness, kidney and bladder troubles where caused by weaknesses peculiar to our sex.

I want to send you a complete ten day's treatment entirely free to prove to you that you can cure yourself at home, easily, quickly and surely. Remember, that it will cost you nothing to give the treatment a complete trial; and if you should wish to continue, it will cost you only about 12 cents a week, or less than two cents a day. It will not interfere with your work or occupation. Just send me your name and address, tell me how you suffer if you wish, and I will send you the treatment for your case, entirely free, in plain wrapper, by return mail. I will also send you free of cost, my book—"WOMAN'S OWN MEDICAL ADVISER" with explanatory illustrations showing why women suffer, and how they can easily cure themselves at home. Every woman should have it, and learn to think for herself. Then when the doctor says—"You must have an operation," you can decide for yourself. Thousands of women have cured themselves with my home remedy. It cures all, old or young. To Mothers of Daughters, I will explain a simple home treatment which speedily and effectually cures Leucorrhœa, Green Sickness and Painful or Irregular Menstruation in Young Ladies. Plumpness and health always results from its use.

Wherever you live, I can refer you to ladies of your own locality who know and will gladly tell any sufferer that this Home Treatment really cures all women's diseases, and makes women well, strong, plump and robust. Just send me your address, and the free ten day's treatment is yours, also the book. Write today, as you may not see this offer again. Address

MRS. M. SUMMERS, Box 428 - - South Bend, Ind., U. S. A.

Fall Opening

We Cordially Invite You to Attend our Fall Opening of Millinery, Suit and Special Fashion Exhibit, to be held Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 23 and 24. A complete exposition of the Latest Correct and Authoritative European and American Styles. Store Open Wednesday Night until 9:30

2707-2709 WASHINGTON AVE.
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

MEYERS BROS
DEPARTMENT STORE.

Old Cuban Plantations

With a view to the investigation of the coffee-growing industry of Cuba, Consul-General James L. Rodgers, of Havana, recently went from the town of San Cristobal, Pinar del Rio Province, north into the mountains, which lie about midway between the Western Railway of Habana on the south and the coast line between Bahia Honda and Cabanas on the north. He describes his investigations in the following language:

Knowing that this almost inaccessible mountain region in the old days, when slavery was in vogue in Cuba, was the location of some of the most successful "cafe tales," it seemed the best place to investigate the remnant of the industry and to see the former methods of culture and harvest.

These mountains, Cordillera de los Organos, which form the highest part of the backbone of western Cuba, rise to an elevation, in places, of over 2,000 feet above sea level, and constitute, with their abrupt declivities, their deep valleys, and rugged characters, an indescribably rough country. It is a region of many small streams, luxuriant forest growth of Cuban hard woods and chaparral, and disintegrated rock formation, while occasionally a highly fertile little valley intervenes, and on some hill shoulders there are small areas, cleared centuries ago, and now adaptable for limited grazing.

Remnants of Cultivated Groves

The old coffee plantation begin in the very center of this range, being sheltered alike from the winds of the Gulf and the Caribbean. That they are of extreme age is easily seen, and that time has been allowed to work its will is noticeable. The coffee trees, which have survived the struggle with the rank tropical growth, are seen everywhere on the steep slopes, and only in patches have there been attempts at rescue from the encroaching vegetaation.

The gnarled and twisted coffee trees of these remnants of fine plantations contrast strangely, with their fellows which, without topping, have gone upward in the aim for light. Only a small proportion of the original plantings, therefore, exists as coffee-bearing trees and these do not exhibit much evidence of the care which accompanies intensive production.

In each valley, however, a group of huts, almost primitive in structure, betokens a survival of coffee culture, for around them on the mountains sides stretching at times to the very top are the "cafetales" of varying sizes. Some have only a few hundred trees and others have thousands, but nearly all are laden with the berries, showing how well nature makes return. The drying beds of sun-burned bricks, of plastered clay and of modern cement are in the open places, and in the valley, adjacent to the inevitable "tienda" (store), are the hulling devices, which in character and design look as though they might have come down from the time of the original occupation.

A palm-leaf thatch shelters the circle around the perimeter of which is the cement or stone grooves in which runs the long cylinding wheel of hard wood. The dried berries are placed in this groove and over them passes the 9-inch rim of the ponderous disk as it responds to the effort of men or beasts. The shelling of both outer husk and delicate skin completed, the bean is dried again on neighboring platforms, and in the fullness of time the bags containing the harvest product go up and over the mountains on burros to a market at San Cristobal or Bahai Honda. But at best this market is only a local one, and it may be said that this once flourishing industry of that region is now practically dead.

Cheap Labor No Longer Availabe.

When slave labor existed and when peonage was practiced in Cuba the owner of such "cafetales" as these could remain in the luxury of the time in the coast of vega town, or, better still, in Habana or Madrid, and be certain that his coffee plantation was producing him a handsome income. In those days it cost but a few cents to feed a laborer and he or she could gather many pounds of coffee berries each day.

But now, even in such an out-of-the-way place, where contact with the independent Cuban, who demands and receives a comparatively high wage for his work upon citrus-fruit, tobacco, or sugar plantations, or who is on the Government pay roll, is rare, the laborer on the "cafetales" asks and gets a wage which dissipates the profits in coffee culture in Cuba at least. Either that or the laborer works a cafetale after a peculiar system of his own, under which he gets the lion's share of the crop and does little to increase it.

Therefore the cultivation given to these old Cuban cafetales is scanty to say the least. The pruning is intermittent and poorly done, there is poor general care and no attempts whatever, as far as can be observed, at modern methods. Yet these cafetales are standing evidences of what coffee culture has been in Cuba and might be yet with modern methods. The Cuban—perhaps the most pronounced coffee drinkers in the world—buys over 20,000,000 pounds annually, upon which the Government levies an imperfect tax of over 9 cents per pound. And this coffee in great part comes from the West Indian islands and from the Central and South American mainland. These cafetales are as favorably situated as any in Cuba, and it is stated that attempts are to be made to revive the industry. These old coffee plantations seem to have existed over a large stretch of the mountainous country adjacent to the locality mentioned. One does not see the last traces of them until the rough mule track leaves the upland valleys and goes by sinuous course down the waterways, the beds of which in the past and present seem to have been considered the easiest and quickest way of reaching the foothill country which lies back of the coastal plain flanking the north coast.

From the favored spots high up where one can catch a glimpse of the northern slopes there are to be seen the successions of valleys and ridges of extremely fertile land and timber, nearly all untouched, and existing practically as it did before the time of the Spaniards. It is all adapted for coffee culture and many other things, and on through this great stretch of Cuba and extending many miles to the westward there is not a road until the round town of Santiago de las Vegas, an outpost of Spanish civilization, is reached. From there it is only about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles, to Bahia Honda, toward which a modern highway from Cabanas is being pushed along the coast and into which run already several short "carreteras" (cart roads) from the plantations.—Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

FIRE APPLIANCES USED IN DUBLIN

Consul Alfred K. Moe, of Dublin, points out the following opportunity for the introduction of American fire-fighting mechanism in Ireland:

During July a number of large fires have occurred in the city of Dublin, and in the town of Kilkenny a disastrous fire took place a few months ago, and again, another fire damaged many houses in the town of Clonmel.

It seems an opportune time for American manufacturers of fire-extinguishing appliances and steam pumping engines to survey the Irish field. Hitherto not much attention has been paid to the subject of fires, as it was the general opinion that fires in a city constructed chiefly of stone buildings would have little chance of doing destructive damage to property. In nearly all the fires that have occurred here the fire department has succeeded only in confining the flames to the building; and in nearly every instance the fire has completely destroyed the premises originally attacked. With appliances and engines such as are used in the large cities of the United States the percentage of loss by fire would be reduced to a minimum.

Many fire insurance companies have offices here, and it would require no effort to have these companies consider any new means or improvements in apparatus for fire fighting. European inventions are being exploited and many have success in placing themselves in this country. A safety non-explosive reservoir company has placed on the market a new contrivance for the purpose of preserving any kind of receptacle containing inflammable liquids, and of guarding against the still greater danger arising from the scattering of inflammable liquids. The use of this patent is compulsory on the Continent wherever gasoline or other inflammable liquids are transported or stored in quantities, and the home office of the British Government is now experimenting with it. The London fire brigade has fitted it to its motor appliances and its use has been specified in the London County council's estimates for next year.

Hand Extinguishers and Alarms

A certain hand fire extinguisher has been advertised here in connection with its exhibition at the Vatican, which was successful to the extent of being installed there. It is said that many thousand fires have been extinguished by its use since 1904. A certain automatic fire-alarm system without human agency, notifies instantaneously the fire department on the slightest outbreak; and its efficiency may be gathered from the statement that insurance companies here give maximum rebates where the system is installed.

The average number of fires, from a report issued in 1866 is stated to have been 29. The chief of the fire brigade in Dublin, in his report for last year, states that there were 162 fires in the city. In addition to these 162 fires, there were 162 false alarms, and 69 chimney fires. The appliances for extinguishing fires are said to be perfect, yet there seems reason to believe that American fire-fighting apparatus could be introduced into Ireland with success. In the matter of grenades and similar devices, the best plan for advertising would be by actual demonstration of the article's efficiency. Private dwellings are not all equipped for speedy fire extinguisings as they are in the United States, and only in a few office buildings have I noticed any effort to provide against possible outbreaks of fire.—Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

A POINT WORTHY OF NOTICE

There is more to delivering laundry satisfactorily than being merely prompt—at least we think so. You'll notice that our bundles appear neat and well wrapped when you get them—are not carelessly thrown upon your poarch, and are not left where they will be exposed to rain. Our delivery man is careful—as he should be.

Hotel Warwick Laundry
119 Twenty-fourth Street.

SHOOTING PAINS

In the temples—dull aches across the forehead—blurred vision—letters or lines running into one another—skipping of words or letters in reading—seeing objects double—floating specks that come and go—aversion to bright light—a confusion of objects which can be relieved by closing the eyes momentarily—that tired feeling in and back of the eyes—inflammation in the minute veins covering the "whites of the eyes" are all symptoms of optical defects that we can remedy with a properly adjusted glass. Examination free.

OPTICIANS **HULL & HULL** OPTICIANS
121 Twenty-sixth Street, Opposite Post Office, Newport News, Va.

LITTLE FACTS.

A four-foot coal seam yields 6,000 tons per acre.

Lake Victoria Nyanza covers 26,000 square miles.

Vinegar will successfully clean a jaty, powder-caked gun barrel.

To make carbon ink dissolve genuine India ink in common black writing fluid.

Strikes caused French workingmen to lose 35,051,966 days in the last ten years.

The city of Taririz, the center of the Persian rebellion, is 4,000 feet above sea level.

More than 400,000,000 gallons of oil were exported from Philadelphia last year.

There are 9,700 saloons in Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn boroughs of New York.

Boston expects an enrollment of 12,500 in the colleges and universities within the Boston district.

The borough of Lititz, Pa., draws its water supply from a spring that emits 195,600 gallons an hour.

The first step toward a union in Boston and the surrounding cities is a co-operative fire-fighting system.

Clergymen of 24 different denominations to the number of 161 have signed a national appeal in behalf of the socialistic ticket.

But Not Literally.

It is related of a local preacher in a western town, who was to be absent from his pulpit a fortnight, that he recently announced after the sermon: "The preacher for next Sunday will be Mr. Blank, and the one for the Sunday after you'll find hanging up behind the door on the other side of the vestry."—Youth's Companion.

Beauties of Gorse.

No one who sees a common or hillside covered with gorse in full flower can fail to appreciate its beauty, and we can well understand such plant lovers as Linnaeus and Dillenius going into ecstasies of delight, as they are reported to have done, when such a sight first burst on their view after being acquainted with the plant from botanical material only.

In Praise of Work.

It is worth and a determined spirit that make the wheels of the world go 'round and bring success in their train. Idleness never accomplished anything, work has accomplished everything good, and great, and useful in the world.

Easy Mistake to Make.

Farmer Andrews says that he made a mistake last week in stating that his wife had died of cancer. The item should have read that he had lost a cow by lumpy jaw. These things happen occasionally, and we are always glad to correct them. It is easy to get women and cows mixed up.—Hometown (Pa.) Banner.

The Secret of Sexine Pills.

There isn't any. Their wonderful effects are simply the result of a scientific combination of the best remedies that are known in medicine for the unbuilding and rejuvenating of tired, weak and worn men and women. They act on the blood in such a manner that the user is soon imbued with new life and hope and happiness. Price $1 a box; six boxes $5, fully guaranteed on the money-back plan. For sale by all druggists.