"BORING-IN" TREATMENT SUPERSEDES "THE THIRD DEGREE" AND HELPS DETECTIVES TO "BREAK" CROOKS WITHOUT BRUISES

NEW PROCESS USED HERE TO GET TRUTH FROM SLY CRIMINALS

Persistent Questioning and Deprivation of Food and Tobacco Seldom Fails to Trap the Suspect in Series of Lies and Finally Force Him or Her to Reveal What Is Known of Crime Which Brought About Arrest.

"BORING in" is the new wrinkle practiced by detectives on criminals or others suspected of crime who vigorously insist on maintaining their innocence.

The "boring in" treatment is just the opposite to the silent treatment. It may not be as harrowing and brutal as the old-time third degree, when a bulldozing detective pummelled and kicked about a suspect in his set determination to obtain a confession of guilt.

No, the "boring in" treatment is none of these. It does not leave bruises on the body of the suspect from any brutal physical treatment, but it does leave him or her a nervous wreck, with a fagged-out brain and quite empty stomach.

Seldom does this new method fail to "break" the criminal, and often it has had the effect of wringing a confession of guilt from an innocent person.

And it is simple, consisting of nothing more than persistent questioning by detectives and the deprivation of the normal amount of food and tobacco, and other things of life that the suspect has been accustomed to. The purpose is to trap the suspect in a series of lies, to make him change his stories time after time, and to finally force him by the persistent accusation that he or she lies to tell the truth about "the murder" or "robbery," or whatever he may be in custody for.

"An innocent man has no fear of the boring-in method," Inspector Clifford L. Grant, chief of detectives, said. "If he has, there is no reason for him being disturbed.

"We will run out his story and if it be true, he will be released," Grant said. "He may lie. If he does, then we will bore-in on him until he tells the truth."

"But," it was suggested, "many an innocent man is picked up by detectives as a suspect for a crime who hesitates to give his correct name, address and business. He fears the harm that would ensue if it be known he was arrested as a suspected criminal, or murderer."

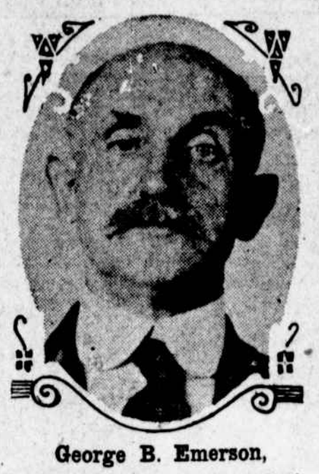
Protect Innocent.

"That may be true," replied Grant, "but we always aim to protect the innocent. If we find their story rings true they are speedily released."

On the other hand, Grant declares, he has no pity for the criminal who he and his detectives have every reason to believe is guilty and who refuses to tell the truth—to confess to the crime he is suspected of.

No clearer illustration of the boring-in process practiced by not only the Washington police, but by those of other cities, is that of Z. S. Wan, the young Chinese student now on the brink of the gallows for the slaying of Dr. Theodore T. Wong, director of the Chinese Educational Mission, and his two assistants, C. H. Hsie and Ben Sen Wu.

TWO LOCAL VICTIMS OF "BORING-IN" AND A QUIZ



George B. Emerson, Alias "Boston Frank," pennyweighter, who broke down under "borring-in"

Inspector Grant quizzing a prisoner at police headquarters.

Charles E. Ross, Who was convicted of the murder of a boy and who succumbed to "borring-in."

Following his arrest as a suspect in the triple tragedy, Wan was brought to Washington from New York and lodged in a room at the Dewey Hotel. For a week he was confined in the room, a uniformed policeman sitting beside him every hour in the twenty-four. He sat there whether Wan was asleep or awake. There were three of them, alternating every eight hours.

They were told to continually question Wan regarding the slaying of the members of the mission and on other subjects, to be on the alert for a slip of the tongue which might prove of invaluable use in "breaking down" the Celestial's stoic protestations of innocence. Detectives also were in and out of the room at all hours of the day and night. But little sleeping did Wan get while he was confined in that room, and he was seldom left to think for himself. Constantly he was questioned by Inspector Grant, the late Major Raymond W. Pullman, who was superintendent of police, and a score of detectives.

It was this persistent questioning, it was this constant boring into the Celestial, not with an awl, but by word of mouth, that helped get him to make incriminating admissions which later resulted in his being convicted before a jury in the District Supreme Court and in his being sentenced to be hanged on the District gallows.

MISSED CHINESE DIET.

It was also the fact that at the time this boring in process was in progress, Wan was ill. He was not given the usual Chinese food he was accustomed to and his nervous condition became such that his stomach refused to digest any food that was given him. At the end, when he was taken by a score of detectives in automobiles to the mission house on Kalorama road, he was a fit subject to confess to the murder—to anything.

"But we knew he was guilty," declared Inspector Clifford L. Grant. "Just because this man told us he was not guilty did not satisfy us. If we took the word of every man brought into headquarters who claims to be innocent of crime the jails would be empty and the world would be rampant with crime.

"We did not take Wan at his word No, we did not believe he told us the truth. We investigated the first story he told us. It did not ring true. He went further. We investigated this story. We found that he lied—that his alibi was not true. We told him so. We kept on telling him so. We asked him again and again to tell us the truth—that if he could prove that he was not in Washington on the night, that Dr. Wong and his assistants were slain we would release him. He sent us on a number of wild goose chases. We finally cornered him with facts we had gathered as to his movements on the day that Dr. Wong was killed. His handwriting, with that on the $5,000 check on which Dr. Wong's name was forged, also was shown him.

"But still he denied any knowledge of the handwriting, or of the murder other than what he had read in the newspapers. But we pounded into him that we knew he was here on the night the members of the Chinese mission were killed. Then after almost a week he confessed and showed us just how he committed the triple tragedy."

When Wan was brought to trial he not only attempted, through his lawyer, James A. O'Shea, to convince the court and jury that he had been subjected to the boring-in treatment, but that he had been brow-beaten, knocked down and cuffed about—subjected to the third degree. But he was convicted.

TREATMENT JUSTIFIED.

Inspector Grant believes that the police are justified in using the boring-in treatment. He said, however, that he was opposed to brutality against any prisoner. He has given orders to detectives who serve in his office not to maltreat in physical form any prisoner.

It is not unusual for a suspect to be questioned for days at Police Headquarters by Inspector Grant and detectives. It's the regular thing when the suspect refuses to talk, or who lies as to his name, address, occupation and movements at a time when a crime, a burglary or some other felony is committed.

"You would scarcely expect a robber, when arrested, to tell us 'right off the bat' that he is guilty, would you?" asked Grant.

"Well, they don't. We question the suspect. We ask him about himself. We take his fingerprints and his photograph. Then we search our cabinets and galleries. If he is a 'good' crook, we'll soon find out. But in the meantime we are running out his alibi—all good crooks have alibis, and most of them have men of their same standard who will swear they were in New York, Boston, Baltimore or some other city when a crime is committed.

"Finding the alibi a failure, we then bore in on him. He has lied to us. If he was honest he would have told us the truth and our trouble with him would be over. But when he lied we know that if he did not do the job we are holding him for, he is wanted for something else and for this reason desires to hide his identity.

ALIBI WEAK POINT.

But it is the running out of these alibis that, as a rule, result in the suspect's conviction after making a confession. He may deny the confession on the witness stand. His lawyers may attack the confession, saying it was obtained under duress, the third degree. But the detectives usually have built up a case of circumstantial evidence which cannot easily be battered down by clever criminal lawyers paid to get the thief off.

"No, we don't obtain confessions under duress," cotinued Grant. "We simply bore in on our suspects. We get better results. You can be kind or rough in speech. It all depends on the man you are confronted with."

Most of the judges who have recently sat in the criminal divisions of the District Supreme Court have voiced their strong opposition to the third degree, that part of it which nets the detectives a confession. Seldom will they admit a signed confession unless they are firmly convinced it was voluntarily made.

What may be construed "voluntarily made" may be a confession obtained through the "boring-in" method—the trapping of the suspect or criminal in a series of lies and then prodding him hour after hour with the fact that he did not tell the truth, and confronting him with evidence gathered by detectives during the period of questioning.

Judges have not yet ruled on confessions obtained through the "boring-in" system. They soon may have to.

SUSPECT WEARIED BY TALK

The Police Simply Ask Him Question After Question, Which Will Break Down Obstinacy.

FABULOUS ORE REASON WHY HENRY FORD WANTS MUSCLE SHOALS

Rich Deposits of Alunite Abound in Such Derivatives as Potash, Sulphuric Acid and Aluminum, the Former Two Salable as By-Products, and the Last Virtually Costing Him Nothing as a Result.

Aluminum to Be Yielded in Process of Working Ore Would Be Useful in Building His Cars. Potash and Aluminum Interests Alarmed by Peril to Monopolies, Attack His Project to Turn Vast Energy to Production.

By RICHARD H. TINGLEY.

THERE is no doubt that Henry Ford wants to buy the Muscle Shoals property of the Government. He has offered more money for it than any other bidder, but that does not necessarily mean that he will get it. Mr. Ford is a quick mover once he makes up his mind, but the Government is proverbially slow.

Moreover, he threw such a bombshell into the political camp at Washington by the mere avowal of interest in the property that politicians and "interests have not yet recovered from the shock. "What has Ford 'up his sleeve?'" they all inquired.

The Muscle Shoals plant was built, or rather partly completed, to extract nitrates from the air. Ford is willing to pay the Government $5,000,000 cash and an annual rental for ninety-nine years of $1,500,000 provided the Government will finish the partly completed Wilson dam. The Muscle Shoals development would be almost useless to Ford or anyone else without the dam, and the engineers of the Government estimate the cost will be between $20,000,000 and $25,000,000.

Ford's engineers do not agree. Their top figure is about $15,000,000, and here is where Ford and Secretary Weeks began to fall apart. Ford is pretty likely to be right, and Mr. Weeks knows it, so he has dispatched Thomas Edison, Mr. Ford, the Government engineers and the Ford engineers down to Alabama and has told them to settle it between themselves.

WHY FORD MADE OFFER.

They are now there trying to settle it, and if they succeed, and if the Wilson dam is finished and the plant put in operation something big is going to happen in Alabama, because Ford does big things and is not buying that property just to play with.

Mr. Ford has never told exactly what he has in mind at Muscle Shoals. He says he does not intend to use it to amass another large fortune, but wants to demonstrate how the Government can develop water powers everywhere, keep them from the monopoly and exploitation of private capital, and lay the foundation for an industrial revolution through the use of cheap hydro-electric current.

He says he doesn't know anything about extracting nitrates from the air and doesn't propose to go into that business. He admits, however, that he has studied the potash situation and asserts that he will turn his attention to producing potash from some kind of natural deposit, of which there are many.

He doesn't say, however, that he has found the very best and most economical natural deposit in the world—that he has known about it all the time, and that it is the fact of knowing about it that influenced him in making his bid to the Government.

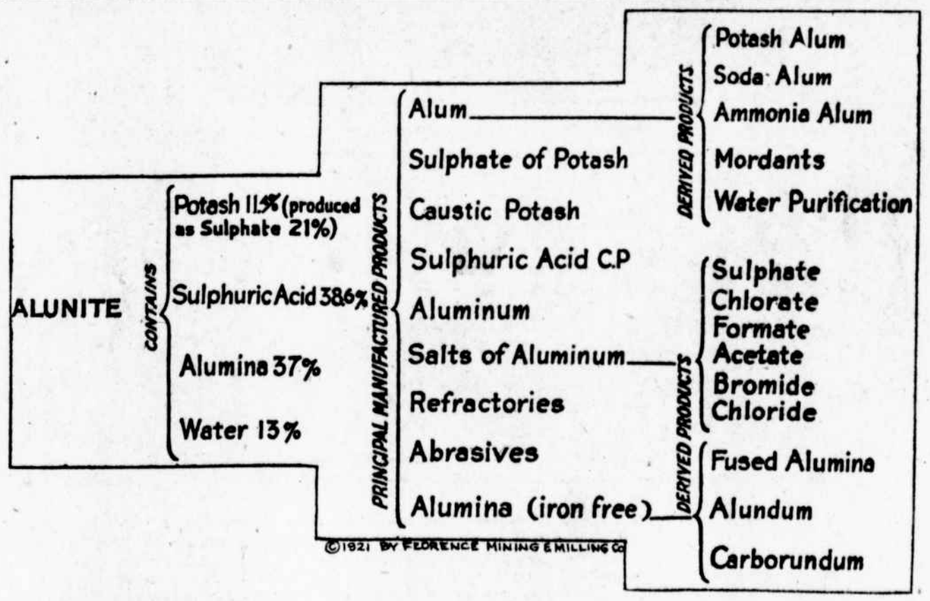
The source of Mr. Ford's potash will be alunite, found only in a pure state in the Tushar mountain range of Utah, near Marysville.

The surprise that he will have for the Potash trust of Germany, which has had a practical monopoly of the fertilizer potash business for years, will send the cold shivers down spines of its respective members. He will also have an unpleasant surprise for the French owners of the Alsace potash mines, just beginning to get into a position where they can export a portion of their product.

ALUNITE'S PROPERTIES.

There have been many potash plants established in this country since the war began in order to fill the lack in the German import, and a knowledge of what Ford proposes to do in alunite will cause them much uneasiness, to say the least. But the consternation of these men will be mild when compared with that of the American and other producers of aluminum and sulphuric acid.

CHART OF WEALTH IN HIDDEN ORE



These are pretty big things to have "up one's sleeve," but they are all there. Very few people know anything about alunite. Not one out of a hundred thousand laymen ever heard the name. But chemistry knows all about it. It knew all about it in theory before any of the pure article had ever been found.

Ford knows all about it because his engineers and chemists have told him that pure alunite contains 12 per cent of potash, 37 per cent of aluminum and 38 per cent of sulphuric acid. They have told him of the huge deposits of alunite in the Utah Mountains, which can be had at a reasonable cost and which can be shipped to Muscle Shoals at a cheap rate. Ford knows he can get the alunite, and tentative arrangements for its purchase in large quantities already have been made pending his obtaining control of the Muscle Shoals property.

And this is what has attracted Ford to alunite; with the facilities at Muscle Shoals he can turn his attention to extracting the potash it contains, and he will obtain aluminum sulphuric acid as by products at no extra cost. [illegible] extra [illegible] the potash and sulphuric acid [illegible] by-products, also at no extra cost.

Now you have the whole story of what Ford has "up his sleeve;" why he wants Muscle Shoals. He wants all kinds of aluminum in the manufacture of his "flivvers," and here he can get it at practically no cost, because he will already have taken the potash and the sulphuric acid out of the alunite and will have sold the former to the farmers at a fair price to fertilize their lands, and will have disposed of the sulphuric acid presumably at a profit. So why not aluminum at no cost?

Alunite is a pinkish rock of volcanic origin. In most ancient days there was an active volcano in the Tushar mountains—Mount Edna. It has been so many centuries since it has erupted that the crater is barely noticeable. In ancient times the chief occupation of Edna seemed to be the emission of liquid alunite, and millions of tons of the solidified lava now abound—thousands of feet in thickness.

MINER'S DISCOVERY.

A group of Philadelphia capitalists were exploring the Tushar mountains for gold. They tunneled and cut and sloped through enormous masses of the pink spar and threw it out on the dump. They didn't know what it was. They were gold miners and not interested in anything else.

It was an old miner, Ole Larson, who woke up to the fact that there might be something of value in the rock his employers were wasting. The pink spar was taken to a chemist. The chemist knew what alunite was, but all the alunite he had ever seen before was so contaminated with impurities that it was practically valueless. In Larson's sample he found the pure article hitherto known in theory only. As soon as Ford learned about it and what it meant to the three industries named and a lot of other parallel industries, he lost no time in getting as close to it as he could.

There are but two owners of the Mount Edna pure alunite deposits—the Armour Fertilizer Company through a subsidiary, the Mineral Products Company; and the Florence Mining and Milling Company of Philadelphia. The latter company is responsible for finding the alunite and controls nine-tenths of the mineralized mountain. Both of these companies were active during the war in making potash. They had not yet learned how to conserve the aluminum and the sulphuric acid as by-products. Now they both know how and so does Ford.

There is impure alunite in other portions of the Tushar mountains but as the lava flowed away from the erupting Edna it became contaminated with other things. Many of the large Utah mining companies have experimented with the impure alunite and have failed to produce good results. It cost too much to remove the impurities.

BIG BUSINESS A BARRIER.

They all look with envy on the only two properties where the pure article is found; and the owners of these properties—and Ford—are going to devote their energies to making a lot of people who have had things all their own way in certain industries for a long time, sit up and take notice.

Until Henry Ford appeared upon the scene and showed an interest in Muscle Shoals, that plant, upon which the Government had spent an enormous sum of money, was in a fair way of being scrapped. The Sundry Civil appropriation bill of the last Congress contained an item of $10,000,000 for the completion of the Wilson dam. Before the bill was passed, however, this item was stricken out.

It was understood at that time in inner circles that big business interests did not want the Government dam completed nor the plant put in operation in the manufacture of fertilizer and other things in competition with them, and so were able to block the plan and have the appropriation removed from the bill. Whether or not the same interests will be strong enough to block the present Ford deal remains to be seen.

Big business does not like Mr. Ford. Last summer, when his name first came up in connection with Muscle Shoals, representatives of fertilizer, steel, explosive and other interests got together and decided they did not want him in that game. They said it would be tantamount to an experiment in society control to turn that plant over to him.

Southern manufacturers said they didn't want Ford's scale of wages introduced into their territory. Fertilizer manufacturers were peeved at the idea of his entering their business in competition because they knew that even with his high wage schedules, he could beat them out.

JEALOUSY OF RIVALS.

The aluminum manufacturers were also much disturbed. It requires large amounts of cheap power to make aluminum production successful, and they could readily see that Ford would have the better of them with the cheap Tennessee river power.

It is no surprise to the German fertilizer people nor to the American manufacturers of potash that Ford proposes to go into the potash making business at Muscle Shoals. It is no surprise that he intends to manufacture aluminum there. The Du Ponts, the American Cyanide Company, the Aluminum Company of America, the American Smelting and Refining Company and others largely interested in the manufacture of these products know this well enough.

The statement frequently has been made that Ford intends to do these things, and he has not denied it They know nothing, however, of what Ford has "up his sleeve" in alunite, although they all know alunite and its wonderful qualities perfectly well. They only know that they dod not want him messing into their business in any way, even under the old and more familiar processes of manufacturing the things which Ford admits he will make if given a chance.

They do not know that he is relying upon the hitherto unknown alunite to supply the "feed" for his mills at Muscle Shoals. When they do, will their efforts be strong enough to block the deal that seems imminent? Secretary Weeks appears to be receptive as is evidenced by his sending Ford and Edison on a trip to inspect the property and come to terms.

It is safe to say that once Mr. Ford gets into action at that plant with his alunite Fordney will have to revise that portion of his tariff bill which refers to potash, aluminum and sulphuric acid. These commodities might then just as well be placed on the free list, for no foreigner will be able to touch the three-in-one prices.

RIGHT OF SANCTUARY WORRIED OLD LONDON

LONDON, Dec. 24.—To let! One of the finest sites in London. Who is going to buy the vacant lot in St. Martin's le Grand, where the old Central Post Office once stood? The postmaster general has it in his keeping, and as the Government does not intend to use it, owing to the heavy cost that would be incurred, it is going to the highest bidder, providing his bid be high enough.

Any building that is put up on the site will block the view of the fine facade of the Goldsmith's Hall, but that's a consideration not likely to count in these commercial days; it never did in the romantic past.

Centuries ago St. Martin's le Grand was something more interesting than a place for the receipt and dispatch of letters. There stood a collegiate church and sanctuary, founded, it is said, by a king of Kent in the eighth century, and enlarged 300 years later by Ingelric, Earl of Essex, and his brother, whose good deeds were confirmed by charter by the Conqueror, who also gave the college all the moorlands without Cripplegate.

Although standing within the city walls, the college was a liberty by itself, greatly to the concern of the mayor and corporation. Criminals on their way from Newgate to Tower Hill used often to make a last dash from their gaolers through the gate of St. Martin's, and once inside they were almost sure of safety.

Thus, in 1442, a soldier on his way from Newgate to the Guildhall was dragged by five of his fellows, who rushed out of Panyer alley, in at the west door of the sanctuary; but that same day the two sheriffs came and took the five men from the sanctuary, and led them fettered to the Compter, and then chained by the necks to Newgate.

The dean and chapter of St. Martin's, furious at this, complained to the King, who, after hearing the city, who denied the right of sanctuary to the college, returned the five soldiers to their former retreat.

A little over 100 years ago the excavations were made for the general [illegible] and an early English crypt [illegible] vaults of a still earlier foundation were discovered.