

Fagin Schools of Crime



finger send the last bag jangling down at his feet. This would mean that he would be sent to the foot of the class and wait until another opportunity gave him a chance to retrieve himself in the eyes of the Fagin.

The methods of teaching the pupils vary, of course, but as soon as they are regarded as sufficiently expert they are sent out with one of the lieutenants. When the evening's work is over they meet again to talk over their experiences and adventures. In this way these dangerous gangs of youthful criminals are formed. As they grow up most of them lose their allegiance to their Fagins and start out for themselves as full-fledged thieves. Often they graduate into a higher school of crime as burglars and begin to crack "cribs" and look for bigger game. Sometimes young girls are included in the Fagin bands, but generally speaking they are not successful as the boys. Shopping-list is the best line for the girls, and there are many crime-hardened women ready to teach them the business, as indicated by the fact that they often instruct their own offspring and place them in this nefarious calling.

Fault with Parents
The first fault rests with careless parents. They should keep their

BECAUSE little is printed of late about the arrest of child pick-pockets and precocious thieves the impression generally prevails that crimes of this character committed by children are on the decrease. As a matter of fact, there is as much, if not more, of such lawlessness on the part of unrestrained children of the streets than there ever has been, declares a writer in the Chicago Record-Herald. There are today many Fagins whose ingenuity and depravity easily eclipse that of the fanged and repulsive creature so graphically depicted in the story of Dickens. Modern Fagins, however, have progressed with the times. While many of them lack the Danish ingenuity of the English tutor of crime, by the adoption of modern methods to arouse the interest of children, and by reason of the growing lack of inbred morality and the increasing lack of parental care of youngsters naturally bright and hereditarily torpid as to right and wrong, their field of operations is much wider, and their profits much greater, and acquired with less risk of detection than when the original Fagin first hit upon his despicable scheme of making the world pay him a living he conceived and owed him without honest toil.

"No, 'tain't no use tryin' to do the right thing when the cops once get a line on yer. Once bad, always bad, is the way they figger it, an' ther ain't no use gettin' by that, I guess." The boy was speaking earnestly to a city magistrate. He was the typical squalid-faced youth of 13 or 19 years that you will find in the districts that breeds the tenement. He was deformed, and grew up as "Humpty," and that was part of the name he cried out when he walked from the prisoner's cage. He was picked up on suspicion—though he had been arrested before and was known to the police as a pick-pocket.

With a dogged air he eyed the magistrate, as he continued, "I wasn't doin' anything, yer honor. I've been straight for near a year tryin' to be good an' help mother. I was a kid when they first pinched me an' didn't know nothin'." The Fagin got me—they did—an' made me a bad un, but I'm all right now if the piece will let me be."

"That's true enough, too," broke in an aged woman, standing at the rail. "You see, sir, my boy, has heard repeatedly of the Fagin during recesses, 'never had a chance. That's hard, it is never had a chance. It makes it awful hard. The piece won't let my boy be good, that's the way it seems.' There was no bitterness, simply passive submission. She spoke truly and from the depths of a mother's heart. "Humpty" was the victim of the schools of crime. As a mere child he was taught to pick pockets and this he did until he was felled for the first offense.

Almost every magistrate that has held court in the poorer sections of a large city, says a writer, has heard repeatedly of the Fagin during recesses, but has been rarely able to get evidence against them. It is only by the confession of one of the small pupils that an arrest can be made. This seldom occurs, as the little Oliver Twists believe that a dire punishment awaits them if they do. The Fagin rarely permits his scholars to know his home address, as that would give a possible clew for a call by the police. His haunts or loafing places during his leisure time are generally unknown. He collects them around him in tenement basements, in unoccupied houses and in places where he is likely to be unobserved, and after, in some cases, administering the most terrifying oaths of secrecy, gives them lessons in pocket-theft.

In the slums of poorer sections of large cities there are hundreds of young boys, organized into gangs. In most cases the pupils get a small percentage of what they steal; the rest goes to their instructors. When they deprive some unsuspecting person of an article of jewelry it is the duty of the Fagin to dispose of it to his "fence." As he only realizes a comparatively small part of its real value one can readily see that the youths that commit the actual thefts get but a mere pittance.

School Children Recruits.
The existence of these schools of crime has been repeatedly brought to light by the police. Their investigations have many times revealed a state of affairs shocking to even those who are familiar with crime in great cities. Another thing for the reformer to ponder upon is the fact that a great percentage of the recruits of these gangs are made up of pupils from the public schools in the congested districts. There are dozens of young boys who learn reading and spelling, writing and arithmetic by day and attend the mysterious classes of their individual Fagins during recesses, after school hours and in the evenings. Some of these Fagin classes number as many as a dozen pupils, and have an alumni of hundreds. Boys who hang around corners, and boys who have been in petty encounters with the police are sought for by the assistants, or "drummers-in," of the Fagin schools.

One Fagin with originality in his criminal methods manufactured a contrivance which helped greatly in teaching his subjects that proficiency and dexterity of the finger so much desired in that class of work. He had a dozen handbags of assorted shapes and colors, each containing a purse, loose money and change or other valuables. Several long strips of wood were then placed on about a level with a person's hand when at rest. With a space of six feet separating each, the handbags were hung carefully from pins placed in the strips, the slightest jar being sufficient to cause one of them to fall to the ground. Then the students were gathered and sent down the line with instructions to open each bag as they came to it, rob it of its contents, and then close it again. This was not easy by any means, for often a pupil would get at the end of the line after successfully stealing the contents of the other bags and then by one careless twitch of a



children closer to the fieside, keep them off the streets, where they run wild; make sure of the character of their playmates; ascertain that any display of spending money has been earned in the right way; prevent their hanging about dive corners or the doors of cheap theaters, where they are likely to hear crime freely discussed by those fully acquainted with it; and last, but not least, exercise a general and careful supervision over their education, morals and manners, for as the old adage says: "As the twig is bent so will it grow."

It is also the imperative duty of every citizen to help in this work. If he should see small boys associating with older ones of bad character he should notify the parents or the society that looks after children in such cases. These children are not bad in the beginning. They are victims of environment, associations and the evil teachings of the crime-hardened. Until some such course is adopted, or until city or State governments look more closely into the matter, these boys will become pupils of Fagin, then Fagins themselves, leaving to posterity a lasting heritage of crime.

It is a fact well known to the pupils of the Fagins, as well as to the older criminals, that it is harder to pick the pocket of a man from the country or small town than that of the average person in a large city. The man from the country, hamlet or village, not being used to crowds, feels very nervous and fidgety when he is in a city. He is not familiar with the pushing process and is most always suspicious of such a proceeding. He comes to town with his money in his inside pocket and believes that every stranger that gets close to him has designs on it.

On an average several million dollars is stolen annually by pickpockets in the larger cities of this country. Of this amount a great proportion is lost in the crush of passengers on car lines, at theaters, parades and in crowded elevators. The detective bureaus of these cities assign men to each line, public meeting place and spots where crowds are wont to congregate. Wherever these men are the public is protected, but they cannot be everywhere at once, and consequently the Fagin bands rove about, keeping a weather eye open for the officers of the law. Many arrests are made, many convictions secured; but this does not act as much of a deterrent to those that follow. The preventative lies far below this surface. You will find that most of these children who become pupils come from the slum section, where they are allowed to run about at will and associate with any companions they may choose. This important matter is left to their childish judgment.

Thoughtless.

"Yes, George," said Mrs. Gollygilt, argumentatively, "but if, as you say, it's so difficult to get food to the men in lighthouses in the winter why do they build them in such out-of-the-way, dangerous places?"—Tit-Bits.

How to Deal.

Wigg—Hard do you get along with old crusty? Don't you find him hard to deal with? Wagg—As hard as a wornout pack of cards.—Philadelphia Record.

Letting Him Know.

Fortune Hunter—'I'd like to make the acquaintance of that Miss Gold-bag. I'm told she's got \$5,000 a year and no incumbence.

Candid Friend—And, what's more, she's not looking for one.—Scraps.

Good Advice.

Jack—I had proposed and been accepted when the lights suddenly went out.

Dick—What did she do? Jack—Suggested that we keep it dark.—Lippincott's.

SAYINGS OF SAGES.

Much may be said on both sides.—Fielding.

The heart will break, yet broken live on.—J. Q. Adams.

Keeps a clean heart and a clear fire for me.—Tennyson.

Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless.—Johnson.

No man knows so well where the shoe pinches as he who wears it.—Lincoln.

How swift the shuttle flies that weaves thy shroud!—Young.

Where there is a mother in the house matters speed well.—A. Bronson Alcott.

The ball never rings of itself; unless some one handles or moves it, it is dumb.—Plautus.

Anger may repeat with thee for an hour, but not repose with thee for a night. The countenance of anger is hatred; the continuance of hatred turns malice. The anger is not warring but hath seen two suns.—Quarles.

KEY WEST A GIBRALTAR

Commodore Behler's Plan to Use Old Battle Ships as Permanent Forts.

DEFENSES ARE INADEQUATE.

With Small Expense and by Utilizing Discarded Ships Harbor Could Be Made Impregnable.

The transformation of Key West into a great naval and military station which shall rival in importance the fortress of Gibraltar, is advocated in considerable length in an article by Commodore W. H. Behler, U. S. N., commandant of the Seventh Naval District, which appears in the Journal of the military service institution. The first part of the commodore's paper is devoted to a general description of the complete co-operation of the army and navy forces. "Their co-operation in the defense of any particular naval base should be definitely arranged in time of peace, and they should maneuver and drill, now under the command of a general, and later under the coast defense service, whether he be an army or a naval officer," says the writer.

In his proposal to make of Key West an impregnable Gibraltar, it is pointed out that the present defenses at Fort Taylor are inadequate, for the reason that battle ships can lie at the entrance buoy, seven miles south of Fort Taylor, beyond the range of the twelve-inch rifle mortars, and destroy Key West from that point without being exposed to any danger from the remaining velocities of projectiles from the direct firing ten-inch and twelve-inch guns being insufficient to penetrate the armor of any battle ship, whereas these same caliber guns on a battle ship could shell the city of Key West and completely destroy it.

This consideration brings the commodore to the novel proposal of rendering Key West impregnable. He points out that in place of high hills or a huge rock as at Gibraltar for the mounting of coast defense guns, Key West harbor, twenty-five miles in length, is sheltered on the north by a line of low reefs and shoals which form a complete protection on that side, while seven miles to the south of the line there is a parallel line of eastern shoals, some of which are scarcely washed at low tide and none more than eight feet above high water. Commodore Behler proposes to take our monitors and older battle ships which have passed the period of usefulness on the high seas, mount them in selected positions upon these reefs and utilize them as permanent turret forts. Thus, for instance, selecting the shoal known as Rock Key, where there is a natural harbor, he would lighten the old monitors and write by the removal of her propelling engines, haul her into the harbor, build around the vessel a dyke of piling, rock and riprap, and then fill in the space between the inner face of the dyke and the ship with material hydraulically dredged and deposited. He estimates that the work would not cost more than \$50,000.

The ship as thus imbued would furnish, says the commodore, a complete, modern double-turreted fort, with every necessary feature to operate the guns, and with quarters for the officers and men of the garrison. The monitors Miantonomoh, Terror and Puritan could be installed upon the adjacent reefs, and the range of the sixteen ten-inch and twelve-inch guns of these forts would command a large part of the straits of Florida, and especially that part which is used by west-bound vessels entering the Gulf of Mexico, which navigate close to the Florida reefs to avoid the strong current of the Gulf stream. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the dyke would be extended in each case to form a small harbor of refuge for torpedo boats and submarines.

It is a question of great interest and unquestionable moment, whether the very novel proposal of the commodore does not provide an opportunity

to greatly lengthen the useful life of the battle ship. Many obsolescent ships, because of their powerful armor and armament, would be perfectly well able to stand up in the first fighting line, if they only possessed the requisite speed and maneuvering quality; and if it should be found practicable to utilize them in the way suggested by Commodore Behler their powerful guns and heavy protection would render them most formidable when mounted as part of the permanent fortifications of our sea coast defenses.

GRATEFUL CHINAMEN.

One of the Chinamen's most engaging peculiarities is his strong sense of gratitude, which is not merely personal, but racial. So, at least, the Rev. John Sheepsheads says in his book, "A Bishop in the Rough." In 1860 he was a young missionary stationed at Fort Hope, British Columbia, and he came much in contact with Chinamen. On board the river steambot there was a Chinaman with whom I conversed, and who was most astonished at my acquaintance with the religions of China, and inquired my name. It appears that he mentioned the circumstance to his fellow countryman with whom he was to lodge, and it happened that this man had been for a few months at New Westminster, and I had taught him to read. So he set to work to find out where I was staying, and presently brought me an offering of a very handsome purse and a bracelet of sandalwood. Right glad he was to see me, and we shook hands and nodded and grinned at each other heartily.

The next day I called upon him at his store, and he served up refreshments for me. The Chinamen are not only personally grateful for benefits or kindness received, but they have a racial gratitude. Because I did my best to teach a few Chinamen at New Westminster, and was of course courteous and kind to them, I was always most kindly and hospitably received by Chinamen throughout the colony. When I visited Victoria I was welcomed by Chinese storekeepers there, and invited to partake of refreshments wherever I called.

KILLED ON RAILROAD TRESTLE.



Caught on a narrow trestle of the Cotton Belt Railroad near Robroy, Ark., with his wife and two other persons, Frederick G. Ziesler, a construction engineer, threw his wife from the trestle and then met almost instant death under the wheels of a train. Henry Dobson of Leavenworth, Kan., and his wife were also struck by the engine, and badly hurt. Mrs. Ziesler escaped with only slight bruises.

Meyerbeer and Thunder.

Meyerbeer, like Handel, composed best in a thunderstorm. He had a room made at the top of his house with glass roof and sides, so that he might enjoy these conditions to the full while composing. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the dyke would be extended in each case to form a small harbor of refuge for torpedo boats and submarines.

ROUTING DIRT FROM CHICAGO'S STREETS IS ONLY HOUSEKEEPING ON A HUGE SCALE

IMAGINE a modestly-dressed woman getting down from her electric carriage in a dirty street to give orders about the tarring of a paving strip, or the laying of a sidewalk, or the cleaning of a stopped up sewer. And imagine the men doing the tarring and stone laying and sewer cleaning, following the woman's instructions without a sign of argument or surdity and has been every day for the last sixteen years, from the district of the Nineteenth Street, where Hull House is located, to the busiest First Ward in the shopping "loop" district.

Chicagoans are so used to it that they don't even turn to look. Or, if they do, it's to say, "How do you do, Mrs. Paul?"—for everyone in the city knows the woman they call their civic housekeeper. Mrs. A. El Paul, who lives in the Palmer House, holds the most unique position of any woman in the country. She is one of the ward superintendents, a position that is like being Mayor on a small scale.

Chicago is divided into thirty-five wards. Each practically has its own government, so far as property conditions go, with the ward superintendent at the head. Mrs. Paul has from seventy to 100 men working for her all the time. She spends about \$50,000 a year keeping some one of the city's thirty-five houses in order. It's essentially a woman's work, she says. "Tarring pavements or sealing up cans of fruit—what's that for a woman? said Mrs. Paul, as she talked of her work. "I can't see why a woman who knows how to clean upboards isn't just the proper person to clean streets and yards. And sidewalk laying isn't so different from putting down a carpet. Until I became a sanitary inspector, I remained at home and kept roll for 100 instead of for Mary, the cook, and Betty, the maid. And looking over bills is looking over bills, no matter whether they're for steak and potatoes or brick and mortar. Only, you see, since I undertook my big housekeeping, I had to give up the smaller task and live in a hotel."

So Foolish.

"She is neglecting her game of bridge dreadfully."

"Why is she doing that?"

"Some silly excuse. Says the children need her, I believe."—Pittsburg Post.

His Vacancies.

Mourner (to widower)—You seem to be enjoying the walk.

Widower—Certainly. When one is in business it is mighty hard to get away for a day.—Pele Mele.

Experience Necessary.

"Why do you advertise for an experienced boy to work in a drug store?" asked a customer. "I should not think experience would be necessary for an errand boy."

"That's where you're mistaken," replied the druggist. "I want a boy who has eaten his fill of candy and ice cream somewhere else."—Detroit Free Press.

Candor is one of the principal ingredients in the trouble-maker's composition.

AROUND A BIG STATE

Interesting Items of LATE IOWA NEWS

FEAR FAILURE OF CORN CROP.

Cold Weather and Lack of Good Seed Responsible.

Local farmers corroborate the statement recently made by Prof. F. G. Holden of Ames and the reports from the big markets that there will be an enormous failure in the Iowa corn crop this year. Reports of poor prospects for a corn crop in Iowa and other corn States began coming from Chicago a few days ago, and it is only a few days ago that Prof. F. G. Holden of the department of agronomy at Ames was reported to have said that poor seed and the corn maggot will cause great damage to the 9,000,000 acres of Iowa's corn land. Prof. Holden is very emphatic in his statements that most of the damage is due to carelessness on part of the farmers in providing good seed last year, and he advises that the farmers be more careful in the future. Local farmers are very optimistic in their anticipation of a corn crop. Many of them were forced to plant the corn three times, replanting twice, and are now anxiously waiting what will result from the third planting. They say that corn weather has had much to do in keeping the corn from growing, but almost all agree that had there been a supply of good seed no replanting would have been necessary. Farmers say that the promise of a fine oats crop is good, and that all the other grains will grow well. The cold weather has not caused any trouble to anything but corn, and should the remainder of the growing season be good weather, Iowa will have some bumper crops. Many of the farmers are planting wheat this year, and they expect a fine wheat crop.

PITOMAIN KILLS STEEL KING.

President Bettendorf Victim of Poisoning at Davenport, Iowa.

W. P. Bettendorf, president and manager of the Bettendorf Steel Car Works, died in Davenport from pitomaine poisoning after an illness of a few days. Mr. Bettendorf was regarded as the leading inventor of hydraulic machinery in the country. His steel car factory covered thirty acres of ground in a Davenport suburb to which he had given his name. The plant has been growing at a rate of promise soon to make it one of the greatest in the country. Dr. E. E. Bevan, a specialist at Chicago, was rushed to Davenport by special train for consultation with Mr. Bettendorf's physician.

TRAIN HITS DEAF MAN.

John Scheidegger is Fatally Hurt at Elgin, Iowa.

John Scheidegger was fatally injured while walking on a railroad track. He has a little truck patch not far from his home in Elgin, and with a hoe thrown over his shoulders, was going to work. He is quite deaf. The engineer of an approaching freight saw him and whistled and rang the bell, but Mr. Scheidegger did not hear it. The pilot bar struck him on the hip and he was thrown into the ditch. When picked up it was found that his hip was badly crushed, his head broken open in two places and he was injured internally. While living, it is thought that he cannot survive the shock.

IOWA INTERURBAN SCHEDULE.

Fort Dodge, Des Moines and Southern is Thrown into Court.

Unable to meet his obligations and find a sale of bonds, the Fort Dodge, Des Moines and Southern Railway Company, operating an electric interurban between the cities of Des Moines and Boone, Ames and Fort Dodge, Iowa, was forced into insolvency with a stockholders' meeting held at Fort Dodge. A petition asking for the appointment of a receiver was filed in the Federal court of Des Moines. Upon application of the petitioners Homer Loring, president of the Old Colony Trust Company of Boston and Parley Sheldon, a banker of Ames, Iowa, were appointed receivers.

FEAR MISSING COUPLE'S DEATH.

Mothers at Bellevue Are Prostrated by Long Wait.

The continuous absence of Marion Ehrhardt and Alvina Frerichs, of Bellevue, who disappeared Jan. 16, strengthened the fear that the couple had crossed the river to Illinois and fell through the thin ice. The mothers of the missing young people are prostrated by the long wait and worry. Although the marriage of the couple was annulled on the ground of their youth, it is known that all would be forgiven if the parents could only hear of their safety.

Death Prevents Graduation.

Miss Ruth Kennon, a member of this year's graduating class at Corn-fug, died at her parents' home, shortly after the baccalaureate sermon had been delivered to the other members of the class. Miss Kennon had been unable to attend school for some time, but had kept pace with the rest of her class, and expected to take her diploma at the commencement exercises.

Jailed for Illegal Fishing.

Ten miles from Knoxville five campers from Des Moines have been camped on the Des Moines river since May 15. They were arrested by Fish Commissioner John C. Hall. They were Mason Walker, Clyde Walker, George Walker, John Schoester and John Gunther. A wagon load of nets, traps, lines and seines were taken. They were sent to jail for thirty days.

Convention of G. O. P. August 3.

The Republican State convention will be held in Des Moines Aug. 3.

Room New Interurban Scheme.

A delegation of Des Moines and Williamsburg citizens visited Iowa City planning the survey of the country between Iowa City and Williamsburg preliminary to booming an interurban project that will involve the building of a line from Williamsburg to Iowa City to meet the Iowa City-Davenport line for eastern connections and to connect western by way of Williamsburg to Des Moines.

Most people think ghosts are white, but they are all shades.

SHORT STATE ITEMS.

The forty-second annual convention of the Harrison County Sunday school workers closed with good attendance. The corner stone of the First Methodist Episcopal Church at Waterloo was laid with impressive ceremonies.

Richard T. Reese, one of the oldest and wealthiest realtors of Boone County, died very suddenly at his home in Turin.

Thomas J. Conside of Dubuque has been appointed a deputy collector of internal revenue at a salary of \$1,100 per annum.

Rev. Dr. J. B. Little, for over ten years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, and later pastor at Shenandoah, is dead in Indianapolis.

The members of the Christian Church of New Sharon by unanimous vote extended a call to F. V. Kearnes, new pastor of the Christian Church at Sharpsburg.

Death claimed Mrs. J. W. Lawrence of Union, widow of the late Colonel Lawrence of St. Paul, for years identified with the government secret service department.

E. H. Allison, after a continuous service of a little over twelve years as postmaster of Grundy Center, has turned the office over to his successor, W. E. Morrison.

W. H. Matheson, a Goldfield jeweler, made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. His indebtedness foots up over \$1,600. His assets are estimated at \$1,275.

The census enumeration for Davenport, which has been completed by special work on the part of the Commercial Club, gives Davenport a population of 43,422.

Rev. O. W. Winters of Keokuk, who has been supplying the pulpit of the Christian Church at Corning, has received a call to take up the regular work and will accept.

His foot affected from paring a corn too closely resulted in the amputation of the leg at the knee of Henry Spord of Britt, who has been in a hospital at Iowa City for some weeks.

George Burch and Hugh Doherty of Cherokee, carpenters, were instantly killed when their railroad tricycle was struck by an extra train on the Omaha road about a quarter of a mile north of Leeds.

Undertaker Burnett of Burlington is holding the body of a woman who called herself Mrs. Mary McLaren and who died at Burlington hospital, waiting to learn some information concerning relatives.

Nicholas S. Melville, a furniture dealer of Charlton, died after an illness of about ten days with pneumonia. He had been engaged in business for several years. He was 47 years of age.

Glen C. Merritt, a naval wireless operator, whose home is in Des Moines, is under arrest at the Vallejo (Cal.) navy yard, charged with raising a government pay check from \$5 to \$300 and passing it.

Wayne Dinsmore, professor of animal husbandry at the Iowa State College at Ames, has announced his resignation, and he will become secretary of the Percheron Society of America at Chicago.

Mrs. Lizette Brown, a prominent resident of Shelby, has brought an action in the District Court asking for a divorce from her husband, Robert Brown, who was formerly a prominent citizen of the county.

Dr. S. H. Barnum of Birmingham, State Veterinarian, completed his examination of the cattle at the State farm connected with penitentiary and reports that no trace of tuberculosis was found.

Clyde Longenecker, aged 5 years, son of A. G. Longenecker of Des Moines, was shot through the thigh by Watkin Bruner, a 4-year-old, while the two lads were playing "Wild West" with a load-balance revolver.

Assistant State veterinarians have finished the work of testing the State herd at the insane hospital at independence for tuberculosis. Forty-three head were tested, and all were found to be free from disease.

Dwight C. McCarty is the latest contributor to the literature of Iowa history with his book, "Territorial Governors of the Old Northwest," which has just been published by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The city of Waterloo will likely take no appeal to the District court from the decision of Police Judge Caldwell in the case of the city against Roger Crowell, in which Judge Caldwell held the Waterloo milk ordinance null and void.

Conductor Will Moberly, a brother of C. R. Moberly of Kellogg, in attempting to step from the platform to a car at Atlantic one day recently, slipped and fell, and as a result his left leg was broken below the knee.

The American Concrete Company of Chicago has built a plant in the south yards at Belle Plaine and installed about two carloads of machinery, and are making large concrete ties to be used in all four directions from Belle Plaine for railway cutovers.

Fred A. Houghkirk, employed as a watchman at the plant of the National Denatured Alcohol Company at Davenport, was shot through the left hand by an unknown assailant, and the man escaped before pursuit was possible.

Pensions have been granted the following Iowans: Minors of Hiram M. Bennett, \$12; John N. Brust, \$20; Warren E. Buckley, \$12; Franklin Deets, \$15; John Dowd, \$20; Jacob Burns, \$15; George W. Hemmstock, \$15; Jonas W. Landers, \$15; John Rupp, \$12; Henry H. Stevens, \$15; Jacob Tutwiler, \$50.

On a charge of having broken into two houses in one night and of having made good their escape at the time, with several valuable articles, Joe Carey and E. J. Johnson were placed under arrest at Davenport.

Property valued at \$150,000, including twenty-three electric cars, two horses, repair-wagons, supplies and tools, was destroyed, and two men, J. Friner and F. L. Hayhorst, perhaps fatally injured by fire, believed to have originated from imperfect insulation, which gutted the car barn of the Des Moines city railway.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

For every \$250,000 spent on engineering it is estimated that a man is killed.

In German cities food prices are now about as high as in the United States.

There are 270 active volcanoes in the world, many of them being comparatively small.

Only about one out of every thousand married couples live to celebrate its golden wedding.

Coolies in Borneo are indentured at \$15 to \$35 a year, with board and clothing.

Lavender and rose perfumes are credited with the virtue of being microbe killers.

Traveling cranes are now equipped with scales, so that the load may be weighed in transit.

Lucknow boasts of the largest room in the world without columns. It is built of a kind of concrete.

A bushel of grain will make four and one-half gallons of spirits or twenty-seven gallons of beer.

The Argentine Legislature is considering the construction of underground railroads for Buenos Ayres.

It is just being realized that the Trans-Siberian Railroad was a poor job from an engineering standpoint.

Nearly two-thirds of the crime in London is perpetrated between 2 p. m. on Saturdays and 9 a. m. on Mondays.

Sir Isaac Newton wrote a preface to his "Principia" at 83, while Sir William Herschel, when 80, swept the heavens with a true range of vision