

CROOK? YES! NOT THE THIEF! SAYS LILLIS

NEW YORK—Jim Lillis, as he is known throughout the length and breadth of the land, is a crook—at one time he was one of the most successful crooks in the world. He studied robbery, worked hard at it for many years, made himself an expert at it, but came to grief over again. He is now, at the age of 51, an old man, broken in spirit, broken in health. Seven years of imprisonment in penitentiaries on both sides of the Atlantic have convinced him that his chosen profession is a poor one, and now he finished his last term only two weeks ago—he has resolved to lead an honest life.

"Everybody will say an habitual criminal like myself cannot reform," said Lillis, the other day. "I don't believe a thief can reform. This is my opinion formed after association with thieves for forty years. But a crook can reform. There is a difference between a thief and a crook. The crook, I say, can reform, if he takes himself in time. I would place 30 years of age as the time when the probabilities of reform are greatest. Of course, there are exceptions; I, for instance, expect to lead an honest life though I am past 50."

"The ordinary crook is saturated with the idea of obtaining money easily and spending it rapidly. If, before he is 30, he sees the difficulties he will always have to face he can turn aside with a fair chance of burying his past. But I wouldn't give the average crook much for his chance for reformation if he waits until he reaches my age."

"Thieves and Crooks." "I am not a thief, although I have stolen thousands of dollars. A thief is a thief through natural instincts. Thieves are born, not made. A crook is not a thief by instinct, but by profession. I have devoted my time to stealing, in the same manner as other men devote their time to law, to business or to medicine. Stealing was my profession. It was misdirected energy. Had I devoted the same amount of time and energy to law or medicine, I should have become a lawyer or a physician. There is, however, one great difference between my profession and others. There can be no lasting success in it, I am absolutely convinced of this fact, and for that reason I have now dropped it."

"No, I am not going to reform, I am simply giving up the profession which I have followed for nearly forty years. There is no longer anything left for me in my profession. Criminal ingenuity has not been able to keep pace with modern invention. We are forced into other lines of work. Some of the brightest of us have become promoters and swindlers. I have tried before to drop my profession, but circumstances have been against me. I was unable to get honest work and it was either steal or starve. I have thought of suicide, but 'way-down in heart I believe in a God, so I have never attempted to take my life. Now that I am a free man, I am going to remain free by abandoning the poorest profession in the world."

"No Money in Thievery." The history of this remarkable man, who is now in New York, earning an honest living, is a record of a series of astounding crimes and terrible misfortunes, and from it only one conclusion can be drawn—thieving as a profession doesn't pay. Lillis was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1855. His parents moved to Cincinnati in 1861, and, as his father joined the Union army, he had to help support his mother. Accordingly, he sold newspapers in the streets, and he received his early education from hackmen and from other newsboys. He made several dollars every week during war times, and everything went smoothly until one day in 1867 a well-dressed stranger came up to him, snatched the newspapers from under his arm, placed a \$5 bill in his hand and tossed the papers into the gutter.

"Boy," said the stranger, "if you will work for me I'll give you \$5 a day." "You will?" cried the lad, trembling with excitement. "Five dollars a day for me?" "Yes. Will you work for me?" "I will." His first successful "getaway." The stranger was "Joe" Butts, the notorious bank thief. He had planned to rob the safe in the office of the Phenix Brewing company, and he needed a small boy to take the money from the safe while he "newspapered," or occupied the attention of the clerks. Young Lillis, who was then 12 years old, was just the boy for the job.

A few days after the meeting the robbery was planned, and Lillis took a "getaway" with \$9,000. Butts, his employer, the generous "Joe" Butts, took all but \$100. Still, that sum was a fortune to the lad, and then and there he resolved to be a crook. He worked with, or rather for, Butts for two years and "pulled off" several daring jobs. He made a specialty of robbing banks and bank messengers in broad daylight, and in crooks' parlance became what is known as a "bank sneak."

Robbing Chemical National Bank. Perhaps the most exciting episode in Lillis' adventurous career occurred in New York City in 1868. Greatly encouraged by his success in Cincinnati, he was urged by Joe Butts to go to New York to receive the finishing touches of his education from the noted crooks in that city.

Butts gave him a letter of introduction to "Old Chummy" Johnson, one of the most noted crooks of that day. It did not take Johnson long to appreciate Lillis' remarkable criminal ability, and he introduced the youth to all of his associates. "Long John" Walsh made him his protégé, and together they planned and executed several daring "sneaks."

"Old Chummy" Johnson and "Long John" Walsh conceived the idea of robbing the Chemical National bank's messenger on his steps at the bank. They turned to Lillis to do the job. It was their plan to have him snatch the satchel with the money from the messenger and make a break for safety while the others prevented the messenger or any one else from interfering. Lillis looked over the ground and said he could do it. He found that he would be obliged to sprint nearly 300 yards before he could make the "getaway," so he spent several days in Central park training to sprint. He was able to make 100 yards in about eleven seconds flat, but his speed for 300 yards did not satisfy "Long John" Walsh, so they decided to get some one else to make the "sneak." They found a promising youth in the person of "Kid" Meany, one of the fastest sprinters in the country, and on July 14, 1869, the four went to the steps of the Chemical National bank.

Lillis was to bend over and tie his shoe the instant the satchel was stolen and then block the messenger from going in pursuit. Johnson and Walsh were to block any others who attempted to catch the thief. There was a policeman on the corner a few hundred yards away, and the street was so crowded that it seemed almost impossible for the "sneak" to be successful, still they took their stations to await the messenger. In due time he arrived and started up the small flight of steps to the bank. He was about halfway up when "Kid" Meany, who was to make the "sneak," did not move. He stood on the steps while as a sheet and shaking like a leaf. His courage had failed him at the critical moment.



CRIME RESPECT
Jim Lillis

Lillis lost his at Monte Carlo, went to England, was caught robbing a bank messenger and spent two years in Clerkenwell prison.

Beginning of the End. Then bad luck overtook him at every step. He was arrested in Louisville for robbing a patron of the Seelbach hotel and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment at Frankfort. On his release he went to Nashville, Tenn., where, with "Shoney" Harris and "Sneaky" Jim, he robbed Jessup's jewelry store. His pals got away, but he stayed in the store, then went to set in place the kernels to be tested. After the ears have all been numbered, we may begin with ear No. 1, and remove one kernel from each ear, and so on, until the second kernel about two inches from the butt; then by sticking them in pairs into the sand, we will have this ear ready for testing. Follow the same method with the second ear, and so on, until the kernels from ten ears are placed in the first row. By counting down the rows, and noting the kernels that have failed to germinate, we will have no difficulty in locating the bad ears.

After the seed tester has received all of the kernels, he may conveniently place over the kernels the wetted muslin rag. This seed tester should then be placed in the kitchen or any other warm situation. It should be examined every day to see that the sand and cloth are moist. In the course of a week or ten days about all of the corn that is sound will have germinated.

Another simple method of testing seed is to take 50 or 100 seeds of the kind to be tested and place them between two folds of moistened cotton flannel or blotting paper. Place the flannel on a plate or another plate or pane of glass and set in a warm room. Examine the seeds every day for six or eight days.

GOOD FERTILIZER FOR CORN It gives the plant Uniform Vigorous Growth. Which continues Through the Season. The value of a good corn fertilizer consists in giving the corn a uniform vigorous early growth. The stalks are strong, the leaves are green and healthy. This strong, vigorous growth continues throughout the growing period. The crop matures early, the grain and fodder are of high quality, and the yield is increased. Corn, like wheat and other grain crops, requires a fertilizer having a full supply of phosphoric acid. The stalk, leaves and grain require considerable potash. For these reasons an animal bone phosphate containing eight per cent of available phosphoric acid, two per cent of nitrogen and three per cent of actual potash should be bought. A fertilizer of this quality applied at the rate of 300 pounds to the acre in the corn hills, the ground being rolled sod, will under careful culture give a profitable yield of grain. On the other hand, when a cheap acid phosphate is used the strength of the fertilizer is used up in such a manner, and unless there is sufficient plant food in the soil to make the grain, the yield of corn is small. When rain or long water manure is spread broadcast and plowed under, or a heavy sod plowed over in the spring, it is most profitable to put the corn in with 250 to 300 pounds of some good standard bone phosphate to the acre, as the manure and sod will not be available as plant food until rotter, which will not be until midsummer, and not then if the fore part of summer should be hot and dry.

Farm Labor. Within the last ten years the expenditures for farm labor in West Virginia have increased 95 per cent. During the same period the total value of farm buildings has increased 67 per cent and the total value of farm land with buildings 56 per cent. The average value per acre of farm land with improvement showed a gain of 67 per cent.

Fertilizers for Beets. Avoid coarse stable manures in fertilizing garden beets. Manure gives good results if well rotted and thoroughly incorporated with the soil. Experiments in Rhode Island showed that lime has been beneficial to the crop when growing on acid soils.

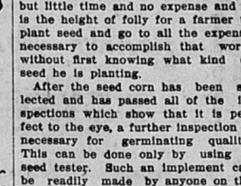
The Gasoline Engine. The steam engine is a competitor of the gasoline engine. If one were to consider only the cost of fuel in each case, the steam engine would have a slight advantage. This, however, is lost when one considers the small space occupied by the gasoline engine, the ease with which it is operated and the fuel delivered to the engine.

Skimmed Milk to Chickens. Skimmed milk, buttermilk or sour milk is an excellent ration for poultry and should be provided, if possible.

MAKING PROFIT IN TOMATOES

Secret of inducing Vines to Bear Abundance of Fine Red Fruit is to Cut Away Bleeders.

Not all who raise tomato vines in abundance pick abundance of tomatoes. Last year there were many who had prolific vines who picked no tomatoes. The cause was simply writes Frank E. Ward of Lawrence, Kan., in the Kansas City Star. In the wet, cool spring the vines grew to an unnatural size. Then there was not room enough to make fruit in the hot weather.



Cigar Box Seed Tester.

Wet and rich soil causes bleeders to sprout from the crotch between the leaf and the main stalk or trunk. If those are allowed to grow they become many feet long and there will be but little fruit. If they are pinched off as soon as they appear, say once a week, the excess growth will be forced into the fruit and it will be ready to ripen as soon as the sun is hot.

Should the bleeders grow unnoticed until three or four leaves are developed on the vines they appear, say once a week, the excess growth will be forced into the fruit and it will be ready to ripen as soon as the sun is hot.

How Bleeders Grow on Vines. frame, and raise many other common vegetables which make the table attractive.

BEE CULTURE NOT DIFFICULT No More Skill and Intelligence Required than to Keep Poultry—Do Not Injure Fruit. It requires no more intelligence and skill to raise bees than to keep poultry. It requires a certain amount of work and at the right time, yet this in no sense equals the attention given poultry. But for some reason few farmers have bees. If it is lack of knowledge that keeps them from it, then the excuse is easily overcome, for there are many bee journals and books that would give the desired information. If it is fear of bee stings, these may be prevented by certain appliances. Surely no one should be kept from the enjoyment of honey because of cost. The bees and the necessary equipment need not cost much. Perhaps some have been led to believe—through foolish newspaper reports—that bees are injurious to fruit. This is not so. Bees cannot break the skin of any fruit. Because they are seen sucking the juice of punctured grapes they have been falsely accused of doing the puncturing.

Palate Ticklers. Palate ticklers should be grown on every farm, not only for home use, but for market. None but the surplus should be sold. The farmer and his family should have first selection. Not only are they very helpful in keeping the body through the food you eat. When you feel sore throat coming on, use Hamlin's Wizard Oil.

Man without patience is the lamp without oil; pride in a rage is a bad counselor.—A. de Musset.

Simple remedies are best! Garfield Tea is simple, pure, gentle in action, and always potent. Composed of Herbs, not drugs!

Whatever you lose, you should reckon on of no account.—Publius Syrus.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, etc. a bottle.

THE PRICE OF LAND INCREASING

THE "BACK TO THE LAND" CRY IS EFFECTIVE.

Traveling through the state of Iowa the other day, and Iowa is no exception to the story above to be related, the writer was shown a farm that was offered three years ago for \$250 an acre. That appeared to be a high figure for land upon which the owner depended upon the crops of corn, hogs and cattle that could be raised upon it. But it wasn't. A few weeks since the farm changed hands at \$325 an acre. Over in Illinois, down in Indiana, up in Wisconsin, across the line in Minnesota, the same experience was met with. And then attention is directed to Canada, which has been the Mecca of so many hundred thousand Americans during the past few years. Not only in Eastern Canada has the price of lands increased, but in Western Canada, during the past few weeks, farm lands have increased from three to five dollars an acre, with the prospect of a similar advance during the next three months.

The reason for this is very apparent, and in a few words it may be pointed out that the land is increasing at a great deal more than the present prices. The Northwestern Agriculturist of Minneapolis, a paper that was one of the first of the American farm papers to discover the real merits of the lands of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, says: "The reciprocity schedule would encourage American farmers to move to Canada, where the virgin soil will produce greater crops of grain with less labor than can be produced in our own farms in the Northwest. The result will be to enhance land values in Canada." This paper is afraid land values in Canada will be enhanced at the expense of land values in the United States. In face of the fact that land values in the United States are increasing the reasoning scarcely holds. The reason for the advance in value of Canadian lands is partly accounted for from the fact, admitted by this paper, that Canada's virgin soil will produce "greater crops of grain with less labor." But that is not the only reason. During the past twelve months 320,000 people have made Canada their home and these are mostly of the farming class. They want farms, and the demand as well as the wealth of the soil is regulating the price. A study of the increase in the acreage of land put under crop last year, which can be had from any Canadian government representative, will prove the point, that the demand is increasing at a greater ratio than even the most sanguine would have predicted.

Wise, All Right. Mr. Wise—Where's the man that struck my wife—where is he? Bystander—What'll you do if you find him? Mr. Wise—Introduce him to my mother-in-law.

ASK FOR ALLEN'S FOOT-PAKE The Antiseptic powder to shake into your shoes. Relieves Corns, Bunions, Ingrowing Nails, Swollen and Bleeding Feet, and all other ailments of the feet. Sold everywhere. Do not accept any substitute. Keep your feet clean. Address Allen S. Cloninger, Le Roy, N. Y.

Health is the greatest of all possessions, and this a maxim with me that a hale cobbler is a better man than a sick king.—Bickerstaff.

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Loss of Appetite

Which is so common in the spring or upon the return of the weather, is less of vitality, vigor or tone, and is often a forerunner of prostrating disease.

It is serious and especially so to people whose work must be done and for get behindhand. The best medicine to take for it is the great constitutional reformer—

Hood's Sarsaparilla Which purifies and enriches the blood and builds up the whole system. Get it today in usual liquid form or chocolate tablets called Sarsatabs.

Garfield Tea, Herb remedy, overcomes constipation, indigestion and sick headache. Man's best possession is a sympathetic wife.—Euripides.

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