BRIBE "SEERS" TO HELP SELL STOCKS

Get-rich-quick Swindlers in League with Unscrupulous Fortune-Tellers to Win the Cash of the Unwary.

DUPES ARE MOSTLY WOMEN.

"Seers" Obtain a Commission on All Sales of Worthless Stocks and Bonds That Are Made Through Their Recommendation.

Get-rich-quick men, owners of mining, oil and other stocks of little value, and Wall street schems in general, have discovered a new way to trap the unwary. They have called to their aid the horde of clairvoyants, parmists and fortune-tellers that infest the city, with great profit to every one concerned with the exception of the investors.

The seers into the future always have had more or less of a connection with speculative affairs. They never hesitated to give tips and advice to their clients, as the dupes are called, but it is only recently that they have gone into the business of "recommending" worthless stocks.

The first man to realize the value of fortune-tellers in promoting get-rich-quick schemes was the general manager of a realty and construction company.

This company, according to a prettily printed prospectus, had an option on a piece of country property and had entere dinto negotiations with a theatrical manager to lease him a theatre to be constructed in this city. These were the assets of the compsny that were offered as security for $100,000 of capital stock the company was anxious to sell.

In League with Fortune-Teller.

The investing public did not seem anxious to purchase the stock. Then the manager of the company conceived the idea of enlisting the aid of fortune-tellers.

The first one he approached shied at the offer of a 10 per cent. commission.

"Make it 25 per cent.," he said, "and I'll consider it."

"Send me only women investors and I'll give you 20 per cent.," said the manager.

This offer was refused and was at once placed before a man on Twenty-eighth street. It was accepted, and since that time the fortune-teller, who has had more than one experience with the police, has made a great deal of money by "recommending" worthless stocks.

One of the best-known palmist in the city in discussing this new phase of the fortune-telling business, said:

"I don't believe it is any exaggeration to say that more than $1,000,000 has been paid for worthless stocks and bonds during the past fe w months by persons acting under the advice of so-called fortune-tellers.

Dupes Are Mostly Women.

"The worst feature of the swindle is that nine out of ten of the dupes are women of small means. Most of them are in trouble of some kind when they approach the fortune-teller, generally of a family nature. They are in such a mental condition that it is an easy matter to lead them in any direction.

"After they have been impressed by a lot of hocus pocus that wouldn't fool a child in its right senses, they are gradually led up to the investment trough. Under no circumstances will the fortune-teller consent to handle the money to be invested. That would never do—it might get him in trouble. He simply tells her he knows of an immensely valuable stock that can be purchased at a tenth of its value, gives her the name of the man who has it and then sits down and waits for his commission to be brought to him.

"This latest swindle is the meanest and most gigantic fortune-tellers have been guilty of. Ever since there has been fortune-telling money has been made by recommending certain doctors, lawyers and tradesmen. That was comparatively harmless, for in each instance some value was received.

"It is only since fortune-tellers have become runners for the swindlers of Wall street that they have succeeded in taking all of a million dollars from the pockets of easily duped women."

LAWYER CHALLENGES TWO IN COURT TO FIGHT.

Trouble Between Johnson and Beall and Williams Feared at End of Trial.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 18.—Lively times are expected at the conclusion of Editor Frederick Marriott's suit for damages against Truxton Beale and Thomas H. Williams, growing out of Williams shooting Marriott because of a published attack upon Miss Marie Oge, whom Beale subsequently married.

In court to-day Hiram Johnson, attorney for Marriott, twice challenged Williams and Beale to meet him in any kind of a personal encounter, and those who know the temper of the trio fear there will be a meeting after the trial ends.

At one time to-day Johnson, in examening Beale, was particularly belligerent.

"Are you a lawyer or a prize-fighter?" asked Williams. Johnson shook his finger at Williams and said:

"Well, possibly I am enough of both to take on either you or Mr. Beale or both if you will come out in front."

Disorder reigned and the Judge admonished the wranglers. Later the relations between the attorney and the two defendants became so strained that bailiffs were stationed near to prevent an encounter.

AIRSHIP RUNS AWAY.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—Stanley Spencer, the aeronaut, left the Crystal Palace at 6 P. M. on his proposed trip around St. Paul's Cathedral.

After maneouvring for some minutes he headed for the Cathedral, which he reached at 5.30. At a considerable height above it he made a half circuit and started homeward against the wind.

At 6.10 P. M. a strong wind from the south drove the airship north and it was lost to view over the North London suburbs.

Mr. Spencer tried to alight in the grounds of Alexandru Palace, North London, but failing to do so, continued his journey north and safely descended at 6.30 in Trent Park, New Barnet, about eight miles out in the contrary direction to Crystal Palace, to which he had desired to return.