

AMATEUR BURGLAR IS JAILED

Local Young Man Is Cap- tured Under Suspicious Circumstances

That Hannaford is not the best place for amateur burglars to acquire experience, was demonstrated last Friday night when Nighwatchman Ole Hanson caught Tom Lenning in the very act of feloniously entering—or rather leaving—the basement of the Hannaford Mercantile Co.'s store.

Subsequent investigation shows that young Lenning had apparently well planned the night's work. Mr. Hanson met him on the street between one and two o'clock Friday night, or rather Saturday morning, and upon inquiry was told that he was on his way to Oscar Ashland's house to go to bed. Soon after Mr. Hanson left him, he evidently took off his shoes, hid them in the grass near Mrs. Brudwick's house, and proceeded in his stockinged feet to the Mercantile store. The back door screen, which was hooked from the inside, had been opened, and marks on both the back door and the side door, indicated that attempts had been made to force them open. Not being successful in opening these doors, he broke a pane of glass in one of the small back windows leading into the basement, and through it gained entrance. There is no way to get up into the store from the basement on the inside of the building, so he finally attempted to get out again the same way he had got in.

All this had not been accomplished without making some noise, and while Lenning was in the act of crawling out through the window, Mr. Hanson arrived on the scene, and the game was up.

Among the explanations the prisoner offered for being found in such an incriminating position, were that he was too drunk to know what he was doing, and that he was trying to scare the nightwatchman. As he had shown no evidences of being drunk an hour or so earlier when Mr. Hanson talked with him, this excuse will hardly stand. As for trying to scare the watchman, he selected a poor method it must be admitted.

Saturday the prisoner was taken to Cooperstown and given a prelim-

inary hearing. He was bound over to the district court and bail fixed at \$1000, in default of which he is held in the county jail till court convenes in November.

It is a matter of regret when a young man goes bad in such a manner. He had been urged earlier in the evening to return with Walter Larson to the farm, but refused to do so. Had he followed this counsel he would now have been on the farm earning good honest money, instead of as at present languishing in prison and facing a penitentiary or a reform school sentence.

To Get Out Freight Rates Is Hope

That the recent conference in Washington will result in some reduction of freight rates on farmers' produce, is the opinion of Rex E. Willard, farm economist at the agricultural college, who with G. W. Hoffman and Frank Sanford, representing the state farm bureau, returned recently from Washington, where he testified before the interstate commerce commission.

"The commissioners seem to be much impressed with the information we laid before them," said Mr. Willard, "and by their questions we were able to see that they desired to get at the actual situation as regards the farmers and the freight rates he has to pay. I believe that when the hearing is completed this week, a reduction will be made on rates for grain and livestock."

In his testimony before the commission, Mr. Willard said that the "present situation of our farmers is critical: so much so that many farmers are not only going out of business but changing their type of farming, and they are generally in such shape that the indications are for next year, that there will be considerable further lessening of the number of farmers and also of the acreage of production." He did not attribute the entire cause of the situation to freight rates but he said that they had a great deal to do with it.

Mr. Willard cited the case of eight counties in the western part of the state where 1,163 farmers "have pulled up and left during the last 18 months to two years," and that as a result of this there were 166,000 acres not in cultivation this year that would have been cultivated if conditions were normal. He declared that he has estimated that in the 23 counties in the western part of the state, a total of 577,000 acres that had formerly been in crop, were not in crop this year because of ad-

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