

to negotiate. Biebusch promptly began to examine Gallagher as to his criminal history, and his wide and accurate knowledge of criminals made it possible for him to detect a spurious coin as a bank teller could detect a spurious coin or bill.

Gallagher could not pass the rigid examination to which Biebusch subjected him, and the old German declined to sell him any "coney," making the excuse that he had none at that time. He evidently believed, however, that Gallagher was a crook who wanted to handle counterfeit money, for he did not appear suspicious of him except when it came to the point of giving himself into his power by personally negotiating a sale of "coney." This was failure number one.

Some time before this W. W. Kennoch, a shrewd Scotchman, had been relieved of the command of the New York division of the secret service on account of his over-indulgence in liquor. He was an honest, conscientious and able operative, and had but the one fault, a fatal one, however, in a man who is carrying secrets of great importance to the government. After being relieved of his eastern command Kennoch did a good deal of work for the secret service as a "roper."

He was familiar with criminals and crimes, was a plausible talker, and could worm his way into the good graces of counterfeiters with much skill. I enlisted his services and assigned him to the same task I had given Gallagher. He worked slowly, making Bosse's saloon his rendezvous. When he thought his relations with Biebusch were sufficiently close he broached the subject of buying "coney." As in the case of Gallagher, the wily Prussian did not take offense nor deny that he never handled such goods, but he began to put Kennoch through a course of questioning concerning his past. Kennoch claimed he had served in a New York penitentiary, but he could not furnish such proofs as demanded, for

the reason that no such proofs existed, and Biebusch was cunning enough to know genuine proofs from false ones. Here was failure number two.

I did not consider myself any shrewder at such work than Kennoch, but it is a universal trait for one to believe he can do a thing better himself than anyone else can do it for him. I determined to see what I could do toward leading the old fox into our trap. I was not known to Biebusch. I allowed my beard to grow into a stubble and chose the make-up of a river man. If I may be pardoned the digression I will say that with a few days' growth of beard and rough clothes I could look "tough" enough to satisfy even the fastidious Biebusch, to whom the appearance of "toughness" was a strong recommendation. Thus attired I made my debut at Bosse's; there was a card game in progress most of the time, and I "sat in."

Biebusch and others whom I afterward learned were members of his band played with me. I frequently sat opposite my quarry and studied him closely. Friendly relations were established between us, and I thought matters were progressing favorably until I hinted to "Old Fred" that I would like to handle some of his goods. Then I found that I had made just as much progress as Gallagher and Kennoch had made—and no more. Biebusch said he did not object to doing business with me, but that he "had no coney just then." From the way he spoke I knew I was wasting my time and he would have landed him behind prison bars were he to practice deeper and more circuitous methods in "roping." Failure number three.

Before I took charge of the St. Louis district I had been informed by a deputy warden in the Joliet penitentiary that a certain prisoner in that institution had intimated to him that he had information which might be of value to the secret service. I brought myself of this and went to see him. He proved to be John Bridges, alias "Hoosier Bill," under sentence for horse stealing. This worthy was an Indiana product and something over 40 years old. He was a congenial criminal, stopping only at murder. His favor-

able turn of crime was "garroting," that is, grabbing a pedestrian by the throat from behind, thrusting his knee into the small of the victim's back and then pinning him while his assistant relieved the prey of his valuables. But in the form of crime "Hoosier Bill" was not over particular, taking side excursions into the field of burglary, horse stealing and petty acts of knavery. The Chicago police knew him as a West side hold-up man of dangerous character.

I listened to his story with deep interest, as it bore directly on the case in hand—the landing of the big fish we were playing for—Fred Biebusch. "Hoosier Bill" knew Biebusch intimately. He had established this intimacy by presenting proper penitentiary credentials, of which he had plenty. Before he ran afoul of an Illinois sheriff and had been "settled" for driving off the wrong horse, Bridges had operated in St. Louis as a burglar and turned over to Biebusch such of his "swag" as was suitable to the latter's purpose, especially the solid silverware. On one occasion he had arrived at the Biebusch residence at four o'clock in the morning in a cab, bringing with him a package of silverware. The paper wrapper broke as he was about to ring the door bell, scattering the loot over the porch. The "cabby" helped him gather it up, after which Biebusch appeared and took it into the house. I found this "cabby" later and used him as a witness against Biebusch.

The "swag" brought in by burglars was paid for in "coney," according to Bridges, the thieves favoring this way of dealing because they received larger compensation in representative or counterfeit dollars than they would in genuine money. The silver was melted by Biebusch into bars, to be used in the manufacture of silver money.

But this was not the most valuable information gleaned from "Hoosier Bill." He let me into the secret of the identity of the more active and important members of the Biebusch gang.

Now he is included in the general amnesty of the scared czar and is to return to Russia and the enjoyment of his rank and wealth. Not all the good romantic plots you see, as in the story books, where they say "death."

HE anarchistic and socialistic press is itself getting capitalized. The "red" editor counts less than it did 20 years ago, just as it does in the great "capitalistic" dailies. Johann Most, the best type of the blatherkite editor we have had in New York, was at least picturesque. With his fiery red hair and beard, his vast jowl and pointed upper head, he lent himself admirably to caricature, and when he hid under the bed to escape the tyrant police he treated New York to a welcome laugh. But he was hardly influential. The most prominent anarchistic editors now are Italians, and they issue their papers, for the sake of cheapness, from Paterson, N. J., or from rural Vermont.

Benjamin Tucker and John Swinton were two of the most picturesque types of the advanced editor. Both were New England yankees. Tucker was the mildest mannered man that ever advocated anarchy. Swinton worked for years as managing editor of the New York Sun. In those days a managing editor wrote editorials. This Swinton did for Dana, producing the most conservative argument at command. Dana never hesitated to leave him in command. He was intellectually honest. At the same time he would make the most startling speeches to Tompkins' square audiences. If any reproached him for inconsistency he said: "I'm paid to write what I write. I talk what I believe."

By years of abstemious life Swinton saved \$80,000. His wife succeeding him in everything, he started "John Swinton's paper" to preach advanced doctrines. Living in poverty, writing articles for sale as he could find time, he blew in every cent of his savings upon his private life. Then in his old age, a white-haired, but sturdy, figure in his skull-cap, he went back to the Sun and earned his living there as long as Dana lived, again faithfully writing as the "capitalistic" class would have him do. He had had his fling. He was content.

Socialism in English. HE relative decline of the socialistic and anarchistic press is due partly to the rapidly with which immigrants read English and partly to the fact that socialism is now taught in attractive forms by the yellow portion of the daily press.

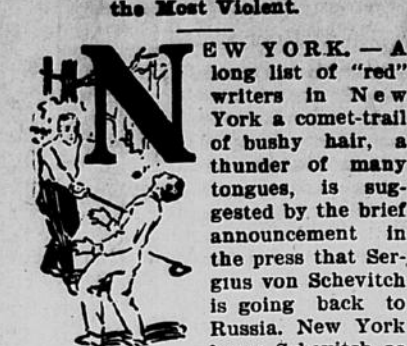
We see the socialistic vote growing as the socialistic newspaper of foreign type declines in influence. At the same time the bitterness of the Irish-American press toward "perfidious Albion" has altered since the days when Patrick Ford and John Boyle O'Reilly were its most influential heads, and the O'Donovan Rossa was a neighbor of mine, Ford almost a neighbor. Of the talented O'Reilly family I have the pleasantest memories. The sons and daughters of these fathers cannot summon up the old bitterness. To have known Kilmaham jail or the danger of jail yourself, or to have barely escaped the gallows, gives more vivid impressions. The most vigorous press of to-day in New York has a different note and tongue. It is Yiddish. In this language, not in German, the most radical opinion is now expressed. I do not know how many Yiddish papers there are, the number varying from week to week. But most of them are radical

IN THE METROPOLIS

PHOTOGRAPHER EXILE WHO IS TO RETURN TO RUSSIA.

THE ANARCHISTIC PRESS

A Mild-Mannered Advocate of Anarchy—The Old Irish American Radicals—Yiddish Press Now the Most Violent.



NEW YORK.—A long list of "red" writers in New York a comet-trail of bushy hair, a thunder of many tongues, suggested by the brief announcement in the press that Sergius von Schevitch is going back to Russia. New York knew Schevitch as the editor of the Arbeiter Zeitung, a socialist organ of the German-Russian type. Schevitch was a tall, handsome fellow of aristocratic appearance, as well he might be considering his high German ancestry and the noble rank in Russia which he forfeited for his principles. Caught in connection with one of Prince Kropotkin's plots against a former czar, he was banished for 40 years and his great estates confiscated. He paused long enough in central Europe to make the acquaintance of the principal reds there and came to preach a milder doctrine in the new world, where he was an exemplary citizen. Von Schevitch married the beautiful Helene von Rackowitz, who came to this country to play on the boards of the Irving theater, the precursor of Conried's Lyric Place house. It was she for whose sake Ferdinand Lassalle, the beloved idol of German socialists, had fallen in a fatal duel. Wild days, wild doings. After his marriage Schevitch sought forgiveness for his offense. In 1895 his brother succeeded in having the rentals of his estate restored, so that Schevitch could live in Munich.

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and all use toward the east the language that has sharpened. This part of the press of New York has much literary ability. Abraham Cahan, a slender, intellectual man in middle life, is the best known Yiddish editor. He is a master of English, is a friend of Howells and other literary lights and has often written realistic stories for the American magazines. Morris Rosenberg, the sweatshop poet, a more visionary type of man, is also now an editor, the poverty out of which he cried in his bitter verse a little relieved. Romantic younger readers will remember that Rose Pastor, the gifted Jewish who married Stokes, the tenement worker, was a reporter on a Yiddish paper. Such publications find their sale wholly among the East siders. The earlier Jewish immigrants from northern Europe can hardly understand the jargon in which they are printed.

Baxter Street Weddings. HEN Barney Solomon and Becky Burke were married the record of Baxter street weddings was outdone. I think that the blushing bride's name must some time have been otherwise spelled. It has been many a long year since any Irish Burkes could have lived at No. 2 Baxter street. Papa Burke is the richest real estate owner on that famous street of the second-hand clothes. Barney Solomon is a rich ice dealer who won plaudits a few years ago by fighting Mayor Van Wyck's ice trust. A million dollars' worth of diamonds were worn at the wedding. Baxter street was not big enough for it and an uptown hall was requisitioned. Five thousand invitations were issued to Borough President Ahearn and Big Tim Sullivan, who holds his power as leader among a people now almost exclusively Jewish, to Congressman Goldfogle, Judge Newburger, Judge Rosalsky—you see the residents are not neglected in giving out the offices. A rich East side wedding always calls the politicians to duty.

NORTH DAKOTA NEWS

Arid Land.

Washington.—Representative Marshall has introduced a bill appropriating \$40,000 to cover the cost of investigation of methods of dry land farming, suited to the arid and semi-arid regions of the West. The bill, enacted into law, will enable the bureau of plant industry of the department of agriculture to carry on systematic investigations with view to the adoption of methods to conserve the moisture in the soil. More or less of this work has been done by state experiment stations, but it is proposed to have the federal government co-operate with them and take general supervision of the subject.

Representative Marshall said that there are millions of acres of land in the western parts of North and South Dakota and Texas which can never be irrigated, and which in ordinary years will raise a good crop, but which are not looked upon as absolutely sure crop districts. He says the question of dry farming has gone beyond the experimental stage. His bill provides for fifteen experiment stations, to be properly distributed throughout the area proposed to be covered.

Found Correct. Minot.—The report of State Examiner Brightwell over his recent examination of the county auditor's office was received and made public. The report came as a disappointment to many, who hoped to see grave charges against the auditor. His bona company asked, some time ago, to be relieved from his bond, but refused to make any charges against the auditor Mr. Fabrick.

The matter was taken before Judge Gosch and he denied the validity of the bond company for a release without their bringing charges and proving them sufficient to cause the auditor's having the bond taken from him. Mr. Fabrick then demanded of the company that it should make an examination of his office and the state examiner was called. His report states that the office is kept in excellent shape and outside of a few unimportant clerical errors no criticisms were made.

Census. Fargo.—The census bureau has just issued a bulletin on the illiteracy of native white people between the ages of 10 and 14 years, and it is shown that in North Dakota in 1900 there were 7,000 out of every thousand who could not read or write, while in Maine the number ran up to 13.6. Texas 61, Georgia 104, South Carolina 148, North Carolina 166, and New Mexico 175. In 1890 the number in North Dakota was 28.2 against 7 in 1900; this is a very great decrease, showing that about three-fourths of the illiteracy had been obliterated in ten years. Every state in the union shows some decrease, but the proportion in North Dakota is about as large as in any. This is a high tribute to the educational system of this state.

Troubled for Water. Jamestown.—The great difficulty in getting good water for the N. D. engineers on the Dakota division is causing the engineers a great deal of trouble, says the Capital. The fall has been dry and the wells along the line are low and the quality of water poor. Many of the engines leak badly as soon as they have been repaired, and engineers have a great deal of difficulty in keeping engines alive at certain parts of the road. The water at Bismarck and Jamestown is about the best on the division. The Pipestem river has a small flow of running water all the time. The scarcity of good water at this time is felt as a heavy drawback and expense to the operating department.

House Destroyed. Essenden.—There is a report current that the house of Mrs. Mathews near Sykeston, was destroyed by fire during the last storm. She and her son were alone and saved but little property. They then started to a neighbor's house but were compelled to return to their barn on account of the storm. When entering the barn, Mrs. Mathews was killed by the crash of a horse and is said to be severely if not seriously injured.

Hill will be There. Grand Forks.—Senator J. D. Taylor, chairman of the committee having in charge the arrangements for the state drainage convention to be held in this city, Jan. 10 and 11, is in receipt of a letter from James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern, in which he states that he will attend the convention and make an address if it is possible for him to be here. His attendance is practically certain.

News Notes. America.—The loss in the elevator fire is put at about \$100,000. The property was reasonably protected by insurance. Rock Lake.—This embryo village has not been on the map many months, but already there is talk of incorporating the place. Grand Forks.—Grand Forks is to have a wholesale notion house with \$50,000 capital. Grand Forks.—The Knights of Pythias will erect a handsome memorial monument in their local cemetery to deceased members.

Bismarck.—Warden Boucher, of the state penitentiary, does not think that there will be much trouble over the threatened attempt of the International people to crowd out state wine, as the quantity of state wine made in this state is but a small portion of the total consumption, and Mr. Boucher says it is a better grade of wine. Grand Forks.—The indications are that the forthcoming educational convention will be attended by the largest group of teachers that ever met in the state. LaMoore.—Great quantities of fish—pickers, suckers and bullheads—have been taken from the river at this point during the past week. Where the water from the Artesian wells flows into the river there is an open space, free from ice, and here the fishy tribe congregate in great numbers; and here come "sportsmen" armed with pitch forks, dip nets, grain scoops, shovels—all kinds of approved fishing tackle; the fish are massed a foot deep in the open water.

Fargo.—A colony of Dunkards are to locate near Dickinson. Arrangements have been made for the purchase of 10,000 acres of land by the first members of the colony, and it is probable the number will be greatly increased if the first members prosper. The Dunkards came into the state five or six years ago in great numbers and some of the colonies have been most successful. Sawyer.—A couple was compelled to submit to five days' stay in their nuptials because of the weather conditions. Jamestown.—Some of the state papers seem interested in the establishment of the jag cure in Fargo.

FLICKERTAIL NUGGETS.

Overton.—A local man was robbed at Devils Lake of \$78.

Granville.—The fire department rejected a check of \$21.

Sherwood.—The village has made a change in the office of marshal.

Cogswell.—A carload of booze was stalled here during the storm.

Maxbass.—A gray wolf has been killing wolves and chickens near here.

Fargo.—Garrison was without train for eight days during the late unpleasantness.

Hazleton.—The lid is on—Sundays—and none of the merchants keep their stores open.

Sherwood.—The 7-year-old son of A. Byron, near here, was killed by a kick of a horse.

Churches Ferry.—The Sun wants the people to be up and doing on the hospital question.

Sherwood.—Some one removed the organ from schoolhouse near here and trouble is brewing.

Fargo.—Adams is to have a local exchange with long distance connections over the Northwestern.

Bowbells.—A violator of the prohibition law was placed under \$2,300 bonds. That's going some.

Casselton.—It is claimed that ex-Governor White is erecting the largest barn in Barnes county.

Fargo.—Some of the earlier farmers' institutes were not largely attended because of the bad weather.

Walhalla.—It is now thought the Great Northern may extend a branch line from here to Wales.

Glennville.—Lucas Muggill, head miller, had his hand badly lacerated while working around the mill.

Granville.—Owing to the resignation of the rural carrier here no mail was sent out over two routes.