

MINT ROBBERY IS UNSOLVED

Employees' Past Records Probed by Secret Service Men.

Efforts Are Made to Trace Disposition of Sacks of Gold.

The robbery of \$1,000,000 in gold coins from the cashier's vault in the Mint still remains unsolved. Yesterday's investigation helped to strengthen the chain of evidence around a suspected employee, but the direct testimony necessary to warrant a conviction in the Federal courts is still lacking.

Secret Service Agent. Hagen is satisfied that the stolen gold was removed from the Mint building, and he is now engaged in trying to locate the coin. Hagen and his associates are tracing the movements of certain Mint employees during the past six months, and it is hoped that the work will furnish the missing link in the chain of evidence essential for the arrest of the suspected employee.

Miss Director Roberts, Superintendent Leach and Secret Service Agent. Hagen examined a number of the Mint employees yesterday. Men and women engaged in various departments of the Mint were closely questioned, and all the employees were warned to maintain silence and not even to speak on the outside. Summary dismissal will be the fate of any employee who violates the warning.

Superintendent Leach refused to affirm or deny the truth of the story that three months ago he informed Chief Clerk Lumsden that his services would be no longer required and that he had better look for another position.

"I do not know how that story got out," said Leach, "and at this time I cannot say whether it is true or not. We are proceeding with our investigation as to the robbery of gold, but I cannot give you anything we have discovered."

Cashier W. K. Cole and Chief Clerk Walter Lumsden were at their desks yesterday, but the responsibility of their actions rested on Frank A. Feltner and Ben James W. Day, respectively.

Feltner yesterday showed the combination lock on the cashier's vault and placed a copy of the combination in a sealed envelope, depositing it with Superintendent Leach.

Lumsden said little yesterday yesterday to the warning of Superintendent Leach that he must not talk. When other employees, including Cashier Cole, positively refused to answer questions, Lumsden entered into certain explanations. He denied again that he knew the combination of the cashier's vault as arranged by Cole, but admitted that he stored Cole here to work the levers and handles when Cole came into office two years ago. Lumsden declined to say whether he had the keyhole of the back of the vault door while Cole worked the combination lock on the front of the door. He also refused to affirm or deny the statement that Superintendent Cole had informed him three months ago to look for another position.

Lumsden knows that he is being watched by secret service men, and has the air of a worried man. Cole, the cashier, who alone was supposed to know the combination of the vault, is according to his duties, but keeps silent when questioned.

Lumsden's character has never been questioned, and his family connections are a goodly one at the Union League Club. He was formerly engaged as an agent and broker in Portland, Or. He then went to Santa Barbara, where he married a daughter of Judge Wright and worked as a clerk in the Santa Barbara County National Bank. Twelve years ago he returned to Alaska County and engaged in the real estate business in this city. He was appointed as cashier in the Mint by Superintendent Leach, and that that office was succeeded by W. K. Cole.

W. K. Cole was brought to the Mint business in Portland. He was appointed cashier in the Mint two years ago, and his character is beyond reproach. Cole lives with his wife and three young children at 101 Sacramento street. Mrs. Cole belonged to the wealthy Pennington family of Contra Costa County, but latter being held as a millionaire. From the time Cole became cashier in the Mint he usually spent his evenings at home, occasionally that being taken to the Union League Club after leaving the Mint at 1 P. M.

Yesterday's investigation by Federal officials was made in the hope of discovering whether it was possible for certain employees of the Mint to have discovered the combination used by Cashier Cole on the door of his working vault.

Cole has stated to the investigators that when he arranged the combination on the vault Lumsden assisted him by working the levers and handles, and that it was possible for Lumsden to have become acquainted with the combination. Lumsden has admitted that he explained the workings of the levers and handles to Cole, but says it was not possible for him to have learned the combination of Cole at the time the system was arranged.

TWO MEN WANTED ON CHARGES OF FORGERY

Are Making It a Practice to Pass Worthless Checks on Busi- ness Men.

Warrants were issued yesterday for the arrest of two men who are passing forged checks on business men, and they seem to be doing a brisk trade from the number of complaints received at police headquarters.

Edward Harris, who conducts a clothing store at 221 Kearny street, came in a warrant for the arrest of J. E. White on the charge of forgery in Judge Pitt's court. White cashed a check for \$100 with Charles Newman of the Electric nation, which purported to be signed by Harris. The check was dated June 2 and was made payable to "J. E. White," who addressed E. Harris pronounced his signature a forgery.

E. E. Lusk, owners supply store, at Third street, received a warrant from Judge Magan for the arrest of "John Doe" on a charge of forgery. The man called at Lusk's store, representing himself to be Dr. J. E. Crawford of the Standard Electrical Works, and brought several cents worth of goods. He gave a check in payment for \$25 representing himself to be Dr. J. E. Crawford of the Standard Electrical Works, and made payable to "J. E. Crawford." He informed the check and got the goods. \$25. The check was a forgery. The man was passed a forged check on Lusk's brother the previous day.

W. F. Pipher, Receiver of the California Shoe Company, 1308 Market st.,

will after tomorrow be found at the New Hires Shoe Company, 723 Market street, where in the future he will have charge of said establishment. Before leaving will give a farewell banquet, and will distribute after tomorrow 100 pairs of ladies' shoes and 100 pairs of men's shoes and every pair of them for \$1.00 a pair. You are welcome to either one or more pairs at 12 cents a pair, at the bankrupt shoe store of the California Shoe Company, 1308 Market street, above City Hall square.

Big Georgia Mortgage Property.

There was filed in the Recorder's office yesterday a first mortgage in which the El Dorado Lumber Company mortgages its property for \$1,000,000 to the California Safe Deposit and Trust Company. A deed of trust was also recorded in which the partnership of the San Joaquin in the Nevada County Lumber Company, which assigned the mortgage to the Nevada Trust Company of San Francisco to secure a loan of \$1,000,000 on its electric railroad from Grass Valley to Nevada City.

Two Excellent Scotch Sheep.

The Sherrin is making a great success in the cultivation of sheep flocks on his ranch in Tehama County. Two fine ewes and their lambs have been imported to him and the product is large. Competent judges think the type will go readily here to the west. The ewes are of the quality.

Terms must please or no reward. All up-to-date diamonds and jewelry at \$1.