

SMUGGLING CONSPIRACY EXPOSED

Aroostook Men Arrested and Taken to Bangor for Trial.

ALLEGED THEY WERE IN EMPLOY OF A MONTREAL FIRM

And Smuggled Clothing Through Madawaska Into Twenty-seven States.

Bangor Daily News.—On Tuesday night Raymond Albert, merchant and town clerk of Madawaska, Alexis Albert, stage driver between Madawaska, Port Kent and Van Buren, Thos. Daigle, ferryman between Madawaska and Edmundston, and Eli St. Anent, a brother of Van Buren, were brought to Bangor by Deputy United States Marshals Haskell and Hasty, charged with having smuggled goods from Canada to Maine. The arrest, United States officials say, reveals the most gigantic and perfectly organized system of smuggling known in this country for years.

For several months treasury officials have been working on the case, but so perfectly were the plans of the alleged conspirators laid that it was not until Tuesday morning that sufficient evidence was collected to warrant them to make a decisive move. A small army of Aroostook County residents have been summoned to Bangor as witnesses, and it is expected that at the preliminary hearing to be held Wednesday morning before United States Commissioner Hamlin, many sensational details, now carefully withheld from the reporters, will be brought to light. It is claimed by the authorities that the firm of Gibbs & Co., a large clothing establishment of Montreal, has made carefully arranged plans to flood the United States with manufactured clothing upon which no duty was to be paid. It selected Port Kent and Van Buren, in Aroostook County, Maine, as the American base of operations, and, so it is charged, enlisted for a surprisingly large monetary consideration the services of several Aroostook residents, who, hitherto, had held position of influence and respect. The clothing, it is claimed, was shipped from Montreal by way of the Intercolonial railway to Riviere de Loup, Canada, from which place it was re-shipped to Edmundston, N. B., directly across the St. John River, from Madawaska, Maine.

The services of a ferryman were needed at this point, and the first step of Gibbs & Co., it is alleged, was to enlist the services of Thomas Daigle. Huge cases of goods were daily conveyed in this manner across the St. John, but so skillfully and apparently so openly, that for some time no suspicions were aroused. Once arrived at Madawaska they were conveyed to the establishment of Raymond Albert, town clerk, prominent merchant and one of the most respected men in town, who put them upon the stage for Port Kent and Van Buren. In both of these places the goods were sent to the office of

the American Express Company, and thence to hundreds of points throughout the United States. Exactly how deep the two Alberts and Daigle are implicated, and the exact connection of Eli St. Anent with the case, the authorities Tuesday night did not care to say, but they intimated that these men are considered merely the tools of the chief conspirators, Messrs. Gibbs & Co.

Much of the evidence was collected by E. W. Jenks, a well known government official of Aroostook County, assisted by Frank E. Johnson of Boston, special agent of the treasury department, both of whom, together with several witnesses whose names are not disclosed, arrived in Bangor at 11.30 o'clock Tuesday night. When interviewed by a Bangor Daily News reporter, Mr. Jenks said:

"So far as I know, this is the biggest international conspiracy ever unearthed in Maine, and one of the most important ever known in the country. The firm of Gibbs & Co. is an old offender. Formerly their goods were shipped by way of Boston, but about two years ago their operations were discovered by the Massachusetts authorities. I do not know how directly the conspiracy was brought home to the firm, but I do know that they considered it advisable to transfer their base of operations. For various reasons they decided upon Maine and had not the conspiracy been virtually nipped in the bud, there is no telling to what gigantic extent it would in all probability have grown."

"The goods stored in the offices of the American Express Company in Port Kent and Van Buren were sent to at least 27 different states—even so far west as Detroit, and to many other points distant from Maine. The conspiracy, however, had been in progress only a few months, and, therefore, the goods illegally transported amount in value to not more than a few thousands of dollars. It will readily be seen, however, that in the course of time, and not a very long time, either, the United States would have been cheated of duties amounting up into the millions."

"No, I do not care to say just what turn the hearing before Commissioner Hamlin will take. We have several witnesses here now, and more will come Wednesday. That there are likely to be important developments it is unnecessary to state. Being located in Canada, Messrs. Gibbs & Co., the principal offenders cannot be legally brought to justice under the United States laws."

GLIMPSSES OF HUMOR.

Butter is strong, but cheese is mitey.

Troubles are like dogs; the smaller they are the more they annoy you.

It is an anomaly, perhaps, that when peace and quiet are restored in Cuba the planters will begin to raise cane.

Not lost, said the man that bet on the wrong horse, but gone behind.

A writer, describing the exodus of Eden, says, The devil drove woman out of Paradise, but he could not drive Paradise out of the woman.

A young lady, while out walking, heard of her mother's intention to marry again, and she was obliged to sit right down and cry about it. She could not get a step farther.

The sting of the bee carries conviction with it. It makes a man a bee-leaver at once.

Ephraim Muggins says, Eternal liberty is the price of vigilance and dear at that.

A lecturer against women's rights named Tait, was hissed by the women of Mattoon, Ill., recently. They should remember that the women who hiss a Tait are lost.

Whatever promises to pay is a favorable one.

Call me sweet names—something typical of sweet sounds, he murmured; she said he was a gay lute.

The tune the old cow died on must have been written in beef flat.

A bald headed man with a black eye called here yesterday, took off his hat and pointing to his bald head said, Betsy and I—hair out.

A western paper gives the following as the proper motto for insurance companies, "Soc et tu em."

A correspondent wants to know the best way to become a literary man, and the quickest way for him is to make a short voyage to sea. He will very likely become a contributor to The Atlantic.

Mr. Somerset is a bachelor. He could not persuade any of his female acquaintances to turn a Somerset.

A Boston man calls his wife Crystal, because she is always on the watch.

An eminent historian traces baseball to the time when Rebecca went down to the well with the pitcher and caught Isaac.

A blind man is an impatient stock speculator. He always wants to see real eyes.

Cooing is well before marriage, but the billing doesn't come till afterwards; and then it comes from the tradesmen.

A man in Delaware who has a half sister is now wondering where the other half can be.

A gentleman that had been arguing with an ignoramus until his patience was exhausted, said that he didn't wish him dead, but he would be glad to see him—what more.

A song heard by a hive—"Bee it ever so humble, there is no place like comb."

Accuracy of expression: A family who has recently moved into a suit of rooms received an elegantly worked motto last week, which read as follows: "Heaven bless our flat."

Better to have loved a short girl than never to have loved a tall.

Out in Montana, where they start a man down hill in a barrel, they spoke of his appearance in a new role.

Tuneful lyre—a music teacher who

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does not keep his engagements.

If a man has but one eye let him get a wife and she will be his other L.

A hen pecked husband who married his wife because she was handsome, declared that a thing of beauty is a jaw forever.

A volume that will bring tears to your eyes—a volume of smoke.

St. Albans boasts a man who revels in the patronymic of Stonegraves. That name is tomb much for us. Well, it is cemeterial whether you like it or not.

The latest banker's song—Off in the stilly night.

When a man has a house lot on which he cannot pay the taxes, he has a site too much.

A toast at a public dinner in Connecticut: "The Nutmeg State, where will we find a greater?"

Mr. George Barrel committed suicide because he was disappointed in love. He could not bear the thought of remaining a single Barrel.

Time will only hang up his scythe when he is no mover.

A man who is always in a stew generally goes to pot.

A man with a small salary and a large family says: "If pride goes before a fall he would like to see pride start on a little ahead of the price of coal and provisions."

It is a queer woman that asks no questions, but the woman that does is the querist.

"Our terms are five dollars a day, with moderate charges for extras," said the insinuating young man who wore a diamond pin at a waterplace hotel, to a sensible-looking stranger, "we should be pleased to enrol you as a guest." The stranger said he guest not.

The only pun Abe Lincoln ever made was when he was splitting rails and his boss criticised his work severely. "How do you feel now," asked a fellow workman. He thought a minute, then replied, "I feel I maul right." It is believed this is what started his presidential boom.

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FRUITFUL IN PROMISES.

St. Petersburg, June 20.—Emperor Nicholas yesterday received in audience the delegation of Zemstvoists who read an address to him praying for reforms in the government. Afterwards the Emperor replied.

The following is the text of the Emperor's speech to the Zemstvo delegation:

"I am happy I have heard you. I have no doubt you are guided by an ardent sentiment of love for the fatherland in addressing me directly. I have been grieved in my whole soul with all my people at the calamities the war has brought upon Russia, and at all those which still may be feared, as well as our internal disturbances."

"To dissipate your doubts, I say that it is my unalterable will that the admission of elected representatives to the works of state shall be regularly accomplished."

"I watch daily and devote myself to this work. You will announce it to all your friends in both country and town."

"I am firmly convinced that Russia will emerge strengthened from the trials she is now enduring, and that there will be established soon, as formerly, a union between the emperor of all Russia, a communication between myself and the men of Russian soil. This union and communication must serve as a basis for the original principles of Russia."

"I have faith in your desire to help us in this task."

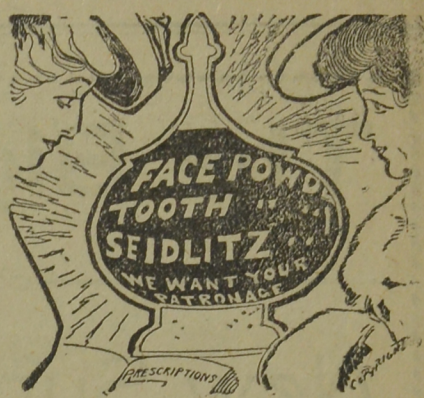
Upon completing his remarks the emperor graciously greeted the individual members of the delegation, shaking hands with them and having a few cordial words for each, even such radicals as M. Petraunkevich, president of the Moscow Agricultural Society, who has spent many years in exile as the result of his liberal views; M. Rodicheff and Prince Shakhoff, known as the "anarchist prince."

The fact that the emperor not only received the bold, plain-spoken, address, without so much as an indication of disapprobation, but expressed full sympathy with their efforts to ameliorate the terrible state of affairs depicted therein and in most direct and implicit fashion renewed his promise to summon the representatives of the people, made the deepest impression on the delegates.

The delegation is now preparing an account of the audience which will be presented to the St. Petersburg Douma tomorrow and in accordance with their instructions as well as the imperial wish will be communicated to all the Zemstvos and mayors of Russia.

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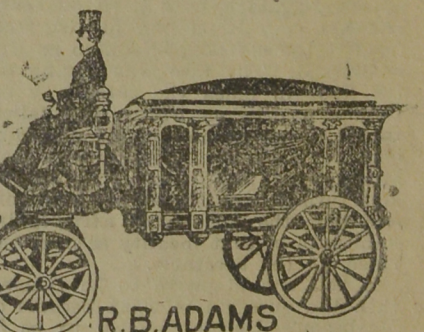
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