

directions of how to avoid suspicion. Then the bills are exhibited. The man always protests that they are poor counterfeits and would never deceive him, but on the whole thinks they will do. The amount desired is carefully counted out and handed to the stranger to recount. They are then nicely done up in packages, each denomination by itself, and the whole carelessly tossed into a small leather gripsack. This done, the bag is laid on the top of the desk, while the "manufacturer" holds the attention of the stranger and lifts the lid of the desk in front of the bag. Half a dozen bonds are shown as a specimen of good counterfeiting, and the suggestion is made that after the money has been used the customer may take a fancy to handle some bonds also. While the two men are busy looking at the bonds, a confederate in the next room opens a slide or panel at the back of the desk and substitutes another satchel in the place of the one with the greenbacks. The customer is then handed the bag and hurries away, and the swindler closes up his office for a month or so and moves to another similarly equipped establishment.

Since the panel trick became known the sawdust men have been forced to invent another device. Within the past few months they have issued a long circular, which contains a clipping supposed to be cut from a New York newspaper announcing that a full set of dies and plates has been stolen from the Sub-Treasury. This is the basis on which the circular is framed, and it claims that the writer has obtained stolen plates, from which the greenbacks are being struck off. The interesting circular ends with the following: "The slip will show you our officials in high standing have used them for their own purpose and benefit, and why not every one in need? Address, in confidence," etc.

The purpose of the letter is to lead the one addressed to believe that the money offered is really genuine, being printed from the plates claimed to have been stolen from the Treasury. The same old scheme of conducting a man to a hotel and then to the "office" is used, but the panel trick is no longer worked. Instead, the "beer" or "horse-car" game is made use of. In the first case the purchaser is introduced to the sawdust man on the street, and to conclude the bargain the party adjourn to the nearest saloon. Stepping into a private room they take seats at a table and the money is exhibited. This done, the amount demanded is paid, and as the operator rolls the "goods" into a little red package and snaps an elastic band around it he calls for beer. But before they are handed over the appearance of the waiter alarms the sawdust man and he drops the package into his lap, with a wink at the customer. While the beer is being brought another red package is substituted from under the table, and the trick has been played. If the countryman is suspicious the greenbacks are dumped into a little leather satchel marked with a cut or scratch, and after being duly locked the key is handed to him. The party then board a car and in a few moments a clerical-looking gentleman gets on, and with a bag precisely similar in marks, etc., to the one containing the "goods." Of course the bags are changed and the purchaser is swindled. After the change has been made the sawdust men disappear.