

Sucker Lists Made Up Of Wise Guy Sports In City

Barnum's Philosophy of Birth Rate of Gullible Seems to Have Been Too Conservative, Making No Allowance for Increasing Population of Big Cities

By L. C. OWEN
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San Francisco, March 28.—P. T. Barnum's philosophy anent the birth rate of suckers, it would seem, was rather conservative and didn't take into consideration subsequent increases in the population. Moreover a lot of city fellows, who class themselves as wise guys, and boast of sophistication far superior to that of their country cousins, really belong in the sucker classification.

These facts are proved by a raid just made by postoffice authorities here on a "one man" racing "information bureau," conducted in a downtown office building. They captured the principal, whom they found to be making from \$5,000 to \$10,000 a day by the simple process of playing both ends against the middle in feeing sporty clients.

The man under arrest is Frank Bennetts. He is held on a charge of using the mail to defraud and post-office authorities declare he would have been a multi-millionaire within a year had not Uncle Sam interfered with his operations. His scheme, they declare, makes get-rich-quick Ponzi and other modern financial wizards pale into insignificance.

Bennetts, say the postoffice inspectors, advertised extensively in more than a score of the larger cities, offering infallible "inside" information daily on the races. For a weekly fee, plus ten per cent of the client's winnings, he supplied the information by telegraph.

Lists seized in his office showed that he had more than 20,000 clients in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, New Orleans and other large cities, and that he daily sent out more than 18,000 telegrams to clients who paid \$5 weekly for two "inside information" wires a week.

The postoffice inspectors declare that the only inside information Bennetts had was how to make himself an infallible winner every day. It wasn't necessary for him to be a good dopest, acquainted with the qualities of the race horses he picked. His scheme, it is alleged, was simply to pick every horse in the race as a "sure winner" and send one "winner" to a part of the list, another to another part, and so on. Thus a part of his clientele had to win every day. And those that did sang his praises to the sky, thereby helping him get more clients.

When the authorities raided Bennetts' office at 10 o'clock in the morning, they found \$6,000 heaped on a desk. Bennetts they say admitted that this was "part" of one day's profit.

Of the hundreds of race track swindles uncovered by Federal agents in the last 20 years, Bennetts' was the best producer of profits they said. And practically all of it came from city "wise guys."

PULP WOOD MAY BE MADE IN DARE

Overhauling of Old Dare Lumber Company Mill at Buffalo City Starts Talk Something May Be Done.

The possibility of the development in this section of the industry of manufacturing pulp wood to be used in making newsprint and other papers is again being talked of here as a result of the overhauling of the machinery of the pulp mill built by the Dare Lumber Company at Buffalo City in Dare County shortly before this corporation ceased operations.

The possibilities offered for the manufacture of pulp wood by the thousands of acres of swamp timber in Northeastern North Carolina has

come in for a great deal of attention ever since newsprint prices began sky rocketing shortly after the World War. The Dare Lumber Company, operating a big saw mill here and with large timber holdings in Dare County, erected the present pulp mill in Dare County while the corporation was in the hands of Montgomery & Birdseye and just before these two men wrecked it by a financial deal that got them in the tools of the law and resulted in the Dare Lumber Company's being taken over by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Since that time the saw mill plant here has been dismantled and the pulp wood plant in Dare has been idle. It never got going on a commercial basis any way.

The object of the overhauling of the Dare County plant is said to be to determine what it would cost to put the plant in order, purchase additional machinery needed and put the plant in operation. If the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company gets a favorable report from the survey now being made, there would seem to be no reason why the pulp wood industry in Dare County should not be developed.

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