

advertisements, shall not swindle the public through the mails; and finally it is the duty of every inspector, whenever he finds the mails being used for evil or fraudulent purposes, to go for the perpetrators like a ferret after a gopher, if he have to travel 500 miles after him.

Probably the best work ever done by Post-Office Inspectors in Chicago was that performed by Col. Stuart and Dan Ray, when the two broke up the swindle of Flemming, Merriam & Co. That was a good piece of work, for not only was the fraud broken up but the guilty man sent to jail for a year and fined. Flemming & Merriam have had many imitators, and the inspectors are after those chaps all the time. T. S. Gardner seemed so like one of that kidney that Col. Kidder concluded to suppress him as far as his authority over the post-office would allow, and since then complaints from Gardner's victims have come in by the bushel. "Fakers" are under constant surveillance by the Post-Office Inspectors. They never will know it absolutely until they find their mail stopped; then it is too late, for by that time the Inspector knows what they are doing. So, too, with the victim in the country. If he have any doubts about the propriety of his proposed response to the alluring bait held out, let him first address his Post-Office Inspector. Do not write the newspapers. Write direct to the Post-Office Inspectors. There are a number of them in the country. For instance, in cases occurring in Ohio, write to the Post-Office Inspector in charge at Cincinnati, O.; in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Northern and Central Illinois, and Dakota, to the Post-Office Inspector in charge at Chicago, Ill.; in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Indian Territory, Kentucky, and Southern Illinois, to the Post-Office Inspector in charge at St. Louis, Mo.; in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee, to the Post-Office Inspector in charge at Chattanooga, Tenn.; in Texas, to the Post-Office Inspector in charge at Austin,

Tex.; in California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington Territory, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Arizona to the Post-Office Inspector in charge at San Francisco, Cal.; in Nebraska and Wyoming, to the Post-Office Inspector in charge at Omaha, Neb.; and in Colorado and New Mexico, to the Post-Office Inspector in charge at Denver, Colo.

The Inspector in charge at Chicago has the biggest bailiwick of all. He has seven States, one Territory, and thirteen inspectors under him. "The inspectors are on the road almost all the time," said Col. Kidder the other day. "I try to get them in once a month to see their families if they have them here, but they are birds of passage. It is only peculiarly constituted people that are fitted for such a place. It requires intelligence in the first place, keen perception, ready tact, knowledge of human nature, quick adaptability, and the endurance of a mule; for a man has often to ride night and day over 'star' routes and other kinds of routes by stage, buckboard, and on caballo. I wouldn't live out West as an inspector for twice the salary."

One can understand how Col. Kidder might not be able to cut much of a figure on an Oregon cayuse, or a Southern California bronco or even a New Mexican buckboard, or even yet a stage coach in the mountains, where the holes and ruts seem to be all on one side and the rocks and stones on the other, but all recognize his ability to tackle a palace-car at all hours of the day or night.

Post-Office Inspectors are appointed in such numbers as the head of the department may choose. They have to give bonds in \$5,000, have to pass a rigid examination, have to furnish testimonials by the score, and have to pass a medical examination. Even then they are appointed only on six months' probation. After that they can be promoted or not, as the Postmaster-General chooses. There are now less inspectors in the Chicago Division than ever before.

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