

#6

### PINKERTON ON GUARD.

#### THE MAN AND THE WINCHESTERS.

Methods of the Agency Which Is Making the Employment of Armed Guards a Feature of Its Work—Cases in Which the Pinkertons Have Been Employed.

In these days, when the expression, "The Pinkertons," is on the lips of nearly every one in Chicago; when it is being felt that the Pinkerton force is largely supplanting the authorities in many of the departments of ordinary police work; when four of the Pinkertons have been held by the Coroner for the murder of Terence Begley; when the orators of the Labor party and many of their candidates are denouncing them as "blood-hounds," and when perhaps a thousand criminals in America and Europe are being shadowed by Pinkerton detectives, it will be interesting to the reading public to learn, even beyond its present knowledge, who the Messrs. Pinkerton are, and what they are doing. Away back in 1860 Allan Pinkerton was a detective in the city of Chicago, under the administration of Mayor Boone. He was the first of the Chicago detectives, and has had a long line of successors, the last and among the most celebrated of whom is the well-known Captain James Bonfield, of Anarchist fame. In that year thieving and robbing depredations had become frequent on the railroads running into the city, and the existing demand for special work induced the far-sighted Pinkerton to start a detective agency. He associated with him for the purpose Edward A. Pucker, an attorney, and opened an office in the Kendall Block, on the corner of Dearborn and Washington streets. Three rooms were united for the purpose and the agency prospered. Later on Allan Pinkerton, the genius of the enterprise, started a force of night watchmen, obtaining more room in the same building for the purpose. This was called the "Pinkerton Police Patrol," the members of which were the first uniformed police in the city of Chicago—the city police at that date not having been raised to the dignity of wearing official uniforms.

Captain Paul H. Dennis, a well known Chicago man, who is still among the living and in the employ of the Illinois Central Company, was made the head of a force of fifty men, whose duties consisted in watching stores, banks and other buildings. This branch of the business also prospered. With these two departments of work in hand Allan Pinkerton continued to prosper through a decade of Chicago's early life. In 1861, when the war broke out, he was appointed chief of the secret service of the War Department, and, leaving his Chicago business to be managed by subordinates, he left for the front, joining General McClellan in West Virginia and afterward accompanying him to Washington. At this time his two sons, William A. and Robert A., were attending school at Notre Dame, Ind. But the former, who is the elder, was not



W. A. PINKERTON.

long to remain at his studies. In the same year, when but fifteen years of age, he left Notre Dame, went into the army and soon found himself attached to the secret service over which his father presided. The business of the Pinkertons in the army was, as may be readily supposed, that of furnishing special scouts, spies, guides, and men for that class of work. Young Pinkerton, winning confidence by his sagacity, soon became attached to General McClellan's personal staff, and served with him in West Virginia. He also served in the Army of the Potomac under Generals McClellan, Burnside, and Hooker, and was afterward transferred to the Department of the Gulf under General Canby. He was in Texas when the war ended. Returning home, he went to work as a clerk in his father's office. The business in Chicago had greatly increased, and it continued to grow steadily and rapidly thereafter. With its development, William A. continued to grow in usefulness, and at the death of his father, on July 1, 1884, he was the superintendent of the Eastern division of the Pinkerton agencies.

Meantime, at the close of the war, in 1865, Allan Pinkerton had opened an office at 66 Exchange place, in New York City; one year later a branch was opened at 45 South Third street, in Philadelphia. The younger son, Robert A., having acquired sufficient experience in the work, was placed in charge of the New York office under General Superintendent Bangs, since deceased. In 1873 William A. Pinkerton became the general superintendent of the Eastern agencies. Upon the death of Allan Pinkerton, in 1884, the entire business passed into the hands of his two sons, and William A. became general superintendent of the Western division, with headquarters at Chicago, while Robert A. succeeded his brother as general superintendent of the Eastern division, with headquarters at New York.

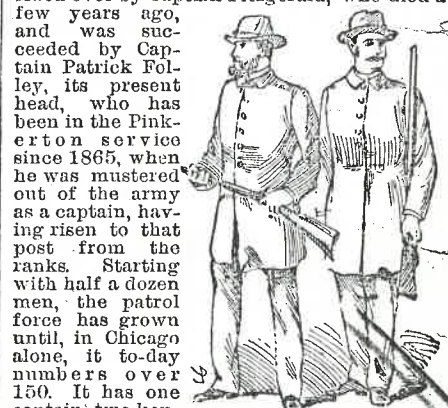
The business had been steadily growing and at the time of the death of the father the agency was employing between three and four hundred detectives, besides maintaining correspondents in almost every part of the habitable globe. Since the death of its founder the institution has continued to grow under the management of the sons. They have opened a branch at 42 Court street in the city of Boston, and in the Opera House Block in Denver, Colo. To-day the agency has on its pay rolls, aside from men



R. A. PINKERTON.

employed occasionally in connection with the labor troubles, fully 700 persons.

The police patrol, which started under Captain Dennis in 1850, was afterward presided over by Captain Fitzgerald, who died a few years ago, and was succeeded by Captain Patrick Foley, its present head, who has been in the Pinkerton service since 1865, when he was mustered out of the army as a captain, having risen to that post from the ranks. Starting with half a dozen men, the patrol force has grown until, in Chicago alone, it to-day numbers over 150. It has one captain, two lieutenants and six sergeants. Five years ago a Pinkerton patrol force was started in New York City, but it has not developed as in Chicago. During the summer season the agency there furnishes police service for Manhattan Beach, Staten's at Glen Island in the Sound, Coney Island, the Jockey Club grounds, the Brooklyn Jockey Club grounds, the race track at Rockaway, and several other tracks. The New York agency also furnishes many watchmen for banks, piers, and shipping offices in that city. In the summer season the patrol force in Chicago is much larger than in winter, the agency furnishing police for the Washington Park grounds, the driving park on the West Side, and several similar places of amusement. They also police most of the theatres, the museums, and furnish special officers for banks and other places. The Chicago agency has also a special force of over 200 men who do duty in guarding property at different points all over the West, principally in the territories.



ON GUARD.

Such is a very brief outline of the growth of the Pinkerton institution from its inception. The founder is dead, but he has left two sons to continue the business.

#### A SCORE OF NOTED CASES.

Twenty-Seven Mollie Maguire's Hanged—Millions of Dollars Recovered.

Turning to the detective side of the business, one may best judge, not only of the character of the work upon which these men are engaged, but of their capacity for carrying it on by reviewing, in brief, some of their performances. Among the celebrated cases on record at the Chicago office is the work of breaking up the Farrington gang of train robbers, in which the Pinkertons take special pride. These desperadoes were the predecessors of the James gang. Levi and Hilary Farrington, William Toler and James Bartram were killed in various attempts to capture them, while William Taylor and William Barton were captured and sent to the penitentiary. Another noted case is the arrest of Edward Johnson, Matt Maguire, alias Pittsburg Mat, Henry Johnson and John Woods for the robbery of Express Messenger Brady in Texas in 1873. The Pinkertons also take to themselves the honor of breaking up the Sam Bass and Collins gang of train robbers, whose operations extended from Wyoming to Texas. This case shows the capture of Pipes and Horn-don and their conviction to life terms, and the killing of Sam Bass, Billy, Henry and Joe Collins.



at various times in attempts to capture also, the killing of "Arkansas" Johnson, and a complete breaking up of the whole gang.

While William A. Pinkerton was in England in connection with the robbery of the Third National Bank of Baltimore, in 1873, he discovered the presence there of the Bedwell and McDonald gang of forgers, and reported them to the English police, but the latter declined to take any steps at that time toward apprehending them. Three months later it was discovered that they had swindled the Bank of England out of a million of dollars. The American end of the case was placed in Pinkerton's hands, and through William A. Pinkerton McDonald was arrested on his arrival in New York before leaving the steamer upon which he crossed the Atlantic, and a large portion of the money recovered. He also overhauled Austin Byron Bedwell in Havana, Cuba, intercepting him on his way to Mexico. Both were extradited and sent back to England. George Bedwell, the other brother, was afterward arrested in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Edwin Noyes Hills, the other member of the gang, was arrested in London. These men were all tried at the Old Bailey, London, and received life sentences.

A later case on record is that of the Kewanee, Ill., bank robbery. Two men had entered the bank and seized the cashier and lady bookkeeper, overcame them, gagged them and secured them in the vault, and then carried off the money. In a few weeks after the occurrence the Pinkertons located and arrested Ed Welsh, one of the men who made the assault, in the western part of New York State. This arrest was made by Robert Pinkerton and he brought Welsh to Chicago. Through his confession Pinkerton learned that while the lady bookkeeper made a noble resistance the cashier had allowed himself to be easily overcome, being in the conspiracy. He proceeded to arrest the conspirators, viz.: Pratt, the bank official, at his home; Tot J. Donkie at Butte City, Montana, and Dr. Scott at St. Louis. The stolen money was nearly all recovered. The men all pleaded guilty and went to the penitentiary, where they now are.

The Eastern division, under Robert A. Pinkerton, has a record which they point to with great pride. It is that of the celebrated Molly Maguire case, where they succeeded in getting the now well-known detective, James McFarlan, an operator in the secrets of the order, in their own employ, and through him securing the evidence by which twenty-seven members of the gang were hanged for murders committed in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, and more than fifty others, for various crimes, sent to the penitentiary. They claim that through their efforts the organization was broken up. Another record in the Eastern office gives an account of the capture of the Northampton, Mass., bank burglars, and the recovery of \$1,500,000. This case was under the personal supervision of Robert A. Pinkerton; also the arrest and conviction of the Wellsboro, Pa., bank robbers; the arrest and conviction of the celebrated look expert, Proctor, who had fitted keys to safes all over the United States, and stolen \$40,000 from the office of the United States Express Company at Susquehanna, Pa.; the arrest, with ample evidence to convict, of Mother Mandelbaum, the notorious receiver of stolen goods in New York City. She had been thirty-five years in the business, and had boasted that the police were not able to trap her. The Pinkertons got fifteen or twenty good cases against her, but she put up an exorbitant bail, and escaped to Canada, where she now lives.

The Pinkertons have also been successful in organizing several classes of business men and manufacturers into associations which operate for the prevention of crime as well as for the protection of the exclusive character of their business. Several years ago professional thieves and robbers made a specialty of following traveling jewelry salesmen, stealing trunks at depots, or in hotels, and getting away with the plunder. This had become very common. Finally, at the suggestion of William A. Pinkerton, the wholesale jewelers formed an association under state laws as the "Jewelers' Protective Union." This union comprises every large jewelry house in the United States which employs traveling salesmen. Since the organization was effected

there have been but five or six robberies, and in every instance the thieves have been arrested, the property recovered, and the criminal sent to the penitentiary. The motto of the association is: No compromise with thieves. When a salesman is robbed he is instructed to telegraph the facts to the nearest Pinkerton agency, and, as the latter has the exclusive work of the association, the offenders are looked after without delay or regard for cost. The fact that this class of crime has almost entirely disappeared is pointed to by the Pinkertons as an evidence, not only of their sagacity in capturing criminals, but also as proof that their methods are salutary in preventing such offenses.

The marked success in this department has led to the formation of another association, called the Jewelers' Protective Alliance, for the purpose of protecting jewelers against robberies in country jewelry stores. In such cases, as the merchants are mostly without means, the manufacturers or wholesale men have to bear the losses. The Pinkertons represent this association, and they claim that the results have been the same. There have been but six of such robberies since the association was formed, and in each case the thieves have been caught and convicted.

In addition to these and several other similar associations for which the Pinkertons act exclusively, they are engaged by the Pullmans to look out for professional and sneak thieves on the Pullman cars all over the country. They claim that previous to the arrangements thus made Pullman car robberies were frequent, while since there have been but two on all of the Pullman lines, and that in both instances the offenders have been caught and punished. The motto of the Pullmans, says William A. Pinkerton, is to punish a thief at any cost.

The Pinkerton Agency is also employed by nearly all foreign governments having matters to look after in America. The Canadian government looks to the agency entirely, and there is a constant correspondence between Robert A. Pinkerton at the New York office and the police authorities of London, Paris, Berlin, and other great European cities.

William A. Pinkerton is but little over forty years of age. He is married and has two daughters. He is a large man, weighing over two hundred pounds, with black hair and mustache, and bright, sharp eyes, which move in their sockets, when moving at all, with lightning rapidity, but which, when they come to rest on an object, are utterly motionless. He is blunt, even to harshness, and his general manner is not calculated to lead his intimates to feel that they have his utmost confidence. He is a successful manager of men, but has a pronounced temper, and shows it vehemently when the least of his orders are not obeyed. He will listen to the plans and suggestions of his subordinates attentively, but rarely adopts more than parts of them. In all matters of importance he gives complete and detailed instructions before dispatching a man on a mission of any kind, and holds him to the plan authorized to the letter, unless he receives the best of reasons for changing it.

Robert A. Pinkerton, the general superintendent of the Eastern division, the younger of the two, is perhaps just a little taller than William, but is not nearly as stout, and will not weigh more than 175 pounds. He wears a mustache and a closely cropped growth of side-whiskers, which he does not allow to extend more than one inch below the ears. He differs from his brother in being more active. In all of his movements he is quick, bordering a little on the nervous, but, like William, he is in constant application upon his work, and keeps himself intimately acquainted with all the details of every case in hand. It is safe to say that the two men referred to have a more extensive acquaintance with the criminal classes of America than any other persons now living.

They never meddle with divorce cases, and always refuse to touch domestic or family affairs of any kind. Their men are paid a regular salary, and are not allowed to receive outside rewards for work accomplished.