

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

May 9, 1919.

STOLEN GOVERNMENT CHECKS

TO THE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES IN THE SECOND FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT:

As Government warrants and checks drawn on the Treasurer of the United States are received by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York subject to final payment by the Treasurer of the United States, the Government having for many years exercised the right of returning at any time such warrants and checks which for any cause have not been considered good, we beg herewith to transmit immediately to the banks and trust companies in this district the following letter, copy of which has been received today from P. J. Ahern, Operative in Temporary Charge, U. S. Secret Service, New York District.

New York, Room 746, Custom House.

May 9, 1919.

DIRECTOR OF THE CLEARING HOUSE,
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

SIR:

I beg to submit to you the following numbers of Government checks which were stolen from the office of Major James E. Young, Q. M. C., Governor's Island, New York, N. Y., during December, 1918, some of which have been raised and passed in this city and in Philadelphia. They are being presented by an officer, or by a man wearing the uniform of an army officer, who states that he wishes to make up a payroll and asks that the proceeds of the check be given him in certain bills, that is so many hundreds, so many fifties, and so on. This man presented one of these raised checks at the Liberty National Bank on Saturday, April 26th, 1919, which was refused, and another at the Garfield National Bank, on Saturday, May 3rd, which was cashed, the latter check being raised from \$290.47 to \$8290.47, using a Todd protectograph in raising the amount of the check. The description of the man, as given to this office, is, army officer, about 35 years old, 6 ft. tall, slight build, good looking, sharp features, very small light moustache, and light brown or auburn hair, and wears the marks showing the rank of lieutenant; of course this cannot be authentically stated:

65269	56927	56893	53562	50039	56895
50316	50036	56926	50045	56891	50038
50053	56902	50049	56899	56928	56930
56890	56889	50050	65199	56900	56903
64838	56892	56904	48582	56896	56898
56862	50047	65286	52248	50048	50111
56894					

The Symbol No. of all the above mentioned checks is 20258.

Please notify all banks to be on the lookout for a man of this description, or anyone else, who may present a raised check signed by Major James E. Young, Q. M. C., Governor's Island, on which a protectograph is used. The protectograph was not used on the original checks.

Your immediate attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

P. J. AHERN,
Operative in Temporary Charge.

If any of the above numbered checks should be presented, the U. S. Secret Service requests that the party presenting same be held for whatever action the Secret Service deems proper to take in the premises.

L. H. HENDRICKS,
Cashier