

\$40,000 COPPER STOLEN YEAR AGO LOCATED IN JUNK

**Two Northern Pacific Switchmen
Arrested for Larceny of Valu-
able Anode Plates Taken From
Car That Moved Mysteriously in
Duluth Yards in Fall of 1913.**

**Metal Yard Foreman Purchased
Plates for \$300 and Probe Re-
sults in Their Discovery Under
Pile of Old Iron on East Michi-
gan Street—Sent to Montana.**

About one year ago—on Nov. 4, 1913—a freight car containing more than \$100,000 worth of copper anode plates disappeared from the Garfield avenue yards of the Northern Pacific railroad.

One day later the car appeared in the freight yards of the company with \$40,000 worth of the plates missing.

Yesterday the plates were located in the yard of the Duluth Iron and Metal company, 302 East Michigan street, and George K. Robertson, age 30, and Joseph Regali, age 26, switchmen in the employ of the railroad company, were arrested for the theft of the car and its contents. Zigmund Zalk, foreman of the Duluth Iron and Metal company, in a signed statement given to the police last night, says that he bought 32 of the valuable plates from Robertson and Regali for \$300, without the knowledge of his employers, and that he assisted at the unloading of them, which was accomplished after dark on the evening of Nov. 4, 1913.

Story of Robbery Remarkable.

The story of the remarkable robbery, as pieced together from the statement of the Anaconda Mine company, Northern Pacific officials and Zalk's statement, is that in the latter part of October, 1913, a carload of the copper anode plates were shipped from Butte to Pittsburgh via Duluth.

Copper anode plates are casts of copper containing quantities of gold and silver, which are subjected to electrolysis for the purpose of separ-

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COPPER STOLEN YEAR AGO FOUND IN JUNK

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ating the copper from the more valuable metals.

The car containing the plates was checked by freight officials at No. 2 dock at Garfield avenue, Nov. 4, 1913.

Next day it was checked as an empty car on the tracks near Fifth avenue West, and on the following day it was checked into the Northern Pacific freight house as an empty to be reloaded.

Many Plates Missing.

When the car was opened for reloading, it was found that it was about half full of the copper plates, and railroad detectives were notified at once. Their investigation failed to reveal how the car had been stolen from the Garfield avenue yards, or where it had been between Nov. 4 and 5. The local police were notified on Nov. 19.

No further information as to the disappearance of the precious metal was unearthed until yesterday. Then a call from the special agents of the Northern Pacific road led to the information that Robertson and Regall were the men who engineered the strange flight of the car. They were put under arrest late in the afternoon by Detectives Schulte and Irvine.

Pays \$300 for Metal.

Later the two detectives—special agents of the road—and a stenographer, called on Zigmund Zalk and his statement was taken.

He declared that he arranged the purchase of the plates with the two men and paid them \$300 for the metal. Robertson received \$200 at first, and, after the metal was delivered, each of the men was paid \$50 more, says Zalk.

The plates weigh 525 pounds each or 16,800 pounds in all. The Anaconda company declares that copper at that time was worth 17 cents a pound, so that as copper only the 32 stolen plates were worth \$2,856. With the gold and silver which they contain they are valued by the company at between \$25,000 and \$40,000. Each plate has the form of a man's sleeveless shirt pressed flat.

Buried Under Old Iron.

When search was made for the plates at the yard of the Duluth Iron and Metal company, they were found buried under tons of old iron and rusty metal. Many of them had been cut up into small pieces.

About one-half of the metal was loaded on freight cars and reshipped to Butte yesterday. The remainder is ready for shipment early this morning.

Robertson lives at the corner of Isanti street and St. Paul avenue, and Regall lives at 726 Tenth avenue East. Both refuse to talk except to deny all knowledge of the affair. They will be arraigned in municipal court this morning on charges of grand larceny in the first degree.