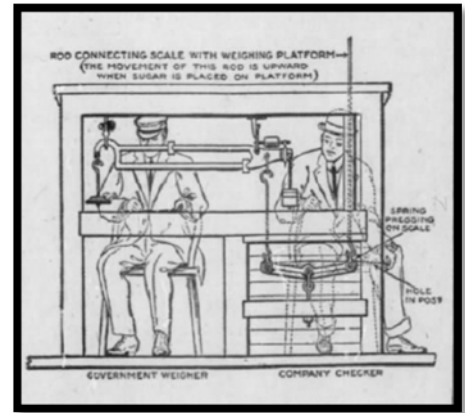


# The “Colossal” Case of Agent Richard Parr Images

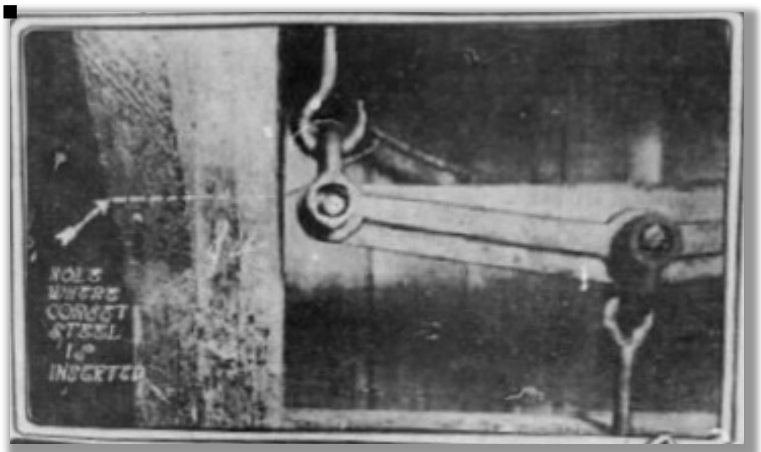
By Steven W. Hooper



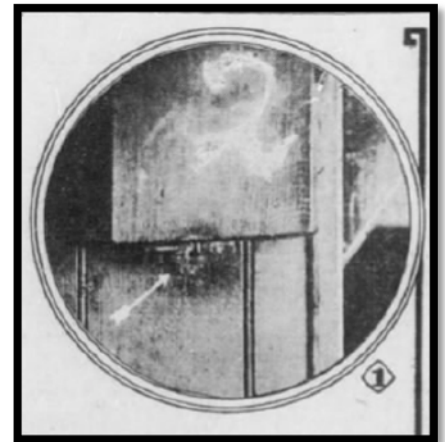
1.



2.



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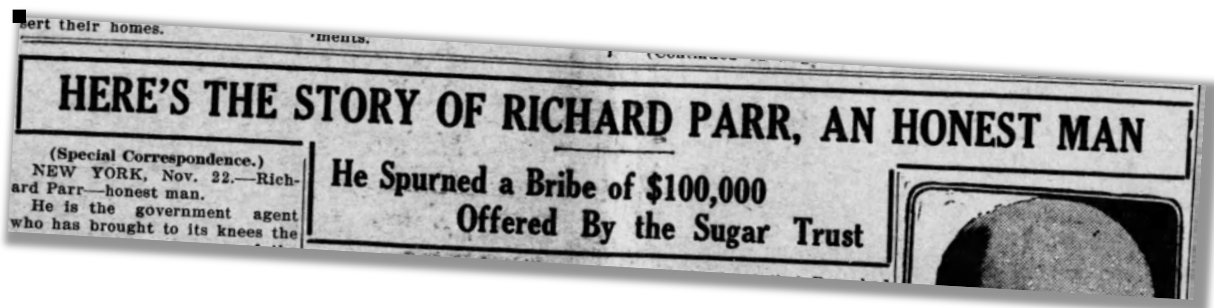
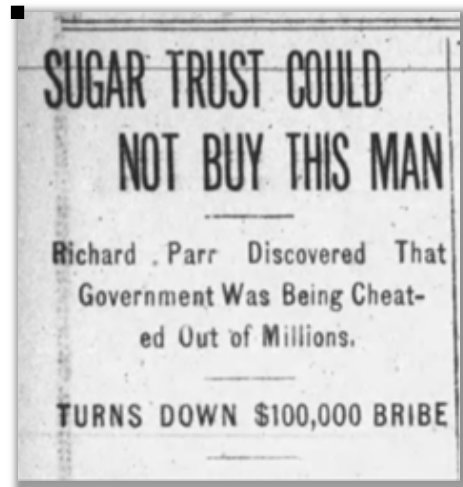
**Figure 1:** This is how the fraud scheme worked.

1. The American Sugar Refinery Company plant in Brooklyn.
2. U.S. Customs weigher working next to a Sugar Trust checker as corset steel is inserted into a platform scale.
3. Illustration of how corset steel caused the scale to reduce the weight of the sugar.
4. Closeup of hole where corset steel is inserted into the scale.

(Source: Newspapers.com, *The Washington Times*, May 23, 1909, Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107.](#))



**Figure 2:** Workers unloading raw sugar at the wharf of the American Sugar Refining Company in 1918. Although this photograph was taken after Agent Parr discovered the Sugar Trust frauds, the methods of processing imported sugar remained much the same. (Source: War Department via [National Archives](#), Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107](#).)



**Figure 3:** Agent Richard Parr was a boyhood friend of William Loeb, Jr. which gave him access to Loeb's boss, President Theodore Roosevelt. Without this access, it is doubtful this investigation would have been successful. Like Treasury Agent Elliot Ness, Parr became a nationwide symbol of a lawman who could not be corrupted. (Source: Newspapers.com, *The Chickasha Daily Express* (Chickasha, Oklahoma), November 29, 1909, p. 8. Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107.](#))



**Figure 3:** Sugar Trust Dock Superintendent Oliver Spitzer oversaw the Trust checkers who inserted the corset steel into the scales to falsify the weight of the imported sugar. Spitzer was convicted of fraud and sentenced to prison. After spending a few months in prison, he decided to turn on the higherups in the Trust. He also testified against former Agent Brzezinski sending him to prison for perjury. (Source: Newspapers.com, *The Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer* (Bridgeport, Connecticut), May 25, 1910, p. 4. Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107.](#))





**Figure 4:** President Theodore Roosevelt on the right and William Loeb, Jr. who was described as Roosevelt’s “right-hand-man”. Agent Parr’s relationship with Loeb made it possible to eliminate powerful interference by the Sugar Trust and allow for a thorough investigation of their frauds. In 1909, Loeb would become the Collector of Customs for New York. (Source: Library of Congress, The Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University website, <https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Blog/Item/Loeb>. Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107](#).)



**Figure 5:** Henry Osborne (H.O.) Havemeyer, President of the American Sugar Refining Company which was known as the “Sugar Trust”. Havemeyer died ten days after Agent Parr discovered the weighing fraud on the company docks. His art collection was considered one of the world’s most valuable and much of it has been donated to the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. (Source: Wikipedia website, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Osborne\\_Havemeyer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Osborne_Havemeyer). Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107](#).)