

GOLD COIN GETTING STRIPPED

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS LOOK UP THE PRACTITIONERS.

They Can Get a Dollar's Worth of Gold for a \$20 Gold Piece and Then Pass the Coin for \$20—Gold Plated Lincoln Cents Under a Western Ban.

Secret Service Agents have visited a number of jewelry and electroplating shops in the Maiden Lane district in the last few days seeking information as to "strippers," who remove small quantities of gold or silver from coins which are immersed for the purpose in acid solvents.

Inquiries were also made as to several kinds of coin jewelry, including articles made of Lincoln pennies which are gold plated in the process of manufacture.

The inquiry as to coin stripping was started after a number of circulating coins, including \$20 gold pieces, had proved to be short weight. The loss seemed to be more than could be explained by the usual wearing away caused by friction.

Suspicious are entertained that such coins have been reduced in weight by the stripping process in which they are dipped for an hour or two in the prepared liquid into which an electric current is turned.

When the electric power and the strength of the acids are properly regulated, according to the weight of coins treated, the metal is "sweated" off the surface of the coins so smoothly that they are not changed in appearance.

Valuable quantities of the precious metal have been obtained, it is believed, by stripping a large number of coins. The separated metal clings to a receiving plate from which it is readily collected by the strippers, who have no difficulty in selling it for cash since there is no suspicion of the method by which it was obtained.

The coins are passed into circulation at their face value.

Coins have also been stripped, it is suspected, by using the usual intervals in electro-plating tanks in which case the metal is deposited at once on the object to be plated.

The plater in this way gets his gold free as the coins are passed into circulation as before.

Some of the coins that have been offered for deposit at banks of late have the designs brought out more sharply than is natural. It is supposed that these coins have been stripped and left in the bath uncommonly long.

But even in these coins the untrained eye would see nothing out of the way.

One of the largest electroplaters said that without doubt strippers can take as much as a pennyweight of gold or more than a dollar in value, from a \$20 gold piece without making any perceptible change. There is no risk of loss, because if the acid should act too much or roughen the surface, as might happen, then the entire coin may be melted up and the metal is equal in value to the coin.

A special difficulty in getting evidence against the stripper is that even if he is caught with the coins in solution nothing is thereby proved, as he can say that he intends to use the coins instead of bullion for plating and will not try to pass them as money.

There is no law against dissolving or melting coins provided they are destroyed as currency, and many jewelers are in the habit of fusing gold coins instead of going to the trouble of getting bullion.

None of the established electroplaters is suspected of being engaged in the illegitimate practice. It is supposed that temporary plants are put up by strippers in secluded lofts of factory buildings, as little equipment is required.

The fact for Lincoln cents in jewelry received a mention because this may be regarded as mutilation of coin, if a cent is considered a coin; and also a gold watch case of this kind could possibly be mistaken for a \$5 gold piece.

Some quantities of five cent pieces were plated with gold and passed on arriving immigrants as \$5 gold pieces.

Jewelers having inquiries of the authorities here and at Washington and have been told informally that the law as to mutilation of coin applies only to gold and silver coin, not to cents.

In some Western cities, according to reports received in the jewelry district, the Federal authorities have prohibited manufacturers of jewelry from using the Lincoln cents in this way, and this has increased the demand upon the manufacturers here who make the cents into cuff buttons, scarves, brooches and other articles.

A number of the gold and plated cents are often grouped in a single neck or hair ornament.

Electroplaters say that they have been gold plating many thousands of the cents every week for jewelers and others and that the total quantity of these cents treated in this way has been enormous.

KNOX'S NOTE TO THE POWERS.

No Response as Yet to His Plan to Neutralize the Manchurian Railways.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Secretary of State Knox does not expect immediate replies to his circular note to the Powers suggesting the neutralization of the Manchurian railways by their sale to China, the funds for the transaction to be furnished by an international syndicate of bankers.

The proposition is of such great importance, it was said, that the foreign offices of the various Powers will desire to study the problem for several months before making formal replies.

It is known, however, that Germany, Great Britain and China are disposed favorably toward the general features of the proposition. The attitudes of Russia and Russia are of greater importance, however, to the consummation of the plan, because of the fact that these two governments own the principal railroads in Manchuria.

The Russian Government owns the Chinese Eastern Railway, as that part of the trans-Siberian railway operating in China is called, and the Japanese Government owns the south Manchurian and the Antung-Mukden railroads.

The United States and Great Britain are also greatly interested in the railroad problem in Manchuria. British and American bankers have obtained a concession from the Chinese Government for the construction of a railroad from Chinchow to Tientsin, where the proposed road will connect with the Chinese Eastern. There is also provision for a later extension from Tientsin to Aigun.

The importance of the proposed road, which will be built by American and British capital, is that it will connect with the Chinese Eastern Railroad at Tientsin and probably divert traffic from Europe over the trans-Siberian to the South Manchurian Railroad, a Japanese road.

Secretary Knox's note, however, will have the effect of inducing the Powers to declare their attitude toward the railroad situation in Manchuria and incidentally toward the open door policy.

The adverse comment in Japan on Secretary Knox's proposal is not regarded at the State Department as evidence that Japan will reject the plan. The circular note was forwarded to the Powers only a few weeks ago, and a sufficient period of time has not elapsed to permit a superficial study of the plan.

Whether or not the neutralization scheme is consummated Secretary Knox has by making the suggestion induced the Powers to interest in the question into positions where they will be forced to declare their real intentions toward the future of Manchuria.

NAVAL REORGANIZATION.

House Committee Adopts Some of Secretary Meyer's Recommendations.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Secretary of the Navy Meyer spent several hours to-day explaining to the members of the House Naval Committee his plan for the reorganization of navy yard administration. The committee has practically decided to adopt his recommendation that construction work at navy yards relating to buildings and operating plants should be placed under the supervision of the bureau of yards and docks.

The members of the committee believe this work should be in charge of the civil engineers of the navy. The committee has also decided to abolish the bureau of equipment and distribute its functions among the other bureaus.

There are a number of other phases of Mr. Meyer's reorganization plan, however, on which members of the committee had not reached a conclusion. One of these is the disposition of the control over machinery, which Secretary Meyer believes should be placed under the bureau of steam engineering.

Truman H. Newberry, former Secretary of the Navy, in his reorganization scheme proposed that all machinery should be under control of the bureau of construction and repair.

Secretary Meyer, however, believes it more advisable to limit the duties of that bureau to the design, manufacture and repair of the hulls of the naval vessels.

Mr. Meyer will probably appear before the committee on several future occasions. Chairman Foss said the national appropriation bill will not be completed before the end of February.

CARDINAL GIBBONS SEES TAFT.

To-day He Will Participate in the Celebration of Cardinal's Day.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Cardinal Gibbons, who comes to Washington each January to participate in the celebration of Cardinal's day at St. Patrick's Church, had a short talk with President Taft at the White House this evening. To-morrow Cardinal Gibbons will assist in the celebration of mass at St. Patrick's. Many of the Diplomatic Corps, including Baron Hengelmüller von Hengervár, Ambassador from Austria-Hungary, and Marquis de Villalobos, the Minister from Spain, will be present.

WEST FACES A COAL FAMINE

Factories and Many Public Institutions Closed.

Railroads Unable to Deliver Fuel Although There is an Abundance at the Mines.

Railroads Confiscate Coal on Sidings to Keep the Traffic Moving.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 8.—The continued cold weather is causing factories in many Indiana cities to shut down for want of coal and hundreds of persons have been forced into idleness while there are orders on hand to keep them at work if coal could be had.

Hardly any of the factories are running full time and even those that have a supply on hand are hushbanding, it as there is no certainty when another supply can be got.

The railroads cannot haul the coal, though there is plenty at the mines. President Kolsom of the Indiana Operators Association says that aside from the heavy general business of the road in the last six weeks, there has been continued cold weather, which diminishes the motive power one-half, that two engines are required to haul what is a load for one in ordinary weather, and besides the two engines burn more coal than they ordinarily do.

The result of this is that roads are furnishing empty cars to the mines on the stipulation that the coal is to be for the railroad company's own use.

In a number of cities prices of coal have increased greatly in two weeks and there is suffering among the poor which charity organizations cannot relieve because the coal cannot be got.

Some railroad companies have been compelled to confiscate coal on the side tracks in order to move trains.

DES MOINES, Ia., Jan. 8.—Prospects of another fall in temperature make the coal situation critical in this State. So acute has the situation become that the State Board of Railway Commissioners has appealed to the railroads to abandon passenger trains so far as possible and devote their facilities to hauling coal.

The miners have refused to work on Sunday, although in many cities and towns the fuel supply is not sufficient to last until Monday.

Factories in every city in the State have closed for lack of fuel and hundreds of men are out of employment.

Gov. Carroll said to-day that the State institutions have less than two days supply on hand. The State University has been closed for three days.

When the Governor learned that women with children in their arms were besieging local coal offices and begging for coal he ordered that the coal intended for the State House use should be divided among the sufferers and that hard coal be used at the State House instead.

The railroads have been able to bring a few carloads of coal into Des Moines in the last few hours, but it was as a drop in a bucket. Present conditions are without parallel in the history of the State.

OMAHA, Jan. 8.—A serious coal famine exists in many portions of Western Nebraska and there will be great suffering unless the situation is quickly relieved.

The Northwestern Railroad has issued orders to give right of way to coal trains over passenger, mail or express trains. Officials are bending every effort to move coal.

Passenger and mail trains have been held up at various stations in the State to allow coal trains to pass and the company is supplying a number of towns with coal from its own supply.

The officials assert not a single car has been confiscated by this company.

PREACHER ABDUCTOR GUILTY.

Jury Finds That He Meant to Make Girl a "White Slave" Too.

OTTAWA, Kan., Jan. 8.—The Rev. W. M. Stuckey, the ex-preacher of Williamsburg who had been on trial here, was found guilty by a jury to-day of abducting Leona Butler, a sixteen-year-old girl of his flock, for his own immoral purposes and for "white slave" purposes. The penalty is from one to five years on each count.

The jury considered the case only thirty minutes.

ALEXANDER LAMBERT INJURED.

Alexander Lambert, the musician, was seriously injured yesterday afternoon while crossing Fifth avenue at Thirty-third street at 3 o'clock. Mr. O'Leary was knocked down by an automobile which did not stop in its course.

He was put into a taxicab and sent to his home at 72 Lexington avenue. Two surgeons were summoned and found that his right shoulder and one of his right ribs had been fractured.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MEETINGS ALMANAC THIS DAY.

Table with columns: Sun rises, Moon sets, Sand Hook, Arrived-SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, Departed-SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, Outgoing Steamships, Incoming Steamships, Due To-day, Due To-morrow.

Lord & Taylor Wash Waist Dept.

This sale of Waists consists of a large assortment of fabrics in the latest models with long or 3/4 sleeves. In Lawn, embroidery trimmed at \$1.25, \$1.75. In Lawn with detachable frill at \$1.25, \$2.50. In Batiste, in a large variety of styles; lace and embroidery trimmed at \$2.50, \$2.95, \$3.45, \$4.95, \$5.95. In Batiste, trimmed with Irish and Cluny Laces at \$7.95. Batiste, elaborately lace trimmed with frill front \$6.95, \$7.95. Marquisette Waists lace trimmed with frill front at \$2.95, \$3.45, \$3.95, \$4.95. Cotton Crepe Waists lace trimmed at \$1.95, \$2.50, \$3.95. Tailored Madras Waists at 98c. Tailored Linen Waists \$1.95, \$2.50.

Corset Dept.

Fine Batiste Corsets medium bust, long hips and back with four hose supporters 98c.—value \$2.00. Fine Coutil Corsets (Walohn boning); medium bust, long hips and back with four hose supporters \$1.45—value \$2.75. Fine Batiste Corsets medium bust, long hips and back with four hose supporters \$1.75—value \$3.00. Fine Brocade Batiste Corsets medium high bust, long hips and back with four hose supporters \$2.50—value \$4.50. Fine Brocade Batiste Corsets (Walohn boning) long hips and back, medium low bust with four hose supporters \$3.75—value \$6.75.

Broadway & 20th St.; 5th Ave.; 19th St.

Lord & Taylor Announce Their Annual Sale

of Silk Petticoats, Corsets, Kimonos, Wrappers and Wash Waists. Commencing Monday, Jan. 10th. —Also— the Continuation of their Muslin Underwear Sale.

Silk Petticoat Dept.

Taffeta Silk Petticoats (best quality), Black and Colored at \$3.95—value \$6.00. Taffeta Silk Petticoats (best quality) in a large variety of styles, In Black, Colored, Gun-metal Stripe and White at \$5.00, \$6.75 & \$7.75 values up to \$12.75. Messaline Petticoats Directoire Model; Black, Colored and White at \$8.75—value \$13.75. Fancy Dresden and Black and White Satin Stripe at \$12.75—value \$20.00. Wool Jersey Top Petticoats with taffeta silk flouncing \$3.95, \$5.95 & \$6.75 values up to \$10.75. Silk Jersey Top Petticoats Black and Colored with taffeta and messaline flounce to match at \$5.95, \$6.75—values up to \$12.75.

Wrapper Dept.

House Gowns or Negligées. In Albatross, satin trimmed at \$4.95—values up to \$8.00. In Flowered Wool Challie at \$4.95, \$6.95 & \$7.95 values up to \$10.75. In Figured Silk, accordion plaited at \$8.75—value \$12.75. In Albatross, lingerie collar, lace trimmed at \$9.75—value \$12.75. In Fleece-down Flannel.....\$1.65, \$1.95. In Flowered Lawn or Swiss at \$1.95, \$2.25, \$2.95, \$3.95.

Japanese Wadded Silk Wrappers

at \$8.50. A Manufacturer's Sample Line of Negligées at less than 1/2 their value. Kimonos. In Fleece-down Flannel.....\$1.65, \$1.95. In Crepe.....\$1.65, \$1.95, \$2.25, \$3.95. In Albatross, flowered or plain silk.....\$3.45. In Swivel Silk.....\$3.85. In Plain Silk, albatross lined.....\$5.95. In Swivel Silk, albatross lined.....\$6.75. In Flowered Lawn.....\$1.50. In Flowered Swiss.....\$1.75.

Dressing Sacques

In Flowered Lawn or Swiss.....98c., \$1.25. Camiles in Flowered Swiss.....85c. Flowered Crepe.....\$1.65. Flowered Wool Challie.....\$2.95. Albatross, lace trimmed, accordion plaited.....\$3.95.

Broadway & 20th St.; 5th Ave.; 19th St.

PINCHOT COULDN'T COME.

Camp Fire Club Medal of Honor Will Go to Him Later.

The Campfire Club of America had its "game protection dinner" last night at the rooms of the Arkwright Club, 320 Broadway. One of the features of the dinner was to have been the presentation of a medal of honor to Gifford Pinchot for his service in game and forest protection.

President Ernest Thompson Seton of the club read a telegram from Mr. Pinchot regretting that he could not come. His name was applauded.

W. H. Boardman, founder of the club, and the toastmaster of the evening, said that "Noah was the greatest game preserver that ever lived."

William Dutcher, president of the Audubon Society, spoke of plumage and song bird protection. Robert H. Davis told of rescuing Col. Roosevelt in the Florida jungle, and weary and alone, it seems that he came a shriek, "as if some hand had struck the vibrant chords of the Cosmic harp, and he rushed into the brush to find the lost one, who immediately presented him with a gold watch on which was engraved, 'Presented to R. H. D. for his conspicuous services in saving the life of Theodore Roosevelt.'

Dillon Wallace, Edgar Beecher Bronson and Col. William F. Cody spoke more truthfully.

FRENCH GIRLS UP IN BALLOON.

Mrs. Alvin and Miss Jean Make First Flight of the Year at Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 8.—Miss Jean French and Mrs. Alvin French of New York and Pasadena made the first balloon flight for 1910, going up this afternoon from Pasadena with Clifford Hannon, of New York. The flight was Miss Jean French's sixth. In the Berkeley Hills some time ago she went above the clouds and stayed up after dark, landing in the moonlight.

The landing to-day was made at Casa Verdugo, 10 miles from the place of starting. The trip lasted two hours and both women expressed themselves as delighted.

Colorado and Southern Extension Chartered.

AVONEN, Tex., Jan. 8.—The Abilene Central Railroad Company filed its charter in the Secretary of State's office to-day. Its purpose is to build from Abilene to Waco, 116 miles. It has a capital stock of \$150,000 and its general offices are at Abilene. That it is a Colorado and Southern project is indicated by the fact that Morgan Jones and D. T. Bomer, who are identified with the Texas lines of that road, are officers in the new company.

Texas Wagon Cars Repaired Within State.

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 8.—Joe F. Myer, State Labor Commissioner, has instructed District Attorney Henry of Bowie county to bring suit against the Cotton Belt Railroad for having cars belonging to it repaired outside the State in violation of the statute. The cars are alleged to have been repaired at Pine Bluff, Ark.

\$3,000,000 REALTY COMPANY.

Holdings of Mrs. Carrie M. Butler Go to a New Corporation.

Carrie M. Butler, wife of Jacob D. Butler, transferred yesterday to the Realty Assets Company, a newly formed corporation, real estate in this city valued at \$3,000,000. The sale was made for cash, no trade of other properties being involved.

The deal included the Manhattan apartment house, an eleven story building, which occupies the block front, 201, 10x100 feet in size, on the west side of Broadway between 100th and 109th streets, and the thirteen story business building at 85 Fifth avenue and 5 and 7 East Sixteenth street.

ALCOHOLISM

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE—WEST-CHESTER COUNTY.

Big New California Oil Co. FRESNO, Cal., Jan. 8.—The American Oil Fields Company was incorporated here to-day with \$25,000,000 capital stock, of which \$700,000 is subscribed. Among the directors are E. L. Dohy, C. A. Canfield, J. C. Anderson and other California oil men. The company will consolidate interests controlling thousands of acres of oil land in the Coalinga district.

PARK HILL

Our own Construction Department will design and build the RIGHT kind of a home for you at Park Hill, or you can have your own architect and your own builder—either way we will make the terms of payment so as not to be burdensome to you. Park Hill has 100% of City improvements, and the quiet dignity of its twenty years' careful development and growth. Send for the Park Hill Booklet. American Real Estate Company. Room 552, 527 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Assets over Eleven Million Dollars.

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Advertisement for ENTIRE RELIEF, a remedy for symptoms of DIABETES, including contact information for the manufacturer.