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STANDARD OF AMERICAN MINT

Brass Troy Pound Brought to Country by Albert Gallatin Has Increased in Weight.

IT IS KEPT IN PHILADELPHIA.

Only Opened Once a Year on Occasion Of Visit of Government Assay Commission.

Washington, March 7.—By comparison with the government system of weights here, the discovery has been made that the brass troy pound, the basis of the standardization of the weights used by the mints and assay offices of the United States, has increased by oxidation seven and one-thousandths of a grain since it was brought to this country in 1827. A suggestion that the accretion by oxidation to the pound probably had amounted to two or three grains, caused consternation among treasury officials for a time, for gold coined on such a basis would be profitable for export as a commodity. It is now to be substituted as a standard for the brass if Congress sanctions this change. This metal is used in most other countries and at the bureau of standards. The brass troy pound was brought to the United States by Albert Gallatin, then minister to England in 1827, and since that time has been the standard of the American mint. It is kept within the innermost of three separate boxes at Philadelphia and is opened only once a year; on the occasion of the visit of the government assay commission, appointed by the president to test the weight and fineness of the coins of the United States. A key to each of the boxes is kept in different cities, thus preventing any possible tampering with the weight by unauthorized persons.

The discovery of the change in the metal is due to Edward Rigg, superintendent of the machinery of the royal mint at London, who, at the invitation of A. Platt Andrew, director of the United States mint, was at the meeting of the assay commission at Philadelphia early in February. When he was told that the standard weight shown was the same that had been in use 82 years, he expressed the greatest surprise and asked whether any test of its accuracy ever had been made by modern standards, at the same time suggesting that in all probability there was a considerable accretion in grains due to the lapse of time. Soon after the assay commission had departed from Philadelphia where a comparison with the metric weights at the bureau of standards showed the slightest increase that almost a century had developed.

As the treasury has accepted and coined the gold on the same basis of weights, it has not lost any money. Following the disclosure and the comparison of the brass pound and the weights at the bureau of standards, the calculation was reached that the difference between the 100,000,000 of gold coinage would amount to \$21,512. The coinage last year amounted to \$89,000,000.

THE LITTLE CHURCH AROUND THE CORNER

New York, March 7.—The Church of the Transfiguration, affectionately known as "The Little Church Around the Corner," is this week celebrating its sixtieth anniversary. "For 60 years," said the Rev. Dean Robbins, in opening the week's services, "these doors have been open and for 60 years this has been a school of freedom, a school where men, women and children have learned that freedom is alone found in the city of God."

GREAT REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN WHALE FISHING

New Bedford, Mass., March 7.—For the last few weeks the city water front has resembled a picture frame of the past and memories of New Bedford's prestige when the whaling industry was at its height, have been revived. Not for very many years has so much attention been given to the whale fishery as at the present. On Thursday, next, the first of a fleet of nine whaling vessels, now outfitting, will sail in quest of the great mammal which half a century ago laid the foundation of many a substantial fortune.

Meanwhile, the few survivors of the old-time whalers, who, for more than a generation, have mourned the decline of what was once the city's principal industry, spend nearly all their spare moments on the wharves, exchanging reminiscences, while small boys stand beside, listening to stories which savor strongly of the saltiest seas.

The reason for the present activity is to be found in the fact that the market for sperm oil is depleted, while the price stands at 65 cents a gallon. In addition, whalebone is one of the most valuable products obtainable and there is always a chance of finding a lump of ambergris, which is worth far more than its weight in gold.

Seven vessels of the nine now preparing for sea will hunt in the Hatteras grounds in the north Atlantic, returning to port in the fall, while the bark Bertha and Wanderer will make more extended cruises to the West African coast.

THREATENED WITH DEATH. BARRICADES HIMSELF

New York, March 7.—Threatened with death unless he pays \$4,000 within the next 10 days, Joseph Florentino, an East Side fruit dealer, is barricaded in his home in Third avenue, while detectives are searching for the writers of the Black Hand letters which he has received.

Five letters have come for Florentino through the mails. One was dated at Hoboken, another at Newark and the others were mailed from various parts of this city. The earlier letters allowed him 30 days in which to meet these demands for money, but the latest, received yesterday, reminded him that inasmuch as the first letters had been ignored, he had only 10 days of life left to him.

ALLEN, WYO., POSTMASTER.

(Special to The News.)

Washington, D. C., March 7.—Minnie B. McClurg, has been appointed postmaster at Allen, Laramie county, Wyoming, vice J. B. Kutzer, resigned.

FIFTEEN YEARS FOR ANDERSON

Negro Who Murdered William Smith, Colored, Pleads Guilty And Is Sentenced.

WERE NO WITNESSES TO ACT

Accordingly the Charge Was Reduced To Second Degree—Arthur Brown Case Comes Up Thursday.

Thomas Anderson, a negro, was sentenced to 15 years in the state prison this morning by Judge T. D. Lewis for the murder of William Smith, another negro, following a quarrel in "Candy Hill" McKeon's saloon on Commercial street on April 2, 1909. Anderson agreed to plead guilty to murder in the second degree and the charge was reduced from the first degree as charged in the information.

When the case was called in court this morning, Dist. Atty. Fred C. Loebow stated that there were no witnesses to the shooting and that it would be hard to prove a case of murder in the first degree because there was an element of self-defense in the case. Anderson was called to the witness stand by Judge Lewis, who asked him if he shot and killed Smith. He replied that he did but exhibited a coat which he wore at the time of the shooting.

According to Loebow's story, the men quarreled in the saloon and then they met in Plum alley a few minutes later, where the shooting occurred. Anderson alleges that Smith drew a knife and slashed at him, cutting his coat. Before Smith could strike at him again with the knife, Anderson says he shot him. He waived time of sentence and as soon as it was pronounced he was taken to the state prison to begin his term.

CHRISTIANSEN CASE

James Christiansen, formerly state treasurer, who is charged with embezzlement, will not be tried this term. His case was postponed for the term at the request of his attorney, Sam R. King, who said that the defense would not be ready in time. The case was originally set for next week.

BROWN CASE THURSDAY

The case of Arthur Brown, charged with forgery, was continued until Thursday, the defense not being ready. The case was to have been tried today. Bert Rance, who assaulted his wife, Mrs. Anna Rance, last Christmas day with a knife, will not be tried this term. His case was continued this morning and he was released on his own recognizance.

ELDER H. M. SMITH ILL

Member of Quorum of the Twelve Brought Home From Brigham City.

While in Brigham City Sunday Elder Hyrum M. Smith of the council of the twelve, was seized with violent pains at first, which were thought to be the symptoms of appendicitis. A telephone message to Salt Lake brought Dr. Charles F. Wilcox and members of the family to the depot. Elder Smith today is reported to be considerably better and rapidly recovering his normal health.

ROUTE WAS SATISFACTORY FOR ASSISTANT WEATHER MAN

A civil service examination for young men 18 to 30 years old, will be held in this city April 12, next, for the position of assistant weather observer. The specifications of examination conditions are as follows: Time allowed eight hours. Subjects of examination a scale of 100; Spelling, 10; meteorology, 25; penmanship, 10; English composition upon some meteorological subject, 10; arithmetic, 10; copying and correcting, 10; geography of the United States, 10; elementary algebra through quadratics, 10. If a candidate's average rating be less than 70 on meteorology and English composition, the remaining subjects will not be rated. Examinations will be held at Logan, as well as in this city.

SPRINKLED WITH TEARS.

Junk Dealer Laments the Wreckage of A Carzo of Bottles in State Street.

The spectacle afforded by a bull in a china shop would be tame in its propriety compared with the south State street runaway at 1 o'clock this afternoon. As a result a junk dealer is sorrowful, a blacksmith is doing a repair job and the street department is busy with the wreckage.

At the City Hall Cash grocery at Fourth South and State street a delivery wagon of the United Grocery company was standing while the driver was in the store delivering a big load of groceries. An automobile happened along the thoroughfare with a great spluttering at the motor and honking with vigor and gusto. The team attached to the wagon was unduly alarmed and took to their heels, the meanwhile throwing the weight rope to a telephone pole, causing the heavy hitching weight to be projected into space for several hundred yards, threatening all who were in the way.

Once started up the street there was no stopping. Meanwhile a junk dealer mended down the street with his wagon piled many feet high with bottles. He was on the way to a bottle's emporium there to sell his wares, which, he said, would have netted him about \$20. The runaway team plunged headlong into the junk dealer and took the two rear wheels from the wagon, letting the bottles, driver and wagon down, scaring the horses and creating a chaotic state rivaled only in the comic supplement. Upon taking a count of the wreckage, it was found that all the bottles with the exception of two had been reduced to fragments. These were scattered from Third South to Fourth South and along the way, the driver was maddened with the tears of the junk dealer.

The maddened horses continued up to Third South street, where they were attracted by the display in the curio

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