

**TAVERN ALSO A PAWNSHOP**

Establishment in the City of London, England, is in Enjoyment of Unique Privilege.

A time-honored London (Eng.) city tavern, the Castle, at the corner of Cowcross street, facing Farringdon street, enjoys the unique distinction of being also a fully licensed pledge shop. Over the door in the bar, which gives access to the landlord's private room, and thrown into bold relief by the official document behind it, the historic three-sphered symbol is discernible. Any one may here negotiate a loan upon his personal belongings without being under the necessity of first calling for refreshment. Formerly the house had a special pledge counter resembling the modern "Bottle and Jug" department, but this is no longer in evidence.

This strange combination of business dates from the reign of George IV, who, after attending a cock fight at Hockley-in-the-Hole, applied to the landlord of the Castle for a temporary accommodation on the security of his watch and chain. By royal warrant a few days later he invested that obliging boniface with the right of advancing money on pledges, and from that time down to the present a pawnbroker's license has been annually granted to the Castle. This hostelry is mentioned once or twice by Dickens in his novels.

**AMERICAN SOLDIER THE BEST**

World's Records for Marksmanship All His, and He is Trained to Act on His Own Initiative.

If there is one big, distinguishing trait of the United States regular, it is individuality. In every one of the great foreign military nations, particularly Germany and Japan, battalion and company officers and enlisted men are carefully trained not to think for themselves. They are used as mere chess pieces under the guidance of a master mind. In this country, where our melting pot has yielded us an extraordinary self-reliant, cool thinking, intensive initiative product, it is only natural that our soldiers should be trained as are our civilians.

The United States army spends annually on rifle target practice five times the sum spent by any other army of an equal number of men. This applies, too, to our field and coast artillery. As a result, no better marksmen can be found than the American soldier and his cousin, the national guardsman, who is trained along the same lines. Every world's fire control and accuracy record with rifle and big gun is today held by the American soldier.

The United States army is small, in accordance with the will of the people not to support a large standing military establishment. But what we have is almost 100 per cent. efficient, the splendid nucleus of the big army of regulars, militia and volunteers which we should place in the field if occasion required. It is only in equipment—quartermaster, commissary, medicine and particularly ordnance stores—that our army is lacking.—Leslie's.

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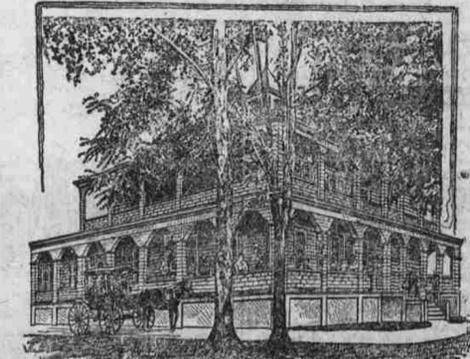
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