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County Court.

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Probate Court.

JUDGE.....C. C. KOHLSAAT. CLERK.....A. O. COOPER. SHERIFF.....JAMES PEASE. STATE'S ATTORNEY.....JACOB J. KERN. CLERK OF THE CRIMINAL COURT.....E. J. MAGERSTADT.

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To Abate the Smoke Nuisance. It has been suggested by Mr. N. O. Nelson that instead of transporting the coal from the mines, there should be created in immediate proximity to the Illinois coal pits a great plant, consuming the slack and waste coal, which can be had for next to nothing, which could generate electrical energy, to be transmitted by wire to St. Louis, sufficient to furnish a complete supply of electrical heat, whether for warming buildings or driving machinery. No other city of magnitude, as Mr. Nelson assures me, is so favorably situated for this grand electrical solution of the fuel problem. Heat, power and illumination might thus, through electrical transmission, be supplied from the Illinois coal fields without transporting the coal any appreciable distance from the mouth of the mine. The smoke nuisance would thus disappear of itself.

She Sat Upon the Apples. The duck may not be the wisest of birds, but there should be a limit to its folly. It is told of one that she was in the habit of frequenting an apple orchard. Finding a number of apples lying about, she carried several of them to her nest, and, under the impression, it is supposed, that they were eggs, sat upon them for a couple of weeks in the hope of hatching a brood of ducklings.

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AMERICAN SADDLES. Some Gems of Art Turned Out in the E. West. All over North America for many years Cheyenne saddles have been famous, and every equestrian outside of the United States cavalry and of the Northwest mounted police of Canada, has either had his horse tricked out with Cheyenne leather, or has wished he had. The fancy work on saddles, holsters and stirrup leathers, that once made Mexican saddlery famous and expensive, long ago was copied by the Cheyenne makers, who kept up the fame and beauty of American horse trappings, but made them so cheap as to be within the means of most horsemen. In the old days when Western cattle ranged all over the plains and the cowboy was in his glory, that queer citizen would rather have a Cheyenne saddle than a best girl. In fact, to be without a Cheyenne saddle and a first-class revolver was to be no better than the sheep herders of that era.

When the writer was in Cheyenne the other day the first places he looked for were the saddle-makers' shops. He was surprised to find only one show, first-class store of the kind, and instead of there being a crowd in front of it, there was no sign of more business than was going on at the druggist's near by, or the stationer's over the way. The goods displayed in the windows were beautiful and extraordinary. There were the glorious, heavy, hand-stamped saddles; there were the huge, cumbersome tapaderos; there were the lariats or ropes; the magnificent bits that looked like Moorish art outdoors, and there were mule skinner's and the fanciful spurs, and, in short, the windows formed a museum of things that a cowboy would have pined his soul for. The metal work was all such as a cowboyman once declared it, "the most elegant horse jewelry in creation." Englishmen and Germans now buy the fanciest and best trappings to send abroad to their homes. Hand-stamped saddles cost from \$18 to \$25, but \$35 buys as good one as a modest man who knows a good thing will care to use. Cowgirl saddles were on view—seven of them—with rigging for side seats and with stirrups made in slipper shapes. It is not that there are really half a dozen cowgirls in the world, or half a dozen women like the Colorado cattle queen, or the lady horse breeder of Wyoming, but there are Western girls who have to ride a great deal, and they have fond fathers and brothers, and still fonder lovers; hence the manufacture of magnificent side-saddles, all decked with hand-stamped patterns, and looking as rich as the richest Bedouin ever dreamed a horseman being made. There is still a good trade in cowboy outfits that are ordered from Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Colorado and Texas, and similar goods go to the horse ranches of Nevada, Idaho and Oregon. Moreover, as long as men ride horses there will be a trade in fancy outfits for them.—Denver Field and Farm.

Tranquil, But Severe. "My boy," said the examiner, in the friendliest of tones, to a lad who had just finished a piece of Latin prose, and was about tremblingly to place the composition in the gentleman's hands, "my boy, I looked over your shoulder while you were writing; you have every reason to be satisfied with yourself, and with care, will get a scholarship easily, and a good class in 'Meds' as well."

The examiner whose kind manner reassured the nervous boy had been sent by the University of Oxford to test the classical attainments of the Bath schoolers. He was six feet in height, very thin, very tranquil, with that studied softness which seemed to conceal a severity that could be merciless. That side of his character showed itself a few hours later. Mr. Escott describes the exhibition, in his book, "Platform, Press, Politics and Play."

It was winter; the Avon was frozen over, and examiner and examinee were skating over the surface, the former no less at home upon steel shod feet than in the teacher's chair hearing a recitation in Greek. An overgrown lout, whose ignorance in Greek grammar had been detected by the examiner, thought he would obstruct the examiner's progress and send him sprawling. Fancying that his act was not observed, he placed in the path such obstacles as happened to be at hand. Along swept the examiner, and as he came to the obstruction, lifted with a single stride his tall form across the barrier.

"My young friend," he called out in a voice heard by all, "the next time you want to play any of these monkey tricks, try them on one of your own height. And now, remember that you have in front of you for to-morrow the Avon in MI, which may present at difficulties to you, greater even than this truck and broomstick did to me." The laugh was turned against the ill-mannered lad, who, as his conqueror left the river, shouted, "Three cheers for the examiner!" The man was Mr. Percival, Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, and to-day Bishop of Hereford.

The Temple of Serpents. The small town of Verda, in the kingdom of Dahomey, is celebrated for a bathhouse den called the Temple of Serpents. It is a long building dedicated to the priests and mystery men of the kingdom, and in it they keep thousands of snakes of all kinds and sizes. These slimy, crawling creatures literally own the village, as well as the temple, which has been erected for their special accommodation, and may be seen hanging from the rafters and door posts of any house in the town. In Verda to kill a serpent is a crime punishable by death. The serpents in the sacred temple are fed by a regular corps of hunters, who are paid for their services out of the public exchequer.

Feminine Fire Department. The little town of Nasso, in Sweden, has a feminine department, 150 strong, in its fire brigade. The water works of the village consist simply of four great tubs, and it is the duty of the women "dremen" to keep these full in case of fire. They stand in two continuous lines from the tubs to the lake, about three blocks away, one line passing the full buckets and the other sending them back. It is dangerous for people to underestimate each other too well.

CHEATING UNCLE SAM. There is an unusually large amount of gold coin in circulation at present that is below its proper weight and the yellow metal is being subjected to a careful scrutiny. Some of the new methods of coin sweating are particularly ingenious and difficult of detection. It is stated that fully two-thirds of the coins found thus mutilated have been lightened by Chinese and Japanese, whose patience and perseverance has become proverbial and whose skill in delicate metal work approaches the marvelous.

One specimen of their ingenuity is shown in a \$20 gold piece, which might well pass the severest test of the bank tellers, and even escape the trained eyes of the United States experts at Washington. It had been sawed in two through the edge, and about \$14 worth of gold gouged out of the two inner surfaces. Thus the coin was reduced to a hollow shell in two halves. It was then filled with platinum, which is just about as heavy as the yellow metal and costs about half as much. The outer edge of the reconstructed coin was disguised by a rim of gold soldered on, and by means of a reeding machine the original corrugations of the minting were renewed. A method somewhat similar, though much less artistic, is to substitute for the inferior portion of a gold piece a core in the shape of a planchet of silver. Its chief drawback is that the coin thus treated is noticeably light in weight.

The most common method of all, and one that shows most unmistakably the handiwork of the Oriental craftsman, is that known in detective parlance as plugging. It is safe to state that no American or European criminal would spend a whole week of tedious and exacting labor in thus manipulating a coin with but a profit of \$3 or \$4 in view, not to speak of the chances of capture and the cost of the tools. In this method a hole is bored into the coin from the edge and a fraction of the reconstructed coin is then filled up with a metal composition and soldered at the opening with gold. The whole coin is then gone over, and from every possible place a tiny scrap of gold is scraped off, care being taken to do this work in a manner almost unnoticeable to any but the most experienced eye.

A most radical method, and one that almost defies the scrutiny of the storekeepers, is that known as rimming. By cutting a rim from around the coin, as a tire might be removed from a wheel, a piece of gold weighing twenty-six to twenty-nine grains and worth about a dollar can be removed from each \$20 gold piece. Subsequent re-reading of the double eagle by means of a machine renders it as perfect as ever to the eye of the casual observer.

Many counterfeiters of eagles and half eagles are extant, cast in brass, metals and gilded. Some of these are platinum for the sake of weight, but almost every other known metal and many compositions have been utilized. This gilding process has been most ingeniously combined with sweating. By suspending a gold piece at one end of a copper wire and a base metal counterfeiter at the other and in a tank of cyanide of potassium, the operator can cheaply transfer a coating of gold from the good coin to the bad one. By this method the bad coin obtains the appearance of a gold coin, while the real gold piece is apparently uninjured and easily negotiable at the face of its original value.

A century or more ago the clipping of coin was carried on extensively in England as well as elsewhere. Gold pieces which had lost more or less of their substance were common enough, and some most clumsy specimens of sweat-ed coins passed current without objection. But in time, as the evil became still more rapid, penalties of the most severe order soon rendered this crime extremely unprofitable. Fortunately for our own currency, almost every gold coin in circulation passes through the treasury, or at least one of the sub-treasuries, every few years. Each piece received at those institutions is weighed and critically examined, and if found light in weight is stamped by a big L. Such coins are only redeemed at their bullion value, and are sent to the mints, where they are melted and recoined. In this case the people lose by the deficiency and not the Government.

Churning Each Cow's Milk by Itself. There is considerable loss from mixing the cream from milk of different cows in churning. There is a difference in the churning qualities of milk, some cream coming to butter sooner than others. We have known some housewives to put the butter-milk back in the churn and get considerable butter by returning it. In this case probably some of the cows gave cream that came very quickly when churned. It is this difference in cows that makes much of the demand for separators, which will get all the butter out of any milk that is possible.

Proud of His Poetry. The late Sir Henry Parks, the Australian statesman, had a great opinion of his poetic gifts, and on one occasion, when addressing a Sydney meeting, he said: "I would rather be known as a third-rate poet than as a first-rate politician." Here he paused for breath and admiration, when "the man in the crowd," seeing his opportunity, exclaimed in strident accents: "Well, and aren't you?"

Deep Down. Gaping Ghyll, an unfathomed abyss near Ingleborough, in Yorkshire, was recently explored by Mr. Martel, the French cavern hunter. After a stream which falls into the cave had been diverted he was let down a chain 350 feet, and there found a chamber hollowed out in the limestone 450 feet long, by 130 feet broad, and 100 feet high, with a level bottom, covered with sand and pebbles.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

New Mummy Process. A method of mummifying the dead by absorption of humidity and gases after the body is placed in the coffin has been devised by an Italian named Verocelli. The body seems to be preserved as if in life, except that the color is the yellowish copper tint peculiar to Egyptian mummies.—Boston Herald. A man never complains of a girl being cold if she shows her incisors to some other fellow.