

CONVICT MAKES MACHINE TO STOP CHECK FORGERY

FREDERICK HOFFMAN'S DEVICE A SUCCESS

SAN QUENTIN PRISONER PERFECTS INVENTION

Bankers Are Pleased with it and Declare Its Effect Will Be Widespread—Pardon of Former Highwayman Urged

After being sentenced to twenty years in San Quentin prison for highway robbery, Frederick Hoffman, who now has completed two years of his long sentence, has perfected a machine which promises to effectually prevent the raising and forging of checks and false identifications.

Not content with the routine of prison life, the man whose inventive genius has astounded the world, put in every hour in pondering over plans for his machine. Every night when supper had been served and the convicts returned to their cells to pass a few hours as suited their tastes, Hoffman labored on his anti-forgery machine.

A fellow convict, skilled in wood turning and carving, aided Hoffman, and a wooden model finally was constructed. Crucial as it was, every person who saw the model pronounced it one of the most wonderful inventions of the age. Permission easily was obtained from Warden Hoyle to apply for a patent, and by means of outside capital a full-sized machine was constructed. Hoffman hopes, and many believe he will be successful, to obtain his pardon through the invention and to make a fortune after his release.

In the office of A. D. Childress, 220 I. W. Hellman building, Los Angeles, there is a machine which is called the National Cash protector, and the president of every bank in which it has been introduced declares it will prove of great importance to banking.

Like Adding Machine
With long rows of numbered keys above, giving it the appearance of the modern adding machine, the inventor is cognizant of every cipher and code employed by the bank to obtain the desired results. The keys, of which there are seven rows, are numbered numerically from 1 to 9. The check, draft, money order, bill of lading or whatever paper the operator wishes to mark is placed in one end of the machine and securely clamped. Keys then are pressed giving the bank's secret mark, the amount of the check and identifying the person receiving the money. When the paper is withdrawn from the machine, however, nothing more is visible than half a dozen round holes, punched apparently at random on the face of the check.

When the paper in which the holes have been punched is laid upon a piece of cardboard with corresponding rows of numbers the holes fit over the numbers punched by the original operator of the machine.

After having exhibited the machine to many San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles bankers the persons who are backing the financial end of Hoffman's invention are confident that every banking institution in the country will install a machine.

Steps now are being taken by persons interested in Hoffman's case to bring about his release, and it is stated on reliable information that Governor Gillett is willing to grant the pardon.

FLAMES MAKE FIRE DIFFICULT TO FIGHT

Department Engaged for Two Hours at Blaze That Does Damage Amounting to Only \$500

Fire, supposedly caused by spontaneous combustion in the rear of 244 South Main street, kept the fire department busy for over two hours last night. The fire was finally extinguished at 3:30 a. m. and \$500 worth of damage was done.

The firemen had difficulty in fighting the flames, owing to the fact that the warehouse was filled with carboys of ammonia, sulphuric and nitric acid, and the fumes of the acid permeated the air so that the fire had to be fought from a distance. A number of cases of denatured alcohol were in the building, and as the flames reached them they exploded with reports that could be heard blocks away.

The fire was discovered by employes in the kitchen of the Eureka cafe, and at the alarm the habitues of the cafe made a hasty exit.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN LONDON SHOW DECLINE

Statistics Indicate Metropolis of England Is One of Healthiest Cities in the World

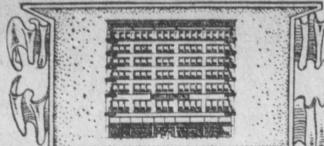
LONDON, Jan. 22.—London, despite its great size and the onerous conditions of life within its borders, is one of the healthiest cities on the face of the globe. Such is the testimony of the mortality statistics.

In 1905 and 1906 the death rate was 15.1 of each 1000 of the population, a figure lower than any previously recorded. In 1907 the proportion fell to 14.6, and last year it sank to 13.8.

Even when allowance is made for the fact that these figures are based on estimates of population the result is remarkable. A comparison between 1908 and the decade 1891-1900 shows a saving in the year of 28,205 lives, representing a gain to the community in "life capital" of 1,066,770 years.

In regard to the birth rate there is much less ground for satisfaction. It has declined almost continuously during the last thirty years, and in 1908 it fell to the unprecedented figure of 25.2 each 1000. Last year was, however, an exceptional one from the point of view of London's vital statistics, for both the birth and marriage rates as well as the death rate were the lowest ever recorded.

By a traveler in Italy the Rubicon, the famous river crossed by Julius Caesar, is described as "the mere trick of a stream, in which it would be quite impossible for a man to drown himself."



Household and Office Furnishings

Barker Bros

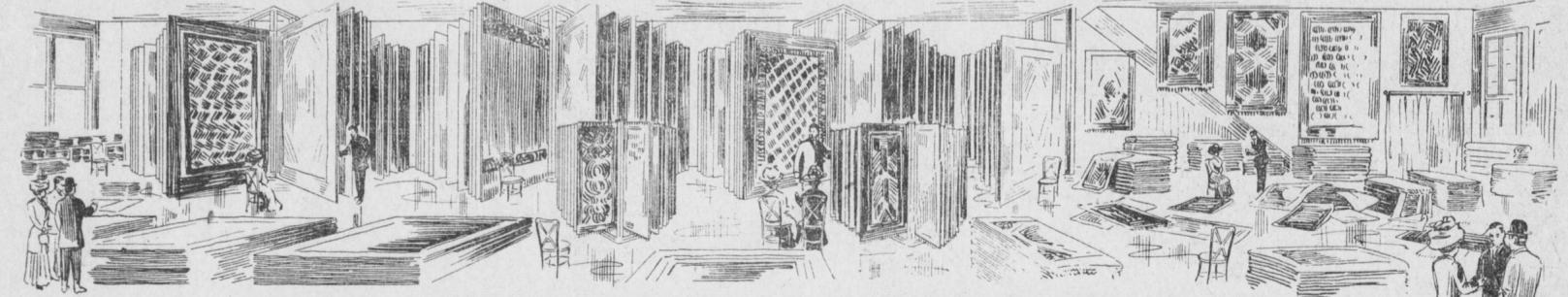
Largest Furniture House in the West

Our New Location



New Location 724-26-28-30-32 So. Broadway.

America's Largest, Finest Floor Covering Stock Is Right Here in Los Angeles—at Barker Bros.!



Entire North and South Second Floors Devoted to Oriental and Domestic Rugs, Carpets, Linoleums, Matting, Etc.

View above shows only about one-quarter of Department. Notice the new and improved facilities for displaying thousands of rugs for quick and satisfactory choosing—the only store in the city thus equipped.

Thousand of Beautiful Rug Patterns---Hundreds and Hundreds of Carpet Samples---And the Lowest Prices at Which Reliable Weaves Are Sold Anywhere---Finest Collection of Orientals and Antiques in West.

—Los Angeles has many things which give it prestige among the really great cities of America—its magnificent hotels, wonderful street railway system—superbly lighted business streets—its metropolitan stores—cosmopolitan population; and in a commercial way, among other notable features, attention may well be directed to Barker Bros.' great stock of floor coverings. No other such stock as has been gathered here in our new store has ever before been shown in the west—and trade authorities say it is the finest and most complete stock in America today. In addition to being most complete, it is the best displayed stock—hundreds and hundreds of patterns so arranged that practically instant inspection is possible.

—Represented in this great stock are the best and most reliable grades of all the different weaves. The assortment is truly wonderful—so extensive that, no matter how varied may be the demands of color scheme, or what particular kind or size of rug is desired, there is practical certainty of finding it here. Many special size rugs are carried by us that are not in ordinary stocks. What is said of the rugs, as regards qualities and assortments, is also true of our carpet stock. In antiques and beautiful orientals, we have one of the very few really representative collections in the United States, and in this class of rugs our prices are at least 25 per cent lower than quotations elsewhere.

Barker Bros. ALWAYS HAVE, and ALWAYS WILL, Sell the Best Furniture Made for LESS Than Any Other Firm in Los Angeles

—despite the many clever "arguments" of other dealers, the fact remains that we do the business, and doing the business, along progressive lines and according to a policy that meets with popular approval, we are in a position to under-bid, control the most desirable lines, and undersell. Our great new stock, in every line, represents the very best values that have ever been offered the furniture buyers of this city. As special inducements the articles described below are worthy of your particular interest:

Two Splendid Extra Values in Golden Oak Rockers
Choice of Either Style Shown Here

\$4.75—each of these rockers is built of carefully selected quarter-sawn oak, highly polished; both are designed upon "comfort" lines; both have saddle seats; rockers that are sold at from \$7 to \$8 in most stores; choice of either style, exactly like pictures, this week \$4.75.

Every Woman Ought to Have a Work Table

This Attractive Style in Fumed Oak, \$8 Usually, Now \$6.75

—as useful in the dining room as a serving table, as in the sewing room as a work table; this one has top 16 by 19 inches, drop leaves (opening to 16x33 in.), convenient drawers and wood knobs; exactly like picture.

This Princess Dresser of Maple, Latest Style, A \$20 Value

—a very pretty design; 20x32-inch French plate bevel mirror; adjustable so as to give a view of entire figure; wood knobs; top 20x36 inches; ordinarily a \$20 value; exactly as illustrated. Special \$14.75.

A \$2 Tabouret This Week \$1.35

—everybody has ferns—everyone needs tabourets—several of them, about the home—and here is the chance to buy a very attractive, style—Moorish design, mahogany finish, top 14 by 14 inches, height 18 inches, substantially enough built to hold a very heavy jardiniere—and instead of \$2 the price this week will be \$1.35.

Lace Curtains, Portieres, 1/2 Price and Less

—Clean-up of our Sample Line; curtains that have sold down from large quantities to the last one or two pairs—beautiful, new patterns, some of the most desirable of the last season's productions, and perfect in every respect except for the slight handling that comes from display purposes; the portieres are in wide variety, both as to style and price; the reductions speak for themselves—worth careful consideration.

\$5.50 brown mercerized damask portieres, per pair.....	\$3.00	\$28 red velour embroidered portieres, per pair.....	\$10.00
\$7.50 and \$8.50 red silk embroidery portieres, per pair.....	\$4.00	\$45 green velour gold embroidery portieres, pair.....	\$20.00
\$9 green tapestry portieres, per pair.....	\$5.00	\$35 velour brown portieres, per pair.....	\$12.50
\$9 rose mercerized damask portieres, per pair.....	\$4.75	\$36 velour red portieres, per pair.....	\$15.00
\$12.50 coral embroidered portieres, per pair.....	\$5.00	\$65 velour single door portieres, 1 only.....	\$25.00

\$7.50 burial portieres, per pair.....	\$3.00
\$12.50 red silk damask portieres, per pair.....	\$6.00
\$28 green wool rep portieres, per pair.....	\$18.00
\$10 green velour embroidered portieres, per pair.....	\$18.00
\$40 brown velour embroidered portieres, pair.....	\$18.00
\$100 silk velour, silk embroidered, hand painted, per pair.....	\$35.00
\$120 cream silk, hand decorated portieres, per pair.....	\$35.00
\$140 green silk velvet hand decorated portieres, per pair.....	\$50.00



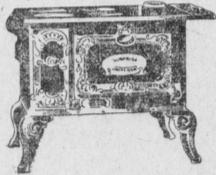
Barker Bros. Secure the Agency of the Famous Universal

Stoves and Ranges

—these stoves and ranges possess more real merit, more practical features and more genuine points of superiority than any other line on the market. Our display includes the entire line, from sheet iron heaters to the finest malleable iron ranges. Universal stoves and ranges are most durable in construction, most economical in operation—and these are the two factors you're vitally concerned about. Visit our Stove Sales Dept., and we'll be glad to show you these splendid goods—whether you buy or not.

The "Surprise" Universal Steel Cook Stove, an Extraordinary Opening \$13.85 Week Special . . .

—burns hard or soft coal or wood—and gives perfect results with either; compactly built, to give quick results in cooking and baking—consequently most economical; has an oven bottom that will not warp, bend, sag or leak—therefore will bake thoroughly and perfectly; asbestos lined flues; spring balanced oven door; flat dumping grate, which insures simplicity and rapidity; in all respects the best and cheapest high grade small stove on the market; our special price, for the opening display of this line, makes this positively the best bargain ever offered in this town; special, for one week only, \$13.85.



You'll Agree with Mme. Sembrich That Baldwin Pianos Have a Tone Equaled in No Other Make

—Pianos are Pianos—but there is a wonderful difference in tone—and when you've heard the Baldwin tone you'll very readily understand why Mme. Sembrich gives the Baldwin preference over all makes. We are exclusive agents. Visit our Piano Dept. In addition to the Baldwin we have other splendid instruments—all made by the Baldwin Co.—which offer piano seekers opportunity for most satisfactory selection, at almost any price one may wish to pay.



Lace Curtains---One and Two-Pair Lots

2 pair lot \$2.75 CLUNY LACE, per pair.....	\$1.90	2 pair lot \$22.50 IVORY SCRIM LACE, per pair.....	\$11.50
1 pair lot \$4.50 CLUNY LACE, per pair.....	\$2.50	2 pair lot \$11 WHITE ANTIQUE SCRIMS, per pair.....	\$6.00
1 pair lot \$6.50 CLUNY LACE, per pair.....	\$3.00	2 pair lot \$21 BRUSSELS LACES, per pair.....	\$10.00
\$6.50 THREAD LACE, per pair.....	\$3.00	1 pair lot \$14.50 BRUSSELS LACES, per pair.....	\$7.50
2 pair lot \$4.50 COHDED ARABIAN LACE, per pair.....	\$1.50	2 pair lot \$18 BRUSSELS LACES, per pair.....	\$9.00
1 pair lot \$7.25 HEAVY ARABIAN LACE, per pair.....	\$3.75	2 pair lot \$30 DUCHESSE LACE, per pair.....	\$15.00
2 pair lot \$10 HEAVY ARABIAN LACE, per pair.....	\$5.75	And a host of other one and two-pair lots not here mentioned.	

Special! Two Extra Bargains on Sale Monday

Five different patterns of cluny lace curtains, all clean and new, 2 1/2 and 3 yards long, a lot of 86 pairs, regular values \$2.75 to \$3.25, your choice, any quantity desired, per pair..... **\$1.75**

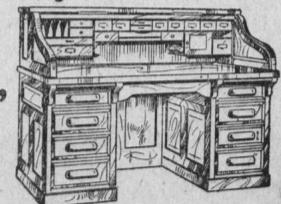
Six patterns of white muslin curtains, both ruffled and flat sleeping room curtains, regular \$2 values, 2 1/2 yards long, per pair..... **\$1.20**

Drapery and Decorating Dept. Fifth Floor

Before You Buy an Office Desk, Get Barker Bros.' Prices

—We sell office desks for a good deal less than exclusive office furniture firms charge; we carry a big stock—desks, chairs, typewriter cabinets, filing devices, sectional bookcases—in fact, everything needed to furnish an office in the most complete manner. We sell on close margins; we can save you money—no doubt about it.

Exclusive Agency for Shaw-Walker Filing Devices and Macey Sectional Bookcases.



LARGEST ASSORTMENT IN ALL LINES Barker Bros **LOWEST PRICES ALWAYS BEST TERMS**

New Location---724-732 SOUTH BROADWAY---Between Seventh and Eighth Sts.