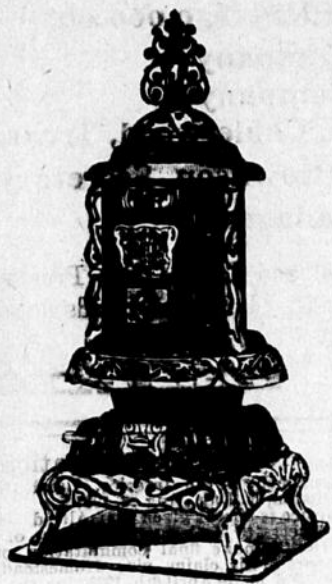


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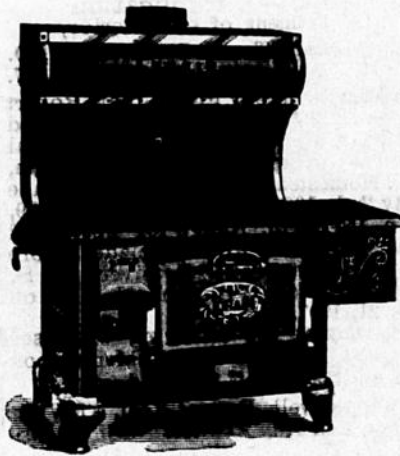
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A VISIT IN THE CAPITOL CITY

(Continued from last week)

In the printing of notes five hundred employees are engaged. The peculiar silk fibered paper is received in packages of one thousand sheets. This 1000 count, beginning at the paper mill is maintained thruout every department of the Bureau and is continued after the notes reach the treasury. To each pressman one thousand sheets are given at a time. The printing is all done on hand presses. Each sheet makes four notes. A pressman prints five hundred sheets a day and on one side only. This count having been verified the printed sheets pass to the numbering machine where is impressed on them in blue ink the distinctive series letter and the number of each note. The numbered notes are counted for the last time and wrapped in packages of 1,000 each to be taken to the Treasury.

There are fourteen departments one thousand four hundred employees each piece of work passes thru the hands of thirty different people. An elaborate system of receipting prevails and at the closing hour every thing is delivered into the hands of custodians and every count is verified before the force is dismissed. This rule prevails not only here but in the Issue and Redemption Divisions of the Treasury Building.

Having completed the tour of the Bureau we found it too late to go to the Treasury as that building is not open to visitors after two o'clock so we next made our way to the National Museum viewing here the collection of Washington and Grant relics as well as others less noted: of the many other interesting things to be seen here may be mentioned, exhibits illustrating the chief religions of the world; historical collections, exhibits of precious stones, rubies and diamonds; first engine made; skeletons of mammoth whales; groups of American Indians, showing family characteristics; animal groups; exhibits of all arts, industries and achievements of the entire world.

From this building we went to the Smithsonian Institute, viewing here tens of thousands of birds, fishes, reptiles, sponges and corals. Tuesdays program took us first to the White House. Entering by way of the colonnade on the east we found ourselves in the basement corridor, on the walls of which are hung portraits of the mistresses of the White House. Broad stairways lead up to the main corridor from which access is had to the East Room and to the Blue, Green and Red rooms which take name from the predominating color of the decorations and furnishings. From the central window of the famous East Room or State Parlor one looks onto the roof garden of the colonnade. Placed one on each side of this window are the two royal blue Sevres vases presented to President McKinley by the President of the French Republic in commemoration of the laying of the French-American cable. This being house cleaning season at the Executive mansion, all the hangings and decorations were down so scarcely more than the rooms themselves are to be seen. The State Dining room is paneled in dark oak and decorated with the heads of big American game. The massive mahogany table will seat one hundred guests. In the corridors are exhibit specimens of historic White House China.

Located just east of the White House is the Treasury, to this we next proceeded; securing a guide we were first taken to the cash room. The walls of this room are of choice American and Italian marbles rendering it one of the most costly rooms in the world. The daily transactions here run into the millions. From the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is brought over to the Treasury every morning, currency amounting to one million dollars. Here in the division of Issue, the count is verified by experts.

Currency there receives the seal, after which it goes to the cutting machine where each sheet is cut into four component notes. In new packages of 4,000 bills the currency passes to its final counting, each package going thru the hands of five successive counters. The marvelous skill, rapidity and accuracy of these counters afford a revelation of what the trained hand, eye and mind can do. The counters also scan the seal and detect any imperfection. Having received the final counting the money is intrusted to sealing clerks who wrap each package and put on it the seal of the Treasury. The new money is then deposited in the currency reserve vault as one lot is added each day to the vault another is taken out for issue. In the Redemption Division old currency is received to be exchanged for new. In this division the greatest of precautions are taken to provide against loss and error. The work of the expert counters is a great deal more difficult than that of the counters of new money as there is no enumeration to guide the count and much of the currency is worn and difficult to handle. Here also, the counters duty is not limited to counting, she must also detect counterfeit. If a counterfeit be detected the bill is stamped "Counterfeit" in letters which cut thru the paper and is returned to the sender that it may be traced if possible and is then sent back again to the Treasury for investigation by the Secret Service Division. After the various processes of counting, canceling, puncturing, being cut in two length wise and again counted a number of times the old currency is sent to the macerator for destruction. The macerator is a large spherical receptacle of steel which contains water and fitted in the interior with closely set knives which as they revolve grind the contents exceedingly fine. Every day at 1 o'clock this monster receives its million dollar tribute. The work of the macerator having been completed the liquid pulp is withdrawn, screened into a pit below and from here transferred to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to be rolled out into sheets of bookbinder's board and sold for \$40 a ton. Among the vaults to which the attention of the visitor is directed are the bond vaults which contain the United States bonds deposited by the National Banks as security for their own notes in circulation; vault No. 1 in the basement containing silver dollars; Vault No. 2 containing silver dollars, fractional silver currency and gold coin. At every change of administration on the appointment of the new treasurer all the money in the several vaults is counted by a committee of thirty five, this requiring a period of three months. In a secluded corner not accessible by visitors, works an expert in burned money and in shreds and patches of currency which would defy the skill of one less acute and patient. In the various divisions of the treasury we found nearly all women workers, thus proving that Uncle Sam thinks women more competent to handle money than men. There exists here a carefully devised system of guarding the Treasury.

Being due at Norfolk Wednesday Aug. 8, we decided to spend Tuesday afternoon out of the city visiting Mount Vernon, Alexandria and Arlington. Of this visit I may speak at some time later.

Lack of time compelled us to omit visits to many other places of interest in the capitol city, among them being the printing office, dead letter museum, state, war and navy departments, post-office, Washington monument, gallery, etc. The last named however being closed for the summer.

Returning to the city Tuesday evening we hastily made our way to the wharf, boarding there a Norfolk bound steamer. Thus ended our interesting stay in Washington.

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